



Detecting COVID-19 Variants in Wastewater

IWA TASK FORCE ON COVID-19

IWA convened the Task Force on COVID-19, from amongst its membership, to provide the sector with an **authoritative reference point** regarding both the **relevant science** and **operational matters** relating to the SARS-CoV-2 virus.



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Professor



Chao Chen



Dorothee Sander



George Wells
Associate Professor



Hiroyuki Katayama
Professor



JOSEPH THANIKAL
Professor, RICS School o...



Rui Sancho



Stuart Khan
Professor



Sudhir Pillay

IWA COVID-19 Task Force

Join the IWA COVID-19 Task Force Interest Group on IWA Connect!

<https://iwa-connect.org/group/iwa-covid-19-task-force-interest-group/timeline>



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AGENDA

- **Introduction**

Banu Örmeci | Joan Rose

- **Using wastewater to monitor the emergence of variants of concern**

Gertjan Medema

- **Detection and surveillance of SARS-CoV-2 genomic variants in Swiss wastewater**

Tamar Kohn | Niko Beerenwinkel

- **SARS-CoV-2 Variants of Concern in urban sewage in Italy identified by Nested RT-PCR**

Giuseppina La Rosa | Elisabetta Suffredini

- **Q&A Panel Discussion**

Using wastewater to monitor the emergence of variants of concern

GERTJAN MEDEMA
KWR, NETHERLANDS

KWR



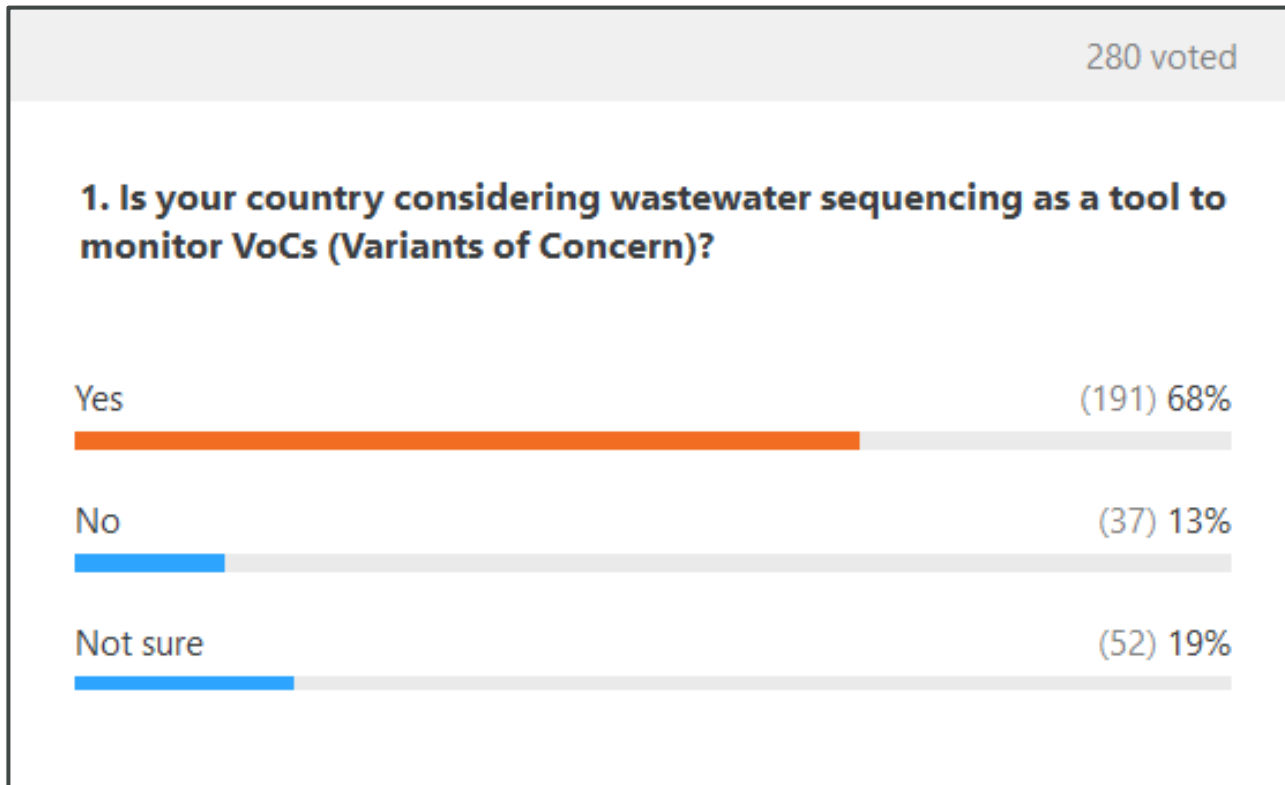
POLL 1: WASTEWATER SEQUENCING

Single choice

1. Is your country considering wastewater sequencing as a tool to monitor VoCs (Variants of Concern)?

- Yes
- No
- Not sure

POLL 1: WASTEWATER SEQUENCING





Erasmus MC



Rotterdam-Rijnmond



Rijksinstituut voor Volksgezondheid
en Milieu
Ministerie van Volksgezondheid,
Welzijn en Sport



KWR

stowa



**Royal
HaskoningDHV**
Enhancing Society Together

PARTNERS4URBANWATER

onderzoek & advies



Hoogheemraadschap van
Schieland en de Krimpenerwaard



Hoogheemraadschap van
Delfland



HOOGHEEMRAADSCHAP
**DE STICHTSE
RIJNLANDEN**



waterschap
**Hollandse
Delta**

water **net**

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

EMC-department of Virology
EMC-department of general practice
EMC-department Medical Microbiology
EMC-department of Medical informatics
RIVM – national institute for public health
– epidemiology
GGD- Municipal Health Services
Danish Technical University

KWR water research institute
Partners4UrbanWater
STOWA Foundation for applied water
research
Waterbeheer
Waterschap Hollandse Delta
Hoogheemraadschap van Schieland
en de Krimpenerwaard
Hoogheemraadschap van Delfland
Royal Haskoning DHV
IMD
Aquon

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Ewout Fanoy
Jeroen Langeveld
Marion Koopmans
Miranda de Graaf
Gertjan Medema



Adessium Foundation



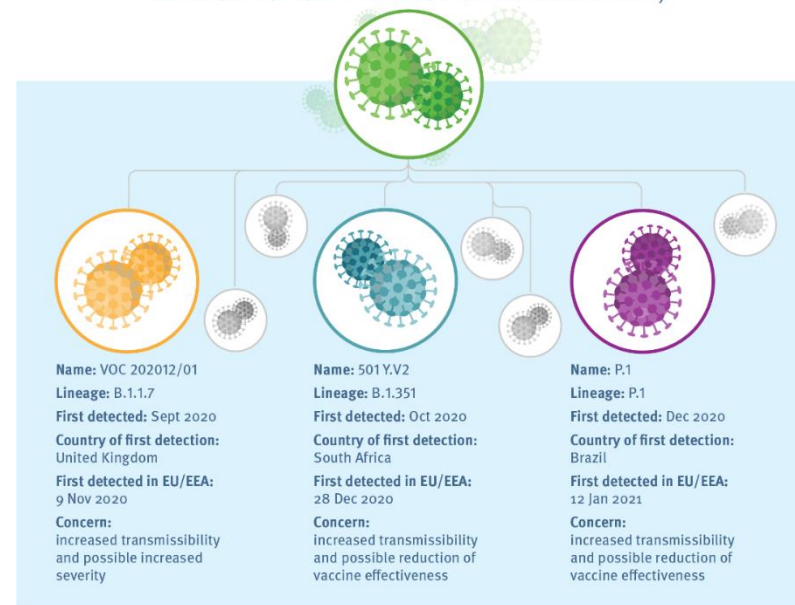
SARS-COV-2 VARIANTS OF CONCERN

■ Why concern?

- Impact on diagnostics (drop-out PCR)
- Increased transmissibility
- Increased disease severity
- Reduction of therapy effectiveness
- Reduction of immunity/vaccination effectiveness

Mutation of SARS-CoV-2: current variants of concern 8 February 2021

Mutations of SARS-CoV-2 that cause COVID-19 have been observed globally. Viruses, in particular RNA viruses such as coronaviruses, constantly evolve through mutations, and while most will not have a significant impact, some mutations may provide the virus with a selective advantage such as increased transmissibility. Such mutations are cause for concern and need to be monitored closely.



#COVID19

Learn more in the latest risk assessment by ECDC on SARS-CoV-2 variants of concern <http://bit.ly/RRAVariants1>



CONCERN

More difficult to control transmission

Tougher, longer lockdowns to reduce transmission

- Immunity/vaccination less effective
 - Reinfection and illness
 - Reinfection and transmission
 - Re-vaccination

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Decline in coronavirus cases slowing as B-117 strain takes hold

Corona f t in February 9, 2021



ROLE OF SURVEILLANCE

Observe emergence/circulation of new
VoC

Understand disease, transmission
dynamics

Observe vaccination efficacy to VoC

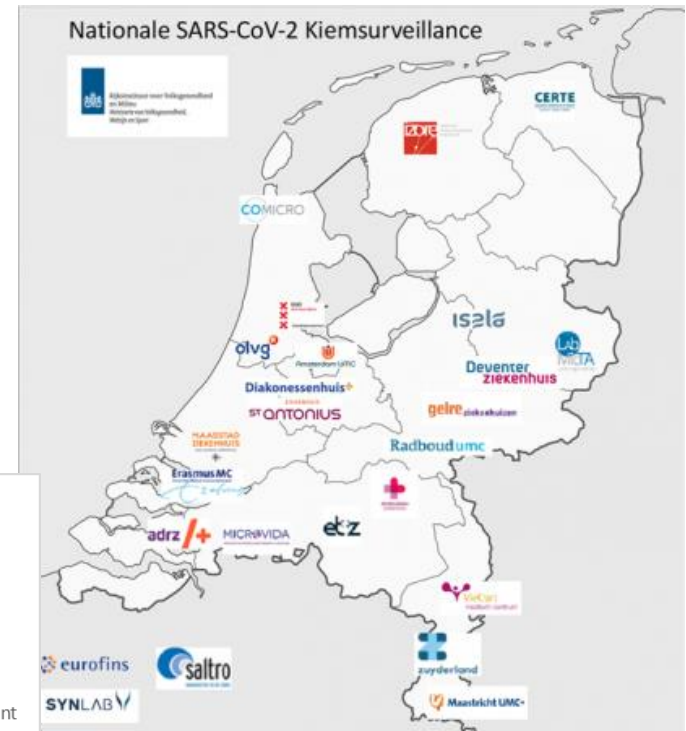
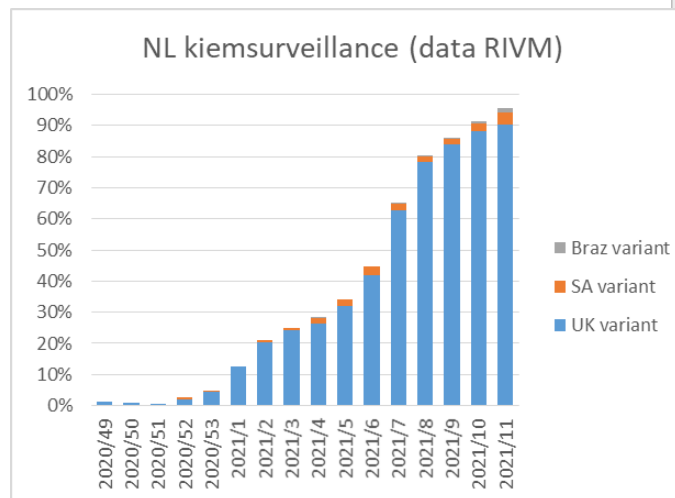


