

# Summary of the Jan 9 consultation- A Scientific Framework for Epidemic & Pandemic Preparedness

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18 January 2024



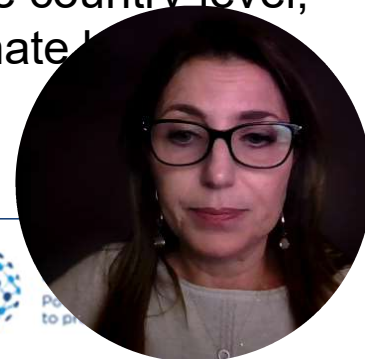
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Powering  
to prevent



# Objectives of January 9 Meeting

## A scientific framework for epidemic and pandemic research preparedness

- To discuss the scientific opportunities and challenges for all viral and bacterial families, regardless of perceived pandemic potential
  - Define the scope of emerging virus threats through discovery
  - Discuss generalizable basic research that supports the development of vaccines for future threats
- To outline cross-cutting scientific actions that are needed, globally and at the country-level, to address development challenges including global collaboration to coordinate translational research as part of pandemic preparedness



# A SCIENTIFIC APPROACH TO PANDEMIC PREPAREDNESS- BARNEY GRAHAM

- Emerging infections are a large but finite problem
  - 150 viruses from 26 families recognized as human pathogens with potential for person-to-person spread
- Pandemic Preparedness research requires generalizable solutions for the viral families that pose risk
- Research activities that are fundamental to PP
  - Bio-surveillance and viral discovery
  - Fundamental research ( pathogenesis, immunology, antigen design, delivery, reagents and assays)
  - Research and Development of vaccines, therapeutics and diagnostics
  - Mechanisms to produce and deploy rapidly interventions on global scale
- Science and technology can help solve many problems BUT we need consensus on global coordination, communication, and governance
- Equitable distribution of discoveries and manufacturing is critical to address local problems become global



# Process for prioritizing the world's greatest pathogen threats- Marie-Paule Kieny

## Phase 1

### Scientific Prioritization

- Process: 30 independent viral family and 1 bacterial Working Groups  
200+ international experts
- Output: Not shortlisted and shortlisted viral and bacterial families  
(incl. prototype pathogen(s))

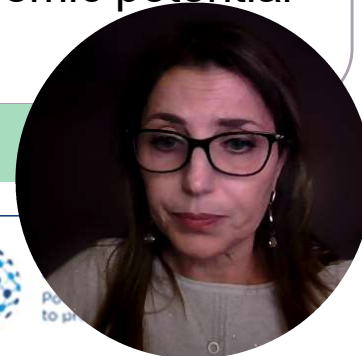
Dec 2022 – early 2024

## Phase 2

### Public Health Prioritization

- Process: Prioritization Advisory Committee (PAC)  
40 – 50 experts (including Chairs of WGs)
- Output: Final shortlist of viral and bacterial families with pandemic potential  
(incl. prototype pathogen(s))

Early 2024



## Strategies to promote collaboration and universal values- Phil Krause

- In addition to considering **speed and cost**, preparation for the next pandemic must consider **QUALITY, EQUITY, and TRUST** as essential values
- Preparations and implementation of pandemic response thus should be **country-centered, transparent, and collaborative**
- Target product profiles will need to consider outputs of the virus/pathogen family prioritization process, with an eye towards generalizability
- WHO will play an essential role in assuring a high quality, equitable, trusted global response



