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WEEKLY EDITION

## China to Provide 2 Bln COVID-19 Vaccines Globally This Year

China will strive to provide 2 billion COVID-19 vaccine doses to the world throughout this year and offer 100 million U.S. dollars to COVAX, Chinese President Xi Jinping said on August 5 in a written message to the first meeting of the international forum on COVID-19 vaccine cooperation.

The 100 million U.S. dollars to COVAX will mainly go to the distribution of vaccines to developing countries, he said, adding that China would do its best to help developing countries cope with the COVID-19 pandemic.

China is committed to building a global community of health for all and has provided vaccines to the world, especially developing countries. The country actively carried out joint production, which illustrates the concept of vaccines as global public goods, Xi stressed.

"I hope this forum will promote the accessibility and fair distribution of

vaccines around the world, strengthen solidarity and cooperation in developing countries, and make new contributions for an early victory against the pandemic," he said.

At the Global Health Summit this May, Xi announced five measures to support global solidarity against COVID-19. These include the proposal of setting up an international forum on vaccine cooperation for vaccine-developing and producing countries, companies, and other stakeholders to explore ways of promoting fair and equitable distribution of vaccines worldwide.

"We are willing to work with the international community to promote international vaccine cooperation and build a community with a shared future for humanity," he said.

The Joint Statement of the International Forum on COVID-19 Vaccine Cooperation was also issued.

Source: XINHUA

## Homegrown Vaccine Effective Against the Delta Variant

By DU Peng & TANG Zhexiao

Chinese vaccine producer Shenzhen Kangtai Biological Products said on August 4 they are making progress on a new COVID-19 vaccine against the Delta variant, marking the beginning of its production.

With findings published online in *Cell Discovery*, the research team discovered a potent neutralizing antibody against the Delta variant that could be effective in short-term prevention and early treatment of COVID-19, triggered by this variant.

Known as the "biological missile" and a targeted therapy drug, monoclonal antibody, with the characteristics of strong specificity, significant efficacy and low toxicity, has shown its excellent efficacy and broad application prospects in the treatment of a variety of diseases.

In response to viral infectious diseases, neutralizing monoclonal antibodies can specifically neutralize the virus and prevent the virus from entering cells for proliferation, which can be used as short-term prevention for high-risk groups and treatment for post-viral diseases. Therefore, it is also a focus on the global research on COVID-19's prevention and control.

In this study, phage display tech-

nology was used to establish an immune library via peripheral blood mononuclear cells from eight patients who had recovered from SARS-CoV-2 infection as genetic raw materials, and then several monoclonal antibodies with high and active activity against SARS-CoV-2 were successfully screened.

The analysis data showed that the RBD epitopes identified by the most active antibody 2B11 highly overlapped with the binding site of the cell surface receptor ACE2 of the novel coronavirus, which could effectively block the binding of the novel coronavirus to ACE2 and then prevent its infection of cells.

Further histology slide analysis of the lung showed that the application of 2B11 could significantly reduce the pulmonary inflammation caused by virus infection.

Recent studies also showed that 2B11 had a highly consistent neutralization activity against the Delta variant, suggesting that it has great application value in short-term prevention and early treatment of COVID-19 caused by this variant.

For now, the clinical application of the antibody is progressing in an orderly way, and it is expected to be used in the prevention and control of the novel coronavirus in China.



Sample-testing of Sinopharm's inactivated vaccine (PHOTO: XINHUA)



The report "America Ranked First"?! The Truth about America's fight against COVID-19 is jointly released by three Chinese think tanks in Beijing, August 9. (Photo provided by the seminar organizer)

## Editor's Pick

### Chinese Think Tanks Unveil Truth about U.S. COVID-19 Fight

By WANG Xiaoxia

The Chongyang Institute for Financial Studies, Renmin University of China, together with Taihe Think Tank and Intellisla Institute released a report on truth about America's fight against COVID-19 pandemic in Beijing on August 9, 2021. The report, "America Ranked First"?! The Truth about America's fight against COVID-19, is the first report in the world to unveil

the truth about America's fight against COVID-19.

"The United States ranked the first in the COVID Resilience Ranking," Bloomberg reported on June 28, 2021. This goes against basic human ethics. This spin will not help future generations to understand the current world history, either realistically or objectively, according to the report.

Only for politics, not for life

As of August 7, 2021, the U.S.

has reported 35,530,951 cumulative confirmed cases of COVID-19, which included 613,658 deaths. Both numbers ranked the first in the world.

