Hi Torsten,

The EM images were obtained directly from cell culture material.

Kind regards,

Dr Jason A. Roberts  
Senior Medical Scientist  
Head, Electron Microscopy and Structural Virology  
Victorian Infectious Diseases Reference Laboratory  
T: +61 3 93429610  F: +61 3 93429696  E: jason.roberts@mh.org.au  
Adjunct Principal Research Fellow - RMIT University  
Honorary Senior Fellow - University of Melbourne  

VIDRL at The Peter Doherty Institute for Infection and Immunity  
792 Elizabeth Street | Melbourne | Victoria | Australia | 3000

From: Druce, Julian  
Sent: Monday, 5 October 2020 10:19 AM  
To: Sharon Lewin <sharon.lewin@unimelb.edu.au>; Roberts, Jason <Jason.Roberts@vidrl.org.au>  
Cc: tengelbrecht@gmx.net  
Subject: RE: [EXT] Question re your paper "Isolation and rapid sharing of the 2019 novel coronavirus (SARS-CoV-2) from the first patient diagnosed with COVID-19 in Australia"

Hi Torsten

The nucleic acid extraction was performed on isolate material recovered from infected cells. This material was not centrifuged, so was not purified through sucrose gradient to have a density band as such.

I will let Jason respond to the EM questions.

Regards  
Julian
Dear Sharon Lewin!

My name is Torsten Engelbrecht and I am Journalist in Hamburg. I am researching the SARS-CoV-2 issue. Please allow me the following questions re your article "Isolation and rapid sharing of the 2019 novel coronavirus (SARS-CoV-2) from the first patient diagnosed with COVID-19 in Australia":

1. In your paper it says you "extracted RNA for whole genome sequencing of the viral isolate". Was RNA obtained from the density at which CoV particles band?
2. What is that density and did you obtain an EM showing the degree of purification?
3. Do the EM shots show ultracentrifuged, sedimented virus particles? And do images show the purified virus?

Thank you and best wishes, Torsten

---

Torsten Engelbrecht
T +49 (0)40 316509
M +49 (0)177 4884187
E tengelbrecht@gmx.net
www.torstenengelbrecht.com