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Intuitive Global Insight Into COVID-19 Clinical Research Activities—The "COVID-19 Map of Hope"

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The coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic is a rapidly evolving situation. As of March 23, 2020, there were 343,421 confirmed cases in 167 countries (https://coronavirus.jhu.edu/map.html, accessed March 23, 2020). Solid evidence is required to take appropriate action.[1] Global clinical research activities are steadily increasing. At this stage, we believe that sharing COVID-19–related clinical research activities in a transparent and intuitive manner has the potential to (1) facilitate the flow of information, (2) enable contacts between researchers, and (3) inform the public. Using an agile workflow approach and public input, our team of geoinformation scientists, physicians, and clinical research professionals has created the "COVID-19 Map of Hope" (Figure 1). This global map intuitively synthesizes and visualizes geospatial data and clinical trial information (Table 1) from the World Health Organization Clinical Trials Search Portal https://apps.who.int/trialsearch/, which is updated once a week. This World Health Organization Portal provides access to a central database containing the trial registration data sets provided by important international registries.

The "Map of Hope" is freely accessible at https://covid-19.heigit.org/index.html. This map is continuously updated to include current information and to expand the offered functionality. We hope this information is useful in the global community's fight against COVID-19 and that it will benefit our patients and our colleagues on the front line of this battle. We welcome suggestions from the medical and scientific community so that the "Map of Hope" may contribute to the global alignment of ongoing and future clinical trial efforts.

Conflicts of Interest

The authors have disclosed no conflicts of interest.

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Table 1. Current Main Focus of Clinical Research Based on the World Health Organization Clinical Trial Registry as of March 16, 2020

Research Focus	Registered Clinical Trials, N (%)
Diagnosis	20 (4)
Disease understanding	115 (22)
Clinical management	70 (13)
Drugs	111 (21)
Advanced therapy medicinal products	42 (8)
Vaccines	3 (1)
Traditional Chinese medicine	118 (23)
Impact on the helpers	28 (5)
Other	15 (3)
Σ	522 (100)

Reference

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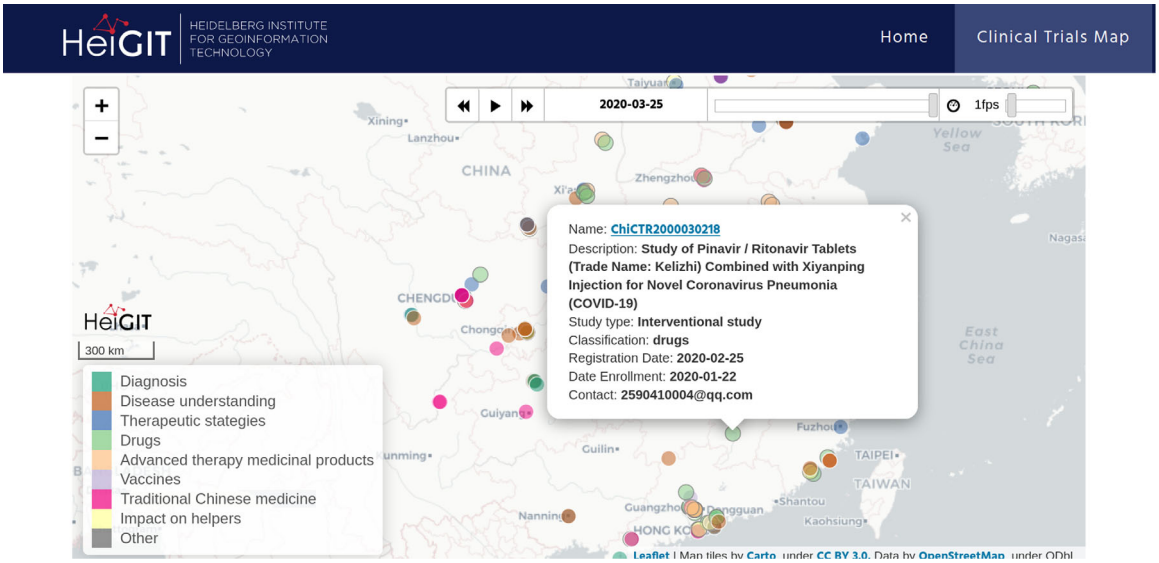

Figure 1. Geospatial mapping of clinical trials for COVID-19.