Image: RIVM

THE USE CASE OF SURVEILLANCE: TRENDS IN SARS-COV-2 VOC

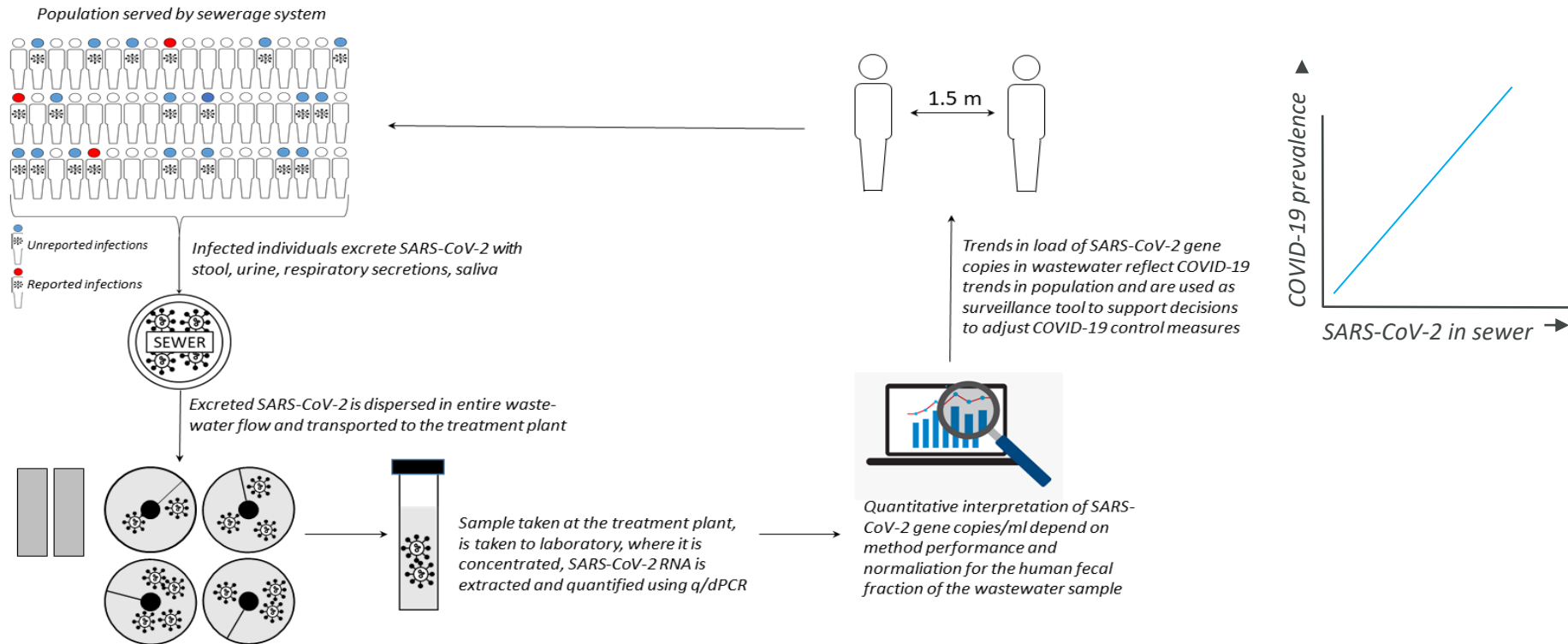


Image: Medema et al., COESH 2021

DETECTION OF VARIANTS OF CONCERN IN WASTEWATER

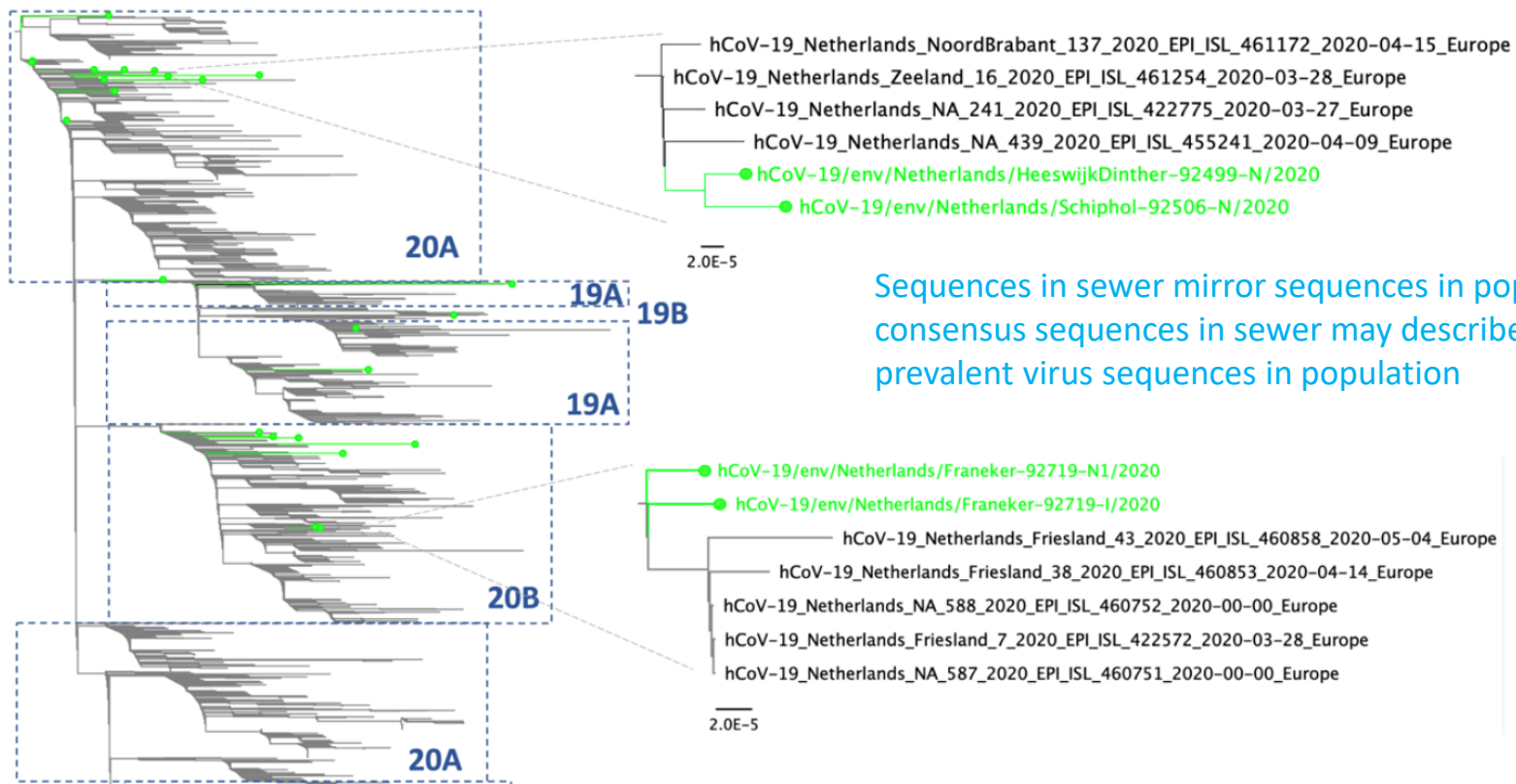
- VoC do not affect the ability to detect SARS-CoV-2 in current surveillance studies
- Wastewater is a mixture of variants from multiple cases: more complex methods/bioinformatics needed than for clinical samples
- Next generation sequencing of wastewater with bioinformatics to analyse SARS-CoV-2 genomic information
- Digital droplet PCR of 'signature mutations' of variants of concern

NGS FOR VARIANT CIRCULATION IN WASTEWATER

Erasmus MC



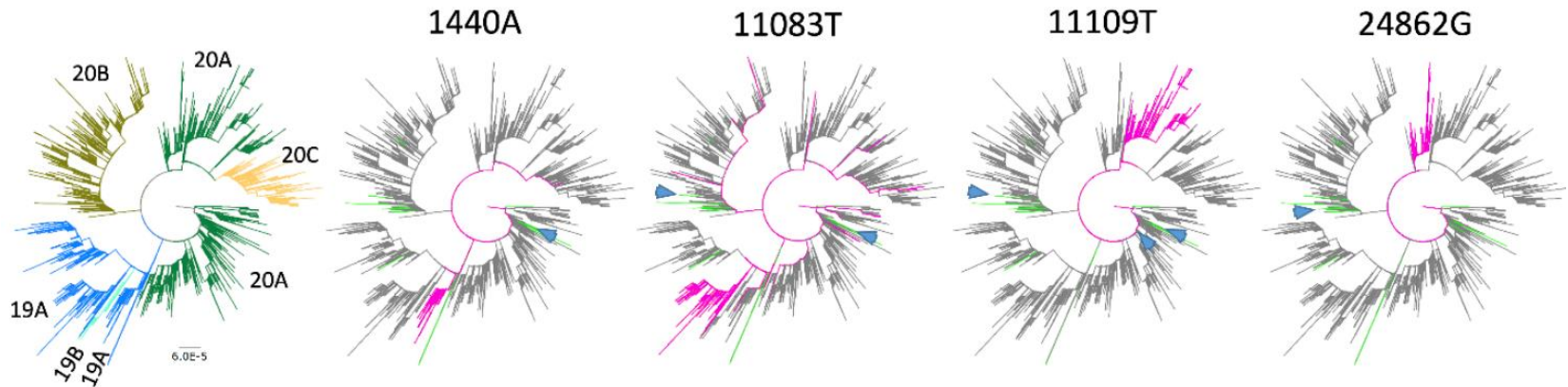
Conducted by Viroscience at
Erasmus Medical Centre



Sequences in sewer mirror sequences in population:
consensus sequences in sewer may describe most
prevalent virus sequences in population

