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## Fw: FOIA Request

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James Smith <[REDACTED]> Mon, Aug 9, 2021 at 2:31 PM  
To: [REDACTED] Christine Massey <cmssyo@gmail.com>

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**From:** Reginald Rogers <Reginald.Rogers@arkansas.gov>  
**Sent:** Monday, August 9, 2021 1:28 PM  
**To:** James Smith <[REDACTED]>  
**Cc:** Laura Shue (ADH) <Laura.Shue@arkansas.gov>; Charles Thompson (ADH) <Charles.Thompson@arkansas.gov>; Brian Nichols (ADH) <Brian.Nichols@arkansas.gov>; S.Craig Smith <Stephan.Smith@arkansas.gov>; Michael St. Clair <Michael.StClair@arkansas.gov>; Tressa Williams (ADH) <Tressa.Williams@arkansas.gov>  
**Subject:** FW: FOIA Request

Attached are 2 emails from UAMS which refer to projects on looking for COVID 19 in wastewater. I have been informed by that the ADH Public Health Laboratory (PHL) does not purify the SARS-CoV-2 virus. I have not been provided with any reports or studies on "purification" of the Covid-19 virus. Thank you.

Reginald A. Rogers  
Deputy General Counsel  
Arkansas Department of Health  
4815 W. Markham St., Slot 31  
Little Rock, Arkansas 72205-3867

Phone : (501) 661 - 2609  
Cell : (501) 944 - 2962  
Fax : (501) 661 - 2357  
Email: [reginald.rogers@arkansas.gov](mailto:reginald.rogers@arkansas.gov)




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**From:** James Smith <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Sunday, August 8, 2021 10:14 PM  
**To:** [coronavirus@arkansas.gov](mailto:coronavirus@arkansas.gov); Reginald Rogers <reginald.rogers@arkansas.gov>  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]

Subject: FOIA Request

## Arkansas FOIA Request

James W. Smith, DC



08/08/2021

Reginald Rogers

Custodian of Records

Arkansas Department of Health

4815 W. Markham St.

Little Rock, AR 72205

Dear Reginald Rogers:

Under the Arkansas Freedom of Information Act § 25-19-101 et seq., Description of Requested Records: All studies and/or reports in the possession, custody or control of the Arkansas Department of Health describing the purification of any "COVID-19 virus" (including "B.1.1.7", "B.1.351", "P.1" and any other "variant") (via maceration, filtration and use of an ultracentrifuge; also referred to at times by some people as "isolation"), directly from a sample taken from a diseased human, where the patient sample was not first combined with any other source of genetic material (i.e. monkey kidney cells aka Vero cells; fetal bovine serum). Please note that I am not requesting studies/reports where researchers failed to purify the suspected "virus" and instead: cultured an unpurified sample or other unpurified substance, and/or performed an amplification test (i.e. a PCR test) on all the RNA from a patient sample or from a cell culture, or on genetic material from any unpurified substance, and/or sequenced the total RNA from a patient sample or from a cell culture or from any unpurified substance, and/or produced electron microscopy images of unpurified things. For further clarity, please note I am already aware that according to virus theory a "virus" requires host cells in order to replicate, and I am not requesting records describing the replication of a "virus" without host cells. Further, I am not requesting records that describe a suspected "virus" floating in a vacuum; I am simply requesting records that describe its purification (separation from everything else in the patient sample, as per standard laboratory practices for the purification of other small things). Please also note that my request is not limited to records that were authored by the CDC or ATSDR or that pertain to work done at/by the CDC or ATSDR. Rather, my request includes any record matching the above description, for example (but not limited to) any published peer-reviewed study authored by anyone, anywhere, ever that has been downloaded or printed and relied on as evidence of a disease-causing "virus". If any records match the above description of requested records and are currently available to the public elsewhere, please provide enough information about each record so that I may identify and access each one with certainty (i.e. title, author(s), date, journal, where the public may access it). Please provide URLs where possible.

If there are any fees for searching or copying these records, please inform me if the cost will exceed \$100. However, I would also like to request a waiver of all fees in that the disclosure of the requested information is in the public interest and will contribute significantly to the public's understanding of the isolation of purified

SARS-COV-2. This information is not being sought for commercial purposes.

