

# Pivoting from Cancer to COVID-19 in a global pandemic

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Louis Pasteur Hospital, Nice, France

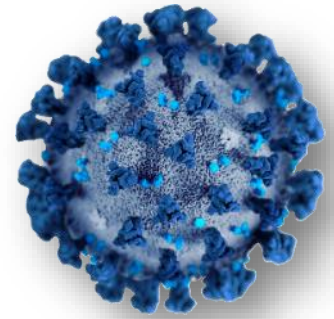
 OncoAge

[www.oncoage.org](http://www.oncoage.org)

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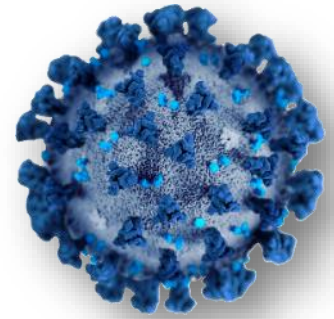


**The COVID-19 crisis in Nice, France, and the impact in a pathology lab**

**SARS-CoV-2 diagnosis set-up in a pathology lab: experience of the LPCE**

**Current development using the NGS approach for SARS-CoV-2 assessment**

**Perspective**



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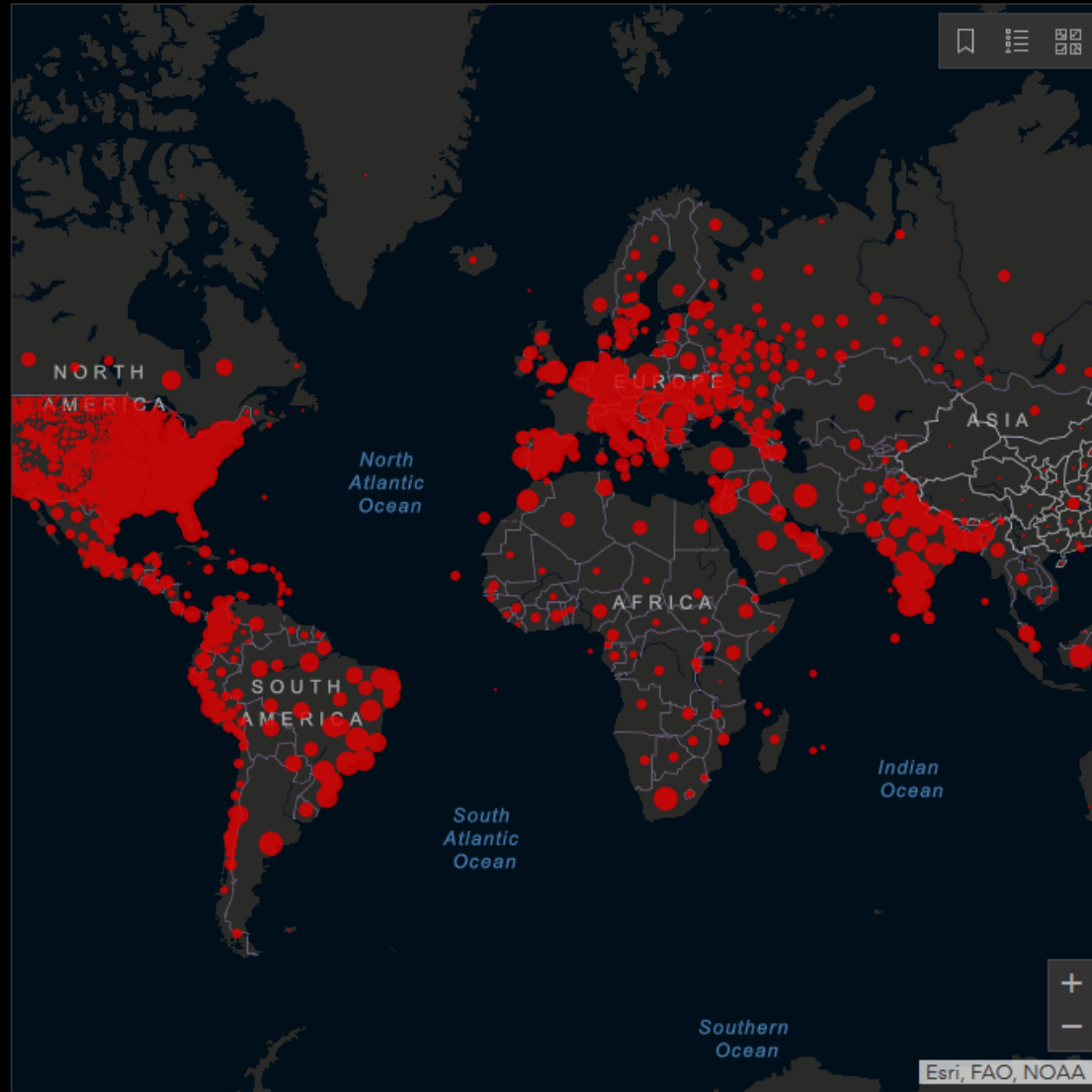
Global Cases  
**144 800 467**

Cases by Country/  
Region /Sovereignty

- 31 929 601 US
- 16 263 695 India
- 14 167 973 Brazil
- 5 469 674 France**
- 4 682 573 Russia
- 4 501 382 Turkey
- 4 413 834 United Kingdom
- 3 920 945 Italy
- 3 456 886 Spain
- 3 254 609 Germany
- 2 796 768 Argentina
- 2 731 256 Poland
- 2 720 619 Colombia
- 2 335 905 Iran
- 2 319 519 Mexico
- 2 058 301 Ukraine

Admin0

Last Updated at (M/D/YYYY)  
**4/23/2021 10:20 AM**



Global Deaths  
**3 072 614**

570 345 deaths  
US

383 502 deaths  
Brazil

214 095 deaths  
Mexico

186 920 deaths  
India

127 597 deaths  
United Kingdom

118 357 deaths  
Italy

105 328 deaths  
Russia

**102 323 deaths  
France**

Global Deaths

Total Test Results in US  
**421 219 495**

58 202 413 tests  
California US

49 426 695 tests  
New York US

22 537 890 tests  
Texas US

22 120 098 tests  
Florida US

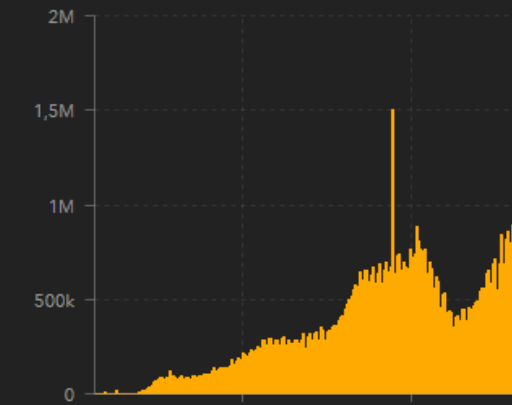
21 920 359 tests  
Illinois US

20 599 779 tests  
Massachusetts US

13 217 769 tests  
New Jersey US

12 617 144 tests  
Pennsylvania US

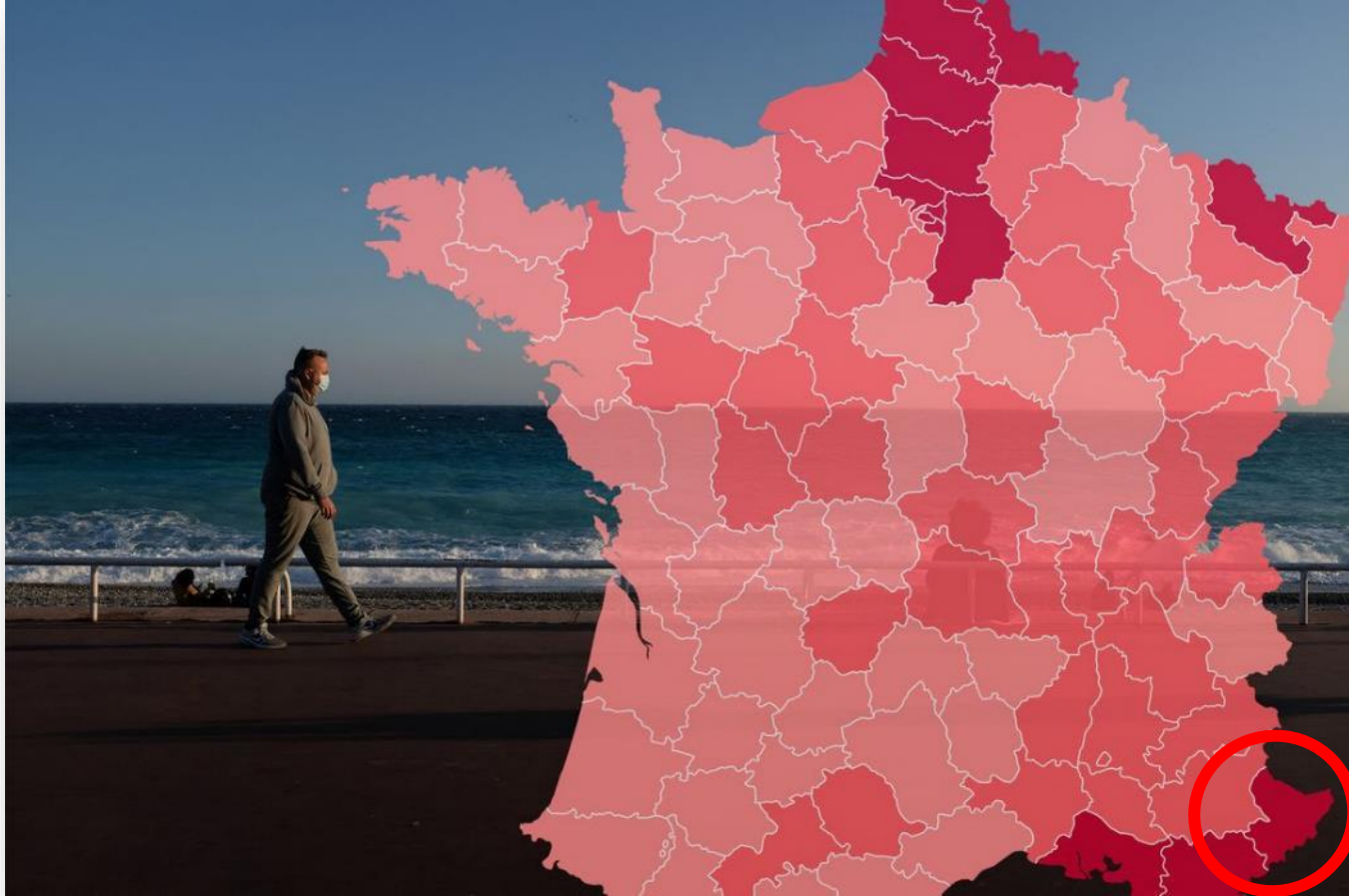
US Test Res...

