

Houston Area Model United Nations Crisis Committee

Smallpox Outbreak



Crisis Director
Chair

Chris Pontiff
Sophie Fan

Houston Area Model United Nations 52
February 4 & 5, 2027

Crisis Director Letter

Hello Delegates,

Welcome to the Ad-hoc committee at HAMUN 52.

My name is Christopher Pontiff, or just Chris if you'd prefer. I'm currently in my sophomore year studying mechanical engineering at Louisiana State University pursuing minors in research, nuclear power, aerospace engineering, and German for engineers. Staffing/co-directing the Kosovo war joint crisis committees during HAMUN 51 was my first foray into MUN, but my participation in UIL current events in addition to other extracurriculars have kept MUN a relatively constant background fixture throughout my academic career.

I chose to come back to HAMUN because of how much enjoyment it seemed to create for all parties involved. I chose to direct ad-hoc because it allows me the flexibility to exercise some creativity, and by extension, to feel all the more involved in the creation of that enjoyment.

Although delegates do not have the luxury of knowing their committee topic for certain, I intend to drop periodic hints to keep interested delegates informed, as it were. The most important part of this whole conference is that y'all have fun, and if we're lucky, improve your diplomacy.

All that being said, I'm excited to be your CD and I wish y'all the best of luck!



Christopher Pontiff

Ad-hoc crisis CD

HAMUN 52

cponti6@lsu.edu



Chair Letter

Delegates,

Welcome to the 52nd annual Houston Area Model United Nations conference! My name is Sophie Fan, and I am very excited to be serving as your chair for ADHOC. I am a sophomore at Rice University studying Biosciences and Psychology with a minor in English.

I first became involved with Model UN my senior year at Memorial High School, where I was a delegate at five conferences (including HAMUN 50!). During my freshman year at Rice, I was a vice-chair for SOCHUM in HAMUN 51 and one of the crisis directors at RMUN V. From MUN, I have learned incredibly valuable skills: research, leadership, public speaking, and creativity, to name a few.

Over the past year, Chris, your crisis director, has worked very hard to come up with an amazing topic that I believe will be both interesting and relevant. We look forward to seeing how you will address the issue at hand while handling conflicts with delegates who might represent opposing values and beliefs.

One word of advice from your chairs and directors is to not ignore backrooms! They are very important, as you will be able to drive the arc of the committee there. Familiarize yourself with how to properly utilize this valuable tool, and you will absolutely succeed.

We very much look forward to meeting you all, and we wish you the best of luck!

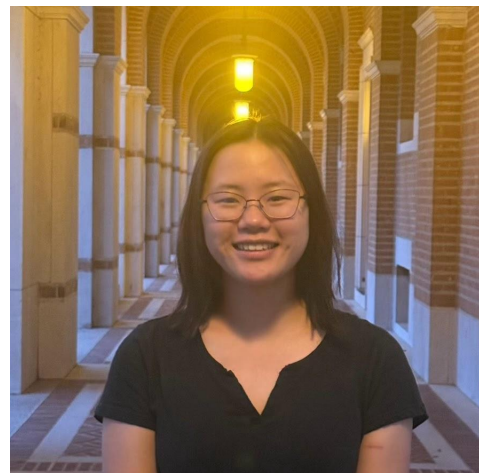


Sophie Fan

Ad-hoc Crisis Chair

HAMUN 52

sf100@rice.edu



Vice Chair Letter

Hello Delegates,

Welcome to HAMUN's ADHOC committee. My name is Jafet Morales Ibarra, and I am incredibly excited to be your Vice-Chair for ADHOC. I am a freshman at Babson College, studying Business Administration with a concentration in Finance.

This is my fourth year participating in Model UN, having started my sophomore year at Uplift Infinity High School. Since then, I have attended conferences ranging from CTMUN in Austin to HAMUN 51 to NHSMUN in New York. This will also be my first time serving as Vice-Chair, so I am very excited to experience MUN from the other side of the dais.

It is admittedly a little unorthodox for a Vice-Chair to be writing a Chair letter, but I think it is rather fitting for ADHOC. If there is one thing I hope you take with you before walking into committee, it is that you should be prepared to approach ADHOC differently from other committees. ADHOC is the only committee in this conference in which delegates do not have the luxury of knowing their topic.

Come prepared to adapt. Come with an open mind, and overall, come willing to use your creativity. ADHOC is not just about finding the most obvious solution to a problem. It is about understanding the position you've been given, making decisions with the information available to you, and being able to deal with whatever consequences those decisions make.

We are looking forward to meeting all of y'all. Bring your experience, bring your creativity, and most importantly, bring an open mind.

Jafet Morales Ibarra

Ad-hoc Crisis Vice Chair
HAMUN 52





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Background Information

Smallpox

The Disease

Smallpox, the human disease caused by the variola virus has been a scourge to humanity for many thousands of years. The earliest evidence of infection is thought to be smallpox-like rashes on egyptian mummies dating back at least 3000 years. In addition to these painful fluid filled rashes found liberally on those infected, smallpox also causes extreme fatigue, general body aches, vomiting, and high-sometimes deadly-fever. It's estimated that without treatment, the risk of an infected person dying from Smallpox is greater than 30%. The disease is also hyper-contagious with

transmission via droplets as well as through skin contact. Transmission is possible from the moment a person first develops characteristic sores in the mouth until the last scab falls off of their body; this is a large timescale and a person may be contagious for several weeks after first presenting symptoms. It's not likely transmission can occur environmentally or through animals however there are some reports of airborne transmission in hospital and high density environments.



Smallpox (continued)

In humans, the variola virus can incubate from one to three weeks. In most cases an infected individual cannot transmit the virus during this stage.

Historic Treatments

Because smallpox spreads so fast and kills so many, humanity has had an interest in its treatment for a long time. Some of the first efforts to treat Smallpox date back to 5th century China after the diseases arrival and description by scholars. The most notable of these attempts was a process called variolation where doctors would expose healthy patients to dried scabs of infected people in

the hopes of infecting the patient.

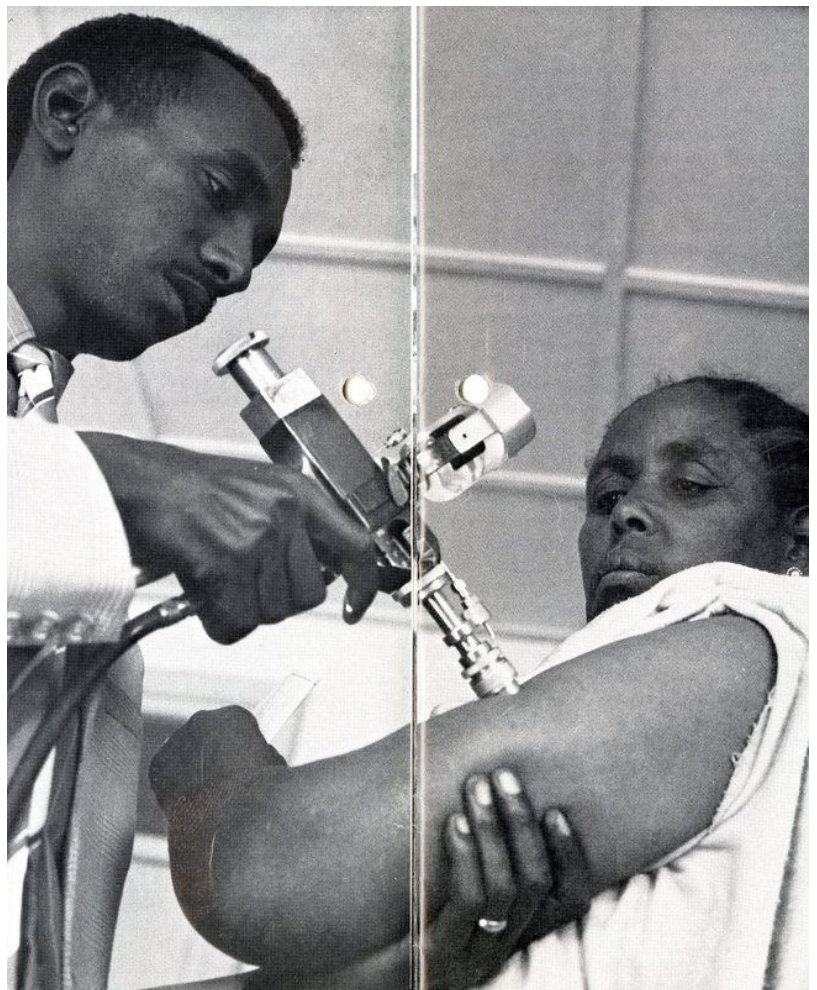
If they would pass the infection, they would be immune for life. It has been conjectured that drying the scabs may have weakened the virus giving variolated patients better outcomes than those with natural infections. This process would be independently discovered in India before being spread and put into widespread practice in 18th century Europe. The systematic importation and enslavement of variolated West-africans during slave trade would bring this process to the Americas around this same time. In 1796 Dr. Edward Jenner, of Great Britain, would develop the first smallpox vaccine using a related but weaker strain of the virus that causes the cowpox disease in cattle. The vaccination proved successful and would be mass produced and distributed shortly thereafter.



