



Deng, Yuntian <[REDACTED]@g.harvard.edu>

BCH-HMS response to your concerns

Martin Jin <[REDACTED]@g.harvard.edu>

Thu, Apr 1, 2021 at 11:08 PM

To: "Cervini, August" <[REDACTED]@childrens.harvard.edu>

Cc: "[REDACTED]@g.harvard.edu" <[REDACTED]@g.harvard.edu>, "[REDACTED]@hms.harvard.edu" <[REDACTED]@hms.harvard.edu>, "Brodnicki, Gretchen" <[REDACTED]@hms.harvard.edu>, "[REDACTED]@hms.harvard.edu" <[REDACTED]@hms.harvard.edu>, "Williams, David (Chief Scientific Officer/Senior Vice President)" <[REDACTED]@childrens.harvard.edu>, "[REDACTED]@hms.harvard.edu" <[REDACTED]@hms.harvard.edu>, "Brownstein, John" <[REDACTED]@childrens.harvard.edu>, "[REDACTED]@fas.harvard.edu" <[REDACTED]@fas.harvard.edu>, "[REDACTED]@fas.harvard.edu" <[REDACTED]@fas.harvard.edu>, "[REDACTED]@seas.harvard.edu" <[REDACTED]@seas.harvard.edu>, "[REDACTED]@harvard.edu" <[REDACTED]@harvard.edu>, "[REDACTED]@fas.harvard.edu" <[REDACTED]@fas.harvard.edu>, "Churchwell, Kevin" <[REDACTED]@childrens.harvard.edu>

Dear Vice President Cervini and Dean Brodnicki,

Thank you for your response and thank you for standing with the AAPI community. We really appreciate your effort and kindness.

However, the investigation result is unsatisfying to us, as well as many other students who signed our original open letter, as 1. it fails to provide enough details to support the conclusion that "the study is a scientific one", and 2. it does not mention anything regarding our second point on media exposure. Please show your evidence that supports your conclusion on the scientific nature of this article. If you believe you have enough evidence that supports this conclusion, **please show us your rebuttals/responses concerning our arguments listed in scientific_issues.doc, one by one, in written form.**

Besides, we hope these questions on the decision making process can be answered.

1. what protocols are being followed for drawing such a conclusion?
2. is the investigation committee representative and diverse?
3. what evidence is being examined and what hypotheses are made and invalidated?
4. how are conflicts of interest avoided and fairness ensured in your investigation?

Also, your lack of transparency in the investigation process is astonishing: did you involve any of us who signed the open letter in your investigation process? We didn't get a chance to even observe your meetings to make sure there is a fair investigation, let alone adding our perspectives. This definitely seems like a one-way conversation, and it seems to us that you just want to force your conclusions down our throat without more detailed explanations.

We're sure you had answers to at least some of these questions as you've done a 9-month long thorough investigation.

Please please please take this and the two thousand Chinese students/scholars at Harvard seriously. Please prove your care for Asian community with action, not words.

Best,
Yuntian and Martin

On Apr 1, 2021, at 11:22 AM, Cervini, August <[REDACTED]@childrens.harvard.edu> wrote:

Dear Yuntian,

Thank you again for bringing forward your concerns and those of your fellow Harvard students about the article “Analysis of hospital traffic and search engine data in Wuhan China indicates early disease activity in the Fall of 2019.”

We affirm our commitment to academic freedom, which is fundamental to the role of research institutions. We believe that the article is a scientific one for the academic community to consider as part of the scientific discourse. Additionally, one of the study’s co-authors has a primary appointment at Boston Children’s Hospital, which has since reviewed the research and has no concerns under its institutional policies.

Please know that Harvard Medical School and Boston Children’s Hospital are committed to diversity and inclusiveness and to ensuring that all members of our community feel safe and welcome. As conveyed by Dean George Q. Daley as well as former CEO Sandra Fenwick and current CEO Kevin Churchwell in recent weeks, we stand with the Asian, Asian American, and Pacific Islander communities and all who are targets of racism and of racist acts.

Thank you again for bringing your concerns to our attention.

Sincerely,

Gus Cervini
Vice President of Research Administration
Boston Children’s Hospital

Gretchen Brodnicki
Dean for Faculty and Research Integrity
Harvard Medical School

2 attachments



scientific_issues.docx

15K



open_letter.docx

18K