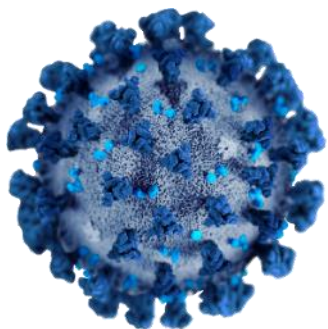


Daily Cases

# Walk of the SARS CoV 2 on the « promenade des Anglais »

Higher incidence of the virus in France (March 2021)





Nice city



Louis Pasteur Hospital, University of Nice, France

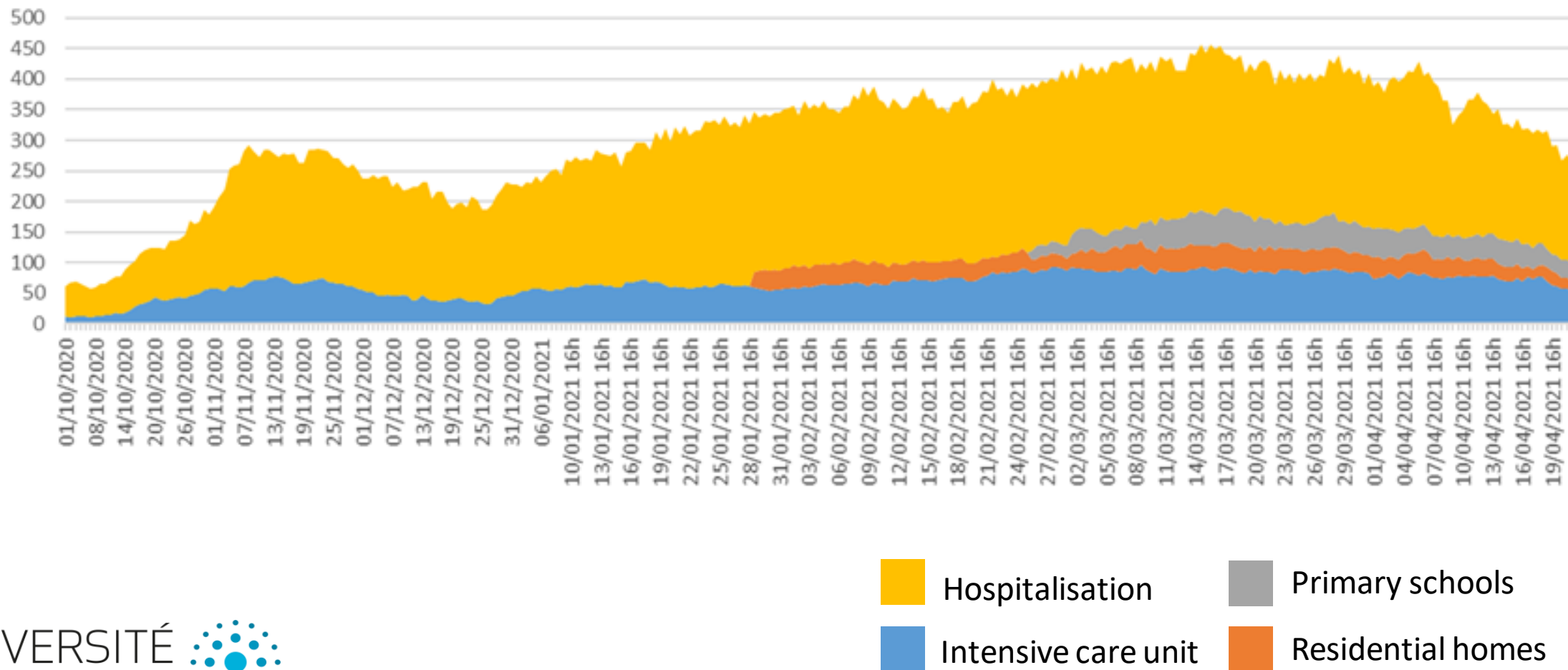


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# Evolution of COVID-19 cases in Nice, France

October 1, 2020 to April 19, 2021

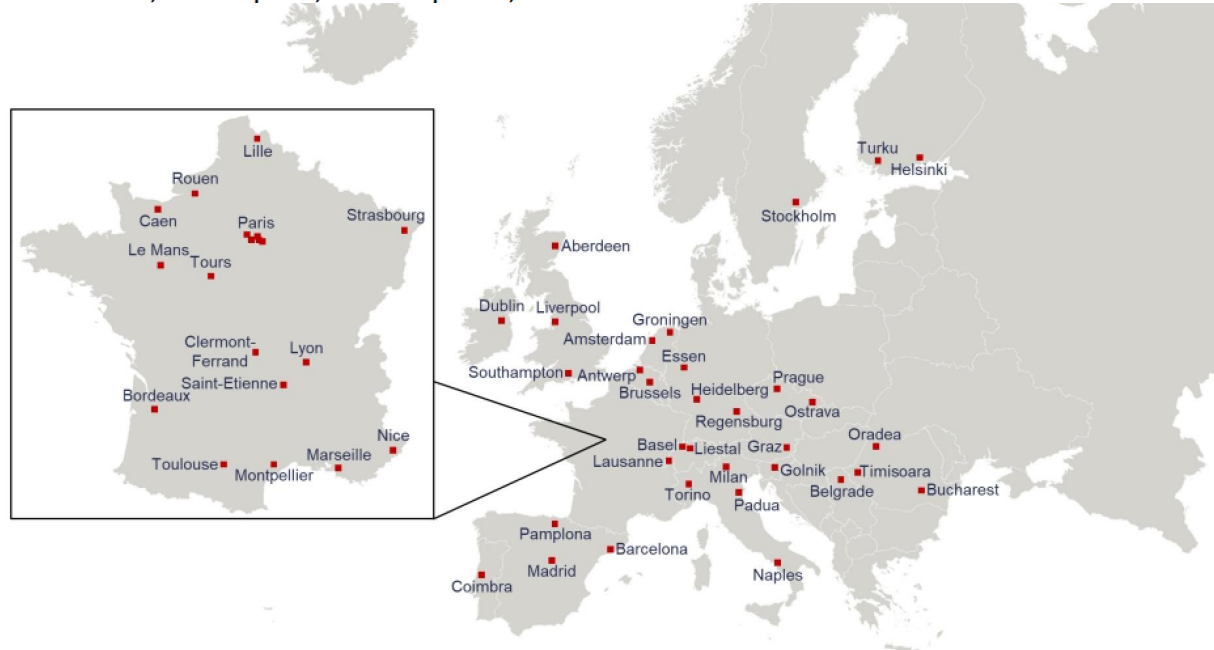




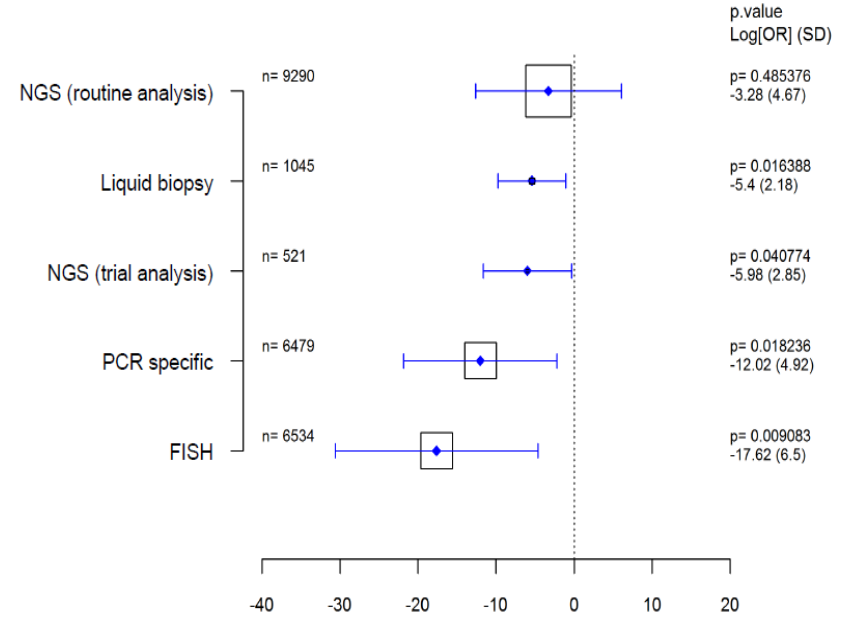
**ORIGINAL RESEARCH**

# Clinical and molecular practice of European thoracic pathology laboratories during the COVID-19 pandemic. The past and the near future

