



National Institutes of Health
National Institute of Allergy
and Infectious Diseases
Bethesda, Maryland 20892

March 9, 2023

Dr. Socrates Herrera Valencia
Caucaseco Scientific Research Center
Carrera 37 2 BIS # 5E - 08 OF 201
Cali, Colombia 760042

Dear Dr. Herrera Valencia:

The NIH National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID) is writing to Caucaseco Scientific Research Center to confirm compliance with awards 5R01AI148843-04 and 5U01AI155363-03; specifically, NIAID is requesting Caucaseco Scientific Research Center to notify us whether it is continuing to conduct research with non-human primates.

For award 5R01AI148843-04 "Discovery and preclinical evaluation of *Plasmodium falciparum* and *P. vivax* coiled coil antigens for malaria vaccine development," (period of performance is 1/3/2020 through 12/31/2023) it was reported in your Year 2 Research Performance Progress Report (RPPR) that:

- The overall goal of the proposal is to "determine the vaccine potential of *P. falciparum* and *P. vivax* erythrocytic synthetic polypeptide constructs containing α -helical coiled-coil motifs. The ultimate indicator of vaccine potential for the selected protein constructs will be protection of *non-human primates* from experimental infection with both parasite species."
- The reported main challenge "during 2021-2022 has been the SARS-CoV2 pandemic, political instability, presidential election and government changes, which seriously affected the overall activities of the CSRC including lab laboratory work routine including animal experiments in Colombia. Additionally, purchases and exchange of reagents among partners, as well as training have been affected. Despite of these restrictions we have managed to make significant progress in this project. *Studies in primates were re-initiated only during this period and have progressed satisfactorily. We expect a normalization of activities for the last quarter of 2022.*"

For award 5U01AI155363-03 "Discovery and Preclinical Development of Efficacious *P. Vivax* Pre-Erythrocytic Stage Malaria Vaccines," (period of performance is 11/20/2020 through 10/31/2025) it was reported in your Year 3 RPPR that:

- The overall goal of the proposal is to "accelerate Pv vaccine development by identifying and characterizing classical and novel vaccine candidates with confirmed protective efficacy that could be further escalated to clinical development. In this study, we plan to use rodents in the USA and *non-human primates* in Colombia. Sera from these animals will be immunologically characterized. However it is likely that for comparative purposes, during the duration of the project, plasma/sera from our bio-banks could be used."

- The next reporting period will “4. Based on the results on the seroreactivity of the PVX_089630.1, PVX_114365 proteins and Pv-chitinase (PVX_087865) using human sera from endemic areas and immunized rodents, we will develop protocols to test the immunogenicity of the selected proteins/constructs *in non-human primates.*”

As a reminder, the Notices of Award include all terms and conditions of the award including the NIH Grants Policy Statement (NIHGPS). The NIHGPS states that recipients are responsible for complying with all requirements of the Federal award, and that grant awards are based on the application submitted to, and approved by, the NIH and are subject to the terms and conditions incorporated.

Please notify me as to whether Caucaseco Scientific Research Center is continuing its use of non-human primates in its research no later than March 16, 2023. If there are any questions, please contact me at emily.linde@niaid.nih.gov.

Sincerely,

Emily Linde
Chief, Grants Management Program
NIAID, NIH

cc: Dr. Annie Mo