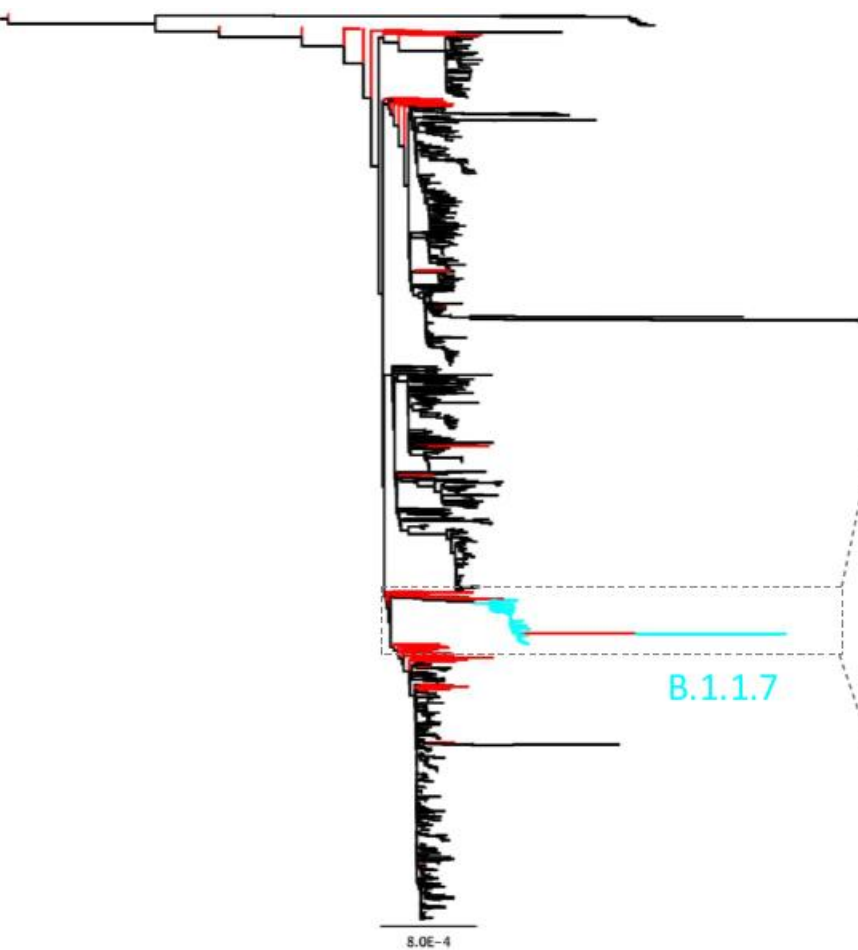
Lara et al, 2021, EM INF DIS

NGS OF SARS-COV-2 MUTATIONS IN SEWAGE



Detection of novel mutations in the virus genome that
are not seen in patients

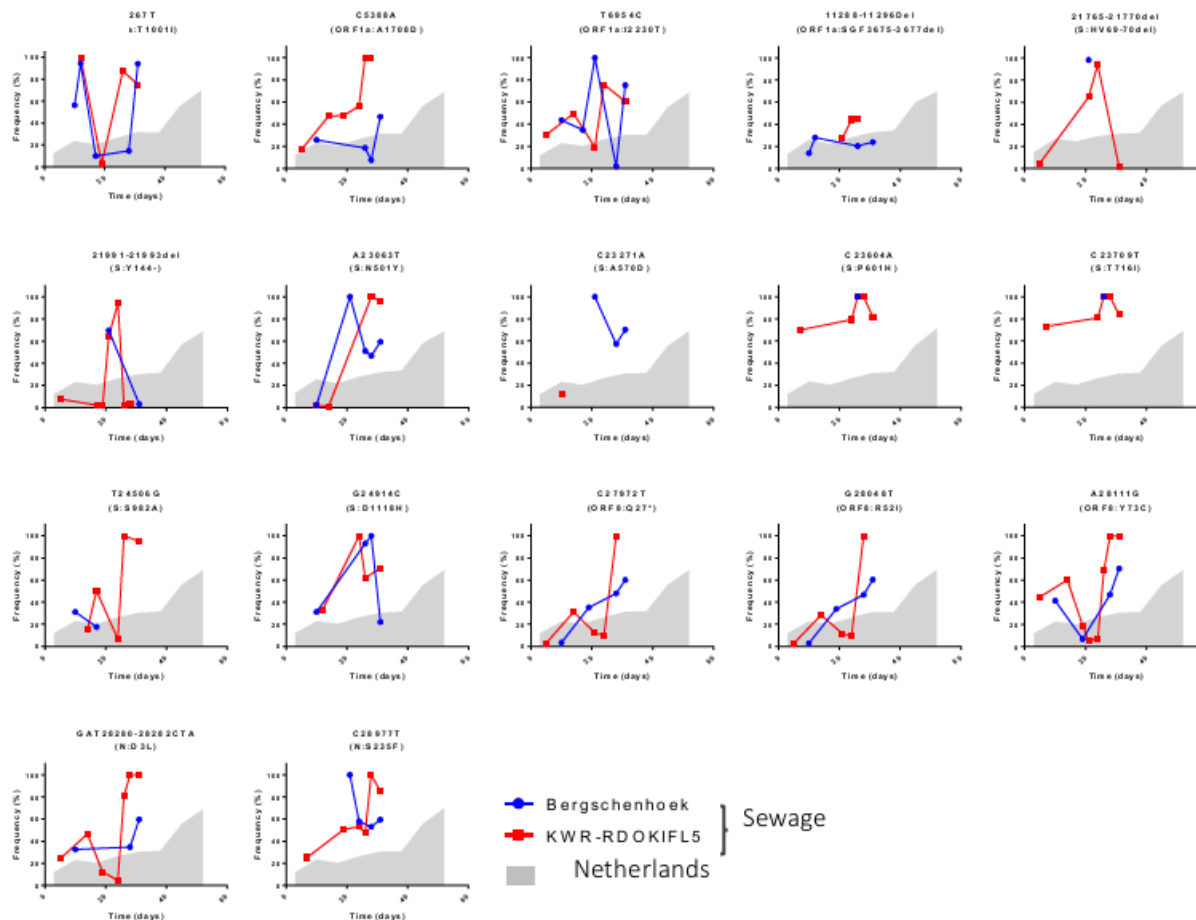
UK VARIANT IN ROTTERDAM WASTEWATER



UK VARIANT MUTATIONS/DELETIONS IN ROTTERDAM WASTEWATER

gene ORF1ab	nucleotide	amino acid
	C3267T	T1001I
	C5388A	A1708D
	T6954C	I2230T
	11288-11296 deletion	SGF 3675-3677 deletion
spike	21765-21770 deletion	HV 69-70 deletion
	21991-21993 deletion	Y144 deletion
	A23063T	N501Y
	C23271A	A570D
	C23604A	P681H
	C23709T	T716I
	T24506G	S982A
	G24914C	D1118H
Orf8	C27972T	Q27stop
	G28048T	R52I
	A28111G	Y73C
N	28280 GAT->CTA	D3L
	C28977T	S235F

Vanaf 01-01-2021



VARIANTS OF CONCERN: SIGNATURE MUTATIONS

Spike protein

Subunit 1: attachment

Subunit 2: fusion

Receptor Binding Domain

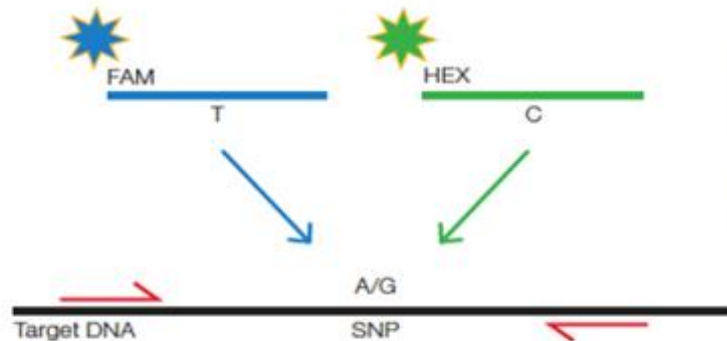
	K	E	N	D
A Wuhan	417	484	501	614
B.1	417	484	501	614 G
B.1.1.7 UK variant	417	484 (K)	501 Y	614 G
B.1.351 SA variant	417 N	484 K	501 Y	614 G
B.1.1.248 (P.1) Brazil variant	417 T	484 K	501 Y	614 G

DDPCR TO DETECT (RARE) SINGLE NUCLEOTIDE MUTATION

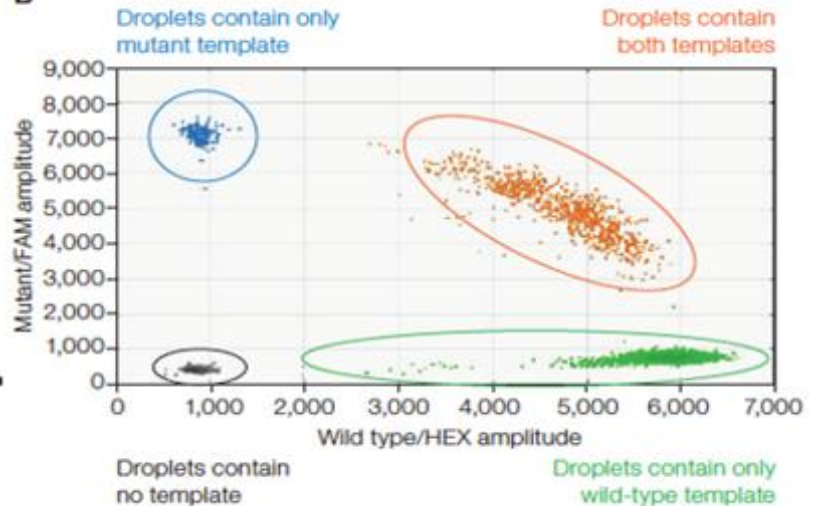
Rare Mutation Detection (RMD) refers to the detection of a sequence variant that is present at a very low frequency in a pool of wild-type background copies.

The challenge for RMD is the discrimination between two highly similar sequences, one of which is significantly more abundant than the other.

A



B



BioRad, 2021

SIMULTANEOUS DETECTION OF N501Y AND WILD TYPE WITH MULTIPLEX DDPCR

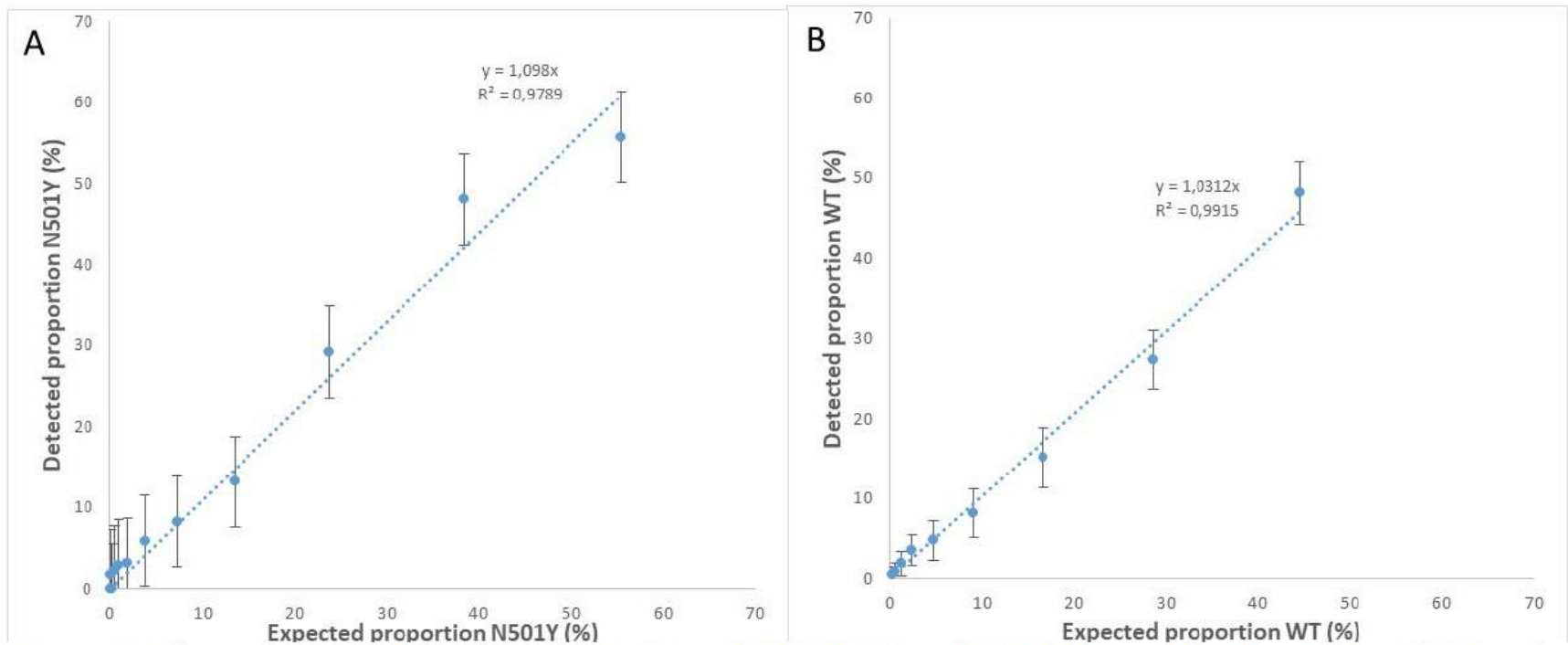
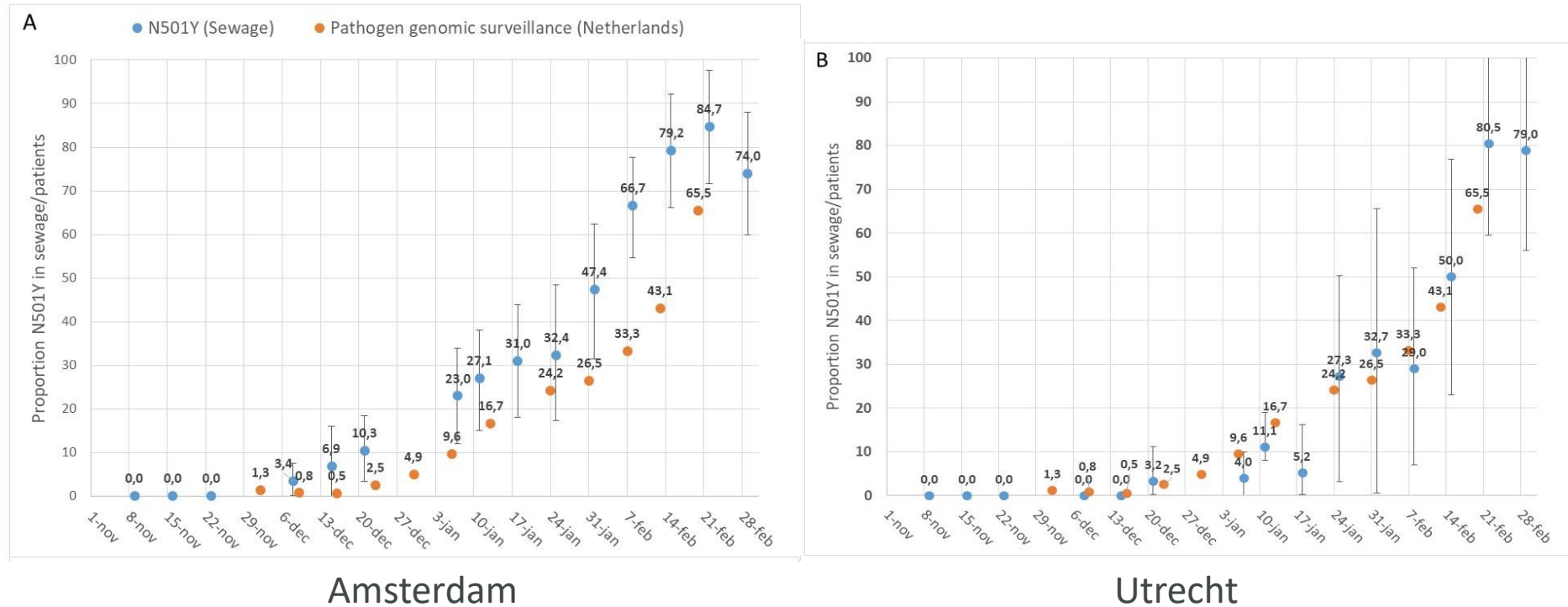


Figure 3. The expected and detected proportion of N501Y (A) and WT (B) in artificial mixtures of WT and lineage B.1.351 as detected by ddPCR.