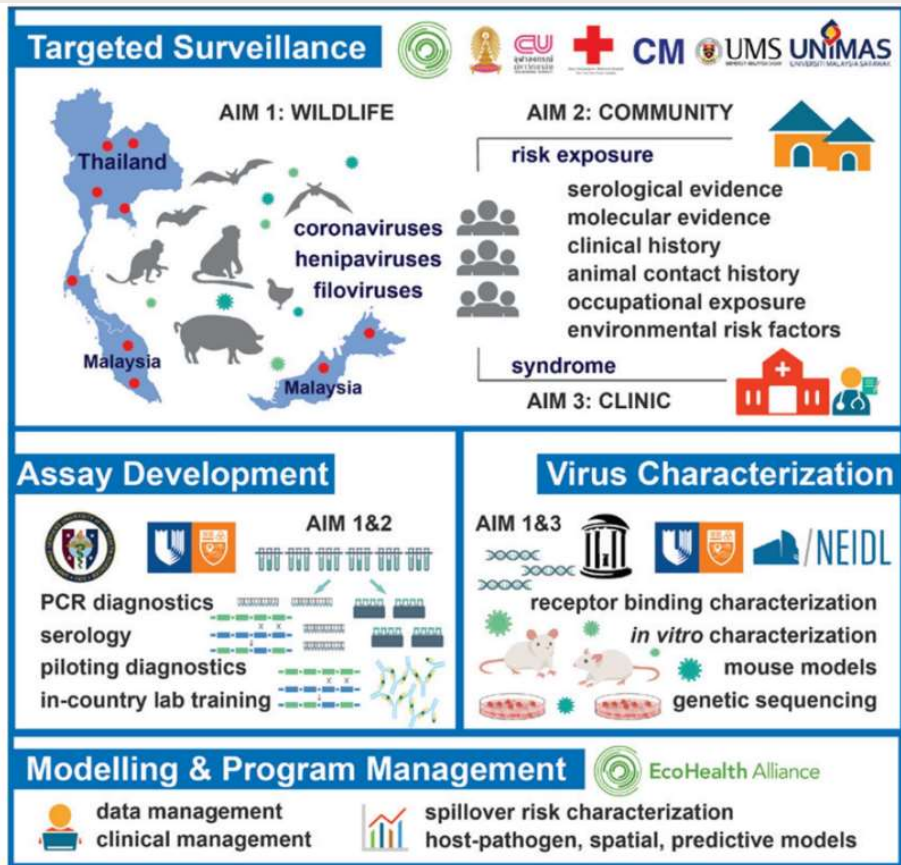
# Methods for Virus Detection and Discovery- Ian Lipkin

- **Capture sequencing**
  - Rapid, sensitive, inexpensive, straightforward platform for discovery, surveillance, and differential diagnosis
  - Sample Receipt to Pathogen Identification in less than 8 hours
  - Several new pathogens identified
- **Agnostic serological assays**
  - To detect footprint of past infections in the immune system, elucidate causes of outbreaks ( e.g. AFM and ED 68) and provide early evidence of cross species transmission
  - Microarrays and Multiplex Phage Display
- **GAPP, the Global Alliance for Preventing Pandemics**
  - international collaborative public health research center to establish sustainable infrastructure for infectious disease discovery, surveillance, diagnostics, and response



# Smart Biosurveillance- Peter Daszak

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## Environmental sampling

### Advantages:

- Cost effective, Rapid • Convenient, Flexible • Wider net at high-risk interfaces • Biosafety, biosecurity • Animal welfare

### Disadvantages:

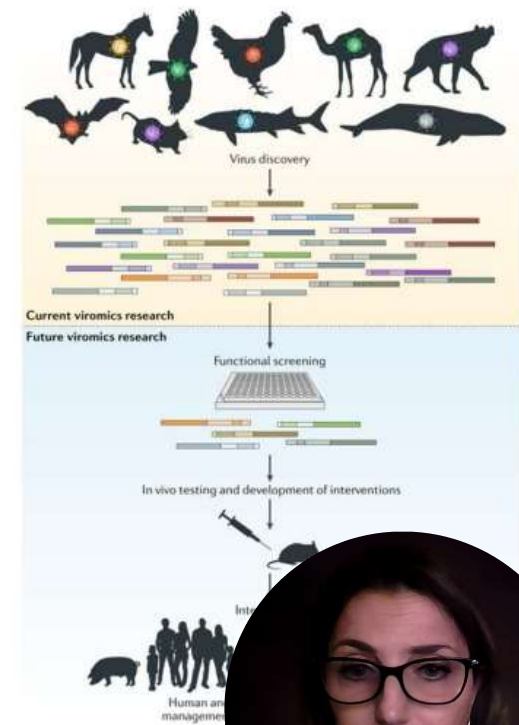
- Sensitivity • Sample types • No individual level (meta/epi)data • Bioinformatics • PCR inhibition • sample degradation • SOP