Smallpox (concluded)

Eradication campaign

In 1958 the World Health Assembly would call for global powers to aid in eradicating smallpox after the development of a new, shelf-stable vaccine in the early 1950s. Through an unprecedented level of global cooperation and charity—spearheaded by the United States and the Soviet Union—smallpox vaccines were distributed en masse to some of the most remote parts of the world. The campaign was successful; as of 1980 smallpox has been eradicated. There has not been a naturally contracted case of smallpox since 1977. The last remaining official samples of the variola virus are stored in research facilities in the United States and Russia. After global eradication, smallpox vaccination ended. Because smallpox vaccines are only effective at preventing infection for 10–20 years, most of the population is susceptible to infection. Smallpox has been frequently investigated as a potential bioterrorism threat. Even today the American government keeps antiviral drugs—like Brincidofovir and Tecovirimat—in a national emergency stockpile in case of an outbreak.



Biological Weapons

Pre Cold-war Era



Timeline of Events

November 1960: John F. Kennedy, a young Catholic Democrat, narrowly beats the former Vice President Richard Nixon in the presidential election.

April 1961: The Bay of Pigs Invasion fails, and tensions rise in the Cold War

August 1961: The Berlin Wall is built overnight to stop the mass migration of East Germans going to West Berlin.

October 1962: The Cuban Missile Crisis brings the United States and the Soviet Union to the brink of nuclear war

August 1963: The March on Washington and Martin Luther King Jr.'s famous "I Have a Dream" speech.

November 1, 1963: The President of South Vietnam, Ngo Dinh Diem, is overthrown and killed in a coup.





Committee Brief

On November 22, 1963, John F. Kennedy was assassinated while riding in a motorcade in Dallas, Texas. A few hours later, Vice President Johnson was sworn in as president, and Kennedy's body was transported to the capital. By the following hours, the country is reeling and demanding answers minute by minute, and the investigation is just beginning. Kennedy's presidency was defined by the various events throughout the years and the volatility they brought. Events such as the continuing civil rights tensions, the failure of the Bay of Pigs Invasion, the growing war in Vietnam, and the Cold War rivalry with the Soviet Union looming large on the international stage with the ever-present threat of nuclear conflict created a presidency marked by pivotal struggle for both social progress and international stability. Now, the country's future is uncertain.

The committee does not represent a single body such as a cabinet, agency, or legislature. It functions as an *ad hoc emergency body* convened during the disorienting hours after the president's assassination, made up of cabinet members, intelligence officers, foreign diplomats, military leadership, congressional figures, journalists, and prominent private citizens. Given the assassination, the unexpected change in power, and the living Cold War threat, these individuals, who would under normal conditions be working separately, are compelled to come together to define the events after the crisis.

It is within this committee that individuals will decide the course that the United States should follow from the present events of the investigation to the future of the country as a superpower.

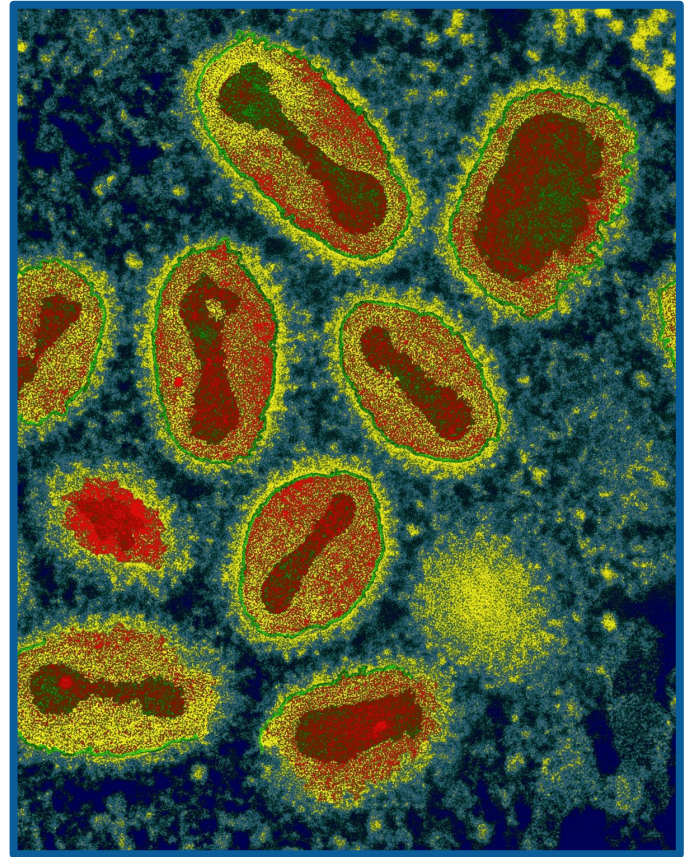
Your Goals

- Coordinate an effective and appropriate response to the outbreak while avoiding undue and burdensome regulation.
- Determine the balance of power between the federal government, state governments, citizens, NGOs, and economic interests as needs evolve
- Ensure minimal lasting damage to society, governmental institutions, and character relationships
- Manage the public narrative of the crisis' events.

