

**To:** [redacted] [redacted] [redacted]@amsterdamumc.nl]; [redacted] [redacted] [redacted]@rivm.nl]; [redacted]  
 [redacted] [redacted] [redacted]@rivm.nl]  
**Cc:** [redacted] [redacted] [redacted] [redacted] [redacted]@rivm.nl]; [redacted] [redacted] [redacted]@amsterdamumc.nl]; [redacted]  
 [redacted] [redacted] [redacted]@rivm.nl]; [redacted] [redacted] [redacted] [redacted]@amsterdamumc.nl]  
**From:** [redacted] [redacted]  
**Sent:** Mon 11/23/2020 10:04:03 AM  
**Subject:** RE: RESPONSE: Demand to withhold publication by Virus Evolution of article authored by [redacted] et al  
**Received:** Mon 11/23/2020 10:04:05 AM

Sorry i ignored my e-mails this weekend.  
 I agree with a new submission to VE.

Should I emphasize in the coverletter that we haven taken out all GISAID sequence analyses?

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**From:** [redacted] [redacted] [redacted]@amsterdamumc.nl>  
**Sent:** zondag 22 november 2020 20:41  
**To:** [redacted] [redacted] [redacted]@rivm.nl>; [redacted] [redacted] [redacted]@rivm.nl>  
**Cc:** [redacted] [redacted] [redacted] [redacted]@rivm.nl]; [redacted] [redacted] [redacted]@rivm.nl]; [redacted]  
 [redacted] [redacted] [redacted]@amsterdamumc.nl]; [redacted] [redacted] [redacted] [redacted]@rivm.nl]; [redacted] [redacted] [redacted]@amsterdamumc.nl]>  
**Subject:** Re: RESPONSE: Demand to withhold publication by Virus Evolution of article authored by [redacted] et al

agree!

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[redacted] [redacted] [redacted] | Amsterdam University Medical Centers  
 Academic Medical Center, [redacted] University of Amsterdam | Meibergdreef 9, 1105 AZ Amsterdam, the Netherlands | phone [redacted]

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**Van:** [redacted] [redacted] [redacted]@rivm.nl>  
**Verzonden:** zondag 22 november 2020 18:58  
**Aan:** [redacted] [redacted] [redacted]@rivm.nl>; [redacted] [redacted] [redacted]@amsterdamumc.nl>  
**CC:** [redacted] [redacted] [redacted] [redacted]@rivm.nl]; [redacted] [redacted] [redacted]@rivm.nl]; [redacted]  
 [redacted] [redacted] [redacted]@amsterdamumc.nl]; [redacted] [redacted] [redacted] [redacted]@rivm.nl]; [redacted] [redacted] [redacted]@amsterdamumc.nl]>  
**Onderwerp:** Re: RESPONSE: Demand to withhold publication by Virus Evolution of article authored by [redacted] et al

Hoi,

If [redacted] indicated we have to newly submit the manuscript then I agree with [redacted] we should do that asap. I hope this does not mean it has to be reviewed again but we will see. Maybe we can call [redacted] tomorrow morning and ask which is the fastest way forward.

Kind regards,

[redacted]

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**From:** [redacted] [redacted]  
**Sent:** Sunday, 22 November 2020 17:57:38  
**To:** [redacted]  
**Cc:** [redacted] [redacted] [redacted] [redacted] [redacted] [redacted] [redacted] [redacted]  
**Subject:** Re: RESPONSE: Demand to withhold publication by Virus Evolution of article authored by [redacted] et al

Exactly. So in my opinion that is the line to follow.

We did not speak with her. She mailed to have contact and the gisaid letter indicated that they asked her to reach out

Best [redacted]

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**Van:** [redacted] [redacted] [redacted]@amsterdamumc.nl>  
**Datum:** 22 november 2020 om 17:30:18 CET  
**Aan:** [redacted] [redacted] [redacted]@rivm.nl>  
**CC:** [redacted] [redacted] [redacted] [redacted]@rivm.nl>; [redacted] [redacted] [redacted] [redacted]@rivm.nl>; [redacted]

< 5.1.2e @rivm.nl>, 5.1.2e < 5.1.2e @amsterdamumc.nl>, 5.1.2e < 5.1.2e @rivm.nl>, 5.1.2e < 5.1.2e @amsterdamumc.nl>

**Onderwerp:** Re: RESPONSE: Demand to withhold publication by Virus Evolution of article authored by 5.1.2e et al

But i still don't understand how 5.1.2e could have a say in manuscript with genbank sequences in the first place? There's no reference to this in the gisaid letter.  
What was discussed with her on friday?

