

# 8 questions from a disease detective on pandemic's origins

Dr Daniel R. Lucey wants answers to pointed questions that bear on how the coronavirus leapt from bats to humans

WILLIAM J BROAD

For decades, Dr Daniel Lucey, an infectious disease specialist at Georgetown University, has crisscrossed the globe to study epidemics and their origins. His attention now is on the COVID-19 pandemic, which first came to public notice late last year in Wuhan, China. Its exact beginnings are sufficiently clouded that the World Health Organization has begun a wide inquiry into its roots.

The advance team left for China this past weekend, and Lucey has publicly encouraged the health agency to address what he considers eight top questions.

"It's not a legitimate investigation if the team doesn't ask them," Lucey said in a recent interview. He cited public reports and scientific articles as starting points for his queries, adding that Beijing "has never come out and answered these questions."

Clear answers, Lucey said, would cast light on how the deadly pathogen spread so rapidly and, perhaps, how exactly the outbreak began. China has not been forthcoming with information, and the Trump administration has inflamed the situation with threats and bullying. It has charged, without presenting evidence, that the microbe jumped to humans from a Wuhan lab. Last week, after long threatening to do so, the administration began formal steps to end its WHO membership.

A student of epidemics, Lucey has traveled to Asia, Africa, the Americas, Europe and the Middle East, at times as a caregiver. In 2014, working for Doctors Without Borders, he treated Ebola patients in Liberia. He posed his eight questions last month in a post for his blog, which he writes for the Infectious Diseases Society of America. The post came in response to an announcement by Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, director general of the WHO, that the agency would be sending a team to China to investigate the pathogen's source — a move long sought by the Trump administration.

Ever since the outbreak erupted late last year in central China, the global rumour mill has buzzed with speculation and conspiracy theories. Experts have ruled out the idea that the pathogen was concocted as a bioweapon. They agree that it began as a bat virus that probably evolved naturally in another mammal to become adept at infecting and killing humans. But so far, after months of concentrated research at sites and laboratories in China and elsewhere around the globe, no clear intermediary has come to light.

The first three of Lucey's eight questions center on the Wuhan wet market — a sprawling marketplace that sold fresh fish and meat before being shut down. It was initially viewed as the viral point of origin. That idea was quickly thrown into doubt when a study by Chinese scientists reported that roughly one-third of the earliest hospitalized victims — including the



Daniel Lucey, an infectious disease specialist, posted eight pointed questions in his blog that he believes the World Health Organization should ask of China during the inquiry into how the coronavirus outbreak began. THE NEW YORK TIMES

first — had never visited the market. In a May blog, Lucey quoted the head of China's Center for Disease Control as ruling it out as the pandemic's place of origin. The market, the Chinese health official said, "is just another victim."

Hundreds of environmental samples were reportedly collected at the wet market, producing 33 positive results, but few details have been made public. Lucey asks: Were any of the positive results linked to human infections? And from what kinds of surfaces — doorknobs, cutting boards, sewage, garbage trucks — were the samples collected? So far, none of the reported positive tests have come from animals.

His fourth question widens the scope of investigation to other markets in Wuhan and across China. Were any samples collected from animals "now known to be susceptible to the virus" — including cats, tigers, mink and ferrets? (Ferrets are routinely used to gauge the transmissibility of human flu viruses.) He also asks about pangolins, which were initially considered a possible intermediary in the human outbreak.

Lucey's fifth question addresses a detailed report in The South China Morning Post, published in Hong Kong, that identified an early human coronavirus case Nov. 17 in Hubei province. The province is the size of Washington state, and Wuhan is its capital. In March, Lu-

cey wrote a blog post about the report, which described the virus's rapid spread in Hubei, based on information that the report said came from the government. Now Lucey is urging the WHO investigators to determine where each of these early Hubei cases were reported, if indeed they occurred, and whether any other "documented or suspected" human infections may have occurred even earlier.

The sixth and seventh questions go to whether the deadly pathogen leapt to humans from a laboratory. Although some intelligence analysts and scientists have entertained that scenario, no direct evidence has come to light suggesting that the coronavirus escaped from one of Wuhan's labs.

Even so, given the wet market's downgrading in the investigation, "it is important to address questions about any potential laboratory source of the virus, whether in Wuhan or elsewhere," Lucey wrote in his blog post.

