



Deng, Yuntian [REDACTED]@g.harvard.edu&gt;

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**BCH-HMS response to your concerns**

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**Cervini, August** [REDACTED]@childrens.harvard.edu>

Thu, Apr 1, 2021 at 11:22 AM

To: "[REDACTED]@g.harvard.edu" [REDACTED]@g.harvard.edu&gt;

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[REDACTED]@fas.harvard.edu" [REDACTED]@fas.harvard.edu&gt;, "Churchwell, Kevin"

[REDACTED]@childrens.harvard.edu&gt;

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