Chairman Rand Paul, M.D.

COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY & GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

Federal Officials Intercepted Undeclared Biological Materials Tied to a U.S.–China Coronavirus-Research Network as Early as 2018

> Years before the COVID-19 pandemic, U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) intercepted undeclared biological materials tied to a network of American and Chinese coronavirus researchers centered on the University of Minnesota lab of virologist Fang Li. In April 2018, Wuhan Institute of Virology (WIV) scientist Zhengli Shi asked University of Minnesota's Fang Li to have a student bring antibodies for SARS-work "back to China." That October, a student in the lab offered to send live PEDV, a swine coronavirus, to a prominent American researcher. One month later, CBP pulled three undeclared vials—concealed in paper towel and wax film—from a courier who named Yusen Zhou of China's Academy of Military Medical Sciences (AMMS) as the source. A joint DHS/FBI laboratory later confirmed the vials held antibody genetic material and PEDV spike-protein material. In 2021, the same courier was stopped again at a U.S. airport with undeclared vials and a laptop belonging to someone else.

WHAT THE RECORDS SHOW

APRIL 2018

WIV's Dr. Shi proposed moving antibodies outside normal channels.

Dr. Zhengli Shi asked Fang Li to have one of his students take monoclonal antibodies (mAbs) from the U.S. to China for SARS-related coronavirus testing. Fang Li told Shi that it was not a good idea "given the current tension between USA and China" and suggested another scientist ship the antibodies to China.

OCTOBER 2018

Fang Li's student coordinated a shipment of PEDV live virus to Ralph Baric.

Qibin Geng, a student in Fang Li's lab, requested Ralph Baric's address for shipping PEDV live virus (a swine coronavirus) with a growth protocol attached.

NOVEMBER 2018

A courier was caught bringing mRNA and PEDV spike-protein material from China.

CBP officers stopped an inbound traveler, Courier 1, carrying three vials concealed in paper towel and wax film, undeclared. Courier 1 said Yusen Zhou supplied them for Fang Li. DHS/FBI testing later found the vials contained precursor mRNA and PEDV spike-protein material.

JUNE 2021

The same courier was caught again—with 132 vials and a laptop that didn't belong to him.

Courier 1 was stopped in June 2021, this time outbound to China, carrying 132 undeclared vials that CBP reported likely contained a species of fly commonly used as a model organism in biological research. Courier 1 was also carrying a laptop issued by a U.S. research institution to another person, along with the credentials to log into it.

Re: Re: NRM review and Ab transportaion

From: zlshi <zlshi@wh.iov.cn>
To: lifang <lifang@umn.edu>
Cc: Chuming Luo <chumingluo1989@gmail.com>, 罗楚铭 <chine.lcm@163.com>
Sent: April 23, 2018 12:41:01 AM CDT
Received: April 23, 2018 12:41:12 AM CDT

Dear Fang,

Thank you for your contribution to the review and suggestion for antobody shipment.

The meeting in October, sorry for missing the information.

Best regards,
Zhengli,

SHI Zhengli, Ph. D
Senior Scientist & Professor
Wuhan Institute of Virology, Chinese Academy of Sciences
44 Xiao Hong Shan
430071 Wuhan, Hubei
China
Tel & Fax: (0086) 27 87197240
Email: zlshi@wh.iov.cn

From: Fang Li
Date: 2018-04-23 13:30
To: zlshi
CC: Chuming Luo; 罗楚铭
Subject: Re: NRM review and Ab transportaion

Dear Zhengli,

Yes, I am working on the review and should be able to send you a draft in 2 or 3 days.

The antibodies: I don't think it is a good idea to let Chuming take antibodies with him. Given the current tension between USA and China, this can put Chuming under risks. Please ask Lanying to ship the antibodies to you.

Which month is the meeting?

Thanks,
Fang

[redacted]

On Sun, Apr 22, 2018 at 8:56 PM, zlshi <zlshi@wh.iov.cn> wrote:

Dear Fang,

I trust you are preparing the NRM review article.

I would like to ask you a favor to receive some mAb to be sent by Lanying. Thes mAbs will be used to test the efficiency against SARS-relalted CoV infection in animal models and are expected to be brought back to China by Chuming.

If you agree, Chuming will be in charge of the following arrangement.

Third issue, our Institute will host a biennual meeting on emerging viral diseases from 20-22nd. We will be happy to invite you to particiapte in this meeting at your available time.