To that end, he urges the WHO investigators to look for any signs of "gain of function" research — the deliberate enhancement of pathogens to make them more dangerous. The technique is highly contentious. Critics question its merits and warn that it could lead to catastrophic lab leaks. Proponents see it as a legitimate way to learn how viruses and other infectious organisms might evolve to infect

and kill people, and thus help in devising new protections and precautions.

Finally, Lucey asks the WHO team to learn more about China's main influenza research lab, a high-security facility in Harbin, the capital of China's northernmost province. In May, he notes, a Chinese paper in the journal Science reported that two virus samples from Wuhan were studied there in great detail early this year, including in a variety of animals. It reported that cats and ferrets were highly susceptible to the pathogen; dogs were only mildly susceptible; and pigs, chickens and ducks were not susceptible at all.

In his travels, Lucey went to Brazil to study the Zika virus; to Madagascar to study pneumonic plague; to Jordan to study the Middle East respiratory syndrome, or MERS; and to Guangzhou, China, to study severe acute respiratory syndrome, or SARS. He said his wide travels over the decades had informed his current inquiry.

In an email, he added that the WHO was aware of his eight questions and had given him "good feedback." Lucey likened his queries to the process of unlocking a large building.

"The key thing is to open the door," he said in the interview. "Where you go once you get inside, that's beyond me." **International New York Times**

## Introducing fleather: Kanpur startup turns floral waste to vegan leather

Lucknow, Floral waste has found new purpose, courtesy Phool.co, an Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Kanpur-backed biomaterial startup which has developed 'fleather' — biodegradable vegan leather made from discarded temple flowers. "Fleather is a viable alternative to animal leather," claimed Ankit Agarwal, the co-founder of Phool.co, who was among the 17 young leaders from across the globe selected by the United Nations for its Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) initiative in 2018. In India, leather is used in several industries, from fashion apparel to saddlery. India produces 12.9% of the world's hides, which is greater than 3 billion sq foot per year. "We convert floral waste into charcoal-free incense products. But last year, we decided to explore the development of animal-free leather. Intrigued by the formation of a leather-like white layer on unused piles of flowers, our R&D team discovered the growth of a micro-organism which used flower petals as a nutritional source," he said. "Leather contains collagen which provides it strength and durability, whereas fleather has chitin, a kind of protein, that gives it the same properties. Collagen and chitin are natural analogues, making fleather a perfect substitute for leather," he said.

## Three of a family electrocuted to death in Madhya Pradesh

Bhopal, Two brothers and their cousin were electrocuted to death in Madhya Pradesh on Friday morning when they got down in a well to check an irrigation motor pump that had stopped functioning, said police. The incident took place at Patai village under Devari police station, about 120 km away from

Raisen district headquarters, the neighbouring district of Bhopal, at about 9 am, according to police.

Sub-divisional officer of police (SDoP) Ashok Ghanghoria said, "The well is situated in the agriculture field of a Kushwah family. When the irrigation motor pump installed inside the

well stopped functioning on Friday morning, Brijesh Kushwah, 20, got down in the well to see what had gone wrong. The moment he touched the motor pump he was electrocuted. On seeing the condition of his younger brother, Jagdish Kushwah, 25, entered the well to rescue him and the moment he made an

attempt to pull his brother out, he too was electrocuted. Their cousin brother Preetam Kushwah met the same fate when he entered the well."

The officer said though the villagers informed the police immediately, it could reach only around 2 pm since the main road was submerged due to heavy

rains. After a post-mortem examination, the dead bodies were handed over to their families. Police lodged a report and initiated an investigation. Tehsildar of the area Chhote Giri Goswami said, "A sum of Rs 4 lakh each for the next to the kin of the deceased was announced by the state government."

