

29-Jan-2021

BMJ-2020-063568.R1

Preventing the Next Pandemic: The Power of a Global Viral Surveillance Network

Dear Dennis,

Thank you again for sending us your revised paper. Kamran and I discussed the revision, and unfortunately the manuscript needs more work to fully address the reviewers and editors' comments in the decision letter sent on 6 January 2021. If you are able to do so, we would be happy to consider the manuscript again. More specific comments are provided below:

- Please address the editors' comments in the 6 Jan decision letter to reframe/restructure the paper so that it is not focused on the GVP. In your response to the editors you note the reduced focus on the GVP but it is still mentioned at least 17 times in the paper. At the moment the messages hang off the GVP and not the other way around. We suggest the paper be restructured so that it makes a clear argument for and against a global surveillance system and what it might do in practice. The GVP can be one example within this.
- As part of this restructure, please also ensure that all of the reviewers' comments outlined in the 6 Jan decision letter are addressed. For example, similar points on the framing were also picked up by reviewer 2 in terms of how such a system can work in practice / be operationalised. How might it actually help. e.g.

- The authors talk about the power to "prevent, detect, and respond" after a global viral surveillance atlas is created. I don't really know how that will work. We can document viruses in the wild, but we still have no clues why viruses emerge and begin transmitting in humans. Will the global atlas help that? The authors need to talk about what is possible specifically, and how an atlas would actually help.
- Can the authors talk concretely about what a global surveillance network would actually take? How are we going to get multiplex diagnostics to these hotspots when we cannot even get malaria rapid diagnostic tests? I would love the authors to theorize on the operationalization of their envisioned surveillance network

The paper would benefit from a shorter introduction. Please see the attached as we have proposed some edits as a start with this.

- Please keep the revised manuscript within the word count of 1800-2000 words.
- Please provide a standfirst and key messages at the start of the paper. The standfirst should be 1 or 2 sentences, in italics, that describe the article's central message. Generally, this includes naming the lead author. The key messages should include 2 to 4 short bullet points summing up your argument. Analysis articles do not contain Abstracts. However when submitting your article online, please copy/paste your Key Messages into the Article Abstract field.

We hope that you will be willing to revise your manuscript and submit it within 2 weeks, by Friday 12 February. When submitting your revised manuscript please provide a point by point response to our comments above. Please also provide two versions of your manuscript, one version in track changes and a clean version.

Please note that resubmitting your manuscript does not guarantee eventual acceptance, and that your revision may be sent again for review.

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If accepted, your article will be published online at bmj.com, the canonical form of the journal. Please note that only a proportion of accepted analysis articles will also be published in print.

I hope you will find the comments useful. Please don't hesitate to contact Kamran and I if you wish to discuss this further.

Best wishes,
Rachael