Best regards,
Zhengli,

SHI Zhengli, Ph. D
Senior Scientist & Professor
Wuhan Institute of Virology, Chinese Academy of Sciences
44 Xiao Hong Shan
430071 Wuhan, Hubei
China
Tel & Fax: (0086) 27 87197240
Email: zlshi@wh.iov.cn

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Fang Li, Ph.D.
Associate Professor
Department of Veterinary and Biomedical Sciences
University of Minnesota Twin Cities
612-625-6149, lifang@umn.edu
http://www.msi.umn.edu/~lifang

****

[redacted]

Message

From: Qibin Geng [redacted].edu]
Sent: 10/25/2018 2:17:34 AM
To: Baric, Ralph S [redacted]email.unc.edu]
CC: Fang Li [lifang@umn.edu]
Subject: Shipping of PEDV virus and pAPN protein
Attachments: PEDv Virus Expansion.pdf

Hi, Dr. Baric,

I'm Qibin Geng, a student from Dr. Fang Li's lab.

As Dr. Li informed, now I am going to send you the pAPN protein and PEDV live virus to test whether pAPN protein could inhibit live PEDV's entry.

I have enclosed an SOP for PEDV expansion. If necessary, I could also ship the Anti-PEDV N protein to you for the detection of PEDV virus.

Could you please tell me your shipping address and when it is appropriate for you to receive these samples? Or someone that I could contact with for the receiving?

Thanks very much! Any questions please let me know.

Best,

Qibin Geng
Tel:[redacted]

[redacted]

PEDv Virus Expansion

[redacted]
October 2014
[redacted] Lab

- PEDv can be grown on Vero-76 or Vero-81 cell lines. The virus grows at the same efficiency in [redacted] Lab conditions.
- Vero-81 cells seem to be more resilient to Trypsin and may be the preferred cell line for assays requiring long incubations in the PEDv Maintenance Media.

Materials:

- PEDv Maintenance Media
- 5ml Sterile Individually wrapped pipettes for Pipet Aid
- 10ml Sterile Individually wrapped pipettes for Pipet Aid
- Sterile 1x PBS (no Ca, Mg)
- 70% EtOH
- Water bath set at 37°C
- 500ml Plastic waste container
- Gloves
- Laminar flow hood
- Paper Towels
- Confluent flasks of Vero cells
- 1mL of PEDv
- Conical holder/Rack
- Sterile 50ml conicals
- Microcentrifuge tubes

Safety:

- Wear gloves and lab coat while performing this procedure.
- This procedure is performed in a laminar flow hood
- Complete all training required by the University of Minnesota and the Department of Environmental and Health & Safety guidelines

Method

1) Heat PBS in water bath for 15 minutes
2) Bring PEDv aliquot to room temperature
3) Sterilize workspace in laminar flow hood by spraying area with 70% EtOH and wiping with paper towels
4) Sterilize Pipet Aid and plastic waste container by spraying with 70% EtOH and wiping with paper towels prior to placing in hood.

[redacted]

5) Spray gloved hands with 70% EtOH and rub hands together until EtOH has evaporated before opening incubator and handling cell culture flasks
6) Bring confluent T75 flask of Vero cells into the hood
7) Sterilize the exterior of PBS bottle by spraying with 70% EtOH and wiping with paper towels. Place in hood
8) Draw up media from T75 flask of cells with Pipet Aid and a 10ml pipette. Draw from lower left corner of flask without disrupting the monolayer
9) Discard media in plastic waste container and pipette tip in the tip waste container
10) Unscrew cap of PBS bottle and let the cap sit loosely on top of the bottle
11) Use a 5ml pipette and Pipet Aid to draw up 3ml of PBS. Use dominant hand to control Pipet Aid and the other to lift loosened PBS cap.
12) Place cap back on PBS bottle after drawing up desired volume.
13) Gently dispense 3ml of 1x PBS onto Vero cells by uncapping the flask and holding the flask at a 45° angle. Gently dispense the PBS by the top opening of the flask and let the PBS slowly run down the length of flask.
14) Cap the flask and rotate flask so PBS has covered monolayer of cells
15) Uncap flask and draw up the PBS with 5ml pipette. Draw from lower left corner of flask without disrupting the monolayer
16) Discard PBS in the plastic waste container.
17) Inoculate cells by adding 1ml of PEDv to cells.
18) Recap flask and place in incubator (37°C, 5% CO_2) for 1 hour
19) During incubation, place PEDv Maintenance Media in water bath
20) After 1 hour incubation, follow the same procedure in taking the flask out of the incubator and placing it in the laminar flow hood
21) Sterilize the exterior of PEDv Maintenance Media by spraying with 70% EtOH and wiping with paper towels. Place in hood.
22) Add 8ml of warm PEDv Maintenance Media to flask
23) Collect 200ul aliquot for PCR. Store at -20°C
24) Incubate at 37°C, 5% CO_2 for 3 days. Virus induced cytopathic effect should be visible under the microscope in Vero-76 by day 3 post infection

3 days later...