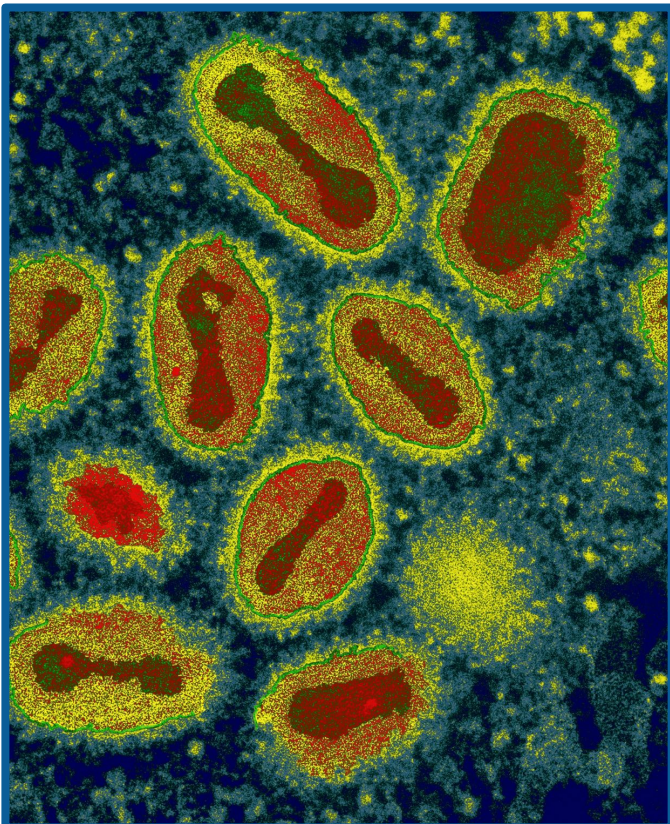


Characters

Sec. of Defence

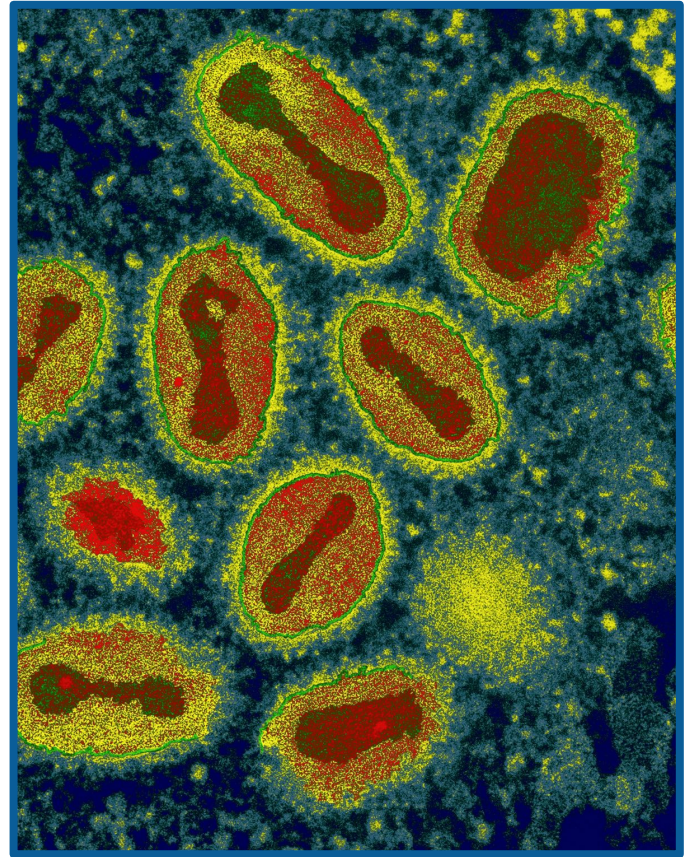


Dir. of National Economic Council

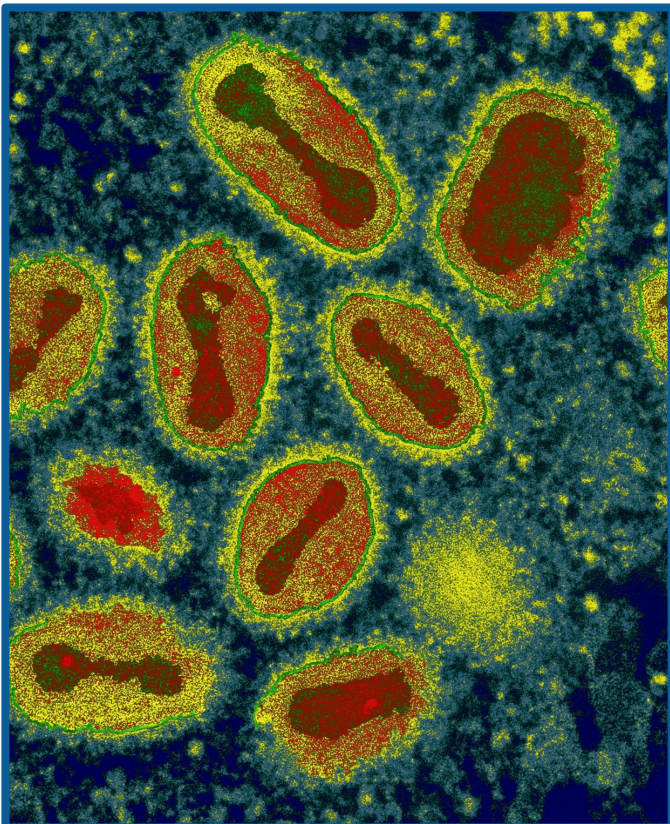


Characters

Sec. of State

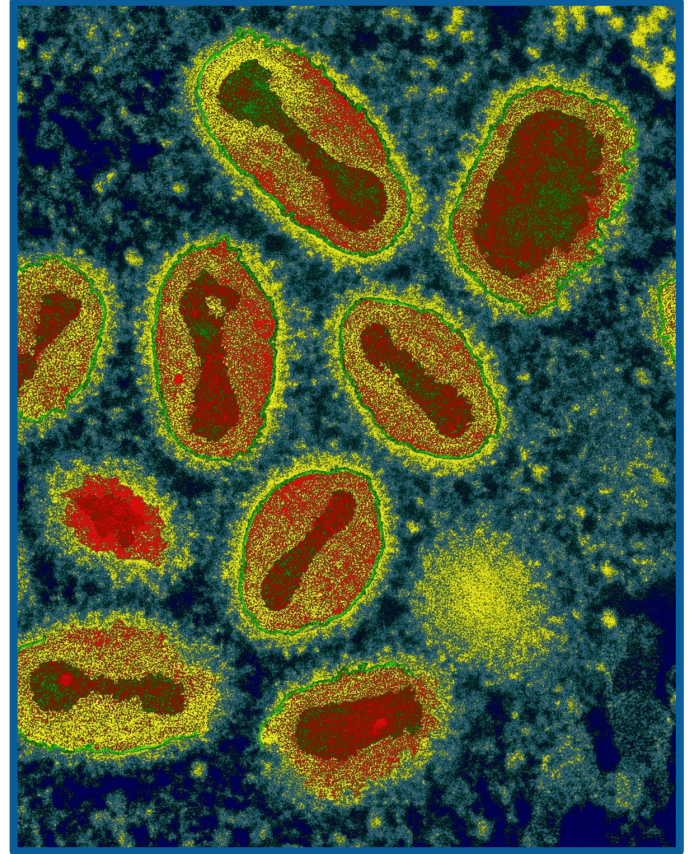


Dir. of Central Intelligence

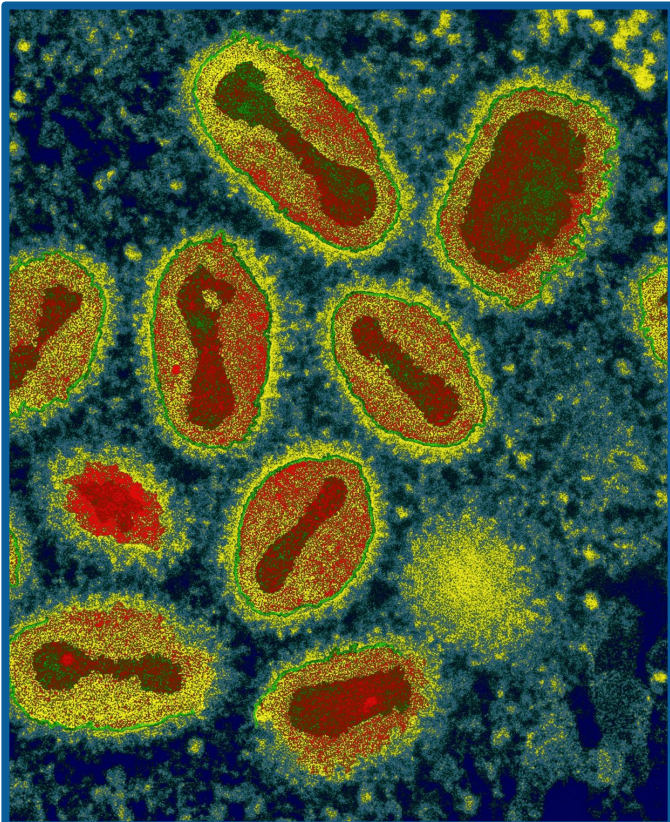


Characters

Sec. of Transportation