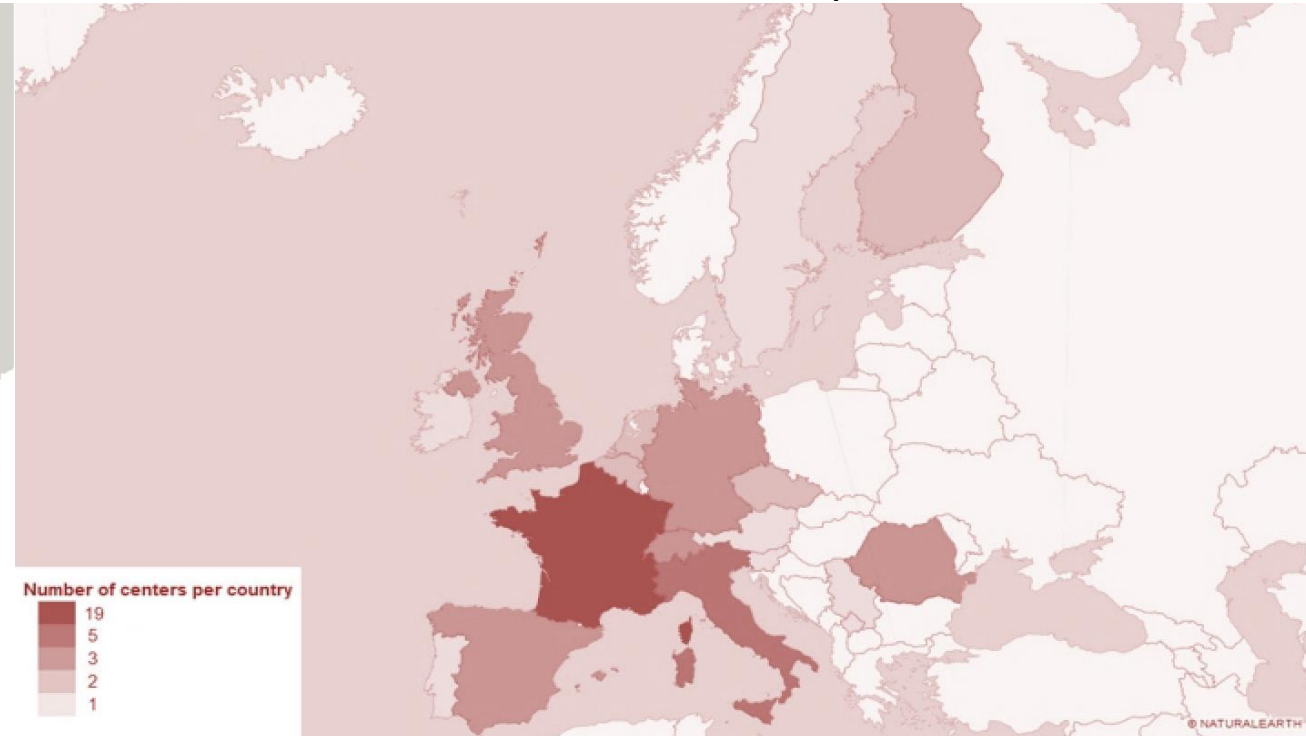
P. Hofman<sup>1†\*</sup>, M. Ilić<sup>1†</sup>, E. Chamorey<sup>2†</sup>, P. Brest<sup>3†</sup>, R. Schiappa<sup>2</sup>, V. Nakache<sup>1</sup>, M. Antoine<sup>4</sup>, M. Barberis<sup>5</sup>, H. Begueret<sup>6</sup>, F. Bibeau<sup>7</sup>, C. Bonnetaud<sup>1</sup>, P. Boström<sup>8</sup>, P. Brousset<sup>9</sup>, L. Bubendorf<sup>10</sup>, L. Carvalho<sup>11</sup>, G. Cathomas<sup>12</sup>, A. Cazes<sup>13</sup>, L. Chalabreysse<sup>14</sup>, M.-P. Chenard<sup>15</sup>, M.-C. Copin<sup>16</sup>, J.-F. Côté<sup>17</sup>, D. Damotte<sup>18</sup>, L. de Leval<sup>19</sup>, P. Delongova<sup>20</sup>, V. Thomas de Montpreville<sup>21</sup>, A. de Muret<sup>22</sup>, A. Dema<sup>23</sup>, W. Dietmaier<sup>24</sup>, M. Evert<sup>24</sup>, A. Fabre<sup>25</sup>, F. Forest<sup>26</sup>, A. Foulet<sup>27</sup>, S. Garcia<sup>28</sup>, M. Garcia-Martos<sup>29</sup>, L. Gibault<sup>30</sup>, G. Gorkiewicz<sup>31</sup>, D. Jonigk<sup>32</sup>, J. Gosney<sup>33</sup>, A. Hofman<sup>1</sup>, I. Kern<sup>34</sup>, K. Kerr<sup>35</sup>, M. Kossai<sup>36</sup>, M. Kriegsmann<sup>37</sup>, S. Lassalle<sup>1</sup>, E. Long-Mira<sup>1</sup>, A. Lupo<sup>18</sup>, A. Mamilos<sup>24</sup>, R. Matěj<sup>38</sup>, J. Meilleroux<sup>9</sup>, C. Ortiz-Villalón<sup>39</sup>, L. Panico<sup>40</sup>, A. Panizo<sup>41</sup>, M. Papotti<sup>42</sup>, P. Pauwels<sup>43</sup>, G. Pelosi<sup>44</sup>, F. Penault-Llorca<sup>36</sup>, O. Pop<sup>45</sup>, N. Poté<sup>13</sup>, S. R. Y. Cajal<sup>46</sup>, J.-C. Sabourin<sup>47</sup>, I. Salmon<sup>48</sup>, M. Sajjin<sup>49</sup>, S. Savic-Prince<sup>10</sup>, H.-U. Schildhaus<sup>50</sup>, P. Schirmacher<sup>37</sup>, I. Serre<sup>51</sup>, E. Shaw<sup>52</sup>, D. Sizaret<sup>22</sup>, A. Stenzinger<sup>37</sup>, J. Stojšić<sup>53</sup>, E. Thunnissen<sup>54</sup>, W. Timens<sup>55</sup>, G. Troncione<sup>56</sup>, C. Werlein<sup>32</sup>, H. Wolff<sup>57</sup>, J.-P. Berthet<sup>58</sup>, J. Benzaquen<sup>59</sup>, C.-H. Marquette<sup>59</sup>, V. Hofman<sup>1†</sup> & F. Calabrese<sup>60†</sup>



Pathology laboratories participating to the survey



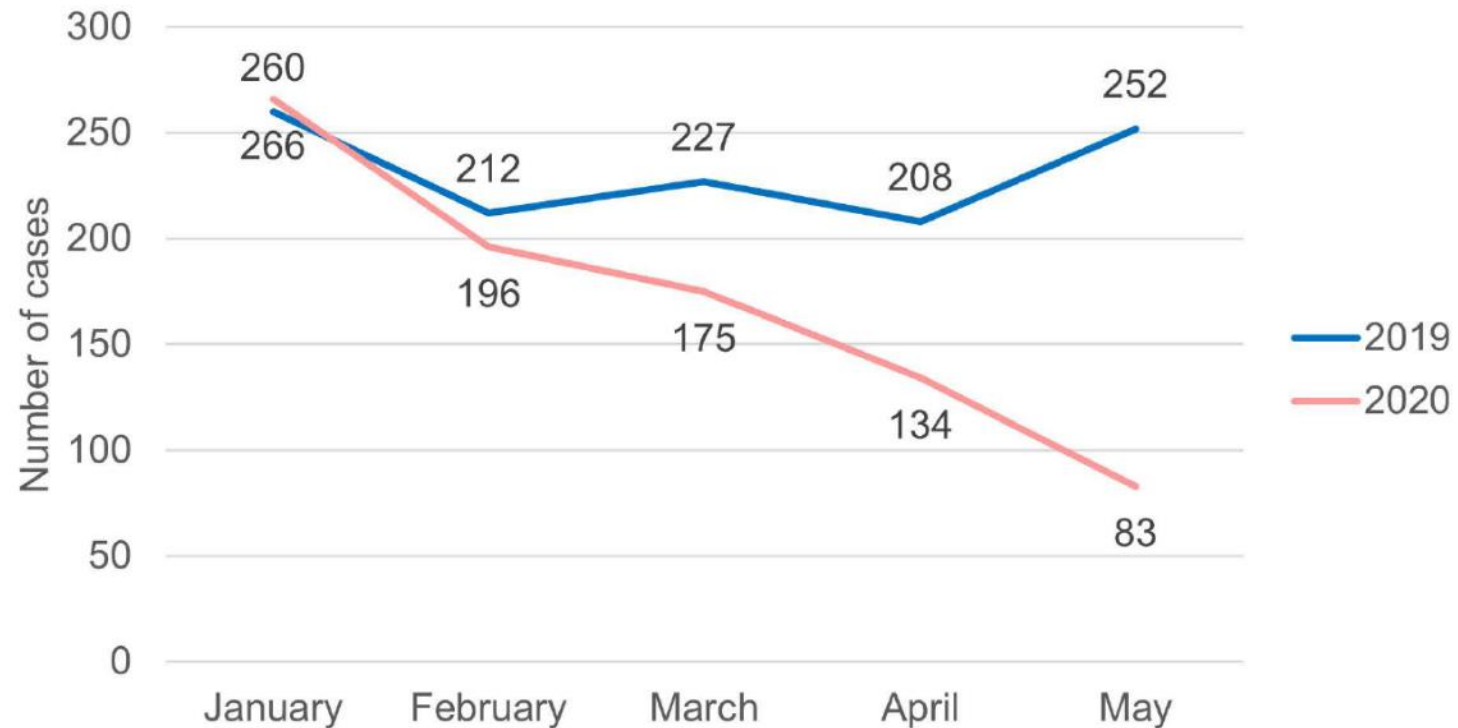
Molecular Biology activity from March to May 2019 and from March to May 2020