25) On day 3 post infection, freeze and thaw the flask 3 times at -20°C and room temperature. Follow instructions on Step 5 to take flask out of incubator
26) Sterilize laminar flow hood as instructed in Step 3
27) Sterilize Pipette Aid and conical holder/rack as instructed on Step 4
28) With a 10ml pipette and Pipette Aid, draw up everything in flask and transfer to a sterile 50ml conical
29) Centrifuge conical at 1500rpm for 10 minutes at room temperature
30) Collect supernatant and transfer to a new 50ml conical. Discard old conical with pellet
31) Collect 200ul aliquot for PCR

[redacted]

If continuing to expand:

a) Repeat Steps 6-16
b) Use 4ml of newly collected virus to inoculate new T75s confluent with Vero cells.
c) Repeat steps 18-22
d) Incubate at 37°C, 5% CO_2
e) Check daily for CPE. Do not incubate for more than 3 days

If harvesting:

a) Filter newly collected virus in .22um filter
b) Aliquot into desired volume
c) Place and store at -80°C

[redacted]

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

CUSTOMS AND BORDER PROTECTION

[redacted]

[redacted]

FIELD INFORMATION REPORT

Product Title: University of Minnesota Professor and Virologist Fang Li and Associates

Product ID: [redacted]

[redacted]

Published Date: 06/15/2020

[redacted]

Report Title

University of Minnesota Professor and Virologist Fang Li and Associates

Date And Time Of Information

11/28/2018 00:00

Executive Summary

On November 28, 2018, vials containing suspected coronavirus where intercepted on an inbound passenger at Detroit Metropolitan Airport. The vials, carried by a third party individual from a researcher in China, were for recipient Fang LI, a professor and virology researcher at the University of Minnesota. LI's research is funded by National Institutes of Health (NIH) grants. Some of LI's research fellows and collaborators have connections to the People's Liberation Army (PLA) of China and the *Thousand Talents Program* and have been identified for future targeting purposes. Foreign nationals with links to suspicious Chinese entities are of special interest and may pose a risk to the national security of the United States.

Narrative

On November 28, 2018 Courier 1 arrived at Detroit Metropolitan Airport (DTW) and was referred to agriculture secondary due to primary questioning by an US Customs and Border Protection Officer (CBPO). Courier 1 identified himself as a biologist at the [redacted] Minnesota, [redacted]. Biological materials were not declared during primary inspection. In agriculture secondary, Courier 1 amended his declaration to a Supervisory US Customs and Border Protection Agriculture Specialist (SCBPAS) to include "antibodies." Physical inspection of Courier 1's carry-on baggage led to the discovery of three (3) vials obscured with a combination of paper towel and wax film.

Courier 1 stated he was given the vials by "Yusen ZHOW," aka Yusen ZHOU, for intended recipient "Fan Li" aka Fang LI. System checks in *ePermits*, the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) permit viewing and application system, revealed LI was previously issued an USDA Veterinary Services Permit # [redacted] for bat coronavirus DNA. The permit was valid from 01/13/2014 to 01/13/2015 and did not authorize foreign importation or possession of Select Agent material. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) confirmed U.S. Pe did not have a valid CDC permit nor a security risk assessment at the University of Minnesota. Inspection of the vials revealed markings M and N. Open source research of LI's publication history revealed collaborations with Yusen ZHOU on highly pathogenic coronaviruses (SARS, MERS) that used notations of *M* and *N*; *M* for Membrane and *N* for Nucleocapsid (1) (2).

Due to the nature of LI's research and lack of documentation accompanying the vials, local Homeland Security of Investigations (HSI) and the Federal Bureau of Investigations (FBI) Weapons of Mass Destruction Directorate (WMDD) took possession of the vials for testing. Testing of the vials at the joint DHS/FBI Laboratory, National Bioforensic Analysis Center (NBFAC), revealed the contents of the vials to be "A partial immunoglobulin heavy chain precursor mRNA and a partial porcine epidemic diarrhea virus (PEDV) spike

protein" [3]. Porcine epidemic diarrhea virus (PEDV) is a coronavirus causing high morbidity and mortality in porcine [4].