Verstuurd vanaf mijn iPhone

Op 22 nov. 2020 om 16:10 heeft 5.1.2e < 5.1.2e @rivm.nl> het volgende geschreven:

Hi,

Exactly therefore I think we can withdraw the original and submit the revised and just communicate to gisaid that we have withdrawn?

5.1.2e indicated that we need to newly submit the revised manuscript. It can not be a revision of the original submission. He also offered to have an informal look at that.

In my opinion we should avoid 5.1.2e to have a say in the publication of the Genbank only manuscript. It seems that both GISAID and pubus did not pick up on the fact that with the withdrawal of the gisaid sequences there is no longer a case for 5.1.2e abd that the dossier can be closed. Maybe we should highlight this to both?

5.1.2e : she asked for 5.1.2e to contact her

Best 5.1.2e

**Van:** 5.1.2e < 5.1.2e @rivm.nl>

**Datum:** 22 november 2020 om 14:59:36 CET

**Aan:** 5.1.2e 2e @amsterdamumc.nl>, 5.1.2e @rivm.nl>

**CC:** 5.1.2e .2e @rivm.nl>, 5.1.2e l.2e @rivm.nl>, 5.1.2e < 5.1.2e @amsterdamumc.nl>, 5.1.2e < 5.1.2e @rivm.nl>, 5.1.2e < 5.1.2e @amsterdamumc.nl>

**Onderwerp:** Re: RESPONSE: Demand to withhold publication by Virus Evolution of article authored by 5.1.2e et al

Hoi,

I'm also confused...since we do not use data from GISAID in our revised manuscript it is not clear to me on what grounds GISAID has any say in what Virus Evolution should publish or not?

Kind regards,

5.1.2e

**From:** 5.1.2e < 5.1.2e @amsterdamumc.nl>

**Sent:** Sunday, 22 November 2020 12:25:16

**To:** 5.1.2e

**Cc:** 5.1.2e

**Subject:** Re: RESPONSE: Demand to withhold publication by Virus Evolution of article authored by 5.1.2e et al

I don't understand.. The revised manuscript is already based on genbank only isn't it? What did 5.1.2e propose on Friday?

Thanks, best,

5.1.2e

Verstuurd vanaf mijn iPhone

Op 22 nov. 2020 om 10:38 heeft [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]> [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]> @rivm.nl> het volgende geschreven:

Dear all,

This explains why [REDACTED] suddenly was seeking contact with us last Friday....

Anyways, I think that this goes way to far what GISAID is asking (it is a wrong precedent to set to contact GenBank submitters and ask for permission for publication) and in my opinion we should withdraw the manuscript and submit the version based on GenBank sequences only.

Best wishes [REDACTED]

Ps indeed I registered last Thursday at GISAID. Please note that 75% of the authors on the Science, Nat Med and Eurosur papers are not registered at GISAID as [REDACTED] observed.

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**From:** [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]> @gisaid.org>

**Sent:** zaterdag 21 november 2020 23:32

**To:** [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]> @rivm.nl>; [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]> @amsterdamumc.nl>; [REDACTED] <x.han@amsterdamumc.nl>; [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]> @rivm.nl>

**Cc:** [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]> @rivm.nl>; [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]> @rivm.nl>; Legal at GISAID <[REDACTED]> @gisaid.org>

**Subject:** Re: RESPONSE: Demand to withhold publication by Virus Evolution of article authored by [REDACTED] et al

Please see the attached reply letter from the [REDACTED]

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**From:** [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]> @rivm.nl>

**Date:** Friday, November 20, 2020 at 18:38

**To:** [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]> @gisaid.org>; [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]> @amsterdamumc.nl>; [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]> @amsterdamumc.nl>; [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]> @rivm.nl>

**Cc:** [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]> @gisaid.org>; [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]> @rivm.nl>; [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]> @rivm.nl>

**Subject:** RESPONSE: Demand to withhold publication by Virus Evolution of article authored by [REDACTED] et al

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for contacting us regarding the use of data obtained from the GISAID data sharing platform in our 'Perspective' titled "*Possible host-adaptation of SARS-CoV-2 due to improved ACE2 receptor binding in mink*".