Number of centers per country

# Activity of thoracic cancer surgeries in the South Region, France

Between 2019 and 2020



Nice (LPCE)  
molecular pathology platforms



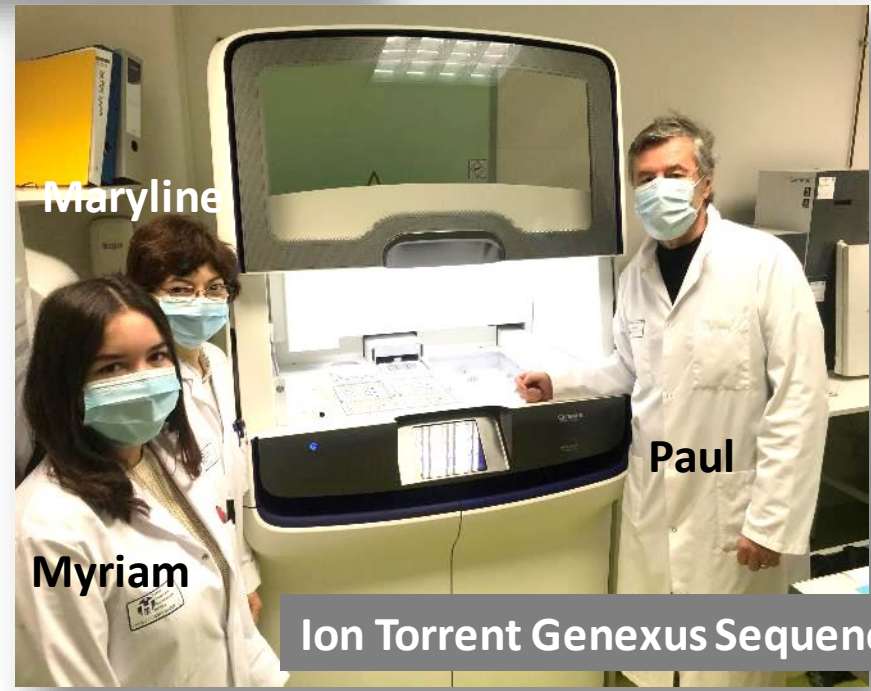
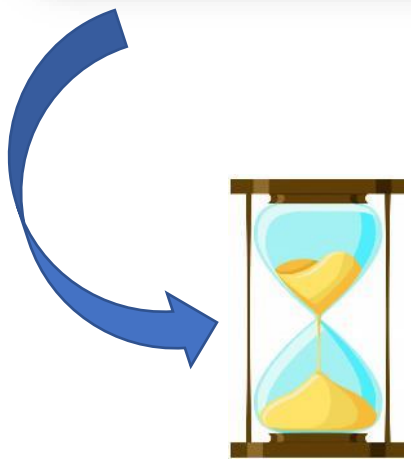
Virginie

Chef & GeneStudio NGS



Olivier

Targeted sequencing  
Idylla (Biocartis)



Maryline

Paul

Myriam

Ion Torrent Genexus Sequencer



Targeted sequencing  
Cobas (Roche)

# Specimen to report in a single day with only two user touchpoints

## Ion Torrent Genexus System

- Lysate from FFPE tissue
- Plasma
- Whole blood
- Peripheral blood lymphocyte (PBL)
- Lysate from fresh-frozen tissue
- Lysate from bone marrow

### Nucleic acid purification and quantitation\*

**Ion Torrent™ Genexus™**  
Purification System (Available 2021)



2 hour turnaround time  
12 FFPE (DNA and RNA)  
6 Plasma

### Genexus Software

### Library preparation to variant interpretation

Report\*

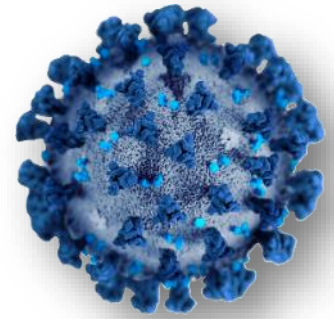
**Ion Torrent™ Genexus™**  
Integrated Sequencer (November 2019)

**Ion Torrent™**  
**GX5™ Chip:**  
12–15M  
reads/lane



**14 hours for a single-lane run**  
**(approx. 24 to 30 hours for full chip)**

**Up to 32 Samples per run**



The COVID-19 crisis in Nice (France) and its impact in a pathology lab

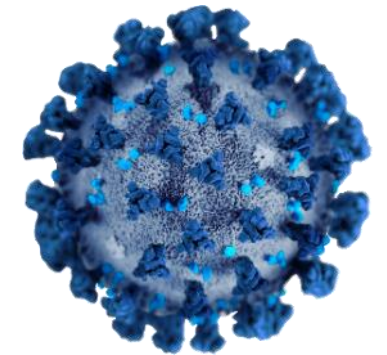
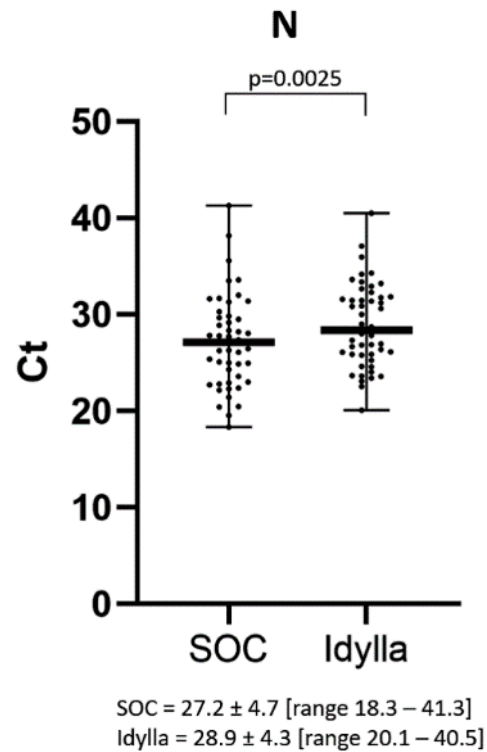
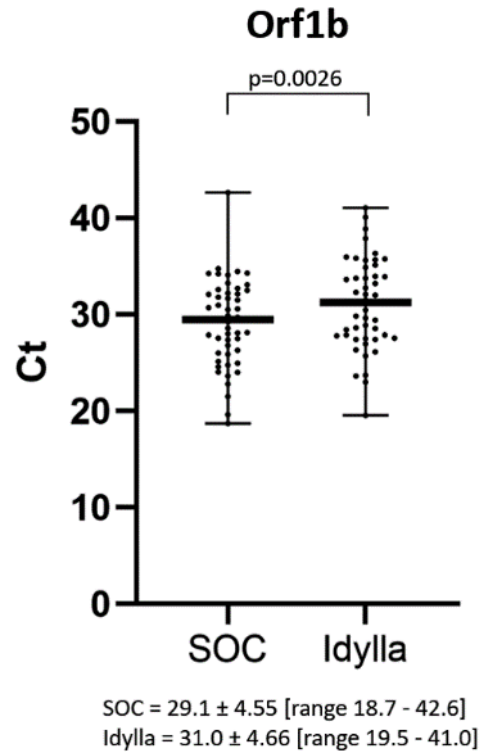
**SARS-CoV-2 diagnosis set-up in a pathology lab: experience of the LPCE**

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# Setting up a collection of SARS-CoV-2 positive NSP samples and storage in an accredited biobank (BB-0033-00025)