The Arkansas Freedom of Information Act requires a response within three business days. If access to the records I am requesting will take longer, please contact me with information about when I might expect copies or the ability to inspect the requested records.

If you deny any or all of this request, please cite each specific exemption you feel justifies the refusal to release the information and notify me of the appeal procedures available to me under the law.

Thank you for considering my request.

Sincerely,

Dr. James W. Smith



----- Forwarded message -----

From: David Ussery <daveussery@gmail.com>  
To: SUSAN HANRAHAN <hanrahan@astate.edu>, Jake Rice <jrice@jonesboroowl.org>  
Cc: Atul Kothari <Atul.Kothari@arkansas.gov>, "Robeson, Michael" <MRobeson@uams.edu>  
Bcc:  
Date: Wed, 24 Feb 2021 22:22:20 +0000  
Subject: Re: Water samples

Hi Susan, Jake,

Thanks for your email. I'll attach a PDF of my talk last week, along with a PDF of an NIH U01 grant that I wrote for looking at Covid-19 in Arkansas wastewater. Unfortunately, that grant didn't get funded, but I'm hoping that I can reuse some of the same ideas in other proposals. For example, the CDC is funding some projects along these lines, I think. We are thinking about applying for a small bit of internal funding to explore a project with ConwayCorp - they've already been looking for Covid-19 in their wastewater for several months now (in collaboration with a colleague in Tacoma, Washington). We're hoping to do some of the analysis locally, but are trying to figure out the logistics of this, in terms of biosafety approval for the labs. Perhaps we could set up a time to discuss this some more sometime? As a general rule, Fridays are free for me.

With best wishes,

Dave

> On Feb 24, 2021, at 11:08, SUSAN HANRAHAN <hanrahan@astate.edu> wrote:

>

> Dave, I am Susan Hanrahan, Dean of the College of Nursing and Health Profession at Arkansas State University. I listened to your ARA presentation last week and when you made a call for "water samples", I listened. I sit on the board of City Water and Light in Jonesboro (water, wastewater and electricity). I spent a little time with our CEO, Jake Rice, to explain your coronavirus quest through water treatment samples. I am hooking both of you up so you can better explain your project to Jake and he can see if CWL can be of any value to your research. Good luck and thanks for your good work! Susan

----- Forwarded message -----

From: "Ussery, David W" <DWUssery@uams.edu>

To: Atul Kothari <Atul.Kothari@arkansas.gov>

Cc:

Bcc:

Date: Thu, 7 Jan 2021 17:33:21 +0000

Subject: quick question...

Hi Atul,

I've read that CDC is investing money in sequencing COVID-19, to keep track of the more virulent UK strain, for example.

Do you know anything about this?

I woke up this morning thinking about a grant for the ARA (Arkansas Research Alliance). It's due on the 11th of January (Monday), and I was thinking about asking for \$100,000, for sequencing COVID-19 from wastewater in Conway, Arkansas. What do you think of this? Would you be willing to help? There's a pretty good chance it'll get funded - last year they funded 12 grants out of 12 proposals (!).

p.s., still waiting to hear back from the NIH on my U01 grant (see attached). It was SUPPOSED to have started first of December, but with all the budget problems (we almost had a government shutdown a few weeks ago!) - the NIH program managers are just now going their budgets - HOPE to hear in the next week or two on that one - it'd be great if we got it, of course! I think it was a good proposal - and I see that Arkansas is now back in the 'top10', in terms of number of cases per 100,000 (see screenshot from this morning's paper)

With best wishes,

Dave

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Professor David W. Ussery, PhD  
Helen Adams & the Arkansas Research Alliance Chair in Biomedical Informatics  
University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences

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**8 attachments**



7113E4C0-B89A-4C56-B842-A7D9D4526DE8\_1\_101\_o.jpeg  
256K

 **ARA\_Project\_Scope\_17Feb2021\_f-compressed.pdf**  
5817K

 **4492952\_Egrant-compressed.pdf**  
3457K

 **Re: Water samples.eml**  
12706K

 **4492952\_Egrant-compressed.pdf**  
3336K

 **ATT00001.htm**  
2K

 **ATT00002.htm**  
2K

 **quick question....eml**  
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