

April 21, 2023

Ishanu Chattopadhyay, PhD  
Assistant Professor  
Department of Medicine  
Institute for Genomics and Systems Biology  
University of Chicago,

RE: Collaboration on your CDMRP application - **BioNORAD: Fast Scalable Pandemic Risk Assessment of Influenza A Strains Circulating In Non-human Hosts**

Dear Ishanu,

I am excited to continue to collaborate with you on this CDMRP application for developing algorithms to detect emerging influenza A viruses. As you know well, my research is focused on studying the host pathways essential for influenza A viruses and developing novel host-directed therapeutics against influenza viruses. We have expertise in the influenza virus reverse genetics system and routinely use this system to generate recombinant viruses for our studies. As we have discussed, my lab will generate and evaluate the predicted emerging strains in tissue culture. My group has a dedicated USDA inspected enhanced BSL2 suites to perform studies with zoonotic influenza viruses. I look forward to our continuous and productive collaborations. I wish you the best of luck with your application.

Sincerely,



**Balaji Manicassamy, Ph.D**  
Associate Professor

Department of Microbiology & Immunology