Heijnen et al, 2021 medrxiv

USE CASE: VARIANTS OF CONCERN INTRODUCTION N501Y MUTATION VS 'WILD TYPE' BY DDPCR



WASTEWATER SURVEILLANCE IS OF ADDED VALUE FOR VOC SURVEILLANCE

- Feasible for emergence of (signature mutations of) VoC
- Fast (with ddPCR within days, compared to 3-4 weeks for clinical surveillance with NGS)
- Efficient: on population sample, allowing high resolution surveillance
- EU HERA incubator: recommendation to Member States to apply wastewater surveillance of variants of concern

THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION



Bridging Science to Practice

Towards a Water-wise World

Detection and surveillance of SARS-CoV-2 genomic variants in Swiss wastewater

TAMAR KOHN
EPFL,
SWITZERLAND

NIKO BEERENWINKEL
ETHZ,
SWITZERLAND

EPFL
eawag
aquatic research
ETH zürich

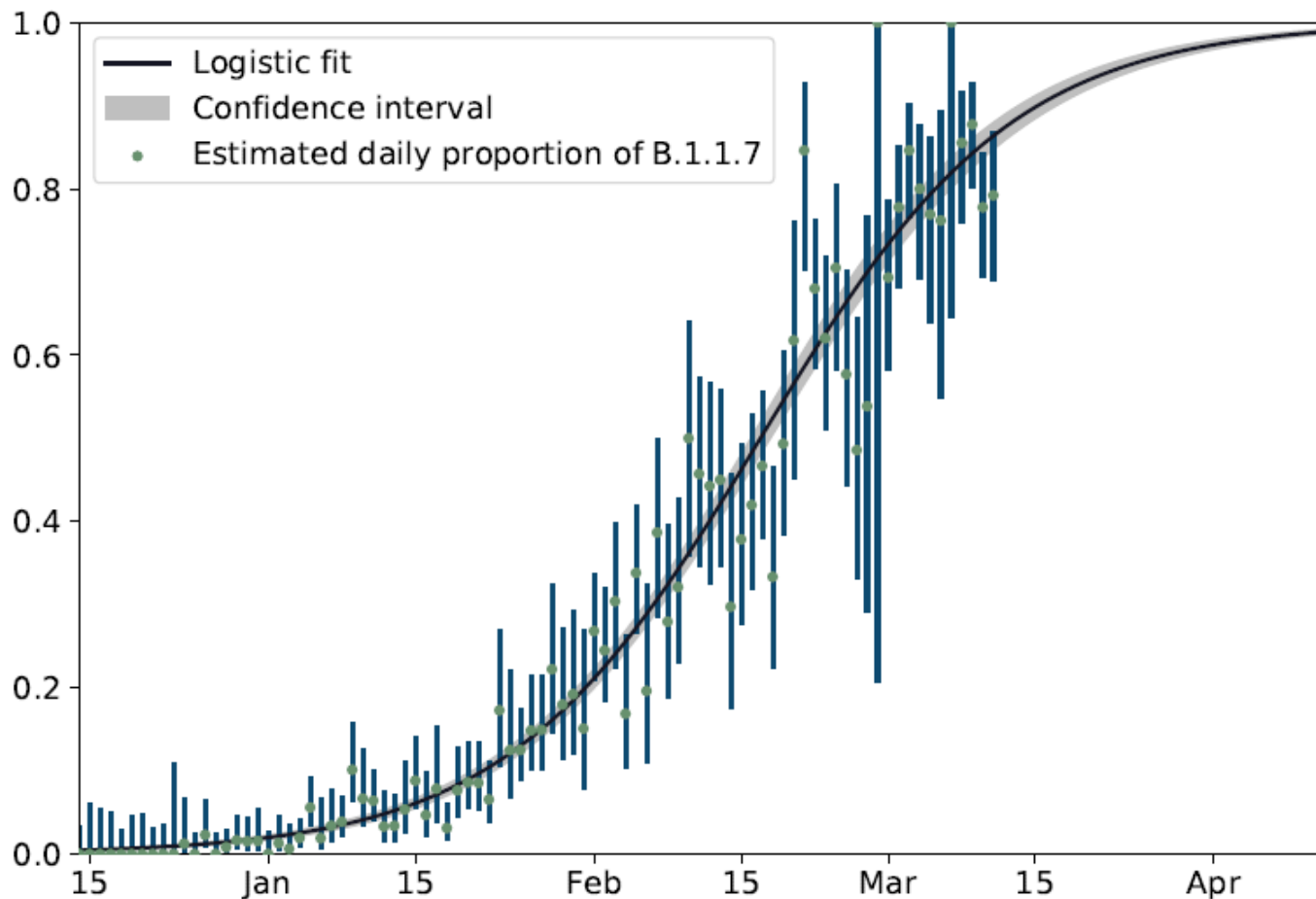
Aerial view of STEP de Vidy

© Jean-Christophe Bott / Keystone

inspiring change

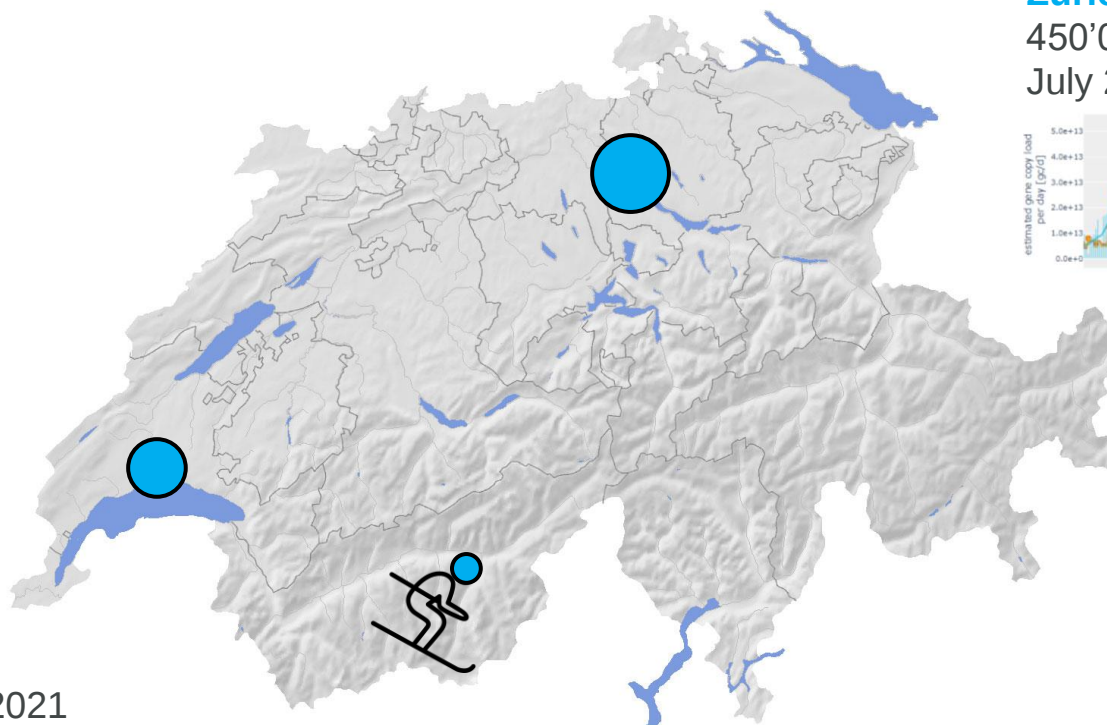


VARIANTS OF CONCERN IN SWITZERLAND



Chen et al. 2021, <https://doi.org/10.1101/2021.03.05.21252520>

WASTEWATER SAMPLING CAMPAIGN



Lausanne

240'000 p.e.

Sept 2020 – Feb 2021



Zurich

450'000 p.e.

July 2020 – Feb 2021

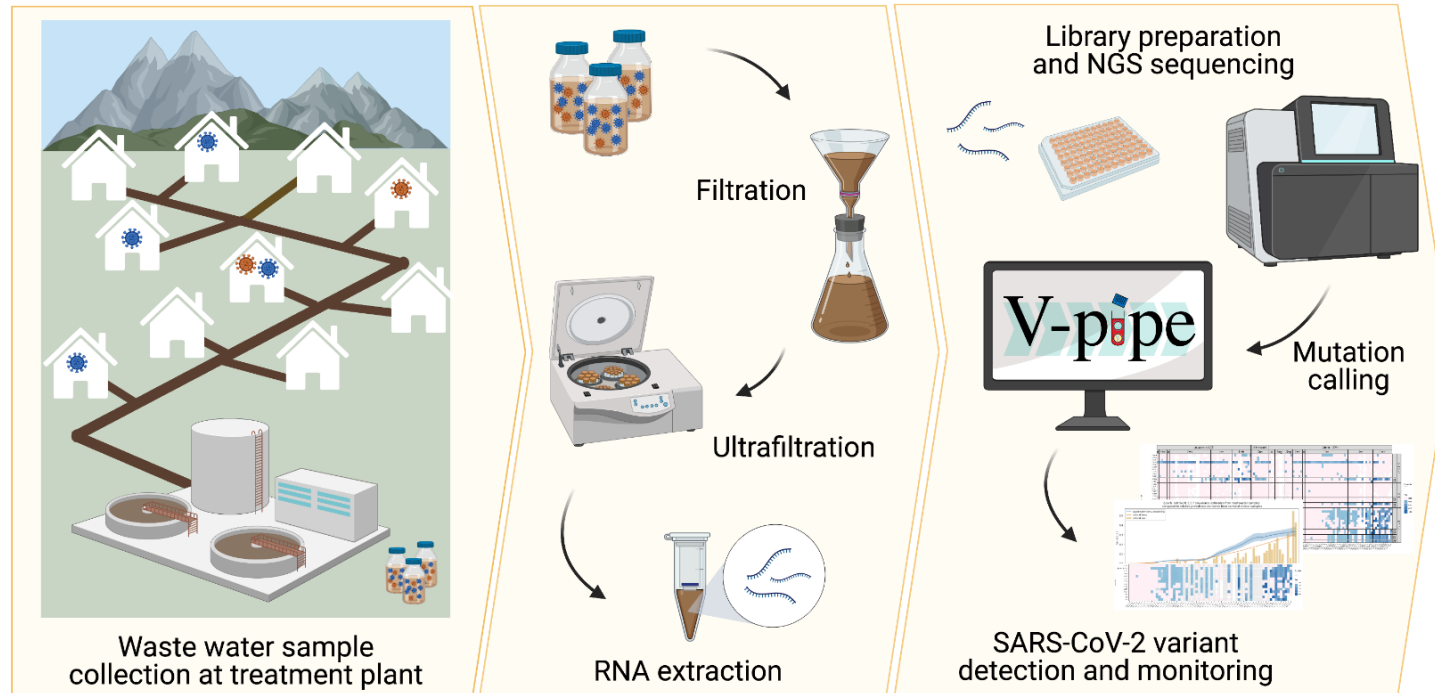


Alpine ski resort

< 10'000 p.e.

