World Wide Uncharted Trajectory Outbreak Initiator: Coronavirus [COVID-19] Pathogenesis

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ABSTRACT

The Coronavirus (CoV) belongs to family of *Coronaviridae*, suborder *Coronavirinae* and *Nidovirales* order. CoV causes diseases in human with a just cold, cough and high fever symptoms simultaneously develops in to severe respiratory syndrome and ceases fatal. The source of virus is believed to be "Wet Market" in Wuhan, China. The source of the latest pandemic has not yet been identified exactly but the original host is expected to be bats and mammals, which are host of wide range of Zoonotic viruses. The current trajectory state defines the virus is climbing rest of the world. The article is a descriptive study of CoV types, origin, transmission of virus from bats, mammals and inanimate surfaces to the host cells, life cycle of coronavirus where the Spike protein (S1 and S2) domains fusing with the receptors present on the host cell and other mechanisms. Steps of translation and exocytosis represented diagrammatically to control and mitigate the fatality. Worldwide therapy of the patients, a glance report on drug developments, stage of clinical trials and vaccine research is reported.

Key words: WHO, Zoonosis, RNA, Receptor, Vaccine.

INTRODUCTION

Wuhan, China has become a centre of epidemiology in the spread of COVID-19 which is encountering a life and death question. We are facing a tough challenge like, SARS (Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome) which has occurred in the year 2002. In November 2012, first confirmed the case of CoV was by the researcher and Virologist Ron Fouchier from Erasmus Medical Center (EMC), Rotterdam, where the sample has been received from Egyptian virologist Dr. Ali Mohammed Zaki. The COVID-19 pandemic is affecting worldwide in multiple ways like loss of work, lack of proper medical care and deficiency in food supply.1-5

A strategic team has been setup by World Health Organization (WHO) which is a source for governing different government agencies like the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). The World Health Organization (WHO), COVID-19 incident management team is working with partners like United Nations Childrens Fund (UNICEF), United National Office for Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA), International Organization for Migration (IOM), International Organization for Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC).⁶

The major areas like Risk communications and community management, International Federation of Risk Control (IFRC), UNICEF and WHO has formed a dedicated tripartite group to scale up and implement activities globally. The WHO head quartered in Geneva with help of public health England, the Indo Pacific health security Centre, the Australian Government and the Chinese centre for Disease control and prevention have sent staff to WHO to work on COVID-19 in Geneva, Switzerland, Manila, Philippines and New Delhi, India.⁶ The major partner coordination mechanisms

are the emergency medical team (EMT), the Global Health Centre (GHC) and the Submission Date: 15-04-2020; Revision Date: 02-08-2020; Accepted Date: 18-12-2020

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Global Outbreak Alert and Response network (GOARN) which include technical agencies like NGO's including Medicines and Sans Frontiers (MSF). The health clusters across the country emphasize on case detection and focus on working closely on the deployment and implementation of measures in medical aid. Nearly 50 countries have requested support and GOARN are implementing strategies for direct country support and comprehensive technical briefings.⁶

Corona viruses are spherical, phenotypically and genotypically diverged and CoV are enveloped, singlestranded positive - sense RNA viruses belongs to the family Coronaviridae, suborder Coronavirinae and Nidovirales order.19 The origin of virus is expected to be "Wet Market" where both dead and live animals are been sold which includes mammals like pigs, mice, whales, snakes, cats, dogs, pangolins and birds like bats, cocks and ducks species. Transmission of viruses from Zoonotic origin to human is called as "spill over event".10 These CoVs causes neurological, hepatic and severe respiratory tract infections which may become fatal. Coronaviruses measures 65-125nm in diameter and the genome size ranging from 26 to 32kbs in length.11 "Coronavirus" can be viewed under two dimensional electron microscope and the name is derived from the Latin word corona means reminiscent of a crown or solar corona around the virions or halo and as per Greek kopwn (korone, "garland, wreath") (Figure 1a).^{12,13}