# Understanding cell tropism and receptor requirements- Vincent Munster

- Wealth of genetic data, but limited full genome data
- Limited connection between surveillance / discovery and mechanistic work
- Mechanistic work currently limited by absence of generalizable high throughput tools

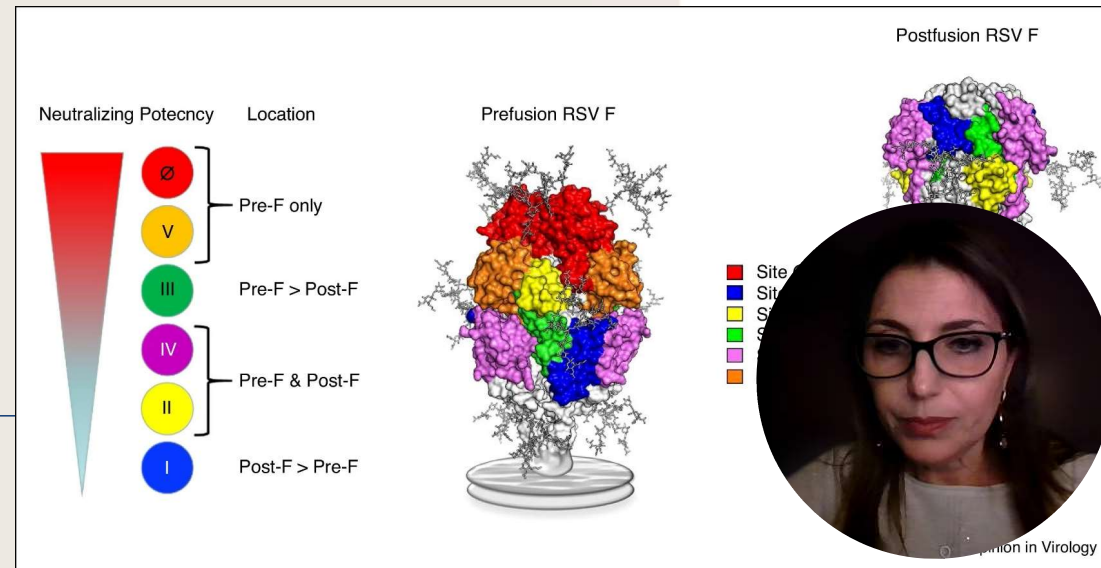




# New Technologies to Define the Atomic-level Details of Surface Proteins Likely to be Vaccine Targets- Jason McLellan

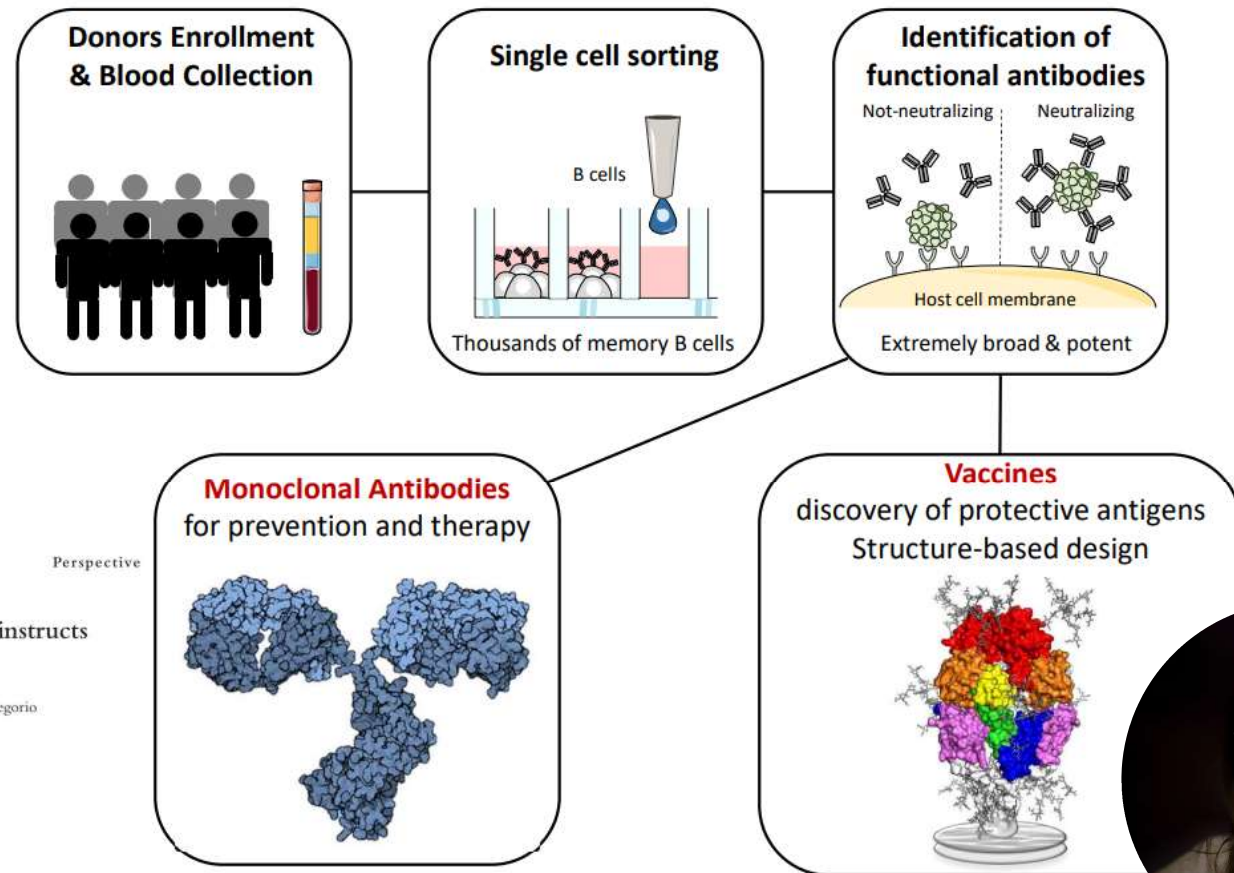
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- New advances in cryo-EM have enabled higher resolution and higher throughput than ever before
- High-throughput synthetic biology accelerates antigen engineering by enabling rapid design-build-validate cycles for many new protein designs
- AI/ML combined with high-throughput screening is allowing accelerated development of vaccine antigens for important human pathogens



# Rapid development of monoclonal antibody and protein reagents to guide and facilitate vaccine development- Emanuele Andreano

COVID mAbs were the first molecules to be discovered and approved for emergency use authorization (94 days from discovery to first human dose)



JEM

Reverse vaccinology 2.0: Human immunology instructs vaccine antigen design

Rino Rappuoli, Matthew J. Bottomley, Ugo D'Oro, Oretta Finco, and Ennio De Gregorio