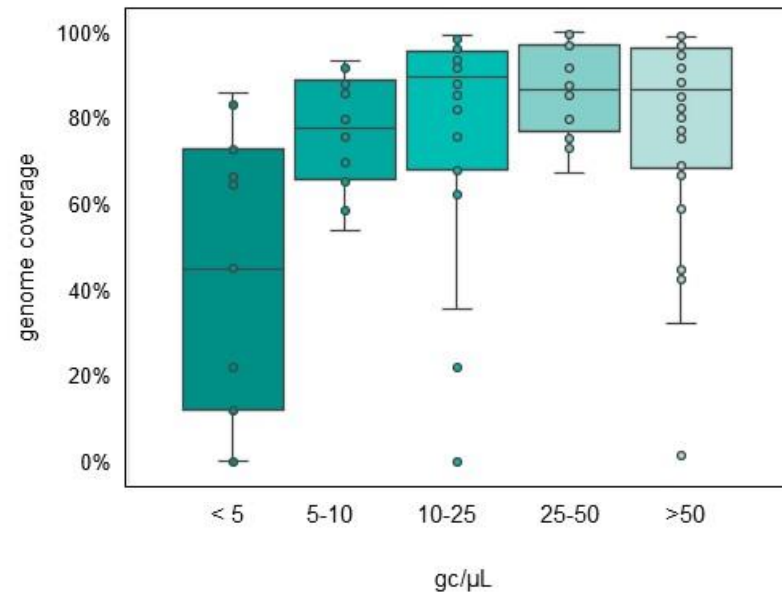
December 2020

METHODOLOGY



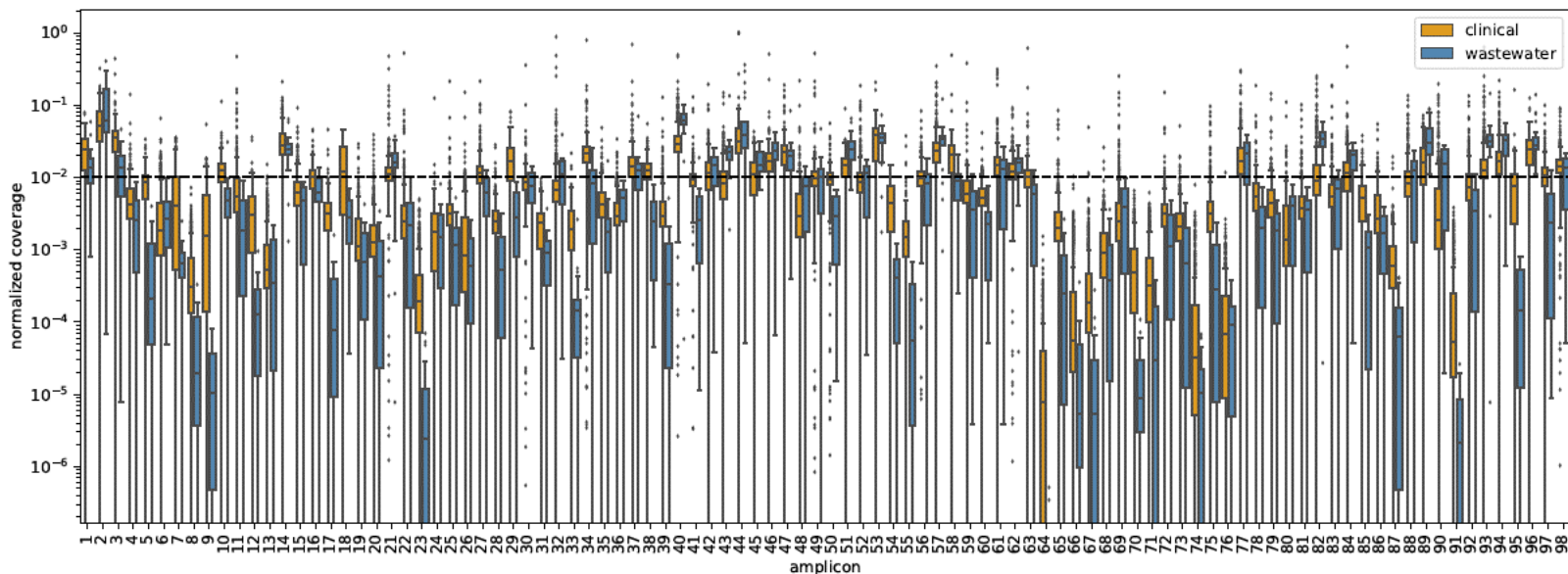
DATA QUALITY: COVERAGE

- Could sequence samples > 5 genome copies / μL extract (≈ 8 gc/mL ww) or less
- No consistent differences in normalized coverage between clinical and ww samples
- > 1 M aligned reads per sample
- Low-frequency (1/3000) mutation calling possible in most samples



DATA QUALITY: COVERAGE

- Could sequence samples > 5 genome copies / μL extract ($\approx 8 \text{ gc/mL ww}$) or less
- No consistent differences in normalized coverage between clinical and ww samples
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- Low-frequency (1/3000) mutation calling possible in most samples



V-PIPE: A BIOINFORMATICS PIPELINE FOR MIXED VIRUS SAMPLES

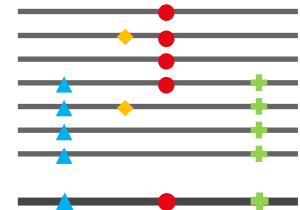
Read data

```
@M02081:220:0-ATGL:1:11
C
+
1>
@
T/
>
@
T
+
B/
@M02081:220:0-ATGL:1:11
CT
+
1>
@
T/
>
@
T
+
B/
@M02081:220:0-ATGL:1:11
1>1>13DDD1F1FCGGBBFE
@M02081:220:0-ATGL:1:11
@
TAATACACTCCATGTACTG+
>11A1D1CFCC1GGGGFGG
@M02081:220:0-ATGL:1:11
TTAGTTCCTGACTCCAAT
+
BAABCFFFFFFF
```

