

PEER REVIEW HISTORY

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ARTICLE DETAILS

TITLE (PROVISIONAL)	Identification of influenza urban transmission patterns by geographical, epidemiological and whole genome sequencing data: Protocol for an observational study.
AUTHORS	Egli, Adrian; Saalfrank, Claudia; Goldman, Nina; Brunner, Myrta; Hollenstein, Yvonne; Vogel, Thomas; Augustin, Noémie; Wüthrich, Daniel; Seth-Smith, Helena; Roth, Elisa; Syedbasha, Mohammedyaseen; Mueller, Nicola; Vogt, Dominik; Bauer, Jan; Amar-Sliwa, Nadezhda; Meinel, Dominik; Dubuis, Olivier; Naegele, Michael; Tschudin-Sutter, Sarah; Buser, Andreas; Nickel, Christian; Zeller, Andreas; Ritz, Nicole; Battegay, Manuel; Stadler, Tanja; Schneider-Sliwa, Rita

VERSION 1 – REVIEW

REVIEWER	Stephen Kissler Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, Boston, USA
REVIEW RETURNED	27-Apr-2019

GENERAL COMMENTS	This study addresses a much-needed gap in our knowledge regarding the urban transmission of influenza. If the authors succeed in gathering the data as specified and analyzing it as they describe, it will advance the field substantially. It would be nice for the WGS to be performed for more than just a single season, but this is understandable amidst the realities of time and resource limitations, and the authors are to be applauded for the breadth of their study as it stands. The work is ambitious but tractable, is ethically and procedurally sound, and the authors have chosen appropriate mathematical analyses to make the most of the data they collect. Overall, I have no significant misgivings regarding this protocol, and wish the authors well on their efforts.
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REVIEWER	Julian W Tang University Hospitals of Leicester NHS Trust, Leicester, UK
REVIEW RETURNED	10-Jun-2019

GENERAL COMMENTS	<p>This is an ambitious, yet timely project on influenza epidemiology and transmission. The authors are aware and have stated various limitations - with which I agree. I reviewed their original SNSF grant application a few years ago for this project and the authors have addressed some of the issues I raised then.</p> <p>No study on this scale with this level of detail and intricacy has been attempted previously on influenza - and this team appears to have the expertise and support needed to perform this study successfully.</p>
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	There will almost certainly be some additional unforeseen problems/limitations - as with any study - but I am confident that the authors will address these objectively and rationally as they arise in their final publications.
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VERSION 1 – AUTHOR RESPONSE

Reviewer: 1

Reviewer Name: Stephen Kissler

Institution and Country: Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, Boston, USA Please state any competing interests or state 'None declared': None declared.

Please leave your comments for the authors below:

This study addresses a much-needed gap in our knowledge regarding the urban transmission of influenza. If the authors succeed in gathering the data as specified and analyzing it as they describe, it will advance the field substantially. It would be nice for the WGS to be performed for more than just a single season, but this is understandable amidst the realities of time and resource limitations, and the authors are to be applauded for the breadth of their study as it stands. The work is ambitious but tractable, is ethically and procedurally sound, and the authors have chosen appropriate mathematical analyses to make the most of the data they collect. Overall, I have no significant misgivings regarding this protocol, and wish the authors well on their efforts.

AE: We thank the reviewer for these encouraging comments.

Reviewer: 2

Reviewer Name: Julian W Tang

Institution and Country: University Hospitals of Leicester NHS Trust, Leicester, UK Please state any competing interests or state 'None declared': None declared

Please leave your comments for the authors below

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