



Get the content you want anytime you want. [REGISTER NOW](#) | [SIGN IN](#)



[NEWS](#)

[CONFERENCES](#)

[OUTBREAK MONITOR](#)

[VIDEOS](#)

[PUBLICATION](#)

[EDUCATION](#)

DISEASE-SPECIFIC TOPICS

IN THE LITERATURE

CORONAVIRUS

ZIKA

INFLUENZA

HIV / AIDS

HCV / HEPATITIS

BLOOD-BORNE DISEASES

FOOD-BORNE INFECTION / FOOD SAFETY

GASTROINTESTINAL INFECTIONS

HEALTHCARE-ASSOCIATED INFECTIONS (HAI)

PREVENTION

RESPIRATORY INFECTIONS

SEXUALLY TRANSMITTED DISEASES

SKIN & SOFT TISSUE DISEASES

ZOO NOTIC & VECTOR-BORNE DISEASES

ARTICLE

Discovering COVID-19 Countermeasures Without Discarding Scientific Method

APR 20, 2020 | KENNETH BENDER, PHARMD, MA

The National Institutes of Health (NIH) and the Foundation for the NIH have [announced](#) the launch of a massive public-private partnership to speed up the development and evaluation of coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) vaccine and treatment options. This initiative is called Accelerating COVID-19 Therapeutic Interventions and Vaccines (ACTIV).

"We need to bring the full power of the biomedical research enterprise to bear on this crisis," Francis Collins, MD, PhD, director of the NIH said in the announcement. "Now is the time to come together with unassailable objectivity to swiftly advance the development of the most promising vaccine and therapeutic candidates that can help end the COVID-19 global pandemic."

The announcement indicates that the ACTIV collaborative is being formed as the research community is trying to sift through more than 100 potential preventives and therapeutics for COVID-19. The program will support simultaneous, rather than serial, testing of multiple candidate products, across what have traditionally been siloed, competitive pharmaceutical and academic laboratories and clinical testing networks.

"ACTIV will aim to provide guidance which can be used to prioritize the plethora of vaccine and therapeutic candidates in development and connect clinical trial networks to test new and repurposed candidates quickly and efficiently," according to the statement.

While the program will hasten research by pooling resources and sharing methods and evaluating models, it should also serve to demonstrate that methodologies can be quickened without compromising findings or invalidating outcomes.

The emphasis on good science is imperative now, according to Jesse Goodman, MD, MPH, Georgetown University, and Luciana Borio, MD, In-Q-Tel, Arlington County, Virginia, in their viewpoint column in [JAMA](#).

"Currently, under intense pressure and based on hope and limited data from poorly conducted clinical trials and observational data, many clinicians are embarking on ill-advised and uncontrolled human experimentation with unproven treatments," Goodman and Borio wrote.

They call for careful assessment of the decisions to seek and evoke emergency use authorization (EUA) from the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA), such as that recently used to open treatment with chloroquine and hydroxychloroquine.

"Not only are there potential negative consequences from uncontrolled use of these drugs based on currently unconvincing data but, equally concerning, the integrity of governmental decision-making is increasingly coming under pressure, risking harm to both patients and to the public confidence needed to respond effectively to this pandemic," they stated.

Goodman and Borio explain that an EUA is intended to follow from the careful weighing of available evidence, and that it represents a de facto government judgment that use of an agent is warranted in a specific emergency. "Although unintended, it is not infrequent to see an EUA portrayed as akin to an FDA approval," they pointed out.

Goodman and Borio urge regulatory and research communities to avail themselves of the most recent results from randomized controlled trials, such as

See the latest news and information from our strategic partners
[CLICK HERE](#)

FEATURED



Working Toward a Cure for HIV: Where Are We?

Is there a cure? How long until we find it? And will it work for the majority of people living with HIV?

The Top Infectious Disease News Delivered Weekly
[SIGN UP NOW](#)

those currently supported and/or conducted by the NIH, the World Health Organization and Inserm. In addition, current treatment and support methods should be optimized, and best practices expanded. They also emphasize the importance of protecting the integrity of and resulting public trust in the scientific and regulatory agencies and their advice and decisions.

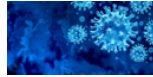
"That trust will be needed once vaccine against COVID-19 become available and in future public health emergencies," Goodman and Borio concluded.

To stay informed on the latest in infectious disease news and developments, please [sign up](#) for our weekly newsletter.

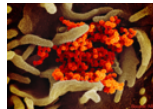
Related Coverage



Contagion Live News Network: Coronavirus Updates for April 20, 2020
[Read more >>](#)



More Evidence Backs Loss of Smell as an Early Symptom of COVID-19
[Read more >>](#)



COVID-19: Finally an ELISA Emerges
[Read more >>](#)

RELATED SITES



California residents can request: "Do Not Sell My Personal Information" by clicking here.



Monitor we provide practitioners and specialists with disease-specific information designed to improve patient outcomes and assist with the identification, diagnosis, treatment, and prevention of infectious diseases. Our mission is to assure that the healthcare community and public have the knowledge to make more informed choices and have a positive impact on patient outcomes.

Intellisphere, LLC
 2 Clarke Drive
 Suite 100
 Cranbury, NJ 08512

P: 609-716-7777
 F: 609-716-4747

[About Us](#) | [Contact Us](#) | [Press Release](#) | [Privacy Policy](#) | [Terms & Conditions](#)

Copyright© 2006-2019 Intellisphere, LLC. All Rights Reserved.