Figures 1 and 2 - Notations on intercepted vials *M* and *N* [5]

Fang LI is a professor in the Department of Veterinary and Biomedical Sciences, Institute for Molecular Biology and Virology, and a virologist at the University of Minnesota[6]. LI has been employed at the University of Minnesota since 2007, and has been conducting research on coronaviruses as far back as 2005 [6] [7]. Currently, there are two PhD students (Qibin GENG, [redacted] and three postdoctoral researchers ([redacted], [redacted], and Chuming (Chu-Ming) LUO) in Fang LI's lab. LI's research is funded by two (2) current National Institutes of Health (NIH) grants ([redacted] and [redacted]) [8].

Qibin GENG entered the United States on June 30, 2016 on a J1 visa at Seattle Tacoma International Airport (SEA). GENG indicated on his J1 visa application to be a student at Wuhan University with previous employer as the Chinese Center for Disease Control and Prevention. During this employment, GENG conducted research on rotavirus and malaria at the Key Laboratory of Surveillance and Early Warning on Infectious Disease. GENG obtained a Bachelor's of Science degree in Biopharmacy at Southern Medical University (former First Military Medical University of China) affiliated with the People's Liberation Army (PLA) of China. GENG did not disclose military service or affiliation on any visa application.

Chuming (Chu-Ming) LUO entered the United States on January 18, 2016 on a J1 visa at Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport (MSP). The J1 visa application supplemental documents included LUO's resume, which listed LUO as a current PhD candidate at the University of Chinese Academy of Sciences under advisor Zhengli SHI with thesis topic: "Bat coronavirus receptor analysis."

A review of LI's publications resulted in the findings of several repeat research collaborators on coronaviruses [9] [10]. Some of those collaborators include Yusen ZHOU, Lanying DU, Shibo JIANG, and Zhengli SHI.

Yusen ZHOU is a professor of Microbiology and Immunology and Head of the Department of Infection and Immunity at the State Key Laboratory of Pathogen and Biosecurity, Beijing Institute of Microbiology and

[redacted]

Epidemiology, Academy of Military Medical Sciences of the PLA of China (11) (12). ZHOU is also the spouse of Lanying DU.

DU is the head of the Viral Immunology Laboratory at the Lindsley F. Kimball Research Institute, located at the New York Blood Center (13). The Lindsley F. Kimball Research Institute is one of the preeminent research institutes of blood diseases (14).

Shibo JIANG is a former co-head with DU at the Lindsley F. Kimball Research Institute, New York Blood Center and is currently the Director and a Virologist at the Institute of Medical Microbiology Key Laboratory of Medical Molecular Virology, Ministry of Education and Health, Fudan University (15). Open source research revealed JIANG to be a "Thousand Talents" scholar who received his PhD from the Fourth Military Medical University (presently known as Air Force Medical University) affiliated with the PLA Air Force (16).

Zhengli SHI is the Director of the Center for Emerging Infectious Diseases of the Wuhan Institute of Virology and Director of the Key Laboratory of Special Pathogens and Biosafety of Chinese Academy of Sciences (17). SHI is also known as "bat woman" by colleagues in China due to her research focus of emerging viruses of zoonotic origin especially bats (18).

Wuhan Institute of Virology is the center of controversy due to theories that SARS-CoV-2 escaped from the lab, although there is no known supporting evidence at this time (19).

Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) is highly infectious and causes the disease COVID-19 (20). COVID-19 is an ongoing pandemic and a global health issue, causing infection in millions of people, and to date, more than 400,000 fatalities (21).

LI began studying SARS-CoV-2 when its gene sequence was released in January 2020 and has several publications on research findings with his research fellows and collaborators (22).

Due to the current state of affairs between the United States and China, there is elevated concern and a potential national security risk in regards to coronavirus research and links between LI, his research fellows, and collaborators to suspicious entities in China.

Additional investigation is necessary to determine if LI's research, and any resulting scientific discoveries and advances, are for the benefit of the United States or for China, and if the intention of LI's research fellows/affiliates are to act as unconventional collectors of information. Questionable information revealed in the background research of LI's research fellows and collaborators highlights the concerns addressed in the recent proclamation issued by the United States Government which stated "students or researchers from the PRC (People's Republic of China) studying or researching beyond the undergraduate level who are or have been associated with the PLA are at high risk of being exploited or co-opted by the PRC authorities. The PRC authorities use some Chinese students, mostly post-graduate students and post-doctorate researchers, to operate as non-traditional collectors of intellectual property" (23).