Health threats are long term with the CoVs due to the nature of easily altering the host tissue by tropism because of its capability of adapting the fresh and new environment through mutations. It is essential to control the spread for economic stability and global health by understanding the structure of CoV. Corona Viruses are classified into different genera namely as: *Alphacoronavirus*, *Betacoronavirus*, *Gammacoronavirus* and *Deltacoronavirus*. CoV known to infect humans are in the alpha and beta genera and identified in different species of birds and mammals as in Table 1.^{97,10,14}

In CoV more prominent mutations can be observed which causes long term health issues like severe respiratory syndrome, gastro intestinal disturbances, nervous system disorders in human, Zoonotic species and finally causes death.²¹⁻²³

The CoV is spherical and the RNA genome is helical, formed by nucleocapsid protein and surrounded by hemagglutinin-esterase viral membrane (HE), present in some beta corona viruses. Envelop associated with three proteins: crown like large prominences on virus surface which mediates the entry of virus into the host cells and change the immune responses of the host cell by Spike glycoprotein (S). The other two proteins which



involves in the viral assemble are Envelop protein (E) and membrane protein (TM).^{21-30,8,19,31-33}

The spike glycoprotein is clove shaped trimer when observed, composed of different parts like large Ectodomain part (S1 and S2), a Trans membrane anchor (TM) and intracellular tail (IC). Ectodomain consists of three headed S1 and stalk of trimer S2 subunits which are known as receptor-binding unit and membrane fusion sub unit respectively as in the Figure 1b.²¹⁻³⁰

LIFE CYCLE OF COV: SPIKE PROTEIN BINDING WITH RECEPTOR ON HOST CELL

Life cycle of coronavirus is contrived by binding of virus S protein with receptor host cell. The two important initial steps involved in the mechanism are receptor binding and membrane fusion. The S1 subunit binds with the receptor of host cell, for attachment and the S2 unit fuses to the host membrane and allowing the viral RNA genome to enter in to the host cell then, subsequent steps like translation and exocytosis steps takes place where the host immune system is affected.^{21,27-30} Virus may infect multiple host cells due to the loosely arranged glycoprotein spike receptor domain. There are two Receptor Binding Domains (RBD) present on spike namely small N-Terminal glycosylated domain (S1-NTD) and large C-Terminal domain (S1-CTD).

Viruses recognize and bind the receptors (Table 2 - amino peptidases or angiotensin converting enzyme2 or exopeptidase or dipeptidyl peptidase 4) of the host cells as depending on the type of virus. Mechanism of coronavirus entry and Splitting the spike protein and establish penetration changes depends on the cellular proteases present in the host cells, cathepsins, human airway trypsin-like protease (HAT) and trans membrane protease serine2 (TMPRSS2).³⁵⁻⁴²

SARS-Cov-2 shows 3-D structure in the RBD region as the domain is composed of RNA polymerase, 3-chymotrypsin-like protease, papain-like protease, helicase, glycoprotein and accessory proteins which maintain Vander walls forces for the attachment and further fusion of viral envelop with cell membrane