V-pipe

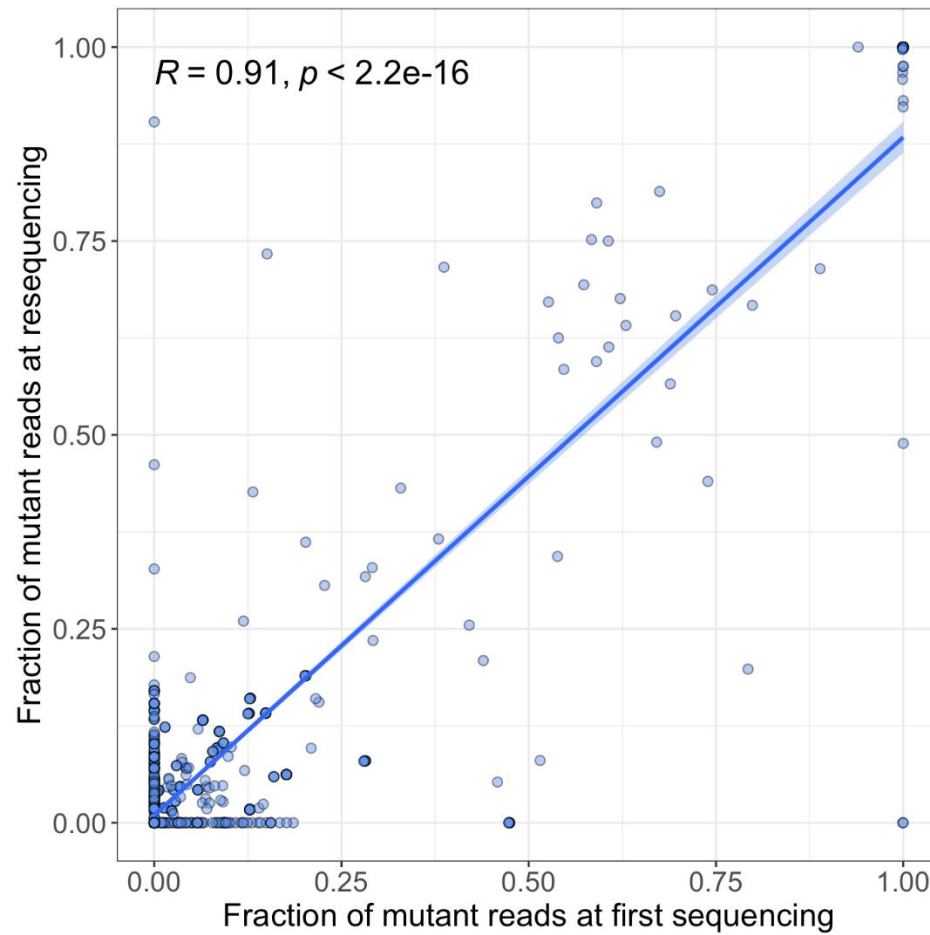


SNVs and
SNV frequencies





FRACTION OF MUTANT READS

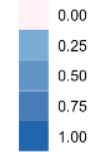


VARIANTS OF CONCERN

No data

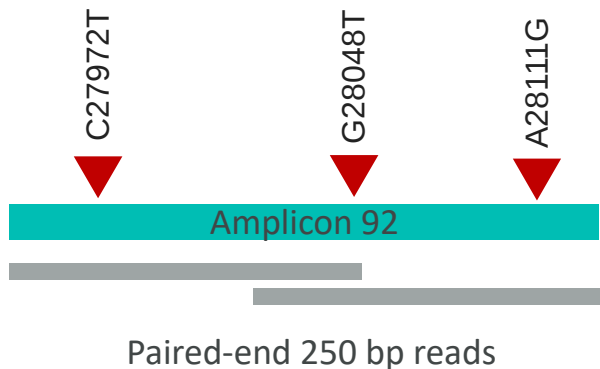


frequency



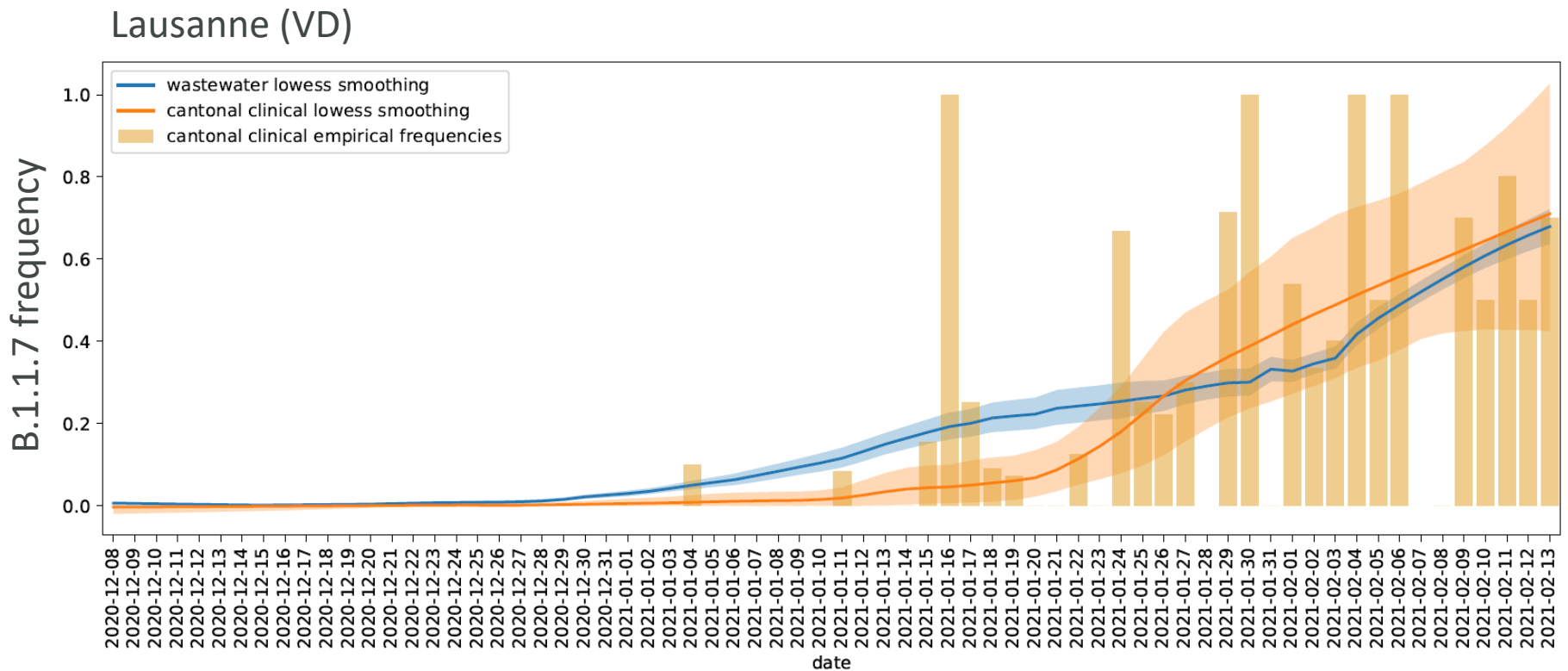
MUTATION CO-OCCURRENCE

- Artic v3 protocol:
~ 400 bp amplicons



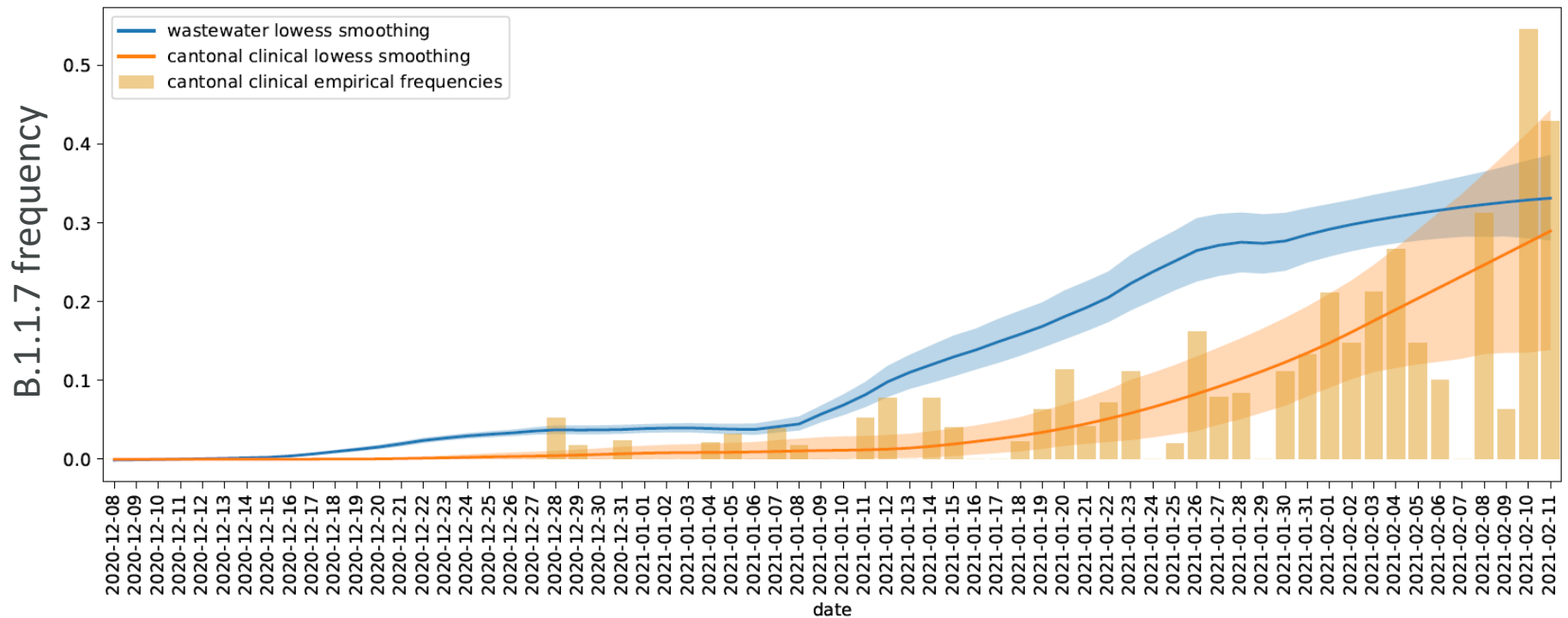
Sample	Amplicon 92 27809-28144 C27972T, G28048T, A28111G (B.1.1.7)	Amplicon 93 28105-28441 A28111G GAT28280CTA (B.1.1.7)	Amplicon 76 22822-23188 G23012A, A23063T (B.1.351)	Amplicon 77 23145-23499 A23403G (B.1)
2020-12-21 Ski resort	514 / 3689 13.93%	0 / 20672	0 / 165	36208 / 36209 100.00%
2020-12-21 Lausanne	0 / 10	93 / 3393 2.74%	0 / 0	10 / 10 100.00%
2020-12-14 Lausanne	0 / 4858	816 / 35838 2.28%	0 / 177	20280 / 20284 99.98%
2020-12-11 Lausanne	154 / 13504 1.14%	0 / 82020	0 / 802	93625 / 93659 99.96%
2020-12-09 Lausanne	5 / 457 1.09%	0 / 40213	0 / 76	12846 / 12847 99.99%
Patient sample 410256 (B.1.351 positive)	0 / 2601	0 / 3526	8 / 8 100.00%	6570 / 6574 99.94%
Patient sample 410279 (B.1.351 positive)	0 / 20487	0 / 16822	156 / 156 100.00%	32633 / 32699 99.80%
Patient sample 420389 (B.1.1.7 positive)	389 / 389 100.00%	1498 / 1501 99.80%	0 / 3	3184 / 3184 100.00%
Patient sample 420394 (B.1.1.7 positive)	207 / 207 100.00%	739 / 742 99.60%	0 / 7	2067 / 2068 99.95%

WASTEWATER VS. CLINICAL SAMPLES



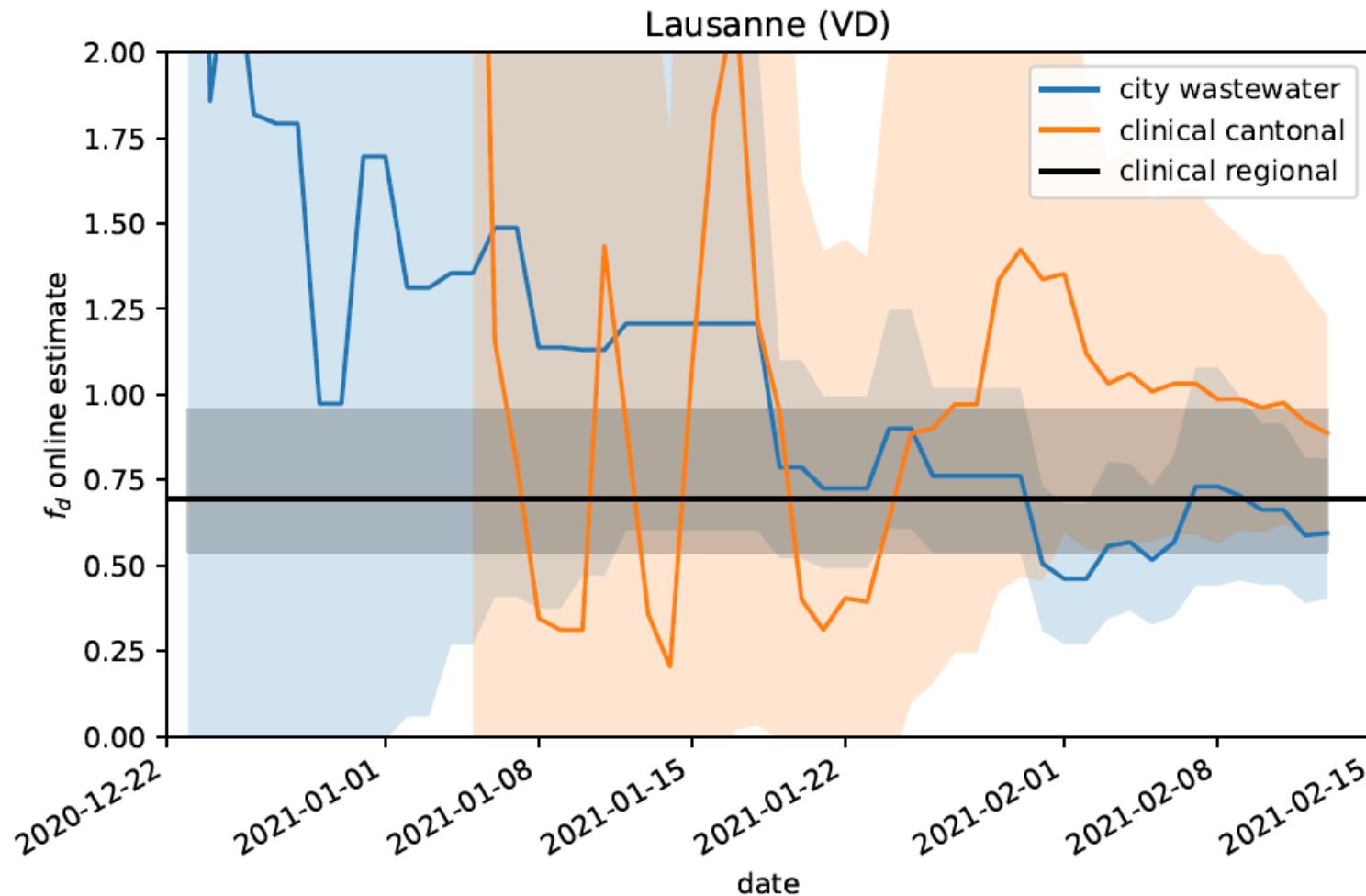
WASTEWATER VS. CLINICAL SAMPLES

Zurich (ZH)



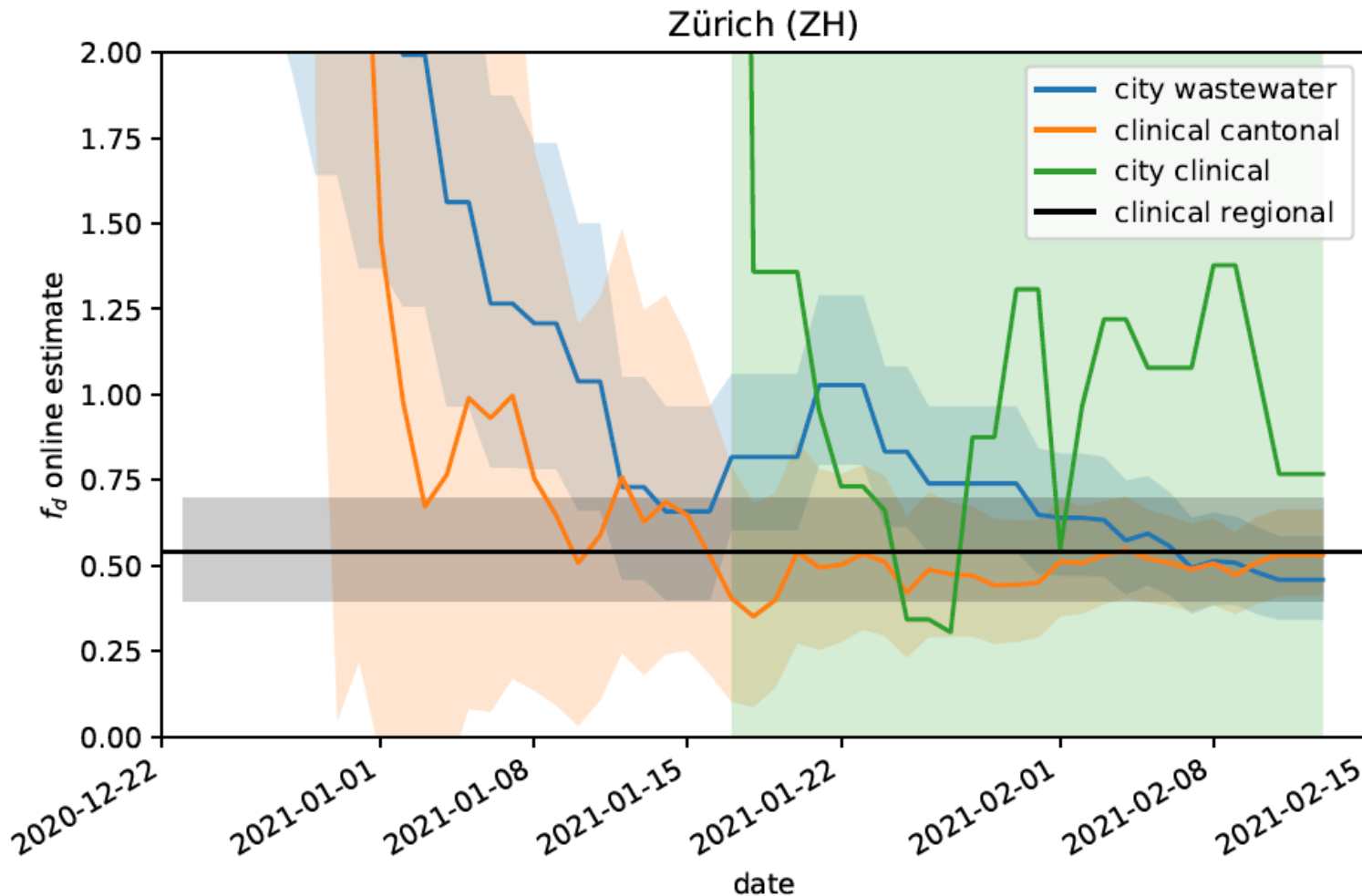
TRANSMISSION FITNESS ONLINE ESTIMATE

$$R_{B.1.1.7} = (1 + f_d) R_{\text{wild type}}$$



TRANSMISSION FITNESS ONLINE ESTIMATE

$$R_{B.1.1.7} = (1 + f_d) R_{\text{wild type}}$$



THANKS TO...