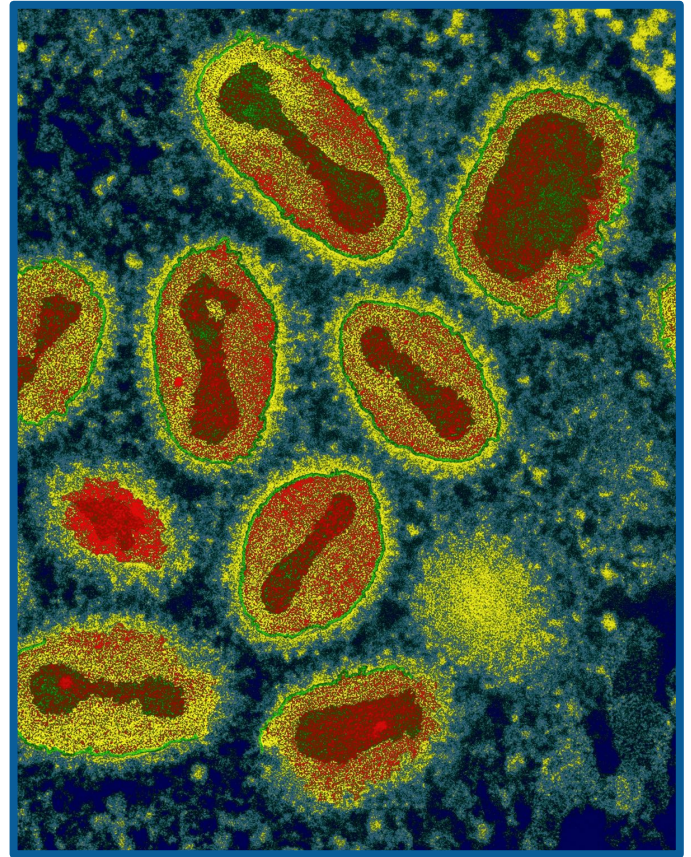


Sec. of Labor

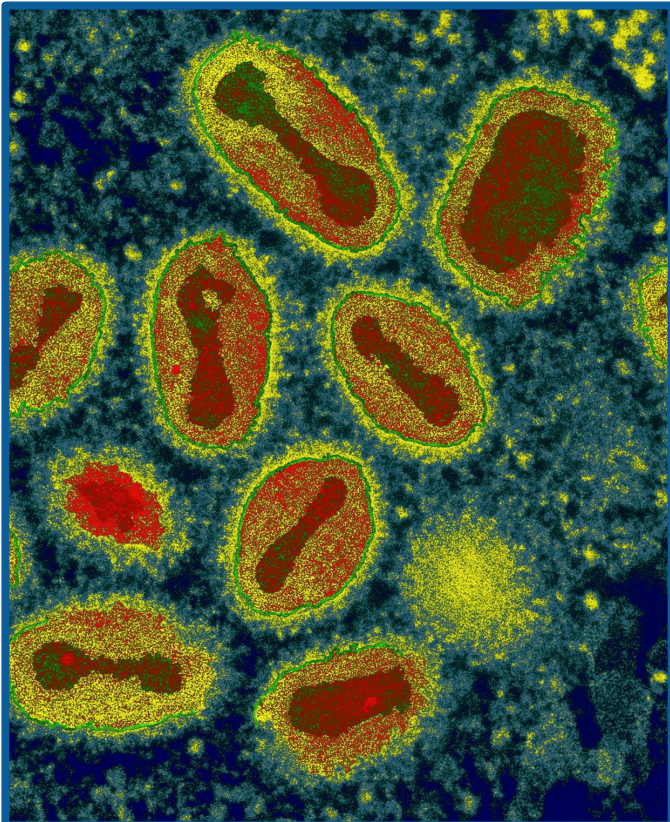


Characters

Sec. of HHS

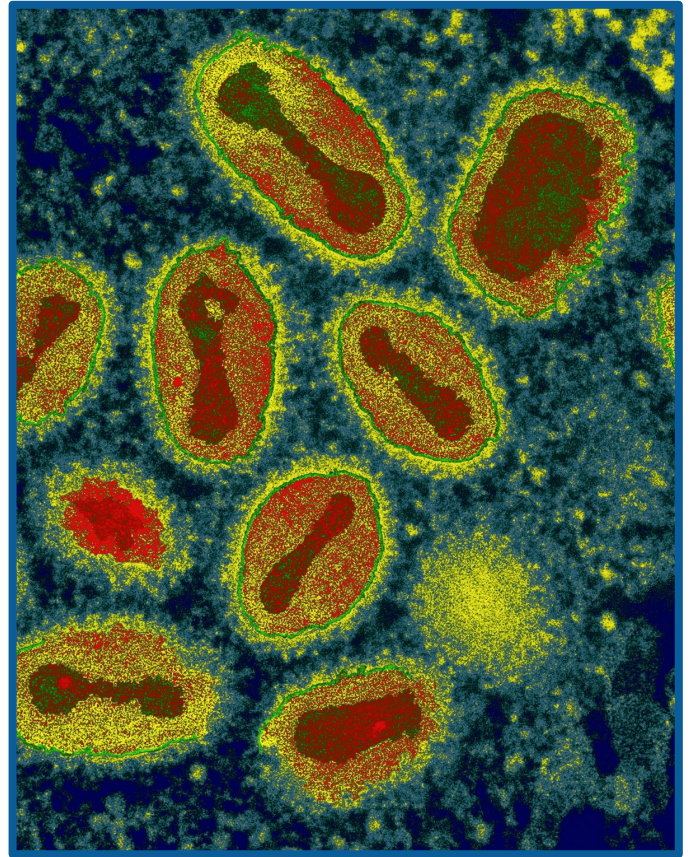


Dir. of FEMA

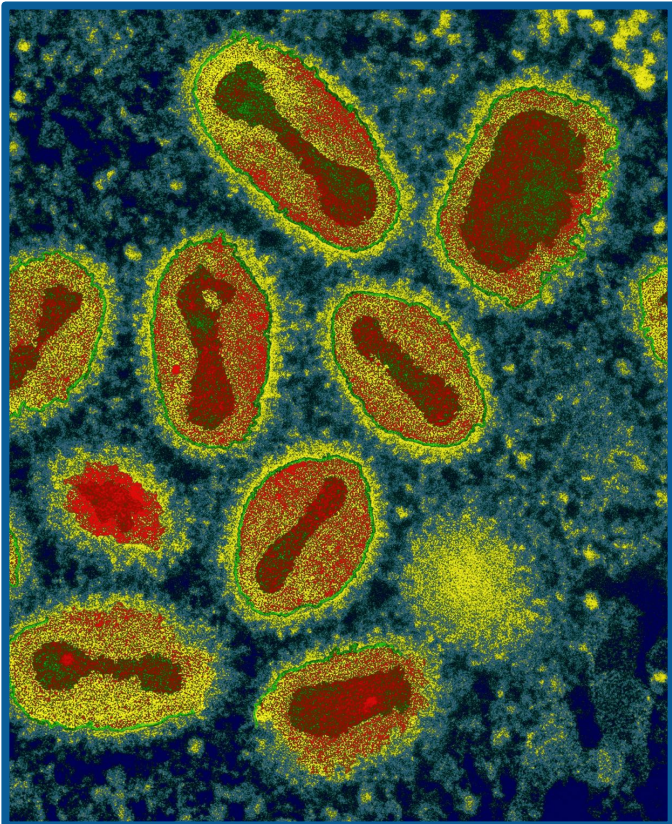


Characters

**Chr. of National Governors
Association**

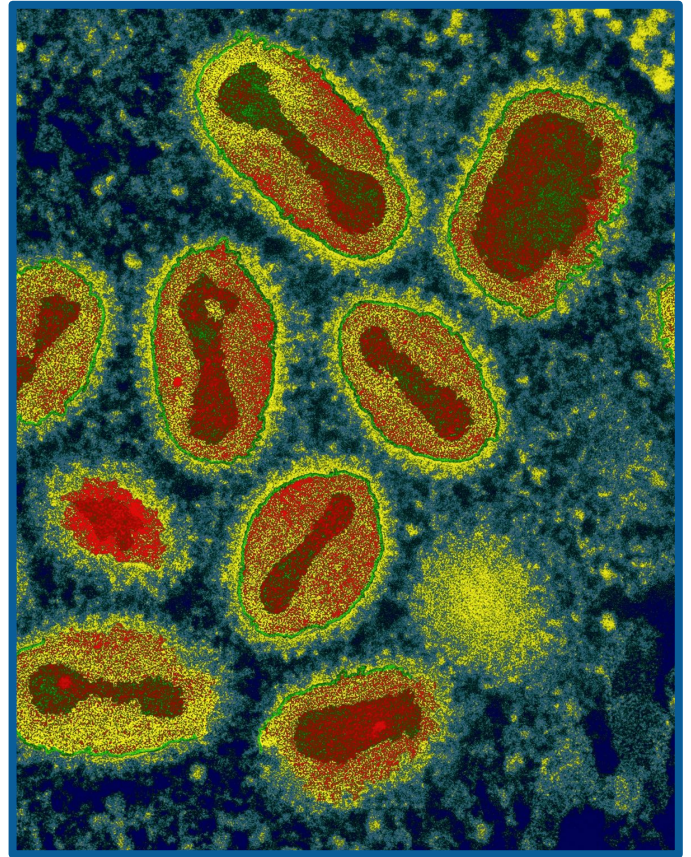


Gov. of Georgia

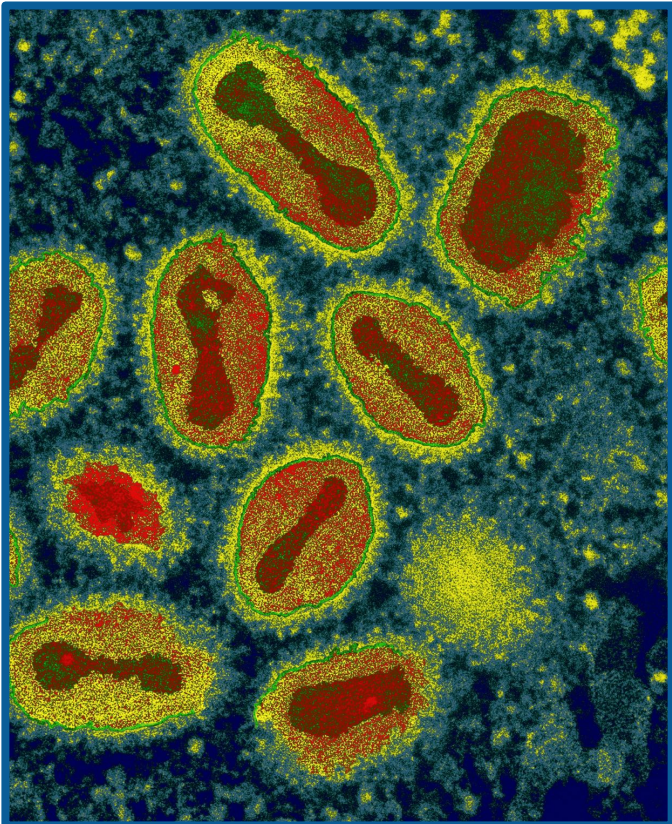


Characters

Gov. of Washington State

