

Responses to Inquires Made during 2014 Ranavirus Workshop in Harbin, China

Submitted by:

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a. What are the most urgent areas of investigation in Asia?

Historical experiences told us that in China in wildlife diseases, it existed unlimited possible in the type of pathogens, susceptibility of hosts, and pathological damages, and so on. Under the great pressure of human activities, the dynamics of diseases have always been changing and very difficult to be intimate.

So in my mind two things will be important: one is the broad basic investigation of ranaviruses in multiple species; another one is a multi-year dynamic mapping of ranaviruses. But all these are time and energy consuming work.

b. What factors limit progress?

The progress of ranaviruses research in wild amphibians and the enhancement of the conservation management level of amphibians in China, largely depend on the awareness and approval of governments. Now in the mind of the control departments for wild animal diseases, avian influenza is the only known disease, and other wild animal diseases are thought to be unnecessary; in the aspect of species conservation, only focuses on the flagship species, such as tiger and elephant.

On the other hand, China government mainly focuses on the research field that has achieved a certain effect in the international society, which can also be understood easily in terms of resource competition. Therefore, to improve the concerns degree of amphibians and its health, we need to nurture some Chinese experts with international reputation to give suggestions frequently to the departments. Specific practices can be positively offer opportunities of awards for Chinese scientists in some important ceremony and to be involved in a global important position in some international organizations, which is the most easily do and may also be the most effective measure in China for the Global Ranavirus Consortium.

In addition, the strategic cooperative relations among the Global Ranavirus Consortium and the State Forestry Administration, and/or the

Environmental protection department of China could be taken into consideration, and during the course to nominate some China scientists as chief scientist of China counterpart. In the course of establishing a partnership, I can give a hand.

During the conference, I talked with director Jia, State Forestry Administration, for two times; the core contents of our talk is to introduce the significance of ranaviruses and conservation medicine in wildlife conservation. He is a leader with very strong ability of learning, and felt fresh to my words (its true), and showed his support. We should have confidence in China young officials, and invite them to participate in much more international affairs, such as the study of ranaviruses and conservation, through a variety of training channels existed between China and American governments (i. e. Special for officials-many and have the funds to support).

c. What funding opportunities exist?

To raise funds in China will be a main way in the future and I believe all Chinese scientists will go on work in the field of ranaviruses. We will apply the funds by multiple channels.

Besides this, China government usually raises money to set funds to support international organizations, such as GEF; It may be possible for GRC to work with international organizations, such as OIE and WHO. Such kinds of funds may be flexible for GRC to carry out projects for ranaviruses in China.

I personnel to suggest that an office of GRC should be set in Beijing in charge of such responsibilities.

d. Who would you like to collaborate with?

Besides you and your colleagues, next step we hope have chance to cooperate with Yumi Une. But potential we need to work with scientists from China and the outside world, such as Rolando, Qiwei Qin and others.