EPFL

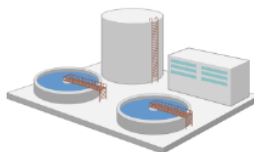
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Confédération suisse
Confederazione Svizzera
Confederaziun svizra

Federal Office for the Environment (FEON)



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
Confédération suisse
Confederazione Svizzera
Confederaziun svizra

Federal Office of Public Health (FOPH)



Swiss Institute of
Bioinformatics

POLL 2: MONITORING CHALLENGES

Multiple choice

1. What are the main challenges that may prevent the implementation of a sequencing routine for VoC (Variant of Concern) monitoring?

- Low quality of sequencing data
- Lack of sequencing capacity
- High cost
- Lack of trained bioinformatics personnel
- Other

POLL 2: MONITORING CHALLENGES

265 voted

1. What are the main challenges that may prevent the implementation of a sequencing routine for VoC (Variant of Concern) monitoring? (Multiple choice)

Low quality of sequencing data (59/265) 22%



Lack of sequencing capacity (79/265) 30%



High cost (116/265) 44%



Lack of trained bioinformatics personnel (137/265) 52%



Other (25/265) 9%

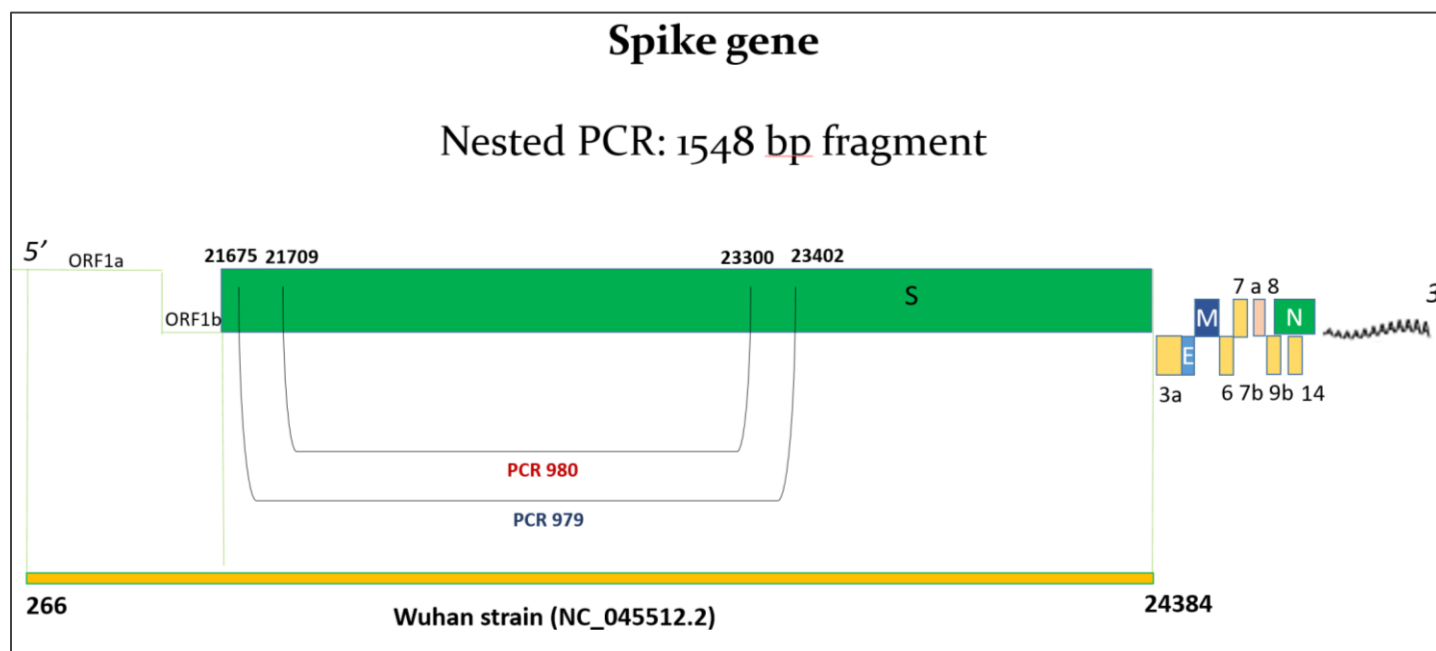


SARS-CoV-2 Variants of Concern in urban sewage in Italy identified by Nested RT-PCR

GIUSEPPINA LA ROSA & ELISABETTA SUFFREDINI
ISTITUTO SUPERIORE DI SANITÀ,
ITALY



- Develop a rapid screening method for variants of concern in clinical and environmental samples: nested RT-PCR + Sanger sequencing



The amplified fragment codes for 515 amino acids of the spike protein (positions 58-573)

MUTATIONS DETECTABLE BY THE NEWLY DESIGNED PCR ASSAY

Variant	First detected	LONG PCR ID 980 (a)																			
B.1.1.7 (501Y.V1)	UK		H69 del	V70 del			Y144 del													N501Y	A570D
B.1.351 (501.V2)	South Africa				D80A				D215G		L242H	A243/4 /5del	R246I	K417N					E484K	N501Y	
P.1 (501Y.V3)	Brazil					D138Y		R190S						K417T					E484K	N501Y	
B.1.177 (20E.EU1)	Spain									A222V											
B.1.429 (20C/S:45 2R)	US-California							W152C									L452R				
B.1.1.298 (Mink Cluster V)	Denmark		H69 del	V70 del													Y453F				

B.1.525	Nigeria	A67V	H69 del	V70 del			Y144 del												E484K		
B.1.36	India														N440K						
R.1	Japan							W152L											E484K		

a) Amino acid position 58 to 573 of the spike protein (primers excluded)

IN-SILICO STUDY: GISAID

Are specific **combinations of mutations** sufficiently informative to screen for specific SARS-CoV-2 variants?

Lineage GR B.1.1.7 (UK)

Mutations detectable in the long fragment:

HV69-70del, Y144del, N501Y and A570D

- i. Among the complete genomes belonging to **this lineage any combination of two mutations** was present at a frequency ranging from 97.6% to 99.4%.
- ii. **All** of the complete genomes displaying **at least two of the aforementioned mutations** belonged to the B.1.1.7 lineage.

Last run: 14.01.2021 h 23.30-23.40

tot GISAID CoV-2 complete genome seq	371470
tot GR B.1.1.7 complete genome seq	17798

Complete genomes classified as GR B.1.1.7 that display the following combinations of mutations

H69del	Y144del	N501Y	A570D	n°	n°/GR B.1.1.7
1	1	1	1	17353	97,50%
1	1	1	0	17355	97,51%
0	1	1	1	17372	97,61%
1	0	1	1	17510	98,38%
1	1	0	1	17371	97,60%
1	1	0	0	17374	97,62%
0	0	1	1	17691	99,40%
1	0	0	1	17529	98,49%
0	1	1	0	17374	97,62%
1	0	1	0	17517	98,42%
0	1	0	1	17390	97,71%
1	0	0	0	17537	98,53%
0	1	0	0	17393	97,72%
0	0	1	0	17703	99,47%
0	0	0	1	17829	100,17%
0	0	0	0	17798	100,00%

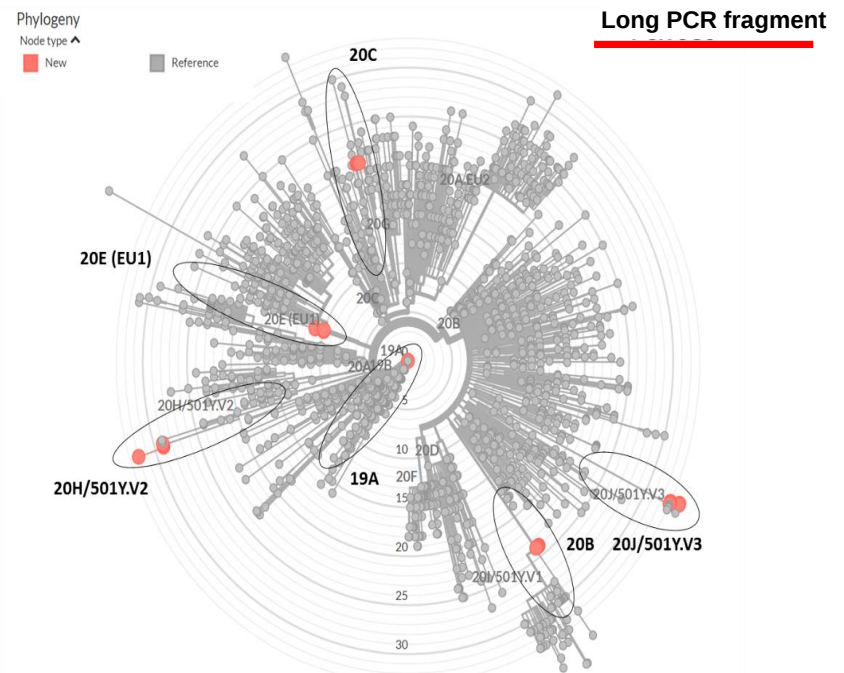
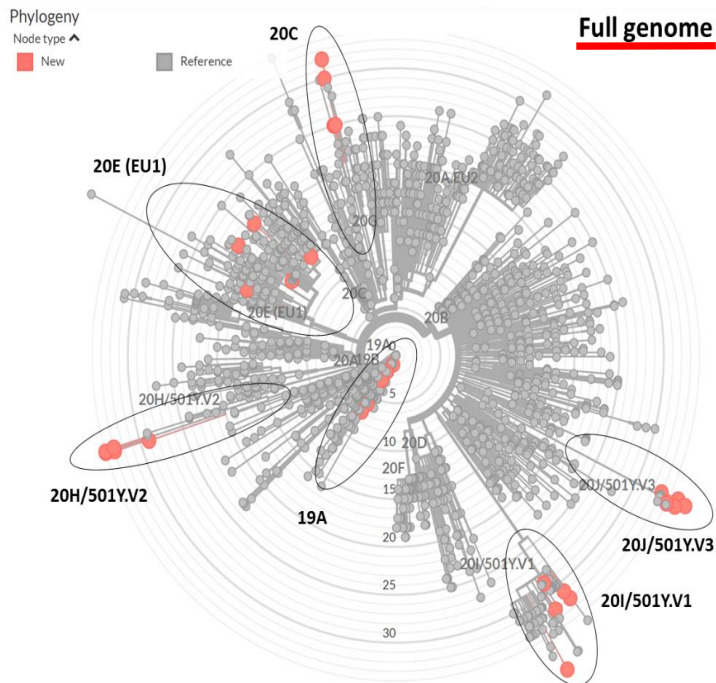
Complete genomes with the following combinations of mutations that are classified as GR B.1.1.7

H69del	Y144del	N501Y	A570D	n°	GR B.1.1.7	GR B.1.1.7/n°
1	1	1	1	17355	17355	100,00%
1	1	1	0	17357	17357	100,00%
0	1	1	1	17374	17374	100,00%
1	0	1	1	17512	17512	100,00%
1	1	0	1	17373	17373	100,00%
1	1	0	0	17376	17376	100,00%
0	0	1	1	17693	17693	100,00%
1	0	0	1	17531	17531	100,00%
0	1	1	0	17376	17376	100,00%
1	0	1	0	17519	17519	100,00%
0	1	0	1	17392	17392	100,00%
1	0	0	0	24166	17537	72,57%
0	1	0	0	17908	17395	97,14%
0	0	1	0	18751	17705	94,42%
0	0	0	1	17833	17831	99,99%
0	0	0	0	17798	17798	100,00%

IN-SILICO STUDY: NEXTCLADE

5 GISAID strains for each of the the following clades/variants:

Wuhan (19A), **UK** (501Y.V1), **South Africa** (501Y.V2), **Brazil** (501Y.V3),
Spain (20E.EU1), **California** (CAL.20C) for a total of 30 sequences.



All of the variants were correctly assigned on the sole basis of the genome region amplified by the long PCR.