We appreciate the value of GISAID as an open science platform and the importance of rules and regulations that help maintain the trust of data submitters. We would like to emphasize that our institutions, the Dutch National Institute for Public Health and the Environment (RIVM) and the Amsterdam University Medical Center (AMC), are pleased to have contributed to the success of GISAID, both directly by depositing human influenza and SARS-CoV-2 sequences and by facilitating sequence analyses by collaborating institutes (including Erasmus MC) through sample collections within the Dutch public health network of municipal health offices or our hospital.

We would like to emphasize that we have consistently acted in good faith in our research and the writing of our perspective. We have openly communicated our findings in a national public health meeting attended by members of the Dutch 'mink consortium' in early October and more recently in a meeting attended by [REDACTED] [REDACTED]. In reply to your question about the pre-publication of our perspective on a pre-print server, we assure you that we have tried to do so but were rejected by BioRxiv

because they do not accept 'Perspectives'. Please find the message from BioRxiv attached (October 9<sup>th</sup>).

In our manuscript, we discussed possible phenotypic changes in the SARS-CoV-2 spike protein as a result of substitutions mentioned in two peer-reviewed papers published in *Eurosurveillance* and *Science*. To place the importance of the investigated substitutions in perspective and provide *context* about prevalence, we analyzed the available mink-derived SARS-CoV-2 sequences that were available from GISAID.

Unfortunately, it has become apparent that the interpretation of the DAA regarding the use of 'unpublished' data to provide context is ambiguous, leading to the complaints of our usage of data from GISAID. We pursued our work in the spirit of open data sharing in order to advance science while others, perhaps understandably since they have contributed the sequences, may have more restrictive opinions. We would like to engage in an open discussion with GISAID to better understand what can and cannot be done and help make this clearer to the scientific community. Given the appearance of similar studies from other groups in recent days, it would seem that the ambiguousness of the DAA is genuinely problematic.

In the meantime, we feel it is important that the findings and conclusions reported in our manuscript be published and shared with the scientific and public health communities ASAP. To this end, we propose to remove the sequences by [REDACTED] team deposited in the public domain of GISAID from our manuscript, and base our Perspective solely on the genetic substitutions specifically mentioned in the published manuscripts and sequences available in Genbank (available since 12 May 2020 and as discussed by [REDACTED] and colleagues in *Eurosurveillance* on 11 June 2020). We feel that there is some urgency in solving this matter given that the main text of the aforementioned *Science* publication specifically states "Our sequencing did not reveal any systematic mutations that would need to be assessed for potential phenotypic effects", whereas our analysis points in a different direction. This in itself illustrates the strength of open science.

Looking forward to your reply,

[REDACTED] also on behalf of the co-authors

<image001.png>

From: [REDACTED] @gisaid.org>

Sent: maandag 16 november 2020 02:54

To: [REDACTED] @amsterdamumc.nl>; [REDACTED] @amsterdamumc.nl>; [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] @erasmusmc.nl>; [REDACTED] @rivm.nl>

Cc: [REDACTED] @gisaid.org>

Subject: Demand to withhold publication by Virus Evolution of article authored by [REDACTED] et al

Importance: High

Please see the attached letter from the [REDACTED]

Kindly note that this matter is urgent. We ask that you respond as soon as practicable, and no later than by 20<sup>th</sup> November 2020.

[REDACTED]

*Real-Time Communication in Disease Prevention  
a Public-Private-Partnership with the Federal Republic of Germany*  
Lipowskystraße 10 | 81373 Munich | Germany  
District Court Munich Reg: VR204844

*GISAID, from Vision to Reality*

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<GISAID reply to 5.1.2e et al 21-Nov.pdf>

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