First period



# Setting up a collection of SARS-CoV-2 positive oral samples and storage in an accredited biobank (BB-0033-00025)

Second period



The sponge is put into the mouth



One minute later, the sponge is carefully placed into the uncapped tube

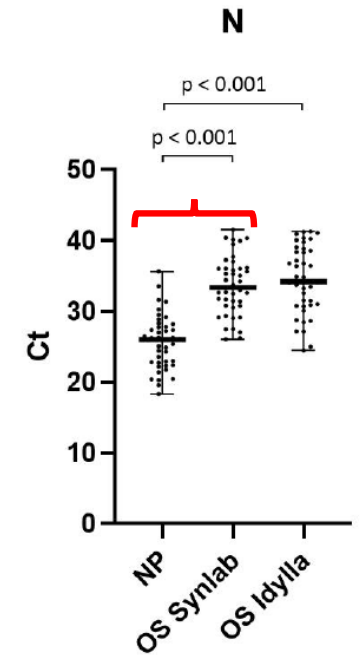
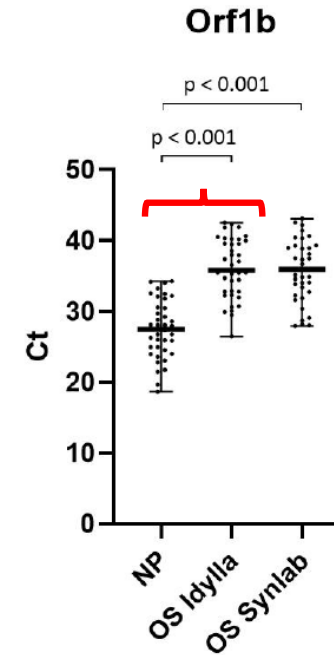


After screwing the top cap back on, the tube is shaken to bring the sponge into the middle of the tube

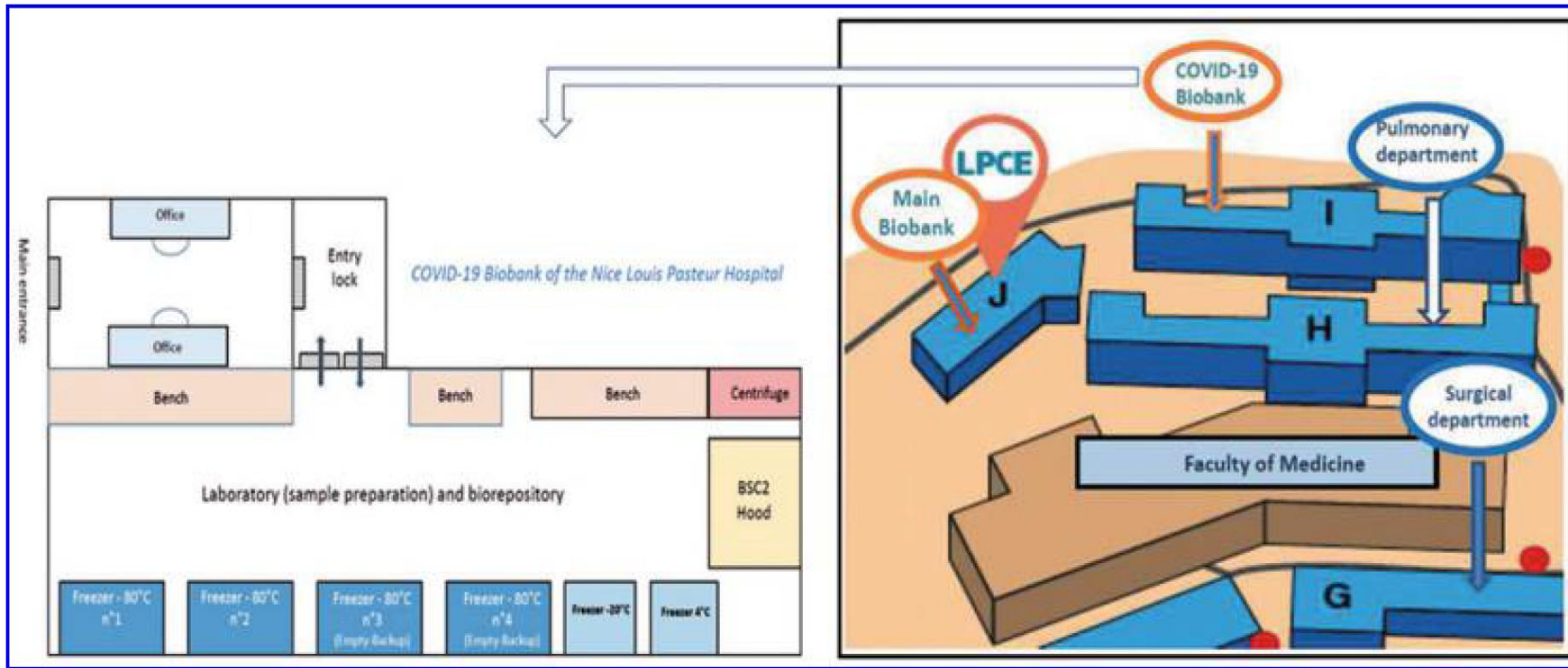


After unscrewing the cap, the sponge is squeezed to drop 3 drops of viral transport microcentrifuge

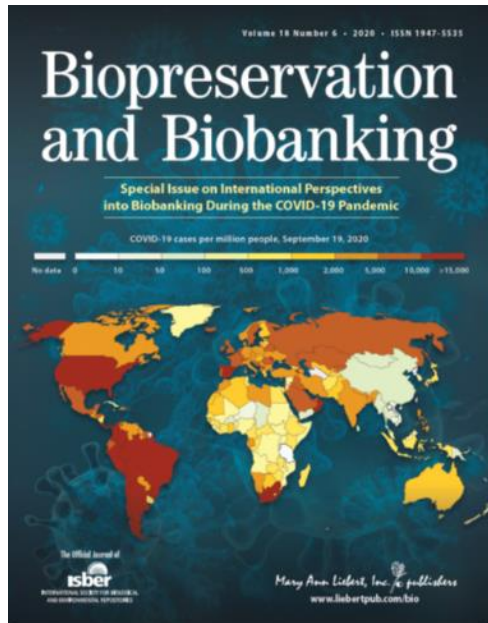
All-in-on saliva sampling technique with a sponge.  
Usefulness of a double-capped plastic



Viral load of NasoPharyngeal and oral samples assessed by the Ct for the *Orf1b* and *N* genes



**FIG. 1.** Facilities of the COVID-19 Nice Louis Pasteur Hospital Biobank. LPCE, Laboratory of Clinical and Experimental Pathology.

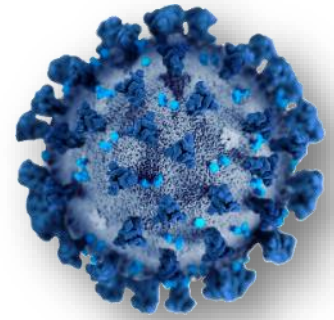


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 DOI: 10.1089/bio.2020.0055

## Establishment of a Collection of Blood-Derived Products from COVID-19 Patients for Translational Research: Experience of the LPCE Biobank (Nice, France)

Virginie Tanga,<sup>1,2</sup> Sylvie Leroy,<sup>3</sup> Julien Fayada,<sup>1</sup> Marama Hamila,<sup>1</sup> Maryline Allegra,<sup>1</sup> Zeineb Messaoudi,<sup>1</sup> Christelle Bonnetaud,<sup>1</sup> Virgine Lespinet,<sup>1</sup> Olivier Bordone,<sup>1</sup> Kevin Washetine,<sup>1</sup> Jennifer Griffonnet,<sup>3</sup> Charlotte Maniel,<sup>3</sup> Lorène Philibert,<sup>3</sup> Eric Selva,<sup>1</sup> Jonathan Benzaquen,<sup>3</sup> Marius Ilie,<sup>1,2</sup> Elodie Long,<sup>1,2</sup> Sandra Lassalle,<sup>1,2</sup> Elisabeth Lantéri,<sup>1,2</sup> Charles-Hugo Marquette,<sup>2,3</sup> Véronique Hofman,<sup>1,2</sup> and Paul Hofman<sup>1,2</sup>





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London

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<http://dx.doi.org/10.1136/bmj.m4857>

Published: 16 December 2020

## NEWS BRIEFING

### Covid-19: New coronavirus variant is identified in UK

England's health secretary, Matt Hancock, has told parliament that a new variant of covid-19 has been identified and may be driving infections in the south east, leading to headlines about "mutant covid." **Jacqui Wise** answers some common questions

Jacqui Wise



### The 501.V2 and B.1.1.7 variants of coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19): A new time-bomb in the making?