## LED contrast and cinematic sound with the new BRAVIA X9000H series



Ahmedabad, Sony India today announced the all-new BRAVIA X9000H Television series with 4K HDR Full Array LED display. This minimalist 4K Ultra HD TV brings out clear and precise picture quality, offering highly realistic viewing experience to consumers. It delivers beautiful pictures with vibrant colour and stunning contrast, thanks to the best-in-class family of X1 processors. The powerful sound that comes directly from the TV screen creates a highly immersive experience. Sony's new 4K HDR

9000H TV series available in 165 cm (65) and 140 cm (55) encompasses of X1™ 4K HDR picture processor to see more detail in every scene. The object-based HDR remaster technology intelligently enhances contrast, detail and color which produces closer to 4K resolution and life-like picture. The new X9000H powered by Full Array LED display and X-tended Dynamic range provides more realistic contrast. With zones of LEDs lit independently, it provides more realistic contrast by making light areas lighter and dark areas darker with greater depth, textures. Contrast is further enhanced by X-tended Dynamic Range™ which adjusts brightness for higher peaks in glare and deeper blacks in shadow.

## KINTECH RENEWABLES LIMITED

[CIN: L40105GJ1985PLC013254]  
Regd. Office: Kintech House, 8, Shivalik Plaza, Opp. AMA, IIM Road, Ahmedabad - 380 015, Gujarat  
Tel.: (079)-26303064, E-mail: cs@kintechrenewables.com, Website: www.kintechrenewables.com

### NOTICE OF 35<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING TO BE HELD THROUGH VIDEO CONFERRING (VC) OR OTHER AUDIO VISUAL MEANS (OAVM)

NOTICE is hereby given that the 35th Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the Members of Kintech Renewables Limited ("the Company") will be held on **Monday, the 28th September, 2020 at 03:00 P.M.** through two-way Video Conferencing ("VC") facility or other audio visual means ("OAVM"), to transact the business as set out in the Notice dated 05th August, 2020 convening the AGM.

In view of the massive outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Government of India, Ministry of Corporate Affairs vide its Circular No. 14/2020 dated April 08, 2020, Circular No. 17/2020 dated April 13, 2020, Circular No. 20/2020 dated May 05, 2020 and SEBI Circular No. SEBI/HO/CFD/CMD1/CIR/P/2020/79 dated May 12, 2020 ("Circulars") have permitted the holding of Annual General Meeting through Video Conferencing (VC) or Other Audio Visual Means (OAVM) without the physical presence of the Members at a common venue.

In accordance with the Circulars, the Annual Report 2019-20, inter alia, containing the Notice of AGM including e-voting instructions will be sent only by electronic mode to the members whose e-mail addresses have been registered with the depositories/Company shortly. The Notice of AGM and this public notice is displayed on the website of the Company, i.e. www.kintechrenewables.com, and also available on the website of stock exchange i.e. www.bseindia.com. The requirement of sending physical copies of the Notice of the AGM and Annual Report 2019-20 have been dispensed with as per above circulars.

As per the Section 108 of the Companies Act, 2013 read with Rule 20 of the Companies (Management and Administration) Rules, 2014 and Regulation 44 of SEBI (LODR) Regulations, 2015, the Company is providing the facilities its members to cast their vote by 'Remote e-voting' on all the resolutions set forth in the said Notice. The details as required pursuant to the provisions of the Companies Act, 2013 and Rules made there under are given here under:

No.	Manner of casting vote on resolutions at the AGM	The facility of e-Voting system shall also be made available during the Meeting and the Members attending the Meeting, who have not cast their vote by remote e-Voting shall be able to exercise their right during the Meeting. Members who have already voted prior to the meeting date would not be entitled to vote at the meeting. For more details, members are requested to refer the Notice of 35th AGM on the website of the company under the Investor Relations tab under the General Meeting Tab. The manner of voting remotely for members holding shares in dematerialized mode, physical mode and for members who have not registered their email address will be provided in the Notice to the members.
1.	Manner of registration of e-mail Address and Bank Details	Members who have not yet registered their e-mail addresses and not updated their Bank Details are requested to follow the process mentioned below to receive the Notice of the AGM and the Annual Report 2019-20 electronically: 1. For members holding shares in physical mode: Please provide necessary details like Folio No, Name of Shareholder and self-attested scanned copy of cancelled cheque bearing the name of the Member or first holder, in case shares are held jointly by e-mail to cs@kintechrenewables.com or members can download the form by following below link and submitted with MCS Share Transfer Agent Limited (RTA of the Company). <a href="https://www.kintechrenewables.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/Update-of-Information_Shareholders_KRI_Final.pdf">https://www.kintechrenewables.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/Update-of-Information_Shareholders_KRI_Final.pdf</a> 2. Members holding shares in demat mode can get their e-mail registered and Bank details updated by contacting their respective Depository Participants.