[redacted].

Information Gaps

[redacted]

Reporting Notice

1. *Molecular mechanism for antibody-dependent enhancement of coronavirus entry.* **Yushun Wan, Jian Shang, Shihui Sun, Wanbo Tai, Jing Chen, Qibin Geng, Lei He, Yuehong Chen, Jianming Wu, Zhengli Shi, Yusen Zhou, Lanying Du, Fang Li.** s.l. : Journal of Virology, 2019.
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3. [redacted]. Laboratory Report. s.l. : NBFAC, 2019.
4. *Recombinant Chimeric Transmissible Gastroenteritis Virus (TGEV)—Porcine Epidemic Diarrhea Virus (PEDV) Virus Provides Protection against Virulent PEDV.* **Alejandro Pascual-Iglesias, Carlos M. Sanchez, Zoltan Penzes, Isabel Sola, Luis Enjuanes, Sonia Zuniga.** 8, s.l. : Viruses, 2019, Vol. 11. 682.
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6. Fang Li. *Resume.* [Online] 2020. [Cited: May 29, 2020.] http://www.msi.umn.edu/~lifang/flresume.html.
7. Selected Publications. [Online] [Cited: June 3, 2020.] http://www.msi.umn.edu/~lifang/flpublications.html.
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10. *Discovery of Novel Bat Coronaviruses in South China That Use the Same Receptor as Middle East Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus.* **Chu-Ming Luo, Ning Wang, Xing-Lou Yang, Hai-Zhou Liu, Wei Zhang, Bei Li, Ben Hu, Cheng Peng, Qi-Bin Geng, Guang-Jian Zhu, Fang Li, Zheng-Li Shi.** 13, s.l. : Journal of Virology, 2018, Vol. 92.
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12. Chinese Academy of Military Medical Sciences. [Online] [Cited: June 3, 2020.] https://souky.eol.cn/HomePage/school_des/401/401.html .

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18. **Qiu, Jane.** How China's 'Bat Woman' Hunted Down Viruses from SARS to the New Coronavirus. *Scientific American.* [Online] June 2020. [Cited: 3 June, 2020.] https://www.scientificamerican.com/article/how-chinas-bat-woman-hunted-down-viruses-from-sars-to-the-new-coronavirus1/.
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20. *Severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) and coronavirus disease-2019 (COVID-19): The epidemic and the challenges.* **Chih-Cheng Lai, Tzu-Ping Shih, Wen-Chien Ko, Hung-Jen Tang, and Po-Ren Hsuehe**. 3, s.l. : International Journal of Antimicrobial Agents, 2020, Vol. 55.
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23. **Trump, Donald J.** Proclamation on the Suspension of Entry as Nonimmigrants of Certain Students and Researchers from the People's Republic of China. *The White House.* [Online] May 29, 2020. [Cited: June 08, 2020.] https://www.whitehouse.gov/presidential-actions/proclamation-suspension-entry-nonimmigrants-certain-students-researchers-peoples-republic-china/.

[redacted]

INCIDENTS/SEIZURES (SAS)(1)

Incident/Seizure 1

[redacted]

Incident/Seizure 1 - Seized Properties (1)

[redacted]

[redacted]

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[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted] ZHOU, Yusen - Remarks				
1	**Author:**		**Date:**	11/25/2019
	Remark:	[redacted]		
2	**Author:**		**Date:**	05/01/2020
	Remark:	Beijing Institute of Microbiology and Epidemiology-Academy of Military Medical Sciences Institute of Microbiology Epidemiology-Chinese People's Liberation Army		

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

1	**Author:**		**Date:**	04/15/2020
	Remark:	Postdoctoral researcher Fang Li lab - Fang Li listed as principle investigator//adviser in China listed as Zhengli SHI University of Chinese Academy of Sciences thesis "Bat coronavirus receptor analysis"		

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

Person [redacted] - Remarks				
1	**Author:**		**Date:**	04/16/2020
	Remark:	Undergraduate studies at College of Life Science Wuhan University and Ph D College of Life Sciences State Key Laboratory of Virology Wuhan University focus on medical virology//Co-authors on publications with Fang Li		

