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**Re: historical materials on the coinage of “coronaviruses” or “coronavirus”** [\[Explain Information\]](#)  
**[INTERNAL]**

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From: McIntosh, Kenneth &lt;Kenneth.McIntosh@childrens.harvard.edu&gt;

To: 胡智文 &lt;huzhiw@czu.edu.cn&gt;

Date: 03/03/2020 02:08 Tuesday

Dear Dr. Zhiwen Hu,

I apologize for my long silence on the subject of the naming of coronaviruses. My silence was due to two things. First, I am very busy reviewing manuscripts submitted to various journals on the SARS-CoV-2 and COVID-19. Second, I was very interested to learn that David Tyrrell had not been the originator of the name “coronavirus”, but rather Prof. Waterson. I verified that what you said was TRUE, and that it was reported in Tyrrell’s book review of Waterson’s History of Virology in the BMJ in 1979. I wonder how you found that reference! I was not aware of this. Of course, I was a young man at the time of the adoption of the name, and all the knowledge I had was either through correspondence (letters) or from talking with my laboratory supervisor, Dr. Robert Chanock.

Since the idea for the name “coronavirus” did come from Prof. Waterson, I hope you will say that in your article on the naming.

As for the other individuals on the Nature, I have nothing to add to what you have recorded. I knew Drs. Almeida, Hamre, and Tyrrell, but did not know Drs. Berry, Cunningham, or Mallucci, all of whom worked with animal coronaviruses (IBV or MHV).

I hope you are well. It seems as though the U.S. will be struggling with SARS-CoV-2 over the next year or more. We can learn from China, I think.

Yours sincerely,

Ken McIntosh

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