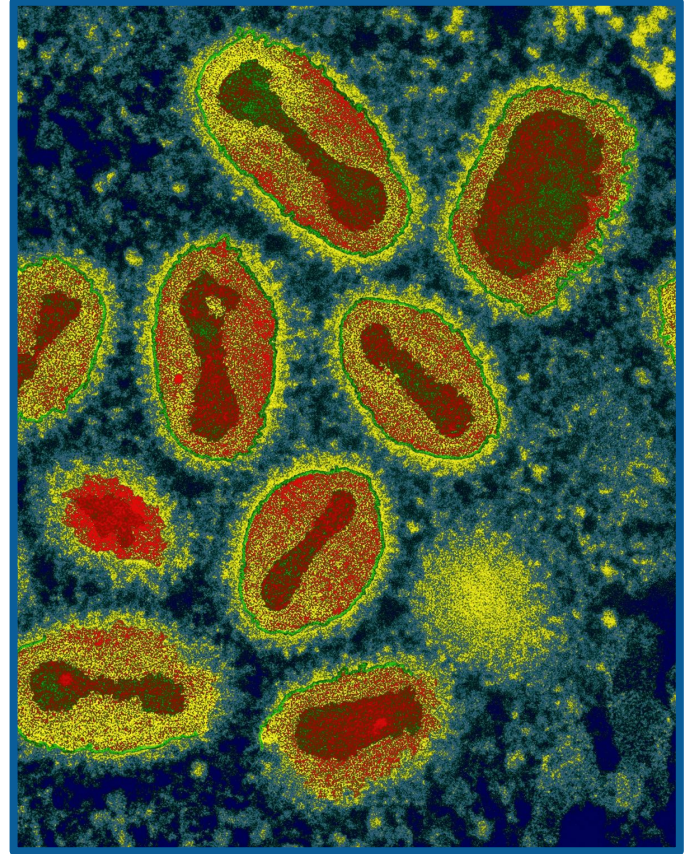


Gov. of Alabama

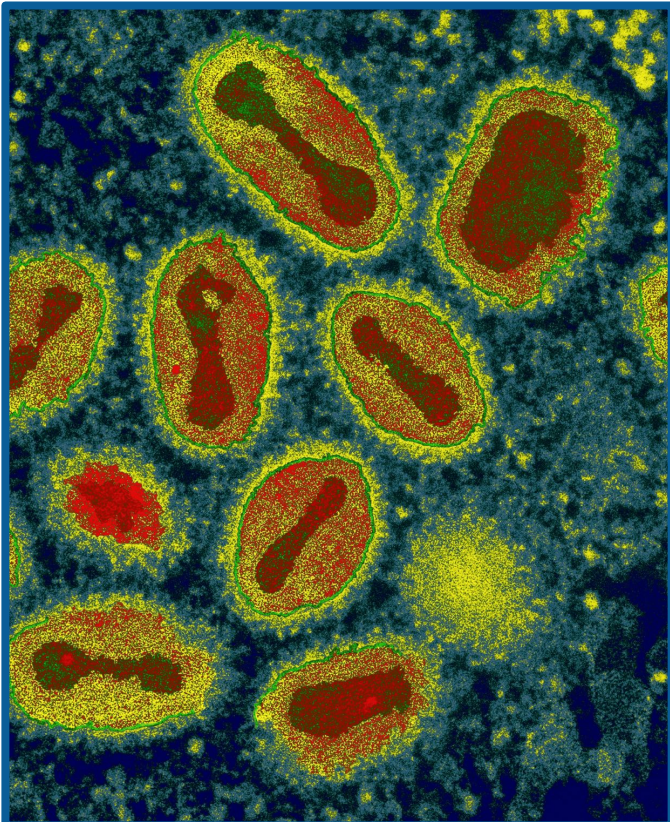


Characters

**Admin of Healthcare Financing
Administration**

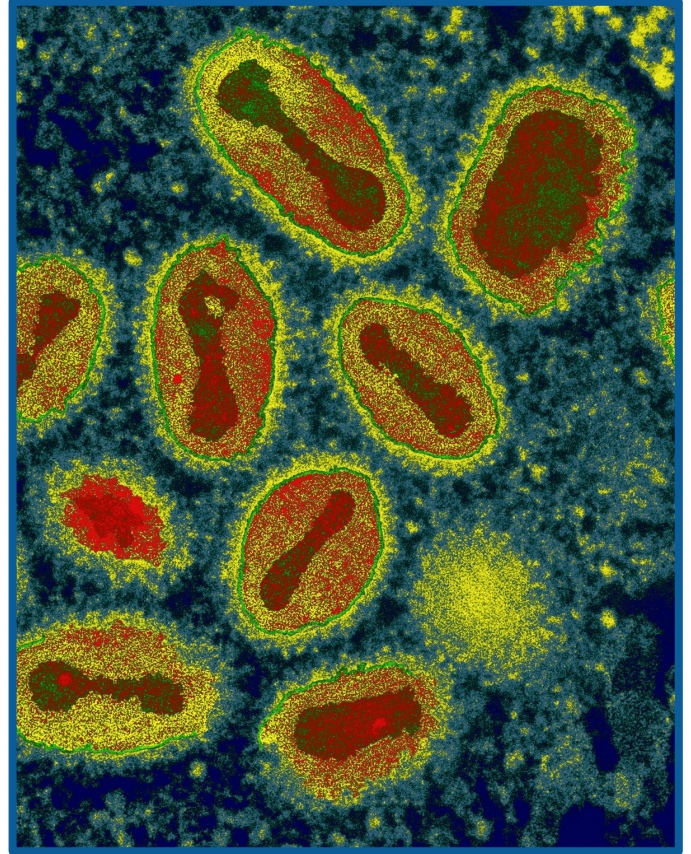


Speaker of the House

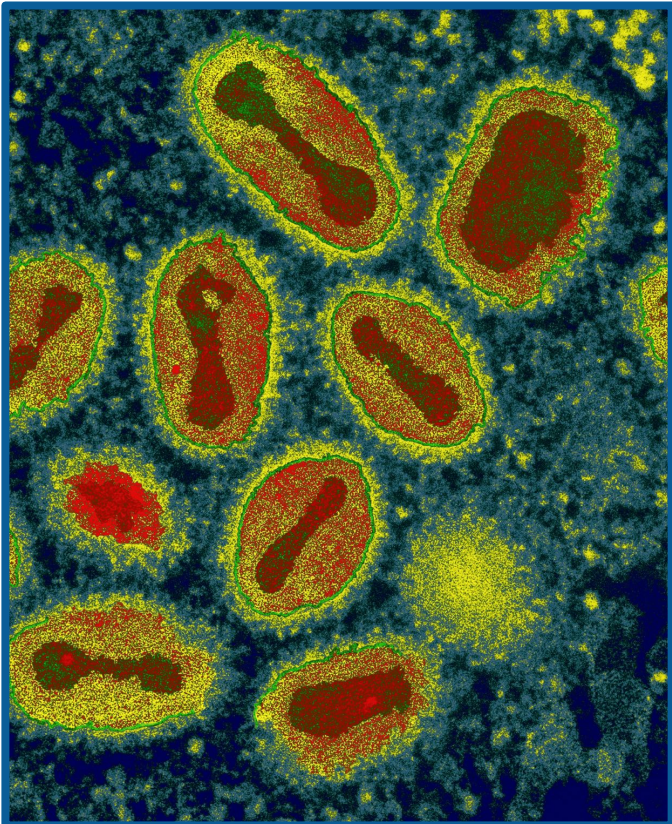


Characters

Senate Majority Leader

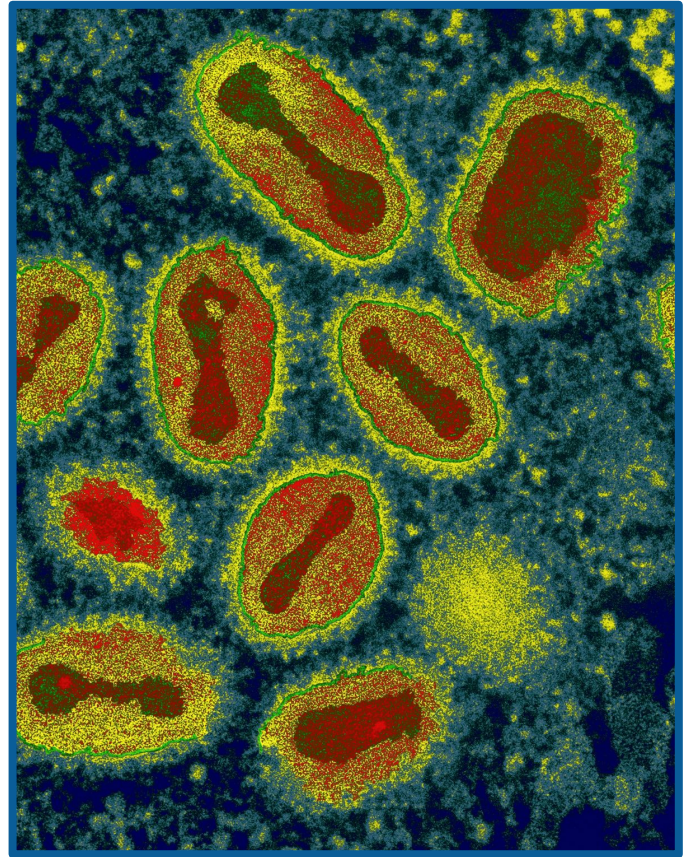


Senate Minority Leader