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

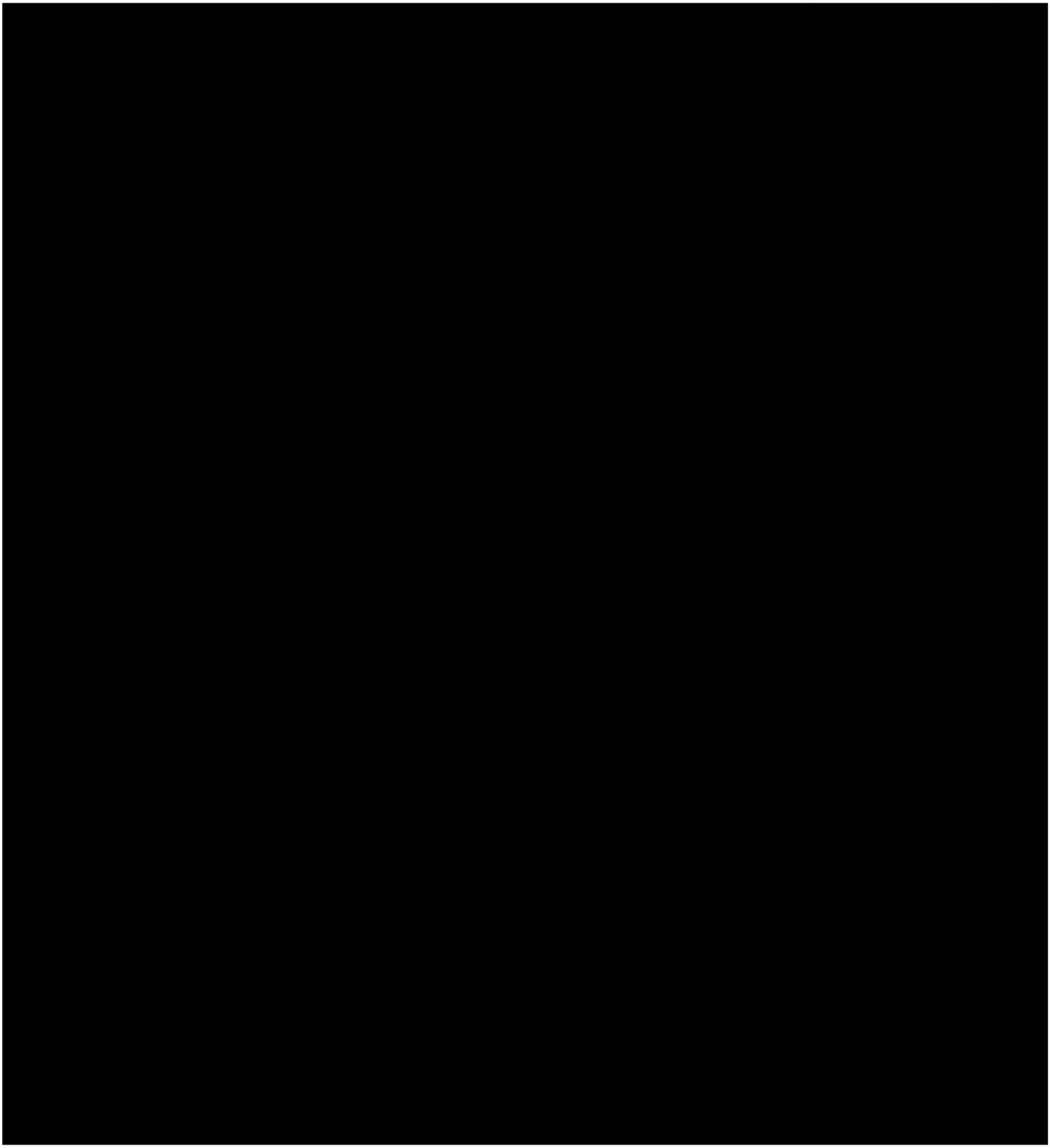
[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]



[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

Courier 1 [redacted] ([redacted])

[redacted]

Subject

Last Name: Courier 1
First Name: Courier 1
Birth Date: [redacted]
Birth Country: China (CN/CHN)
Citizenship: China (CN/CHN)
Gender: Male (M)

[redacted]

Examination Details

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

Comments

[redacted]

Subject was encountered at the Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport as an inbound passenger on Delta Airlines flight #43 from Paris-Charles de Gaulle Airpor[redacted]

[redacted] The subject had been previously encountered by CBP in June of 2021 in Detroit as an outbound passenger destined for Shanghai, China.[redacted]

The subject said he was returning [redacted] Minnesota after spending [redacted] months in [redacted] China. The subject said he is a full-time faculty membe[redacted]University here is a medical science professor.

