



May 31, 2026

Dr. Matthew J. Kuehnert, MD

Editor-in-Chief *Emerging Infectious Diseases*
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
1600 Clifton Road, Mailstop H16-2
Atlanta, GA 30329-4027

Re: Request for Reconsideration of Manuscript Submission – “Ebola Outbreaks, Dual-Use Research, Reservoir Gaps, and Institutional Conflicts: Critical Analysis of Filovirus Emergence Patterns and Accountability in High-Risk Pathogen Surveillance” (Submitted May 29, 2026)

Dear Dr. Kuehnert,

I write in response to the rejection of the above-referenced manuscript. While I respect your editorial discretion, I respectfully request reconsideration of this decision pursuant to *Emerging Infectious Diseases* author guidelines, which permit appeals to the Editor-in-Chief within six weeks of rejection.

This manuscript presents a timely, evidence-based policy review examining historical and ongoing patterns in filovirus emergence, with specific reference to the 2026 Bundibugyo ebolavirus (BDBV) outbreak. Drawing on declassified records from the U.S. Special Virus Cancer Program, documented laboratory amplification events (such as the 1967 Marburg outbreak), reservoir identification gaps, dual-use research overlaps, and institutional conflicts, the analysis highlights important questions relevant to public health policy, scientific integrity, and national security.

Key reasons supporting reconsideration include:

1. **Urgency to Public Health and National Security:** The 2026 BDBV outbreak was declared a Public Health Emergency of International Concern. Persistent gaps between official zoonotic narratives and primary historical records (e.g., primate tissue research under government contracts) warrant open scientific discourse. Suppressing critical analysis of these patterns risks undermining preparedness for high-consequence pathogens and public trust in surveillance institutions.
2. **Scientific Integrity and Peer Review:** The manuscript aligns with *EID*'s mission to advance understanding of emerging infectious diseases through rigorous examination of evidence. It calls for mandatory independent genomic sequencing, enhanced whistleblower protections, and transparent audits of dual-use programs — recommendations grounded in documented historical precedents and current policy needs. Denying peer review of this synthesis deprives the scientific community and

policymakers of an opportunity to engage with verifiable intelligence on filovirus origins and transmission.

3. **Balance and Original Contribution:** The paper does not assert definitive conclusions but highlights discrepancies in the literature and advocates for equal scrutiny of all hypotheses. It includes proper citations, acknowledges counter-evidence, and was prepared with analytical assistance while maintaining full author responsibility for its viewpoints.

Rejecting this Perspective/Policy Review without peer review appears inconsistent with the journal's commitment to independent evaluation of manuscripts addressing timely public health issues. In an era of advanced reverse genetics and expansive pathogen surveillance, open debate on institutional accountability and historical lessons is essential to mitigating future risks.

I am prepared to address any specific editorial or scientific concerns, revise the manuscript as needed (e.g., word count, formatting, or emphasis), and provide additional documentation or clarification. I respectfully urge you to allow the manuscript to proceed to peer review so that experts in the field may evaluate its merits.

Thank you for your consideration of this appeal and for your leadership of *Emerging Infectious Diseases*. I look forward to your prompt response.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Leonard G. Horowitz". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end.

Dr. Leonard G. Horowitz, DMD, MA, MPH, DNM (hon.), DMM (hon.)
Corresponding Author Editor-in-Chief, Medical Veritas International, Inc.

Cc: S. Monarez
C. R. Braden
J. Bhattacharya
R.F. Kennedy, Jr.
J. Comer
R. Johnson
J. Jordan
R. Paul