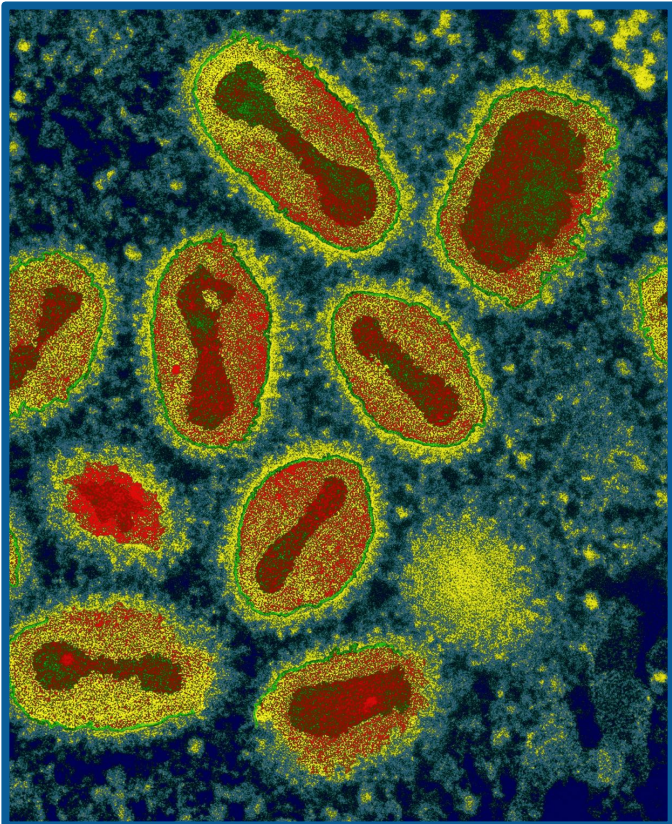


Characters

Pres. of Doctors w/o borders

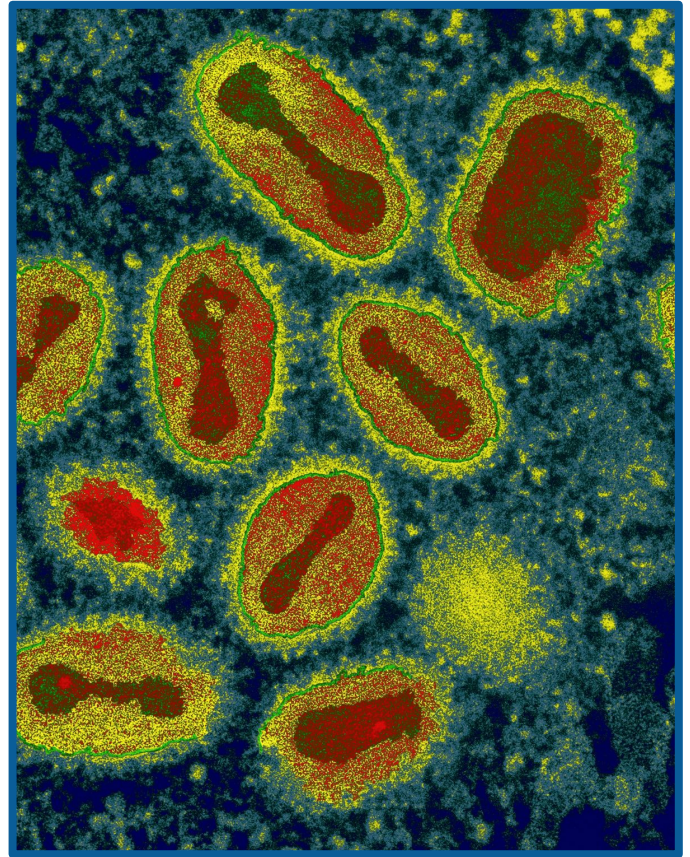


Editor of NY Times

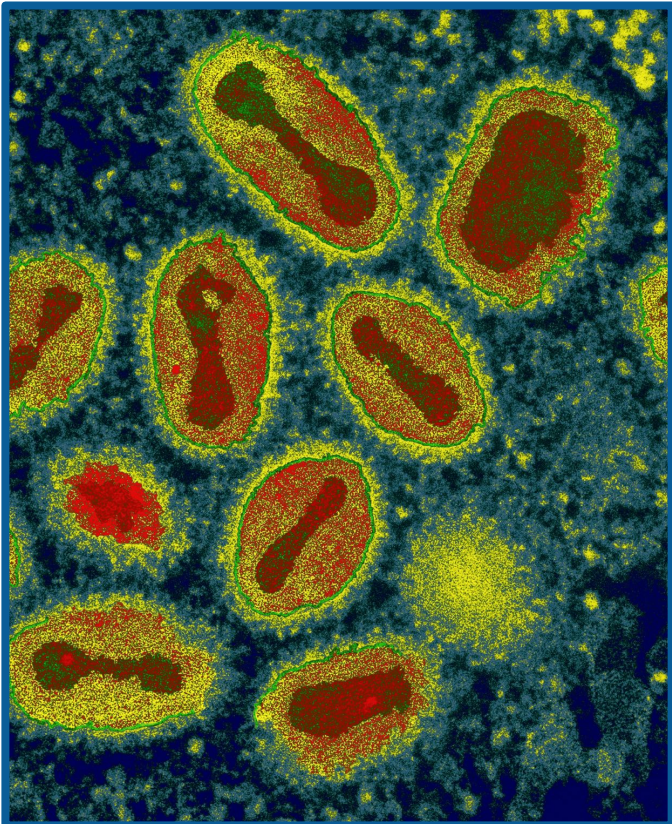


Characters

C.E.O. of Walmart

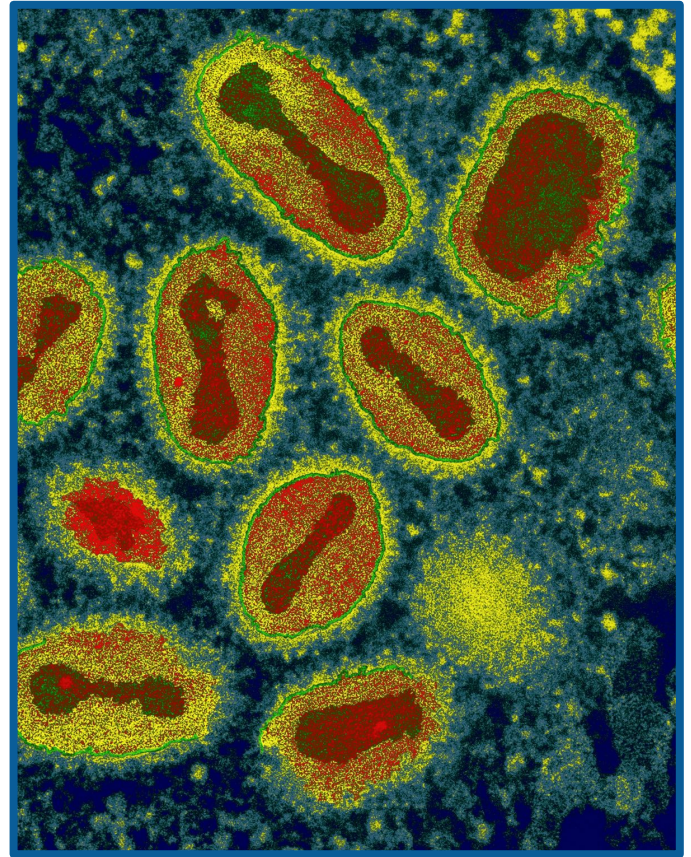


C.E.O. of General Motors

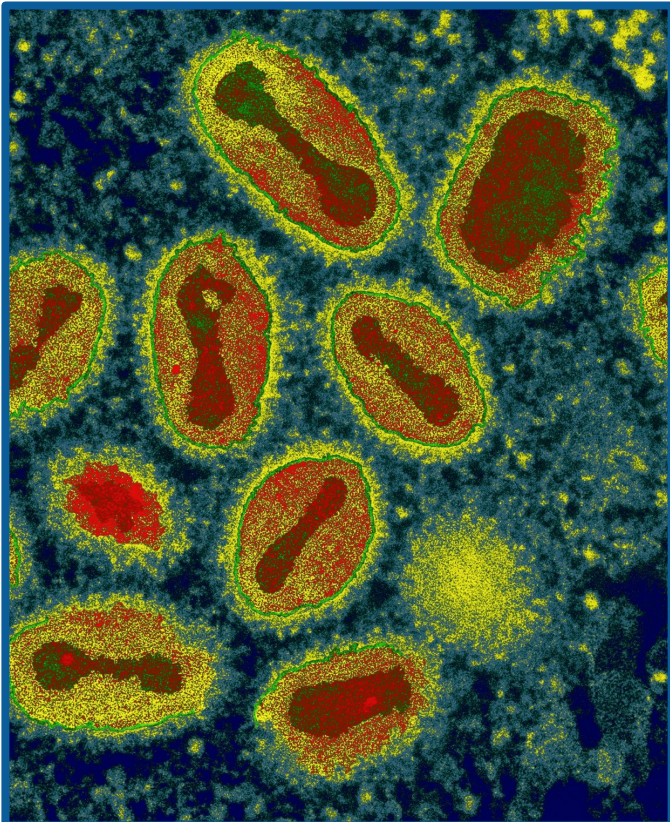


Characters

C.E.O. of IBM

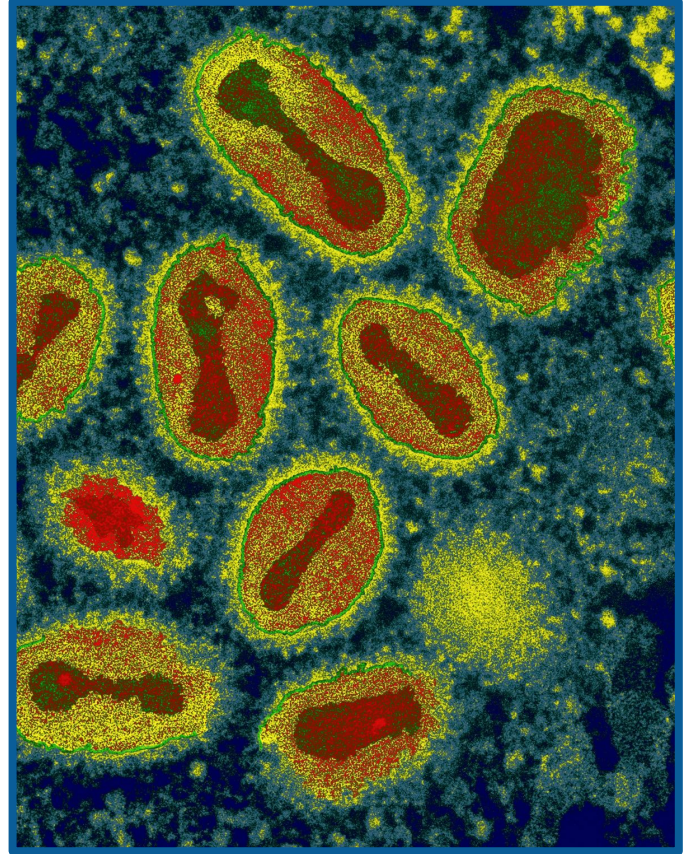