Taha Bin Arif MBBS 

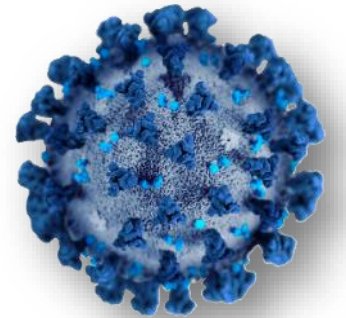
Department of Medicine, Dow Medical College, Dow University of Health Sciences, Karachi, Pakistan



### Could it be that the B.1.1.7 lineage is more deadly?

Chia Siang Kow<sup>1</sup> and Syed Shahzad Hasan<sup>2,3</sup>

<sup>1</sup>School of Postgraduate Studies, International Medical University, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, <sup>2</sup>School of Applied Sciences, University of Huddersfield, Huddersfield, United Kingdom and <sup>3</sup>School of Biomedical Sciences & Pharmacy, University of Newcastle, Callaghan, Australia

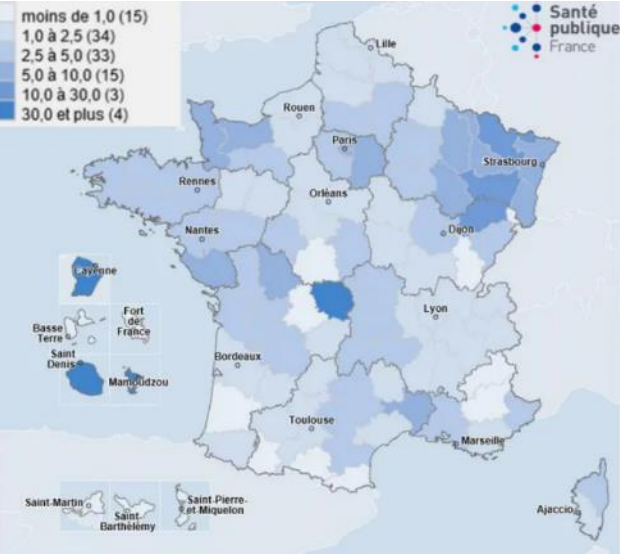
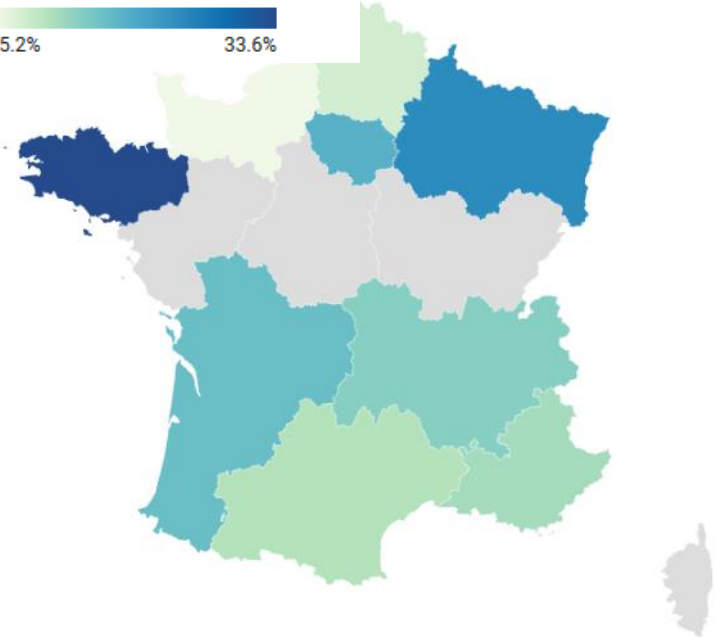



# SARS COV 2 variants of concerns present in France

- B.1.17 (UK): **82% of variants in France** April 21, 2021
- 20H/501Y.V2 (South of Africa) and 20J/501Y.V3 (Brazil): **4.2 % of variants in France** April 21, 2021
- B.1.616 (ou 20C/655Y) (Britain, France): Not detected using SARS-CoV-2 RT-PCR from NSP swabs

## Covid variants spread

Percentage of Covid tests that were UK, SA or BR variants



## B.1.617 (India) April 29, 2021

Covid-19 dans le monde : le variant indien détecté en Belgique, chez des étudiants passés par Roissy

Vingt étudiants indiens ont été testés positifs à ce mutant du SARS-CoV-2. Ils ont été placés en quarantaine dans les villes flamandes d'Alost et de Louvain, où ils étaient arrivés mi-avril.

Le Monde

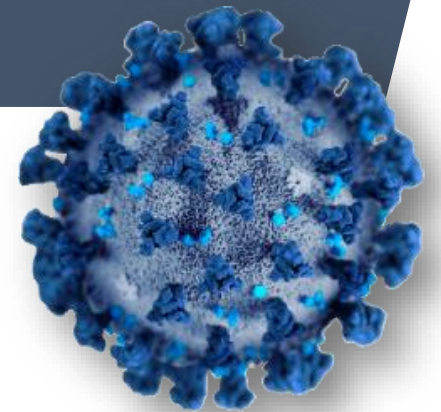
April 21, 2021, % of 20H/501Y.V2 and 20J/501Y.V3 variants among SARS-CoV-2 positive tests

# Key Questions around the new Coronavirus Strains

- How can we detect new strains?
- What is the origin of the new strain and how prevalent is it?
- Will current molecular or antigen-based tests miss detecting this strain?
- Does this strain spread more quickly?
- **Does this strain lead to higher disease severity?**
- **What is the vaccine efficacy against the new strain?**

**There are still  
currently many  
unknowns.**

Ongoing research is  
needed to better  
understand virus strain  
evolution and spread.



# Key questions on the new Coronavirus strains

- How can we detect
- What is the origin  
prevalent is it?
- Will current methods  
detecting this
- Does this strain
- **Does this strain**
- **What is the vaccine efficacy**

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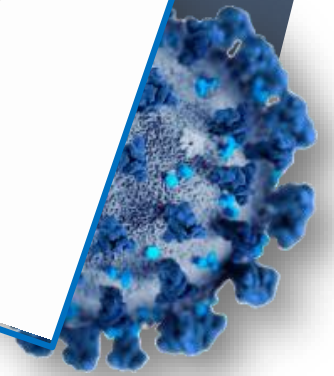
Research is

The NEW ENGLAND JOURNAL of MEDICINE  
N Engl J Med. 2021 May 5. doi: 10.1056/NEJMc2104974

CORRESPONDENCE

Effectiveness of the BNT162b2 Covid-19 Vaccine  
against the B.1.1.7 and B.1.351 Variants

*But what about the Brazilian  
and Indian variants...?*





## Retrospective analysis

## Prospective analysis

*Starting March 2021*

*Starting April 2021*

From RT-PCR to NGS  
assessment of SARS-CoV-2

*145 nasopharyngeal swabs samples  
and 145 matched saliva samples  
positives for RT-PCR SARS-CoV-2*

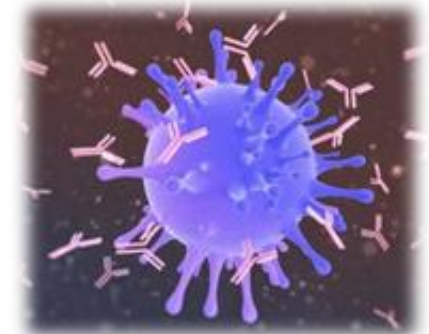
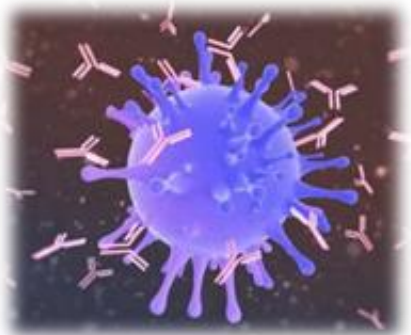
*Systematic screening of NSP swabs  
positive for RT-PCR SARS-CoV-2 but  
without any variants identification  
using the commercially multiplex test*

*Individuals tested from April 2020 to  
January 2021*

*Screening of NSP swabs with  
clinically suspected COVID-19 but  
negative for RT-PCR SARS-CoV-2*

*Samples collected and stored  
at -80°C in the Biobank 0033-00025  
University Côte d'Azur  
([www.biobank-cotedazur.fr](http://www.biobank-cotedazur.fr))*