	Table 1: Types of corona virus and host of the species. ¹⁵⁻²⁰					
Genus	Type of species	Host species	Common name	Habitat		
Alpha Corona virus	Transmissible gastroenteritis coronavirus (TGEV)	Sus scrofa	Wild swine or wild pig	America, south east Asia		
	Bat coronavirus 1A	Miniopterus magnater	Small bent winged bat	China, India, Indonesia, Laos, Malasia, Mayanmar, New guinea Thailand		
	Bat coronavirus 1B	Miniopterus pusillus	Small bent winged bat	Bangladesh, India, Indonesia, Malasia, Nepal		
	Bat coronavirus (HKU2)	Rhinolophus sinicus	Chinese horse shoe bat	China, India, Vietnam, Nepal		
	Bat coronavirus (HKU8)	Miniopterus pusillus	Small bent winged bat	Bangladesh, India, Indonesia, Malasia, Nepal		
	Human coronavirus NL 63	Homo sapiens	Extent human species	World wide		
	Human coronavirus 229E (HCoV-229E)	Homo sapiens	Extent human species	World wide		
	Porcine epidemic diarrhoea coronavirus (PDEV)	Sus scrofa	Wild swine (pig)	America, South East Asia		
	Canine coronavirus (CCoV)	Canis lupus familiaris	Wolf species	North America, Eurasia		
Beta	Human corona virus HKU1	Homo sapiens	Extent human species	World wide		
corona	Human SARS corona virus	Homo sapiens	Extent human species	World wide		
virus	Human coronavirus OC43	Homo sapiens	Extent human species	World wide		
	Bat coronavirus HKU5	Pipistrellus abramus	Japanese house bat	Japan		
	Bat coronavirus	Tylonycteris pachypus	Bamboo bat	South East Asia		
	Bat coronavirus HKU9	Leschenault's rousettus	Fruit bat	Palearrcitic, Australia, Indo Malayan realm		
	Bat SARS coronavirus	Rhinolophus pearsoni	Person's horse shoe bat	China, India, Laos, Mayanmar, Nepal, Thailand		
	Bovine coronavirus	Bos taurus	Cattle or cow	Domesticated ungulates		
	Porcine hem agglutinating encephalomyelitis virus (HEV)	Bos taurus	Cattle or cow	Domesticated ungulates		
	Civet severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus	Paguma larvata	Masked palm civet	Indian sub- continent		
	Human coronavirus 4408 (HCoV-4408)	Homo sapiens	Extent human species	World wide		
	Middle eastern respiratory syndrome coronavirus (MERS-CoV)	Homo sapiens	Extent human species	World wide		
	Mouse hepatitis virus (MHV)	Mus musculus	House mouse	World wide		
	Mouse hepatitis virus RA59/R13 coronavirus	Mus musculus	House mouse	World wide		
	Sambar deer coronavirus	Cervus unicolor	Sambar large deer	South China, South East Asia		
	Severe acute syndrome (SARS- CoV)	Homo sapiens	Extent human species	World wide		
Gama corona virus	Duck coronavirus	Anus	Duck	World wide		
	Infectious bronchitis virus (IBV)	Gallus gallus	Game cock	South East Asia		
	Turkey virus	Meleagris gallopavo	Turkey bird	South America		
Delta corona virus	Bul bul coronavirus HKU11	Pycnonotus jocosus	Red whisked bulbul	Topical Asia		
	Porcine delta coronavirus (PdCV)		Birds and chicks	United States		
	Magpie robin coronavirus HKU18	Copsychus saularis	Robin bird, world fly catcher	World wide		
	Night heron coronavirus HKU19	Nycticorax nycticorax	Black crowned or black capped night heron	Worldwide except coldest Australia		
	Munia corona virus HKU 13	Lonchura striata	White rumped munia, mystery bird	South east Asia, China		
	Sparrow coronavirus HKU17	Passer montanus	Eurasian tree sparrow	Asia		
	Thrush coronavirus HKU12	Turdus hortulorum	Grey backed thrush	China, Russia		
	White eye coronavirus HKU16	Zosterops species	White eye bird	South east Asia, Australia, Africa, Indonesia		
	Wigeon coronavirus HKU20	Anas penelope	Eurasian wigeon	Eurasia		

Table 2: Types of the coronavirus binding with type of Receptor on the host. ^{47,51-61}				
Virus	Receptor			
Transmissible gastroenteritis coronavirus (TGEV)	Sugar molecule			
Human corona virus	Amino peptidase			
Porcine epidemic diarrhoea coronavirus (PEDV)	Sugar molecule			
Canine coronavirus (CCoV)	Amino peptidase			
Feline infectious peritonitis virus (FIPV)	Amino peptidase			
Human coronavirus OC43	Sugar molecule			
Middle east respiratory syndrome coronavirus (MERS-CoV)	Serine peptidase and dipeptidyl peptidase 4			
Severe respiratory syndrome respiratory syndrome (SARS-CoV)	Angiotensin converting enzyme 2 (ACE 2)			
Mouse hepatitis coronavirus (MHV)	Murine carcino embryonic antigen related cell adhesion molecule			
Infectious bronchitis virus (IBV)	Sugar molecule			

takes place through endosomal pathway. Further the virus releases RNA (Ribonucleic acid) in to the host cell. Genome RNA is translated into viral replicase polyproteins pp1a and 1ab, which are then cleaved into small products by viral proteinases. By discontinuous transcription a series of sub genomic mRNAs are formed from polymerase. These sub genomic mRNAs then translated into pertinent viral proteins. Further these viral proteins and genome RNA assembled in the endoplasmic reticulum. These proteins move along the secretary pathway into the ERGIC membrane (intermediate compartment of endoplasmic reticulum and Golgi). There, viral genomes encapsidated by N protein bud into membranes of the ERGIC containing viral structural proteins, forming mature virions. Finally the virions released by exocytosis in to the cell by transportation through the vesicles. Mechanism of binding CoV spike protein with receptor on the host cell (Figure 2)²¹ and further steps of life cycle is as in the Figure 3.35,43-50