Pres. of ACLU

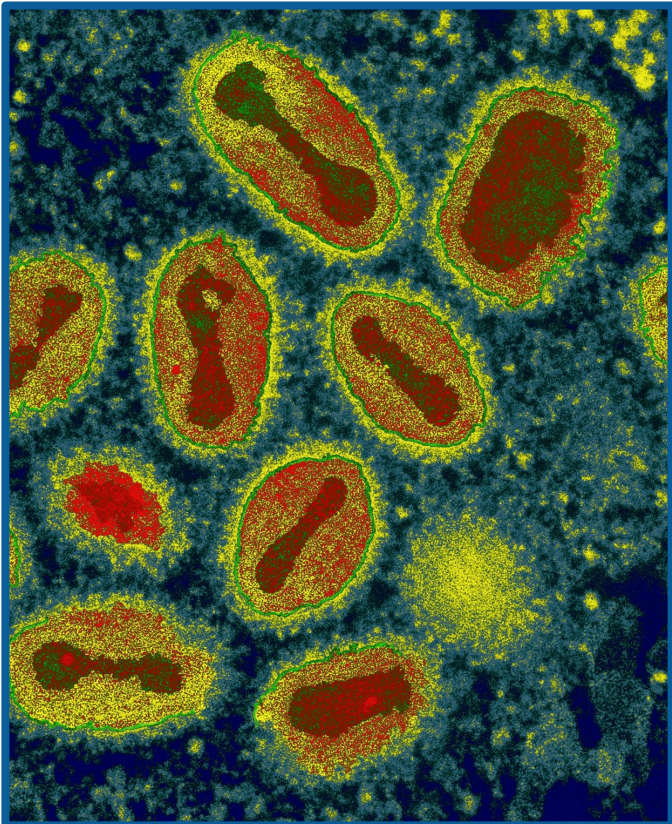


Characters

Sec. of Defence

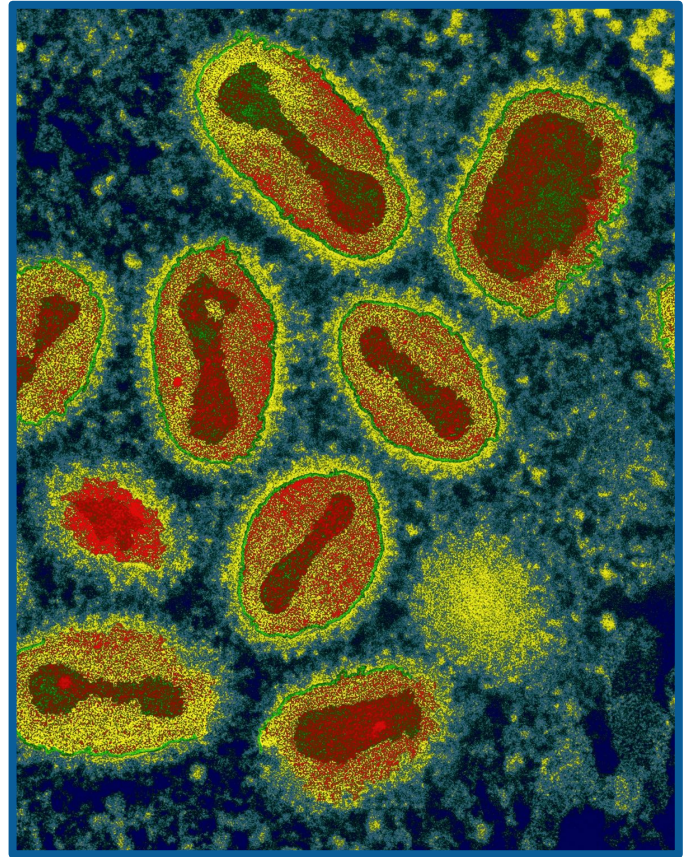


Dir. of National Economic Council

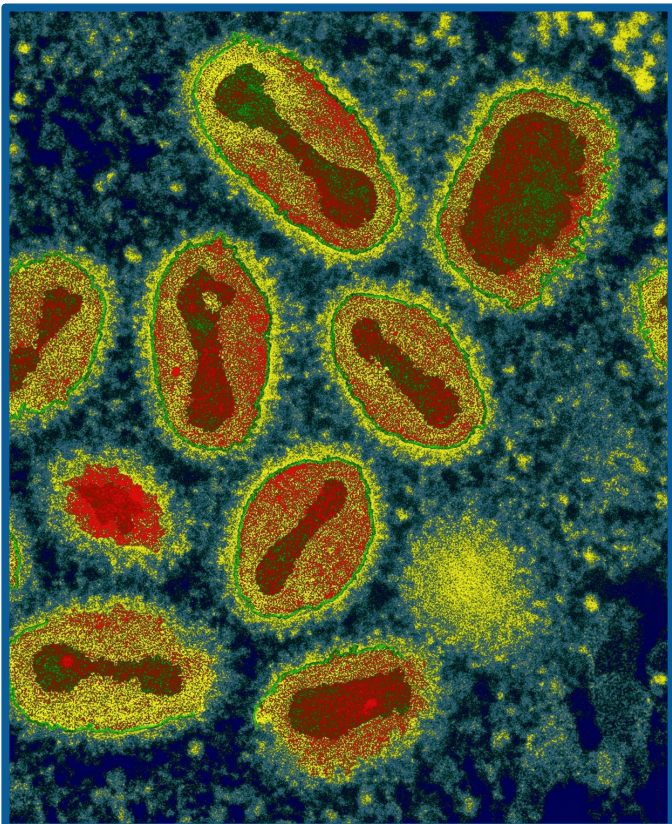


Characters

Sec. of Defence

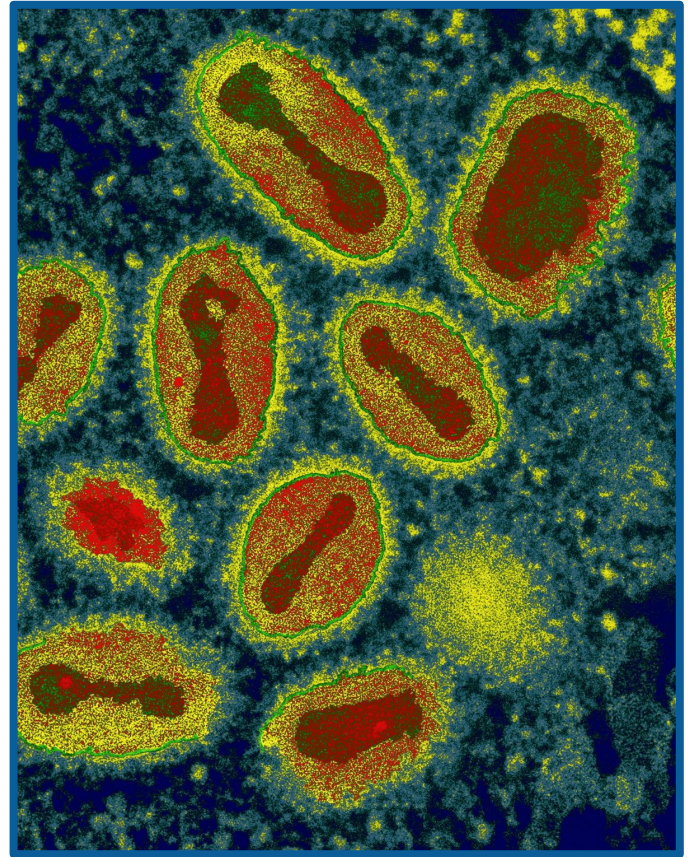


Dir. of National Economic Council

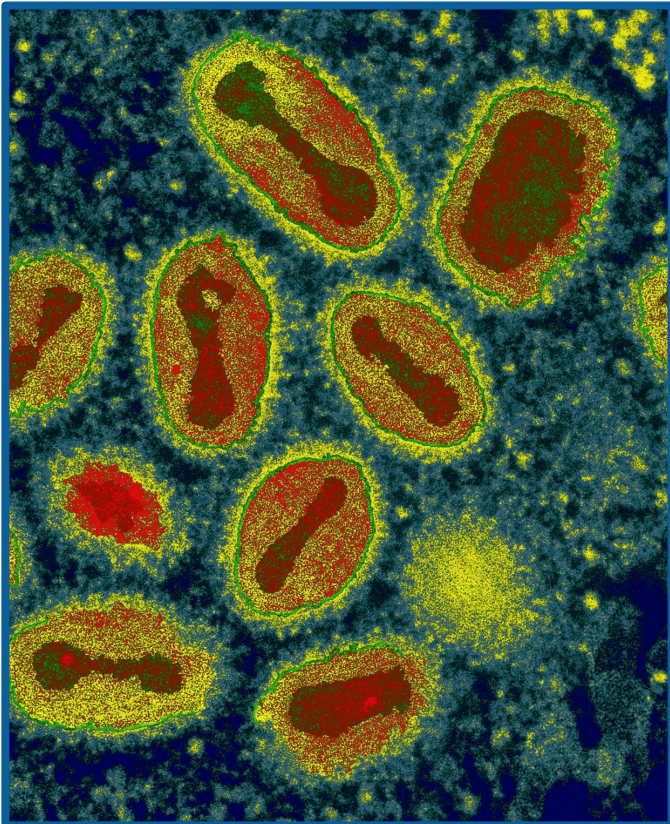


Characters