PRIMER VALIDATION ON CLINICAL SAMPLES

- **7 SARS-CoV-2 RNA samples** originating from nasopharyngeal swabs, collected in Apulia and Basilicata (August-December 2020)
 - isolated on Vero E6 cells
 - **characterized by WGS** as 20A, 20B, 20E.EU1 (Spanish variant), and 20I/501Y.V1 (UK variant),

- **24 RNA samples** originating from nasopharyngeal swabs collected in Apulia and Basilicata (November-January 2021) that tested positive for SARS-CoV-2 by real-time RT-PCR
 - **not characterized**

PRIMER VALIDATION ON CLINICAL SAMPLES

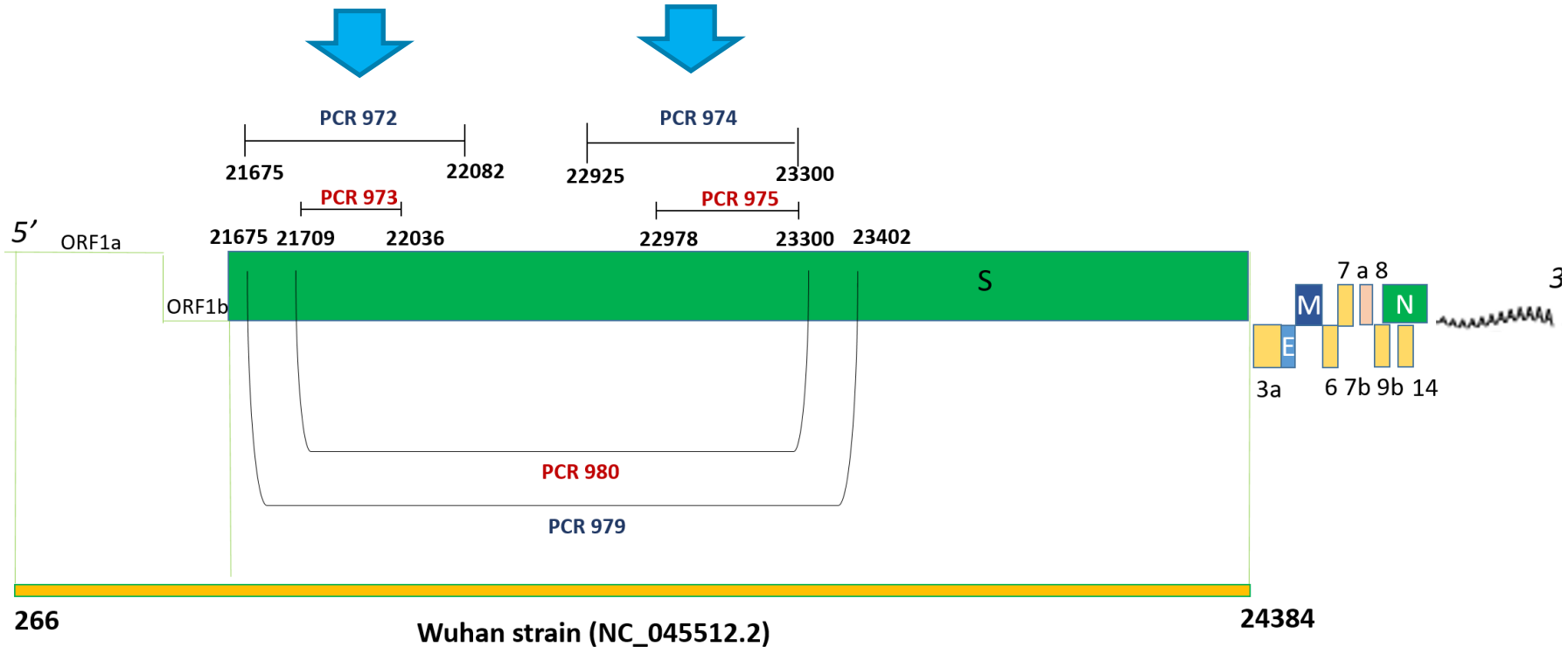
Sample	Identification based on WGS	Mutation map	GISAID blast
swab_1	-	A222V	GV_B.1.177
swab_2	-	S477N	GH_B.1.160
swab_3	-	S477N	GH_B.1.160
swab_4	-	A222V	GV_B.1.177
swab_5	-	A222V	GV_B.1.177
swab_6	-	A222V	GV_B.1.177
swab_7	-	A222V	GV_B.1.177
swab_8	-	A222V	GV_B.1.177
swab_9	-	A222V	GV_B.1.177
swab_10	-	A222V	GV_B.1.177
swab_11	-	A222V	GV_B.1.177
swab_12	-	A222V	GV_B.1.177
swab_13	-	S477N	GH_B.1.160
swab_14	-	-	Not assignable
swab_15	-	-	Not assignable
swab_16	-	S477N	GH_B.1.160
swab_17	-	A222V	GV_B.1.177
swab_18	-	A222V, A262S, P272L	GV_B.1.177
swab_19	-	S98F	G_B.1.221
swab_20	-	A222V	GV_B.1.177
swab_21	-	n.d.	n.d.
swab_22	-	n.d.	n.d.
swab_23	-	S477N	GH_B.1.160
swab_24	-	A222V, A411S	GV_B.1.177
swab_25	20A	-	Not assignable
swab_26	20A	D215H	Not assignable
swab_27	20B	-	Not assignable
swab_28	20B	-	Not assignable
swab_29	GV_B.1.177	A222V	GV_B.1.177
swab_30	GV_B.1.177	A222V	GV_B.1.177
swab_31	GR B.1.1.7	H69del, V70del, Y144del, N501Y, A570D	GR B.1.1.7

The Spanish variant was found in 14/24 uncharacterized swabs (mutation A222V alone or combined with A262S and P272L in one sample or with A411S in another sample)

The long assay allowed the correct identification of the UK and the Spanish variants present in the panel of previously characterized samples.

DESIGN OF SHORT ASSAYS TO BE USED IN SEWAGE SAMPLES

Two additional short nested RT-PCR
targeting portions of the region spanned by the long assay



DESIGN OF SHORT ASSAYS TO BE USED IN SEWAGE SAMPLES

Mutations indicative of the main SARS-CoV-2 VOCs detectable by the newly designed short nested PCR assays.

Variant	Amino acid position in the S gene										
20I/501Y.V1 (GR, B.1.1.7), UK	H69 del	V70 del	Y144 del								N501Y A570D
20H/501Y.V2 (GH, B.1.351), SA	D80 A			D215G	L242H	A243 del	L244 del	H245 del	R246I	K417N	E484K N501Y
20J/501Y.V3 (GR, P1), Brazil	D138Y			R190S	K417T					E484K N501Y	
Mink clust. V (GR,B.1.1.298), Denmark	H69 del	V70 del	Y453F								
(G, B.1.525), Nigeria	A67 V	H69 del	V70 del	Y144 del	E484K						
	SHORT PCR 973 (aa 58-150)										
	LONG PCR 980 (aa. 58-573 of the spike protein)										

TESTING THE LONG AND SHORT ASSAYS ON SEWAGE SAMPLES

Environmental samples tested with the three assays:

- 1. 20 SARS-CoV-2 positive sewage samples**
Rome (Sept-Dec 2020)
- 2. 8 sewage samples**
Guardiagrele, Abruzzo (21-25 January 2021) – where a cluster of clinical cases of the UK variant had been reported
- 3. 6 sewage samples**
Perugia, Umbria (5 - 8 February 2021) – where clinical cases of the UK variant and of the Brazilian variant had been identified

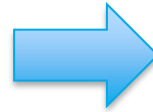


Aim: to verify whether the S mutations associated with these variants were detectable in the local sewage using the newly designed assays.

TESTING THE LONG AND SHORT ASSAYS ON SEWAGE SAMPLES

1. 20 SARS-CoV-2 positive sewage samples

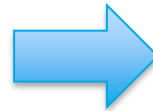
Rome (Sept-Dec 2020)



None of the samples collected in Rome displayed mutations indicative of VOCs

2. 8 sewage samples

Guardiagrele, Abruzzo (21-25 January 2021) – where a cluster of clinical cases of the UK variant had been reported



Mutations characteristic of the Spanish variant were detected, but not the UK variant

3. 6 sewage samples

Perugia, Umbria (5 - 8 February 2021) – where clinical cases of the UK variant and of the Brazilian variant had been identified



Mutations characteristic of the UK, and Brazilian variants were detected

TESTING THE LONG AND SHORT ASSAYS IN SEWAGE SAMPLES

Sample ID	Sampling location	Long-PCR ID 980		Short-PCR ID 973		Short-PCR ID 975	
		Result	Mutations	Result	Mutations	Result	Mutations
3863	Abruzzo	+	A222V	+	none	+	none
3865		+	A222V	+	none	-	
3944	Umbria	-	-	+	D138Y	+	E484K, N501Y
3945		-	-	+	D138Y	+	E484K, N501Y
3947		+	D138Y, R190S, K417T, E484K, N501Y	+	D138Y	+	E484K, N501Y
3949		-	-	+	E96G	+	N501Y, A570D

Spanish mutation, detected by long PCR

Brazilian mutations, detected by long + both short PCRs

UK mutations, detected by only one of the short PCRs

Sequence did not show the expected mutations (HV69-70del and Y144del) of the UK variant

Sample collected on 6 February 2021 from a WTP serving the outskirts of Perugia, including the local hospital, which had reportedly been experiencing a nosocomial cluster of the Brazilian variant

CONCLUSIONS

We were able to detect key mutations of the Spanish, Brazilian and UK variants in urban wastewaters in Italy.

Advantages:

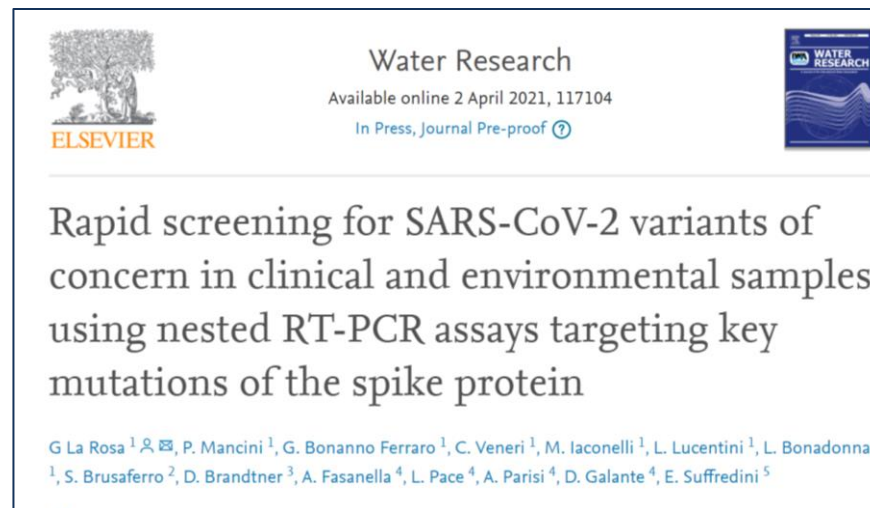
- ✓ Rapidly identifies VOCs in the catchment of any WTP to identify areas where clinical surveillance and/or targeted preventive intervention is required.
- ✓ Can be performed routinely at a low cost, easy to interpret.
- ✓ In clinical settings, can be used as a rapid screening test to select clinically relevant specimens for WGS.

Disadvantages:

- ✓ In environmental samples, Sanger sequencing may underestimate some, possibly less prevalent, strains.
- ✓ In environmental samples, use of 2 short assays may result in each of the tests amplifying a different target.

WORK IN PROGRESS

1. Optimize the long PCR for environmental samples
2. Combine the protocol with NGS or Long-read sequencing (e.g. Oxford Nanopore sequencing) for a more in-depth analysis of sequences.





General Q&A Discussion

**GERTJAN MEDEMA, TAMAR KOHN, NIKO BEERENWINKEL,
GIUSEPPINA LA ROSA, ELISABETTA SUFFREDINI**
(MODERATED BY JOAN ROSE)

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AI-empowered Asset Management

A graphic for an AI-powered Asset Management webinar. It features a dark background with a circular, textured area in the center. Overlaid on this are several colored callout boxes: a purple box labeled 'Asset Data', a green box labeled 'Asset Health', a yellow box labeled 'Asset Performance', and a blue box labeled 'Asset Location'. The text 'AI-powered Asset Management' is prominently displayed in white, bold, sans-serif font. Below this, the IWA logo (International Water Association) is shown, followed by the word 'WEBINAR' in large, bold, black letters. To the right, the date and time '20 April 2021 | 15:00 CEST' and the URL 'iwa-network.org/webinars' are listed.

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