By Order of the Board,  
For KINTECH RENEWABLES LIMITED  
Harshal Gandhi  
Company Secretary

Place : Ahmedabad  
Date : 29th August, 2020

## HDFC E-AUCTION SALE NOTICE HOUSING DEVELOPMENT FINANCE CORPORATION LIMITED

HDFC House, Nr. Mithakhali Six Road, Navrangpura, Ahmedabd. Phone : (079) 66307000

### E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8 (6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower (s) and Guarantor (s) indicated in Column (A) that the below described immovable property(ies) described in Column (C) mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the constructive/physical possession of which has been taken as described in column (D) by the Authorised Officer of Housing Development Finance Corporation Limited (HDFC Ltd) Secured Creditor, will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is" as per the details mentioned below:

Notice is hereby given to Borrower / Mortgagee(s) / legal heirs, legal representatives (whether known or unknown), executor(s), administrator(s), successor(s) and assign(s) of the respective Borrower(s) / Mortgagee(s) (since deceased), as the case may be, indicated in Column (A) under Rule 8(6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002.

For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please refer to the link provided in Housing Development Finance Corporation Limited (HDFC Ltd) Secured Creditor's website i.e. www.HDFC.com

Sr. No.	Names of Borrower(s)/ Mortgagee(s)/ Guarantor(s)/ Legal Heirs and Legal Representatives (whether known or unknown) Executor(s), Administrator(s), Successor(s) and Assign(s) of the respective Borrower(s) / Mortgagee(s) / Guarantor(s) (since deceased), as the case may be.	Outstanding dues to be Recovered (Secured Debt) (Rs.)*	Description of the Immovable Property / Secured Asset (1 Sq. mtr. is equivalent to 10.76 Sq. Ft.)	Type of Possession	Reserve Price (Rs.)	Earnest money deposit (Rs.)	Date of Auction and time
(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	(E)	(F)	(G)	(H)
1	MR. JIGNESHKUMAR RAJENDRABHAI RAVAL (Borrower) Loan A/c No. 611286270	Rs. 18,88,006/- as on 30 <sup>th</sup> Apr., 2016*	Rowhouse-483/3, Plot-483/3, admeasuring 87.55 Sq. Mtrs. (942. 38 sq. ft.) of Plot Area and construction area, admeasuring 56.90 Sq. Mtrs. (512.47 Sq. ft.) built up area thereon, Dhinchada - Yogeshwardham, S. NO. 41/P-2, Nr. 150 Ft. Ring Road, Behind Digjam Woolen Mill, Airforce Road, Jamnagar.	Physical Possession	Rs. 14,00,000/-	Rs. 1,40,000/-	30 <sup>th</sup> Sep., 2020 10:00 AM to 11:30 AM

\*together with further interest @18% p.a. as applicable, incidental expenses, costs, charges etc. incurred up to the date of payment and/or relation thereof.

#### Disclosure of Encumbrances

To the best of the knowledge and information of the Authorised Officer of HDFC Limited, there are no encumbrances in respect of the above immovable properties/ secured assets.

#### Most Important Terms and Conditions

- > Minimum bid increment amount is Rs. 25,000/- (Twenty Five Thousand Only) for Sr. No. 1.
- > Secured Assets mentioned at for Sr. No.1 is available for inspection on 22<sup>nd</sup> September, 2020 between 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM.
- > For any assistance related to inspection of the property, or for obtaining the Bid document and for any other queries, please get in touch with our Authorized Partner i.e. M/s. Shriram Automall India Limited, through its Concern Person being Mr. Dharmendrasingh Chauhan through Mobile No. : 07600762777 or Mr. Vinod Nair or Mr. Viren Mistry official of HDFC Limited through Tel. No. 079-66307063 or 079-66307070.
- > The last date of submission of bids in prescribed e-auction Bid Documents with all necessary documents and EMD in stipulated manner is 29<sup>th</sup> September, 2020.

#### Detailed Terms And Conditions

For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please refer to the link provided in Housing Development Finance Corporation Limited (HDFC Ltd) Secured Creditor's website i.e. www.HDFC.com

Date : 29-08-2020  
Place : Ahmedabad/Jamnagar

For Housing Development Finance Corporation Ltd.  
Sd/-  
Authorised Officer