*Screening of NSP swabs in some  
specified clusters*



# Ion AmpliSeq SARS-CoV-2 Research Panel

One assay surveying complete SARS-CoV-2 genome for epidemiological investigation

1-10 ng total RNA

1 ng cDNA input per pool

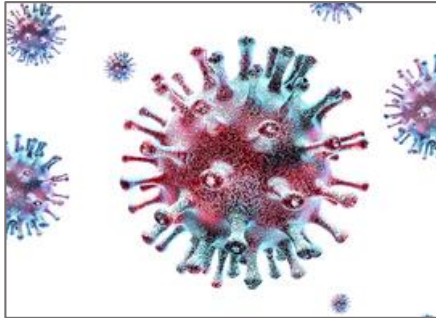


Nucleic acid  
sample input



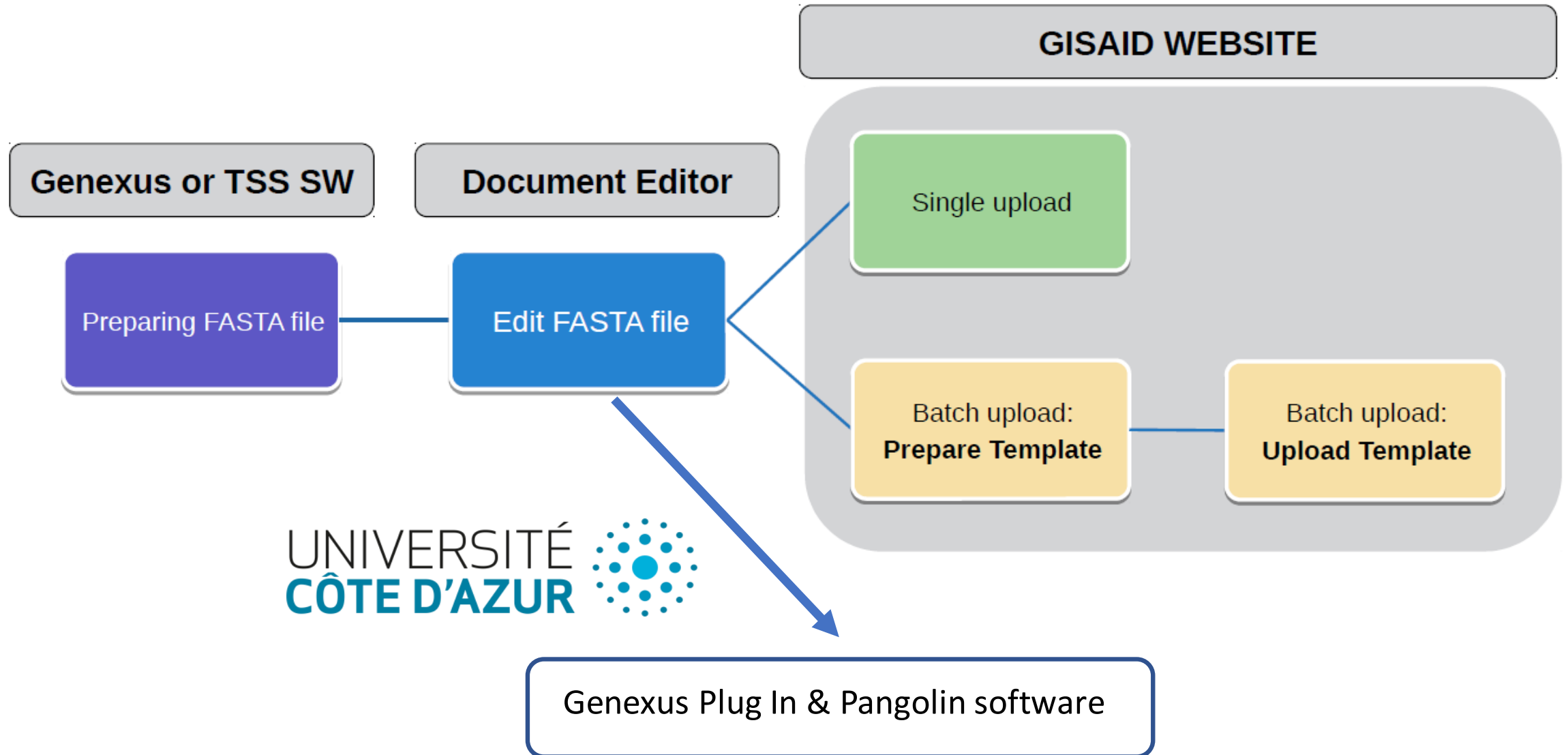
Automate cDNA synthesis library  
prep, template prep, sequencing and  
variant analysis

- **>99% coverage of SARS-CoV-2 genome (~30kb)**
- World leading amplification technology: AmpliSeq™
- Amplicon length range: 125-275 bp
- 237 amplicons specific to SARS-CoV-2 + 5 human expression controls
- All potential serotypes covered
- 2250 manual-preped, 600 Chef-automated libraries or 240 Genexus-automated libraries



	Pool	No. Total Amplicons
	1	<b>247 (242 unique)*</b>
	2	

# Data analyses for SARS COV 2 variants



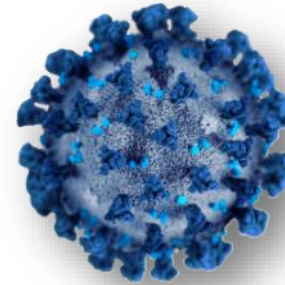


# Identified variants in a retrospective analysis

Ongoing study conducted on the Ion Torrent Genexus system  
*total, 102 samples*

## Variants

B.1.160 (European)	64
B.1.1.77 (UK)	17
<b>B.1.1.7 (UK)</b>	<b>8</b>
B.1.241 (European)	3
B.23 (UK): 5 (4%)	2
B.1.1.2.41 (European)	1
B.1.1.2.21 (European)	1
B.1.596 (USA)	1
B.1.160.8 (Denmark)	1
A.19 (Burkina Faso)	1
B.1.411 (Sri Lanka)	1





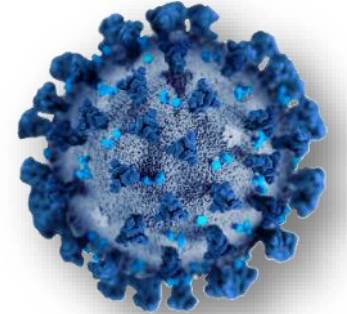
## Variant classification



- **VOC (variants of concern)**
  - B.1.1.7 (UK)
  - B.1.351 (South Africa)
  - B.1.1.28.1 (Brazil)
  - B.1.617 (India)
- **VOI (variants under investigation)**
- **VUM (variant under monitoring)**

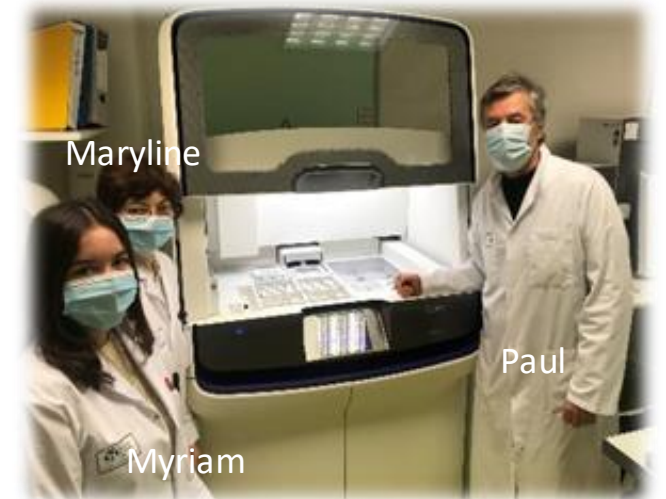
# Comparative analyses obtained from matched nasopharyngeal swabs (NSP) and saliva samples

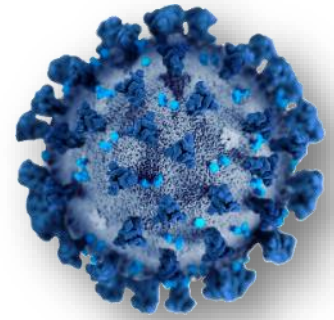
Samples	NSP 	Saliva 
1	B.1.160	B.1.160
2	B.1.1.7	B.1.1.7
3	B.1.160	B.1.160
4	B.1.1.2.41	B.1.1.2.41
5	A.19	A.19
6	B.1.411	B.1.411
7	B.1.596	B.1.596
8	B.1.177	B.1.177
9	B.1.160	B.1.160
10	B.1.160	failed
11	B.1.160	B.1.160
12	B.1.1.7	B.1.1.7
13	B.1.160	B.1.160
14	B.1.160	B.1.160



# GENEXUS: More advantages, less constraints during the COVID-19 crisis

- Less contact between the health care workers during the manipulation (better biosafety)
- Easy to use
- Easy to analyse data
- Short turnaround time (24h)
- Workflow automation
- Flexible (integration of different workflows for genomic assessment of solid tumors too)
- High number of analyses (until 112 samples per week)
- High **sensitivity** of detection (able to detect variants even with a low viral load/high Ct)
- Panel design improvement Ion AmpliSeq™ SARS-CoV-2 Insight Research Panel – just launched





The COVID-19 crisis in Nice, France, and the impact in a pathology lab

SARS-CoV-2 diagnosis set-up in a pathology lab: experience of the LPCE

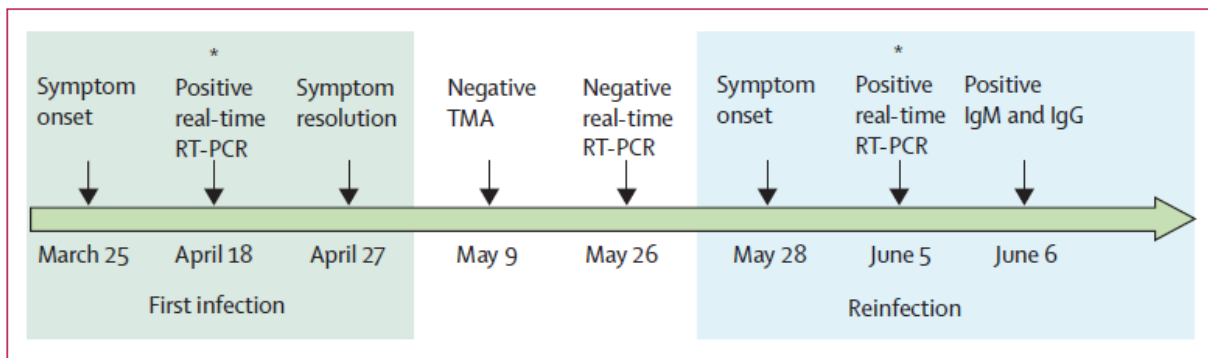
Current development using the NGS approach for SARS-CoV-2 assessment