TRANSMISSION

The origin of CoV is mainly from bats and expected to transmit to human. The incognito method of this transmission from birds or animals to human is known as "spillover" method. Transmission is a particular phenomenon which happens when the droplets of infected person while coughing and sneezing containing the CoV could pass to other person via inanimate surfaces. The transmission is through potential intermediate



Figure 2: Mechanism of S protein binding with receptor on host cell.²¹



Figure 3: Life cycle of CoV- Binding, fusion, translation and exocytosis.³⁵

hosts and persistence of virus on inanimate surfaces (Table 3) but there is no scientific literature available as the virus detection in environment.⁶²⁻⁶⁷ In human CoVs cause lower and upper respiratory tract infections that can be mild, such as common cold is predominantly by Rhino viruses and others can be lethal such as SARS, MERS and COVID. Experts has to identify the potential interventions to mitigate transmission and host pathogen relationship to control or mitigate the CoV uncharted spreading. Figure 4 represents hypothesized origin of coronavirus transmission to human depending on the how close to to the infected person.^{34,62,68}

Basic protective measures to be taken as per $WHO^{\rm 78}$

- 1. Washing hands with soap water or alcohol based solutions kill viruses that are on the hand after in contact with virus.
- 2. At the time of sneezing or coughing the human small droplets from their nose or mouth containing

Table 3: Type of inanimate surface and persistence of corona virus. ⁶⁹⁻⁷⁸						
Type of the inanimate surface	Temperature range	Persistence time depending on type of virus				
Aluminium	21°C	2 to 8 hr				
Ceramic	21°C	5 days				
Disposable gowns	RT	1 hr – 2 days				
Glass	21°C – RT	4-5 days				
Metal	RT	5 days				
Paper	21°C to RT	5 min – 5 days				
Plastic	20°C – RT	8 hr to 5 days				
PVC	21°C	5 days				
Steel	4°C - 40°C	48 hr				
Silicon rubber	21°C	5 days				
Surgical glove	21°C	5 days				
Teflon	21°C	8hr				
Wood	21°C	5 days				



Figure 4: Transmission of coronavirus from originated source and inanimate surfaces to human.⁶²

virus will spills out. So atleast 1 meter distance to be maintained from one person to other.

- 3. Avoid touching of nose, mouth and eyes because there is chance of virus transmission from inanimate surfaces through hands and then in to the special sensed organs.
- 4. Respiratory hygiene is practiced and try to use masks.
- 5. Incase of cough, cold, fever and difficulty in breathing consult local healthcare personnel.
- 6. Share the latest facts and avoid hyperbola.
- 7. Show solidarity with affected people.
- 8. Avoid spitting in public.
- 9. Pregnants and women after child birth has to be concious by disinfecting herself.
- 10. Counseling to be done to the patients and suspected patients to relieve from stress during crisis.
- 11. Maintaining healthy life style with proper sleep, diet, exercise and avoid travelling.

- 12. Avoid smoking and consuming alcohol which may increase fatality.
- 13. Children may be clingy, anxious or angry with the situation, spend more time with the kids and engage them with extracuricular and brain storming activities within the house.

SYMPTOMS

After transmission of the virus from the bird or animal species or through inanimate surfaces to the host by spill over method, the incubation period of virus is approximately 5.2 days to 14 days, the length of time before symptoms appear.