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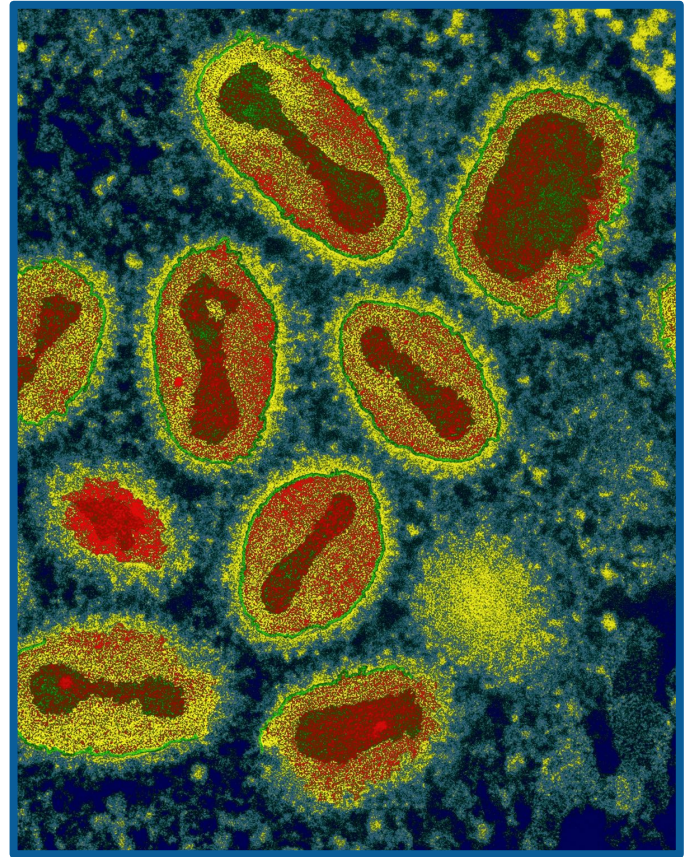


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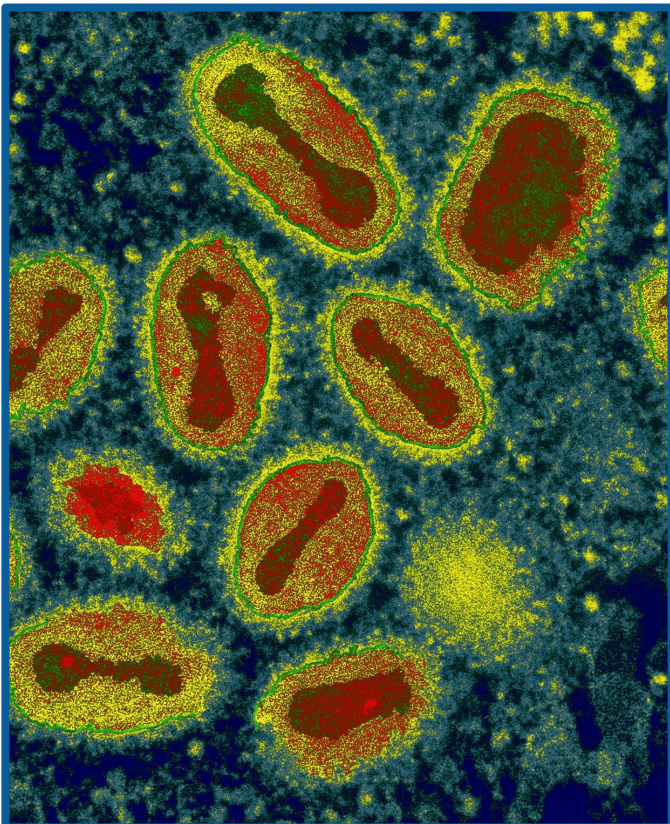


Characters

Sec. of Defence



Dir. of National Economic Council



APPENDIX & SOURCES

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APPENDIX & SOURCES

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