GlaxoSmithKline Vaccines S.r.l., 53100 Siena, Italy

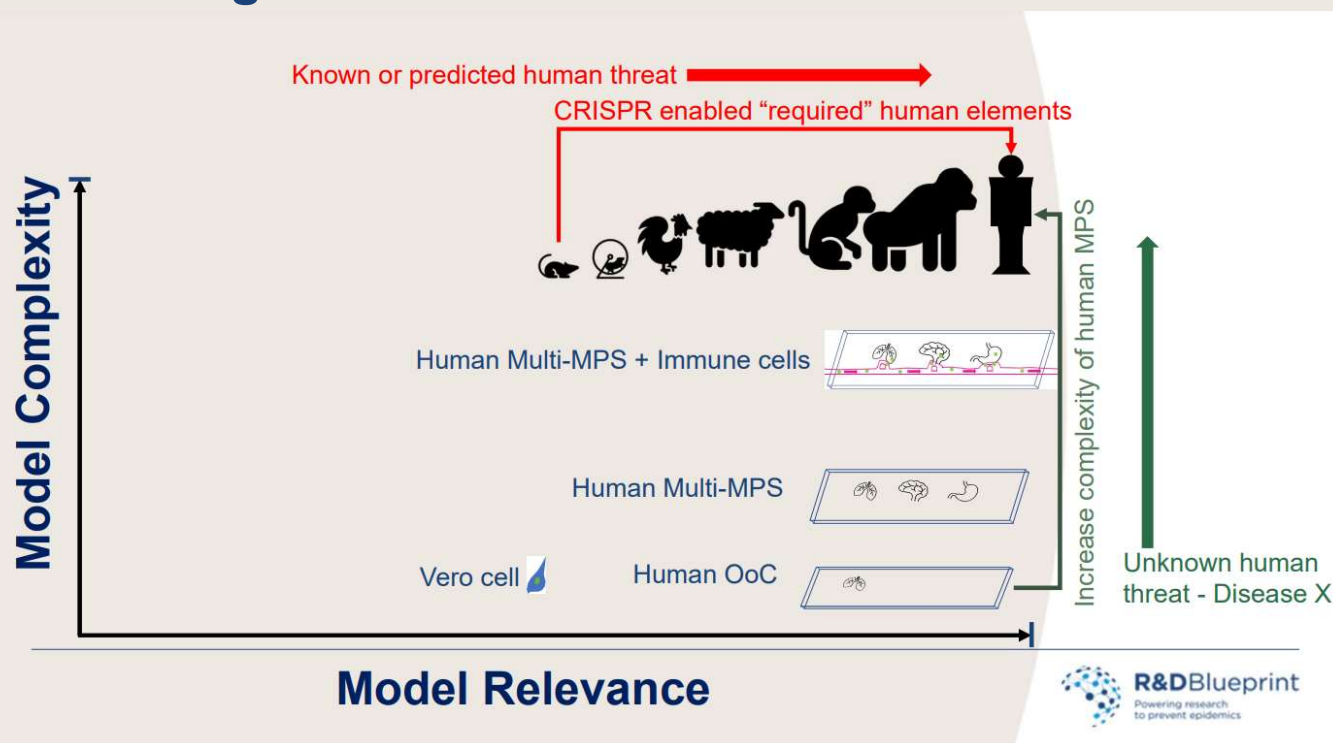
Perspective

Modified from: Rappuoli R. et al. J Exp Med. 2016 Apr 4; 213(4): 469–481.; McLellan J. et al. Science. 2013 May 31;340(6136):1113-7



# Developing humanized models with an eye on potential for generalizability-

Simon Funnell, Mark Johnson, Lenny Schultz, Alexander Mosig, Alireza Mashaghi



## Key needs

- Sharing data and resources, especially standards, reagents, pathology data, clinical samples and methodology
- Simultaneous development of animal models refined for each of the known high-risk groups of pathogens along with simultaneous development of microphysiological systems which may complement support in vivo



## Developing immunological assays with an eye on potential for generalizability- Bill Dowling

- The WHO Assays working group was established to coordinate the development and standardization of immune assays to support vaccine development for COVID-19 , and then later for other WHO priority pathogens
- Continued sharing of protocols, methods and results will help to advance the development of immunoassays for Disease X vaccines
- Research done in advance of an epidemic or pandemic, as well as pre-established partnerships and processes, will shorten the time needed for implementation
- Use of novel, high throughput platform technologies applied to viral or bacterial will allow rapid adaptation to newly emergent pathogens