The report stressed that behind the cold numbers lies the domestic politics of the U.S., particularly the highly politicized partisanship, which has taken many lives of the people "who need not have died." "It's a slaughter," said American epidemiologist William Foege. See page 2

### COVID-19 Origin-tracing Shared Obligation of All Countries

By WANG Xiaoxia

#### Opinion

Origin-tracing of COVID-19 is the shared obligation of all countries. Political parties and organizations across the world must shoulder their responsibility to enhance cooperation, and spare no effort to facilitate global anti-pandemic cooperation.

Over 300 political parties, social groups and think tanks in more than 100 countries and districts submitted a joint statement to the World Health Organization (WHO) Secretariat on August 2, opposing politicization of virus origin-tracing. "We support medical experts and scientific researchers in carrying out thorough origin-tracing in a professional spirit covering multiple countries and multiple locations, so as to provide necessary reference experience for the prevention of the next possible pandemic," the statement said.

However, the U.S. seems to disagree with the view of the joint statement. In order to shift its responsibility in poor COVID-19 response and out of the political motive of smearing and suppressing others, the U.S. has

been busy with politicization, stigmatization, and turning origin-tracing study into its tool, said Foreign Ministry's Spokesperson Zhao Lijian in Beijing.

To prove itself "transparent and responsible," the U.S. should invite WHO experts to investigate Fort Detrick and its 200-plus bio-labs overseas, the Spokesperson stressed. Whereas, the U.S. government is unlikely to accept the WHO virus origin-tracing investigation in the U.S., Singaporean sociologist Zhang Hanyin said, because it is trying to mislead the WHO virus origin-tracing work by calling for renewed investigation of China. The U.S. wouldn't accept the results showing that the novel coronavirus may originate from its own laboratory.

Martin Jacques, British journalist and one of Britain's foremost public intellectuals, is calling for investigations of more countries as well. Jacques, also former Senior Fellow at Cambridge University, tweeted that, "The global impact of the West's dismal record on COVID-19 has been hugely greater than China's, so why the calls for an international investigation of China? There's a far better case for an interna-

tional investigation into why the West failed so badly."

It was not appropriate for the U.S. to accuse China in this matter because China is the country that fought the pandemic with high efficiency and it's the country that offered help for many countries to fight the pandemic, said Buthaina Shabaan, Syria's presidential political advisor.

Global COVID-19 cases exceeded 200 million on August 5, with the death toll surpassing 4.25 million, according to Johns Hopkins University. At this critical moment, the whole world is calling for solidarity, vaccine equity and science-based approaches in the global pandemic fight. Tracing the origins of COVID-19 will help scientists and health experts find ways to prevent similar incidents from reoccurring in the future. Thus, relevant countries should adopt the right attitude, respect science, and help shoulder the responsibility to enhance international cooperation in virus origin-tracing. Viruses know no border or race. The only way to defeat them is for the international community to work together, as set out in the joint statement sent to the WHO.

## WEEKLY REVIEW

### Chinese Authorities Congratulate Athletes on Olympic Achievements

China's central authorities sent a congratulatory message to the country's Olympic delegation on Aug 8 for their accomplishments and sportsmanship at the 2020 Tokyo Olympic Games.

### Guidelines on Sci-tech Achievements Evaluation Issued

Chinese authorities have issued guidelines on improving the evaluation mechanism for scientific and technological achievements, putting forward 10 targeted and practical measures.

### China Develops Anti-coronavirus UVC Sterilization Device

A new UVC sterilization device developed by Chinese companies showed a 99.99 percent inactivation rate against novel coronavirus after 5 seconds' irradiation, S&T Daily reported on August 4.

### Long March Rocket Lifts off with Zhongxing-2E Satellite

A Long March-3B carrier rocket carrying the communications satellite Zhongxing-2E blasted off from Southwest China's Xichang Satellite Launch Center on August 6.

### SARS-like Coronavirus Synthesized in the U.S. as Early as 2008

By QI Liming  
ZHANG Jiaying

As early as in 2008, a paper published in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences (PNAS) revealed, "We report the design, synthesis, and recovery of the largest synthetic replicating life form, a 29.7-kb bat severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS)-like coronavirus (Bat-SCoV), a likely progenitor to the SARS-CoV epidemic."

The same author then elaborated that a SARS-like cluster of circulating bat coronaviruses showed potential for human emergence in 2015.

In the abstract of the paper in 2008, the corresponding author of the paper, Ralph Baric, who has been studying coronaviruses for decades, declared that to test a possible route of emergence from the noncultivable Bat-SCoV to human SARS-CoV, they designed a consensus Bat-SCoV genome and replaced the Bat-SCoV Spike receptor-binding domain (RBD) with the SARS-CoV RBD (Bat-SRBD).

Bat-SRBD was infectious in cell culture and in mice and was efficiently neutralized by antibodies specifically for both bat and human CoV Spike proteins.

Novel Coronavirus is a type of SARS-like coronavirus. See page 3

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