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To the Editor,
THE LANCET Infectious Diseases

Date 8 May 2020
Subject Submission review manuscript "Towards sensitive and accurate interpretation of molecular testing for SARS-CoV-2: essential knowledge and clinical implications"

Dear Dr (10)(2e)

Herewith we submit a review , entitled "Towards sensitive and accurate interpretation of molecular testing for SARS-CoV-2: essential knowledge and clinical implications " by K. Stanoeva et al. for publication in the Green section of The Lancet Infectious Diseases.

In the current phase of the COVID-19 pandemic countries are scaling up their molecular testing capacities to support exit strategies from economical and societal disrupting control measures. Sensitive testing strategies as well as correct test interpretation, especially with negative results, are critical.

Although SARS-CoV-2 has been known to the world for just 4 months, the amount of available literature is massive. In these times of the COVID-19 infodemic, extracting and digesting relevant information is nearly impossible. To support laboratory scientists, clinicians and Public Health authorities, we reviewed SARS-CoV-2 literature till May 2020. We systematically extracted existing knowledge (or lack thereof) relevant for molecular detection of SARS-CoV-2 based on 10,625 COVID-19 cases. With a broad readership in mind, we outline key points with direct implications for laboratory and clinical practice and provide the underlying study dataset for more in-depth data mining.

We believe this manuscript is of critical interest to the readers of The Lancet Infectious diseases as it provides a much needed thorough review of existing and absent evidence critical for accurate diagnosis of COVID-19 cases as part of clinical and Public Health decision making.

On behalf of the authors
Yours sincerely,

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Enclosure(s)
none