Common symptoms observed are sneezing, coughing, headache, diarrhoea, dyspnea, haemoptysis and lymphopenia. Acute cardiac injury, acute respiratory distress syndrome and incidence of ground-glass opacities are the causes of fatality. Gastrointestinal distress also experienced in the patients. Clinical features like pneumonia, acute cardiac injury and ground-glass syndrome can be diagnosed by CT scan and dyspnea with hypoxemia by chest radiography. Figure 5 is showing diagramatic representation of COVID-19 disorders showing in human.^{79-87,6,14,17}

DIAGNOSIS

India's first drive through COVID-19 is Dr. Dangs lab, one of the first private laboratories allowed to test for coronavirus. An ability to rapidly diagnose the virus is of invaluable help in curbing it's exponential spread in many countries. Bosch's rapid test is one of the world's fully automated molecular diagnostic tests that can be used directly by all medical institutions. The test is rapid and meets the quality standards of WHO. In the present challenging scenario COVID-19 tests plays major role



Figure 5: Disorders showing in Human upon CoV infection.79

in testing the pandemic and giving medication or to give precautionary suggestions to public. The most reliable and accessible testing methods are PCR (Polymerize chain reaction) or serologic tests. Some other disorders like ground-glass syndrome can be identified by CT scan and dyspnea with hypoxemia by chest radiography.^{88,89}

DRUGS AND VACCINES DEVELOPMENT

World Health Organization (WHO), United States Food and Drugs Administration (USFDA), European Medicines Agency (EMA), Chinese government, nearly 100 drug manufacturers and biotechnology firms were coordinating with researchers to develop antiviral drugs, vaccines and monoclonal antibody therapies.^{90-98,7-10}

In March, Canadian Government announced CA\$275 million funds for development of "vaccine bank" and Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations (CEPI) released funds for this outbreak. World Health Organization implemented "SOLIDARITY Trail" in different countries for monitoring the COVID-19 affected and treated patients by therapy with antiviral drug.^{90,99}

The "COVID View" is the analyzed report of COVID-19 by center for disease control and prevention where the organization monitor the weekly surveillance report and updates on every Friday regarding the outpatient visits, emergency department visits, hospitalized cases and deaths, as well as laboratory data.¹⁰⁰

By the end of March 2020 Favipiravir, Remdesivir, Ritonavir and Hydroxy chloroquine (chloroquine) antiviral drugs were at final stage of clinical trials III and IV phase. Remdesivir drug has been advised to the physicians for patients who were hospitalized with pneumonia by United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) on 21st March 2020.^{101,102,95,103}

Novel molecules are emerging trends for drug development and vaccine preparation. The major and first objective of the drug discovery or development is "First-in-Human" (FIH) or "First Human Dose" (FID). For new entity to launch in the mar is more important for new chemical entity launch in the market it is very essential to satisfy the regulatory requirements and licensing authorities.¹⁰⁴⁻¹⁰⁶

The major COVID-19 outbreak has initiated for the development of vaccines as in Table 4. In solidarity trail, different combination of drugs used are Lopinavir-Ritonavir, Lopinavir-Ritonavir combined with interferon-beta, Remdesivir or Hydroxychloroquine in separate trials and hospital sites internationally.^{75,90}

Clinical studies has been carrying on Vasodilators, corticosteroids, immune therapies, lipoic acid, bevacizumab

Table 4: Drugs and Vaccines developments.						
Name of the drug/ vaccine	Clinical trials phase and category	Manufacturer / research country				
Covaxin	Inactivated vaccine	Bharath Biotech India Limited/Indian Council of Medical Research and National Institute of virology				
ChAdOx1-S	Non replication viral vector	University of Oxford/ Astra Zeneca				
mRNA-1273 (Moderna vaccine candidate)	I	Unites States				
Adjuvanted recombinant protein (RBD Dimer)	Protein sub unit	Anhui Zhifei Longcom Biopharmaceuticals/ Institute of Microbiology, Chinese academy of science				
DNA Vaccine (GX- 19)	DNA	Genexine Consorteum				
DNA Plasmid Vaccine	DNA	Cadila Health care Limited				
DNA Plasmid Vaccine with electroporation	DNA	Inovio Pharmaceuticals / International Vaccine Institute				
Ad26COVS1	Non Replicating Viral vector	Janssen Pharmaceutical companies				
Ad5-nCoV (Recombinant adenovirus vaccine)	RNA	China				
Favipiravir (Avian)	III	Shenzhen, China				
ASC-09+Ritonavir (ASC-09 oral tablets	III, HIV-1 protease inhibitor	China				
Tocilizumab (Actemra)	III, monoclonal antibody with activity against the interleukin-6 receptor	Across several countries				
Chloroquine or Hydroxy chloroquine	IV	China				
BDB-1 (Beijing defengrei biotechnology)	II, anti-C5a monoclonal antibody	Staid son pharmaceuticals, Beijing				
Brilacidin	II, polymer based antibiotic	University of Pennsylvania				
Kevzara (Sarilumab)	II, anti- inflammatory	Sanofi and Regeneron				
IFN-α (human interferon alpha)	Immune therapy, cytokine activity					
Umifenovir		China traditional medicine				