A baggage exam was conducted with negative results, but [redacted] copies of some documents found in the subject's luggage were taken. The documents were in English and Chinese languages. The English language notes referenced medical science with a specific focus on studies related to SARS-CoV-2, commonly known as Covid-19.

[redacted]

The subject was interviewed by [redacted]. The subject said he is a faculty member at [redacted]University and is a professor of medical science. The subject said he does not have employment in the United States and spends his time in the United States when the university is on break. The subject said he previously worked for t[redacted] as a research fellow from 2012 to 2019 and then began work wit[redacted]University in 2019. [redacted]

The subject said he does not want to naturalize and become a United States citizen because it is more convenient for him to maintain his employment with the university in China. The subject also added that he is reluctant to become a citizen because his father holds traditional values and does not approve of him becoming a citizen.

[redacted] and [redacted]

[redacted]

06/21/2021 Incident Report#[redacted]:

[redacted]

On 06/21/2021 Mr. Courier 1 (DOB: [redacted], Chinese PP: [redacted], [redacted]) arrived at the Detroit Metro Airport McNamara Terminal to board DL 283 outbound destined to China.[redacted]. Inspection was conducted by [redacted], [redacted] due to being match [redacted] for previous undeclared biologicals. [redacted] 's checked baggage were retrieved [redacted]

[redacted]brought into CBP Federal Inspection Area for inspection. Baggage examination revealed a box with 132 vials which were identifie[redacted] to likely being chambers of Drosophila sp. (a species of fly) eggs, larvae, or adults. Drosophila, commonly used model organisms to study a variety of biological research hypothesis. The 132 vials were secured within the shipping box and detained on [redacted] pending results of Courier 1 's outbound inspection. Courier 1 was interviewed in the jetway by [redacted] who identified themselves as CBP officers. Courier 1 stated he is an [redacted] and returning to China for [redacted] months after being present in the United States f[redacted] months. Courier 1 provided address [redacted]. [redacted] stated he has U.S. phone number [redacted] and Chinese number [redacted]. Courier 1 also provided phone number [redacted]. Courier 1 was asked about employment and said he was a teacher. When asked what kind he stated a life sciences professor. Courier 1 then specified more so saying he's a professor of genetics and has a PhD[redacted] said he does no lab work and has no biologicals in his possession Courier 1 said that he was going to China to work. [redacted] said he has a teaching position in China at Zhengzhou University Courier 1 was asked about U.S. employment and said he work[redacted] their biochemistry department under Professor [redacted]. [redacted]. [redacted]. [redacted] Courier 1 stated he is a professor and stated he has no biologicals in his carry-on or checked baggage Courier 1 was notified that lying or misrepresenting to CBP officers may be illegal and asked again stating he has no biologicals or other materials from a lab in his checked or carry-on bags Courier 1 was asked about any issues with CBP in the past and stated none. Courier 1 was asked about any issues with CBP In Detroit Metro Airport in the Past [redacted]. Courier 1 stated that he had an issue because he brought biologicals once around November 2018. Courier 1 stated a "colleague" Yusen Zhou asked him as a favor to bring items to a guy named U.S. Professor 1 whose at the Universit[redacted]. Courier 1 was asked to describe his colleague relationship with Yusen Zhou[redacted]). Courier 1 immediately backtracked the phrase colleague and identified Yusen Zhou as a friend and said they do not work together Courier 1 was asked where Yusen works and said he has since passed away a year ago but worked at Beijing Institute of Biotechnology. Courier 1 said they know each other through collaboration. When asked about their collaboration he said not a formal collaboration just knowing each other and being friends Courier 1 was asked to describe their informal collaboration and said they were working on a project for immune system to fight viruses. Courier 1 further described it by saying it was research on nano biotechnology for gene therapy in relation to cancer. Courier 1 was asked how many occasions he visited Yusen's Office Courier 1 appeared very uncomfortable and was saying he never visited and it was all just information discussion but eventually stated he went there twice. Courier 1 was asked if Beijing Institute of Biotechnology was part of a larger university. Courier 1 said no it was just an institute but then stated it's like a government institute. Courier 1 was asked if it's a People's Liberation Army Institute and said no Courier 1 was asked which location he visited in Beijing (Haidian or Fengtai) and said it's in Fengtai Courier 1 was asked if it was correct that Beijing Institute of Biotechnology was part of the PLAs Academy of Military Medical Sciences (AMMS) and said it probably was. Courier 1 was asked to describe the length of time for their collaboration and said between January 2019 to June 2020 when Yusen passed away Courier 1 was asked to identify Yusen's colleagues and said there was a person name[redacted] Courier 1 was asked about [redacted] ([redacted]) and said no way she's very famous. Courier 1 was confronted about attempting to conceal his ties to the PLA and notified CBP had already located biologicals in his checked baggage and asked to describe what was in his possession Courier 1 stated he has about 100 vials of fruit flies in his checked bag and said he did not declare because he was not sure he was allowed to transport through the border. Courier 1 was asked why he didn't obtain a customs broker and said it's just to much work and said the vials are very important to him Courier 1 was asked how he obtained the vials and said from[redacted] who he later identified a[redacted] University. Courier 1 stated the flies are for genetics and cancer research a[redacted] University. Courier 1 said they are expensive, not easily obtainable in China. Courier 1 said th[redacted]

