February 17, 2016

John McConnell

Editor

Lancet Infectious Diseases

Dear Dr. John McConnell,

Please consider our manuscript “Biosurveillance Surveillance: A systematic Review” for publication as an article in *The* *Lancet Infectious Diseases.* We previously submitted the article to Zoë Mullan at the *The* *Lancet Global Health.* Zoë stated that she referred our manuscript to you, and that you would like us to apply the PRISMA guidelines for systematic reviews to it. We have applied the PRISMA guidelines to the manuscript and we will attach the PRISMA checklist to our submission.

This article evaluates all biosurveillance systems in existence over the past 100 years globally. This work represents a valuable contribution to the biosurveillance and global health community. We feel the findings and applications of this work would be of particular interest to your readership, given the global interest in biosurveillance, infectious disease, and global public health. We feel that this work represents a significant advancement in understanding all extant and defunct biosurveillance systems within the past 100 years. To date, this is the most comprehensive review of biosurveillance systems conducted and includes over 800 documented traditional and syndromic surveillance systems. The results of this study highlight that there was a large reduction in the number of biosurveillance systems from 2008 to present, and the number of syndromic systems created, versus traditional surveillance, increased after 1980.

This manuscript contains original research, unique analyses, and uses unpublished data. All coauthors have approved of this manuscript. Thank you for your consideration.

Kind regards,



Andrew G. Huff, PhD, MS

Associate Vice President

EcoHealth Alliance