and Recombinant angiotensin-converting enzyme2.¹⁰⁷⁻¹¹⁰ As per the WHO data 26 vaccines are under clinical evaluation and 139 vaccines are under pre-clinical trials.¹¹¹ Treatment by plasma therapy is also under clinical trials and waiting for the success rate to control COVID-19.

CONCLUSION

Reaching to a conclusion has to start with the root cause of the COVID-19, the pandemic with many cases cropped up in China and now whole World is being attacked and the reason for the spread is the "Wet Market" in Wuhan, China. Few medical teams have come up with many researches who are thoroughly struggling to put an end to the cause, spread and take further steps for prevention and cure. Many pharmaceutical companies, Biotechnology firms, Research centers and University researchers announced partnership and jointly developing mRNA based vaccines which are currently in pre-clinical studies. Treatment by plasma therapy is also under clinical trials and hope for the success to control COVID-19.

With a positive note we can conclude that, at the present scenario it's not only India but other nations are also tacking remedial measures to mitigate and face the challenge of COVID-19 sufferings. To the best of medical knowledge hope the next generation will have a formulation to overcome the pandemic uncharted death path of trajectory outbreak.

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CONFLICT OF INTEREST

There are no conflicts of the interest to declare.

ABBREVIATIONS

COVID-19: Coronavirus Disease-19; **CoV:** Coronavirus; **SARS:** Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome; **MERS:** Middle East Respiratory syndrome; **EMC:** Erasmus Medical Center; **CDC:** Center for Disease Control and Prevention; RT: Room Temperature; HIV: Human Immunodeficiency Virus; WHO: World Health Organization; UNICEF: United Nations Childrens Fund; UNOCHA: United National Office for Coordination Affairs; Humanitarian IOM: International of Organization for Migration; IFRC: International Organization for Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies; EMT: Emergency Medical Team; GHC: Global Health Centre; GOARN: Global Outbreak Alert and Response network; MSF: Medicines and Sans Frontiers; **RBD**: Receptor Binding Domains; HAT: Human Airway Trypsin-like protease; TMPRSS2: trans membrane protease serine2; RNA: Ribonucleic acid; ERGIC: Intermediate Compartment of EndoplasmicReticulum and Golgi; HE: Hemagglutinin Esterase Viral Membrane; TGEV: Transmissible gastroenteritis coronavirus; PEDV: Porcine epidemic diarrhoea coronavirus; CCoV: Canine coronavirus; FIPV: Feline infectious peritonitis virus; MHV: Mouse hepatitis coronavirus; IBV: Infectious bronchitis virus; CT: Computerized Tomography; USFDA: United States Food and Drug Administration; EMA: European Medicines Agency; CEPI: Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations; CDC: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; FIH: First-in-Human; FID: First Human Dose; NIAID: National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Disease.

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PICTORIAL ABSTRACT



SUMMARY

- The coronavirus pandemic has become a never ending destination as it is being infectious all over the world.
- To sum up the study we have discussed about the origin of the virus, structure of the virus and habitats has been discussed.
- The mechanism and type of the virus binding with type of receptor on the host cell and lifecycle of the virus is explained.
- The persistence of coronavirus on inanimate surfaces and its life span depending on the time, temperature is being discussed.
- The symptoms of the infected person and precautionary measures has been specified in the study which are the guidelines implemented by different key organizations in collaboration with other institutions and explained a glance report about the drugs and vaccine development.

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