[redacted] and ordered them for him. Courier 1 was asked why he didn't order himself. He said he was on the account and is not anymor[redacted] did it for him. He said the costs was approximately 1,200 USD for the vials. Courier 1 stated he accepted a position a[redacted] University with the Department of Medical and Pharmaceuticals. Courier 1 stated his boss is[redacted] whose male and about 56 years old. Courier 1 stated he was recruited by[redacted] and heads his own lab called Immunity of Infections Diseases. Courier 1 said they are studying COVID and currently building a BSL-2 lab Courier 1 stated he has a contract of 5 years and earns approximately 60 thousand USD annually Courier 1 was asked if this was a talent program award. Courier 1 stated it was not and just a endowed professorship Courier 1 was asked how many bank accounts he has in China and said two at[redacted] wit[redacted] and [redacted] in each account. Courier 1 said he has another account with Chi[redacted] with approximately [redacted] USD. An inspection of his carry-on bag was done which reveal[redacted] [redacted]. Courier 1 had[redacted] laptop that was discovered in his checked luggage. Courier 1 stated the[redacted] laptop was issued b[redacted] provided a username and password as well. Courier 1 was asked if he was allowed to have the laptop and said yes. Courier 1 stated he has no collaborations at the moment and [redacted] has knowledge and there is no conflict of interest. Courier 1 also stated that his work in China differs from his work at[redacted] Courier 1 was asked to describe his current position [redacted] due to several conflicting statements about his current situation there Courier 1 said that he collaborates with a professor[redacted]. Courier 1 was asked the last time he actually communicated with[redacted] and said it was in 2019. Courier 1 was asked to confirm they he has not spoken to [redacted] since 2019 and said yes. He was asked if it was correct that his only collaboration wit[redacted] was limited to conversations wit[redacted] outside of[redacted] said yes. Courier 1 was asked whose credentials he was using to log into t[redacted] Laptop and said his [redacted] Courier 1 was asked if th[redacted] laptop was issued to[redacted] said yes. Courier 1 was asked what [redacted] would do if they discovered he was taking a laptop issues t[redacted] by [redacted] to China and said [redacted] could be fired. Courier 1 was asked if he has been paying taxes on his foreign income Courier 1 stated that he gives[redacted] the information an[redacted] takes care of the taxes. Courier 1 was asked if he reports his foreign income and stated that as far as he knows he gives the information t[redacted] Courier 1 was asked where he obtained his BA and said Wuhan University. Courier 1 said he obtained his PhD fr[redacted] University under [redacted] and did his post-doc a[redacted] Courier 1 said he had BSL-2 access at[redacted] and Mayo. Courier 1 said he has never had access to BSL-3 and especially BSL-4 labs. He said he has never visited but knows of Wuhan Institute of Virology and said the labs at AMMS were not sensitive that he visited. He was asked about Yusen's background and said he knows he was researching COVID vaccines. Courier 1 was asked how soon after the outbreak and said Yusen told him they began work on vaccine immediately after the outbreak. Courier 1 said he has never served with the PLA or worked for them in any civilian capacity. Courier 1 said he was never paid by AMMS for their collaboration and is also not a party member. Courier 1 was asked about any interactions with the Chinese MSS and said he has never had any dealings with them and said he has never been involved in any classified research projects. Courier 1 stated he has never mailed biologicals to China Courier 1 was notified he has failed to declare and misrepresented biologicals in his possession twice, concealed his ties with the PLA during interview, misrepresented his status wi[redacted] possess [redacted] devices with utilizing with another persons log-on credentials and stated he understood. The box of vials was detained on[redacted] and seized[redacted] on [redacted]. Courier 1's [redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted] Courier 1 boarded his flight upon conclusion of inspection.

Port Location