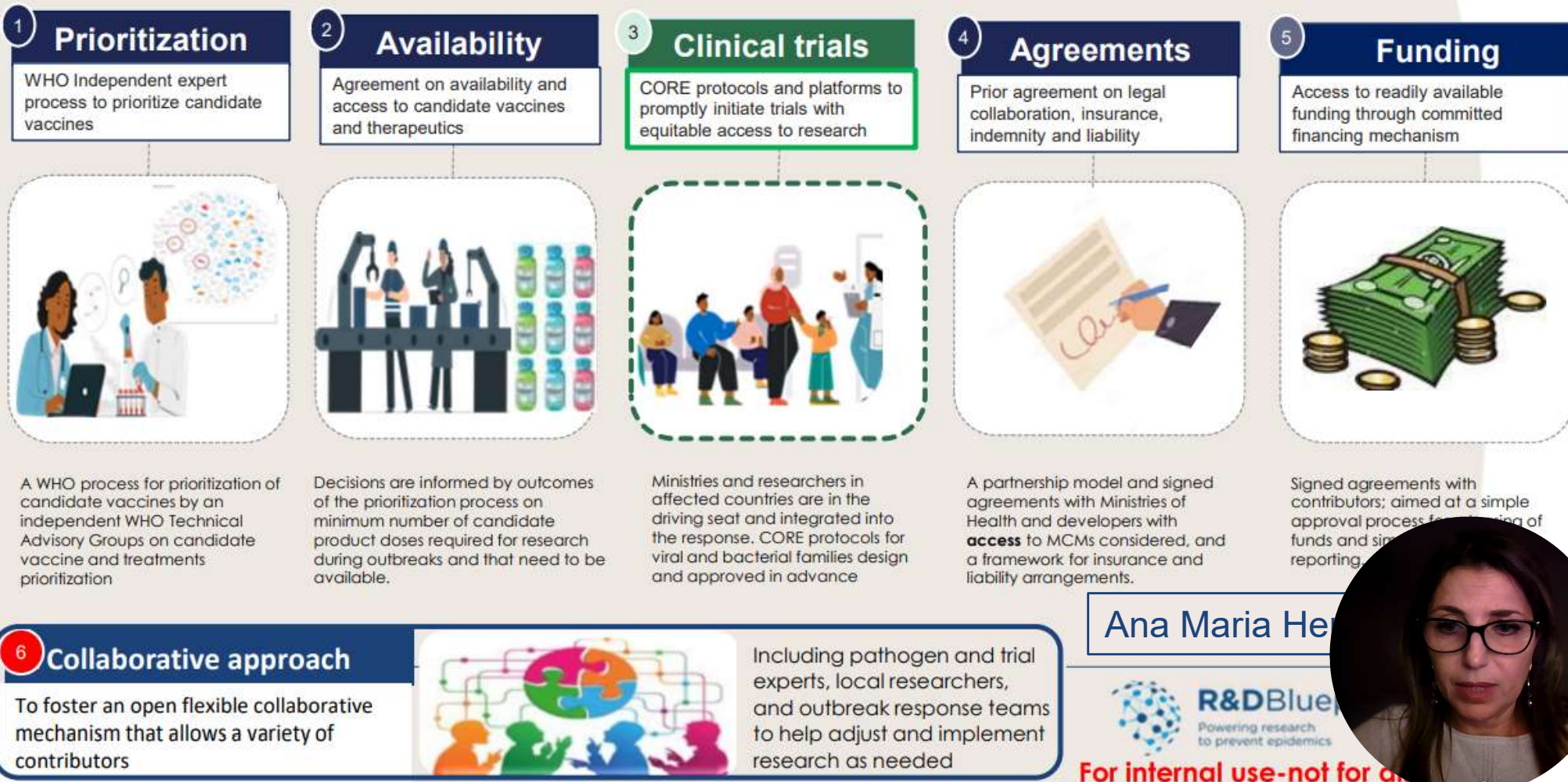


# New Division & WHO Hub for Pandemic and Epidemic Intelligence- Sara Hersey

Three critical objectives targeting the development of capabilities for collaborative surveillance



# An approach to fast-track assessment of candidate MCMs and support pandemic prevention and control



Ana Maria Heredia



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