**Perspective**

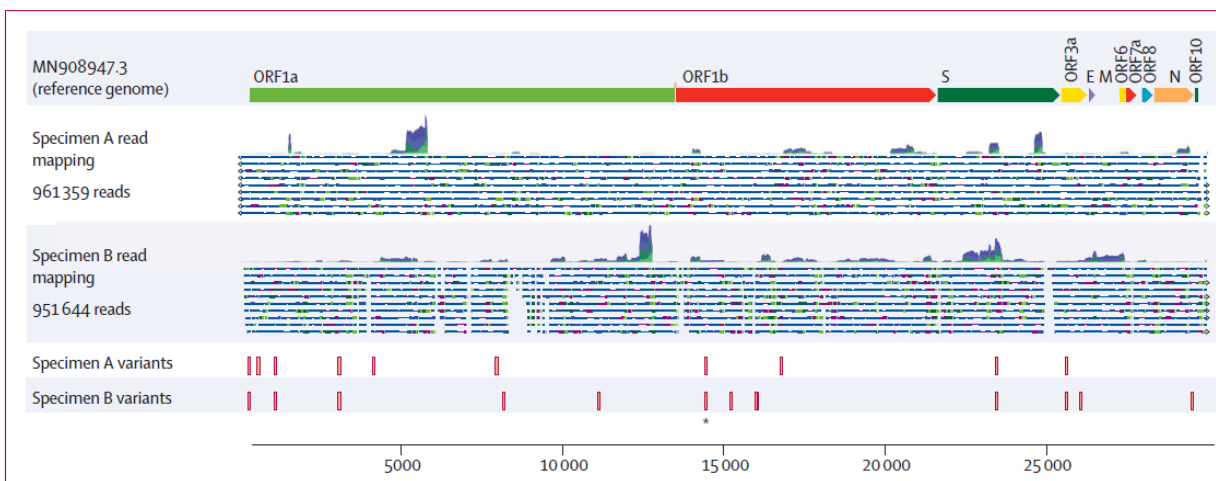


# Genomic evidence for reinfection with SARS-CoV-2: a case study

Richard L Tillett, Joel R Sevinsky, Paul D Hartley, Heather Kerwin, Natalie Crawford, Andrew Gorzalski, Chris Laverdure, Subhash C Verma, Cyprian C Rossetto, David Jackson, Megan J Farrell, Stephanie Van Hooser, Mark Pandori



**Figure 1:** Timeline of symptom onset, molecular diagnosis, and sequencing of specimens  
TMA=transcription-mediated amplification. \*Sequenced specimens.



**Figure 2:** Variant mapping of specimens A and B against the reference genome  
ORF1a and ORF1b encode replicase proteins. The other ORFs encode assembly proteins. S=spike. E=envelope. M=membrane. N=nucleocapsid. \*Identifies variant 14 407 in specimen A and variants 14 407 and 14 408 in specimen B.

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## The Importance and Challenges of Identifying SARS-CoV-2 Reinfections

Ahmed Babiker,<sup>a,b</sup> Charles E. Marvii,<sup>b</sup> Jesse J. Waggoner,<sup>a</sup> Matthew H. Collins,<sup>a</sup> Anne Piantadosi<sup>a,b</sup>

MINIREVIEW

Check for updates



Emerging variants  
to be permanently detected



**INDIA'S DOUBLE MUTANT  
VARIANT 'CONCERN'**



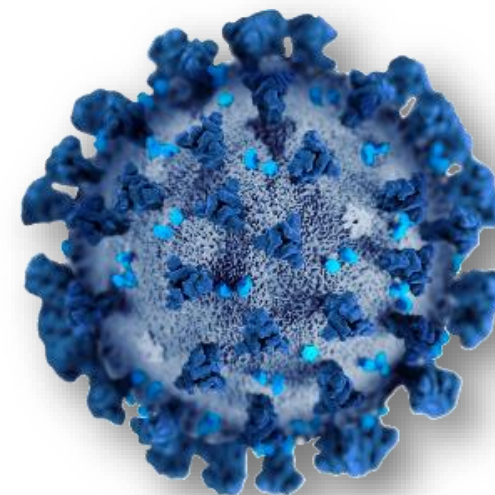
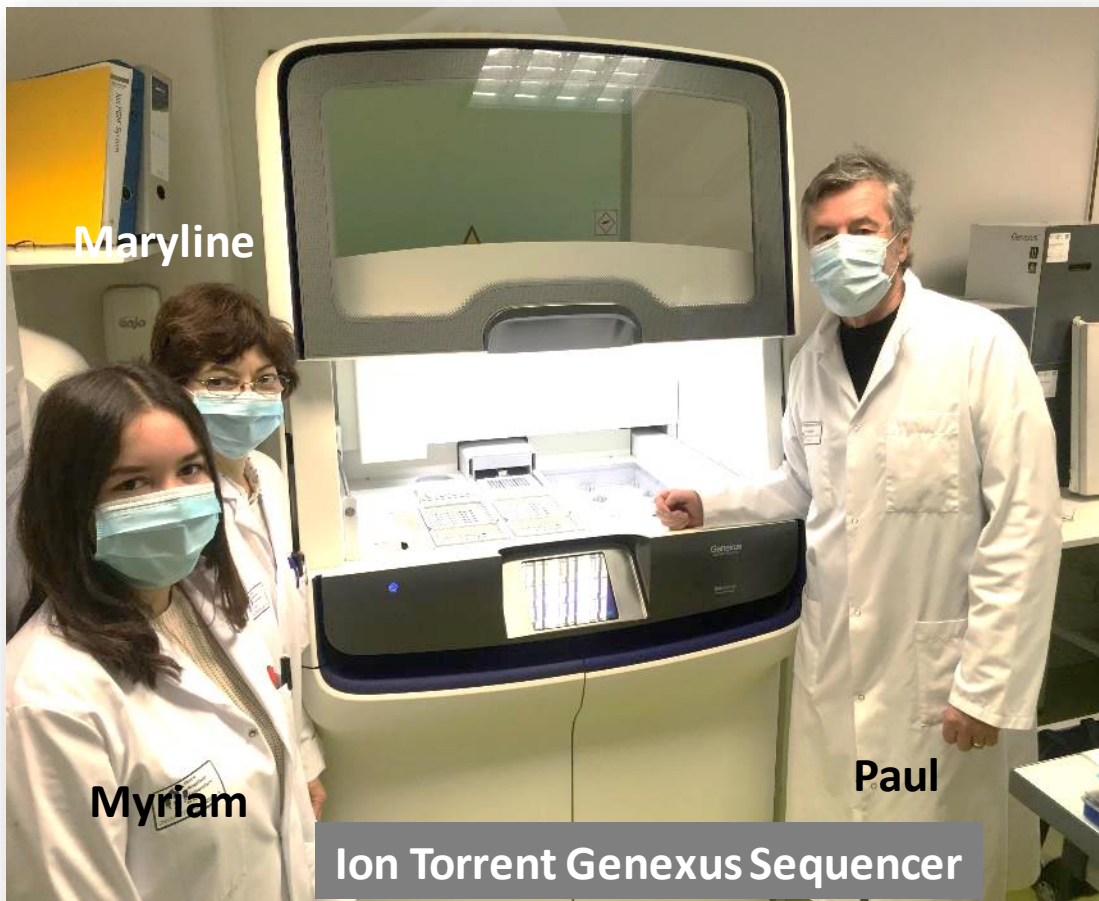
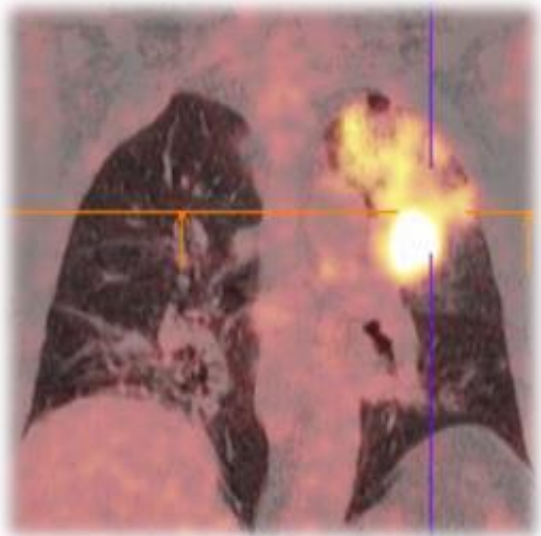
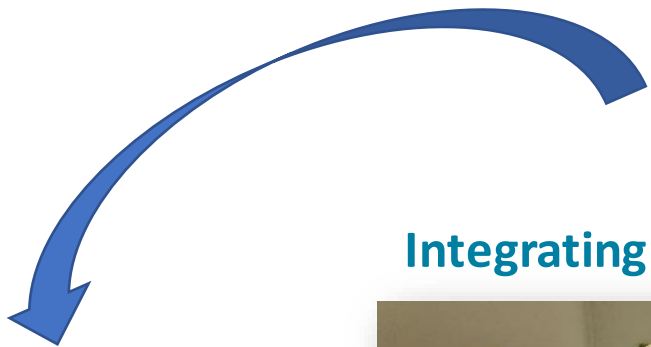
A hospital worker monitors a person with COVID-19 in South Africa, where a new variant of SARS-CoV-2 has been identified.

## COULD NEW COVID VARIANTS UNDERMINE VACCINES? LABS SCRAMBLE TO FIND OUT

Researchers race to determine why lineages identified in Britain and South Africa spread so quickly, and whether vaccines will be less effective against them.



Integrating the activities in the same platform



# Acknowledgments



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