

**Subject:** 2019 novel Coronavirus Global research and innovation forum: towards a research roadmap  
Feb 11-12, 2020 Geneva WHO HQ

Dear All,

I am delighted to inform you that WHO is organizing a global research partners forum on February 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> in Geneva, to discuss research priorities related to the novel Corona virus. The expected outcome is a research roadmap with clearly defined priorities and a governance framework to take each thematic area forward. Several thematic areas will be considered at the meeting, namely: virus, diagnostics; natural history and transmission; clinical; therapeutics; vaccines; ethics; regulatory science; animal health; data/samples analysis and sharing and; social sciences. We believe that this meeting will be critical in consensus building on the most important research questions, as well as in building global partnerships and collaborations to take this work forward.

This meeting is being organized in partnership with GLOPID R and is being supported by the Bill and Melinda Gates foundation, DFID, Wellcome Trust and several other partners. The secretariat within WHO is the R&D blueprint, co-chaired by Dr Mike Ryan and myself.

As the head of an agency that would play an important role in addressing this new viral outbreak, either by undertaking or funding research, or both, I take great pleasure in inviting you to this meeting. I apologize for the short notice, but you will understand that we have had to plan this in the past few days, keeping in mind the evolving situation.

Kindly let me know if you (or your nominee) will be able to attend and if you need any support from us. Please copy (b) (6) and (b) (6) in your response.

With best wishes,  
Soumya  
Chief Scientist