

Dear Dr. Torsten,

Thank you for your mail. here are the answers to your questions :

1. In your paper it says that "Supernatant from human airway epithelial cell cultures... was... ultracentrifuged to sediment virus particles". Does this refer to ultracentrifugation in a sucrose density gradient? And if so, was RNA obtained from the density at which CoV particles band?

Answer: In order to enrich the virus particles but not to purify them, the ultracentrifugation was performed. The details were: the culture supernatant was ultra-centrifuged directly without cushions and the pellets were re-suspended to carry out negative staining for EM detection.

2. What is that density and did you obtain an EM showing the degree of purification?

Answer: As mentioned above, the samples were enriched rather than purification. So we didn't get the density.

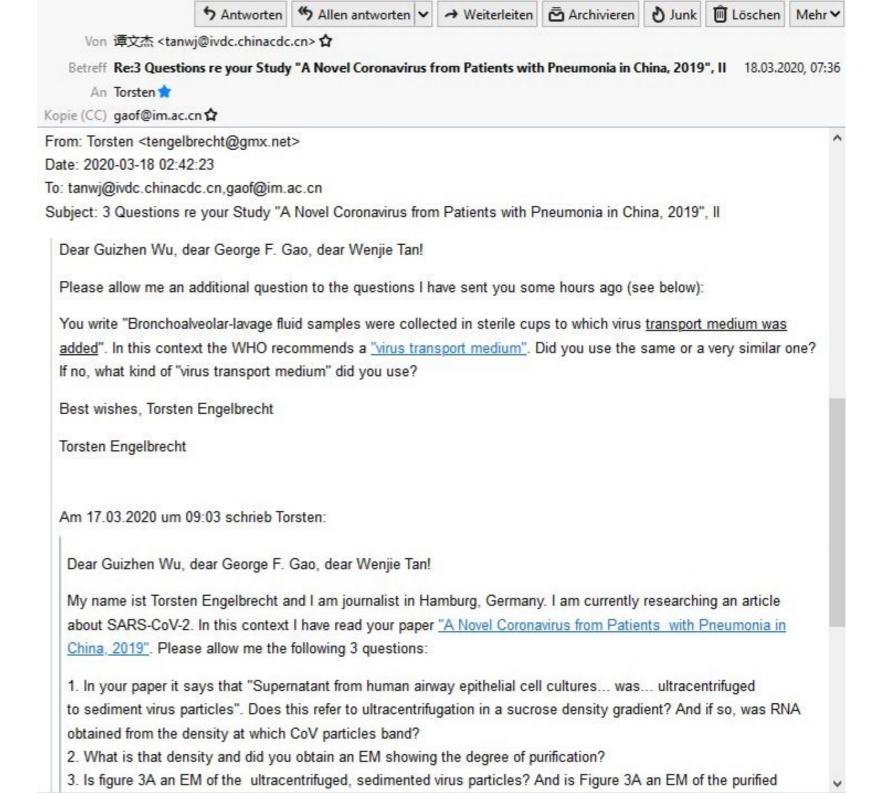
3. Is figure 3A an EM of the ultracentrifuged, sedimented virus particles? And is Figure 3A an EM of the purified virus?

Answer: The figure 3A is an image of sedimented virus particles, not purified ones.

4. You write "Bronchoalveolar-lavage fluid samples were collected in sterile cups to which virus <u>transport medium was added</u>". In this context the WHO recommends a <u>"virus transport medium"</u>. Did you use the same or a very similar one? Answer: we use the same one as the WHO recommends.

Best,

Wenjie



virus?

Many thanks and best wishes from Hamburg! Torsten Engelbrecht

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