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Project Title	OPENCORONA
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Nature R-Report P-Prototype D-Demonstrator O=-Other	Report
Dissemination level **PU**-public **PP**-restricted to otherprogramme participants RE-restricted to a group of partners **CO**-only for consortium members	Public
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Description of deliverable

- **Completed**

Challenge protocols has been established in mice and ferrets.

In mice the hACE2 mice is susceptible to infection as described below. This model will be used to evaluate protection of infection after vaccination with the selected SARS-CoV-2 vaccine candidate/s.

In ferrets an infection study was performed to determine infectious dose and understand disease. The established model has thereafter been used to evaluate protection of infection after vaccination with the selected SARS-CoV-2 vaccine candidate/s.

Infection Protocols in mice:

SARS-CoV-2 infection of young and old BALB/c mice:

10 weeks (young) 7-8 months (old) BALB/c mice were Intranasally infected by either 10^5 or 10^3 pfu in a total of 20 ul medium (10 ul/nostril) of SARS-CoV-2. SARS-CoV-2 was isolated from a nasopharyngeal sample of a patient in Sweden on Vero E6 cells. Virus was titered using a plaque assay as previously described (Becker et al., 2008) with fixation of cells 72 hours post infection. The SARS-CoV-2 isolate was sequenced by Next-Generation Sequencing (Genbank accession number MT093571).

At 4 and/or 14 days post infection mice were sacrificed, and serum, lung, liver, spleen and kidney were collected for detection of infectious virus particles, viral RNA and antibodies against SARS-CoV-2.

No or very low levels of viral RNA detected in these mice. No clinical symptoms detected. This model will not be further evaluated within this project.

SARS-CoV-2 infection of hACE2 mice:

K18-hACE2 transgenic mice express human ACE2, the receptor used by severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus (SARS-CoV) to gain cellular entry. The human keratin 18 promoter directs expression to epithelia, including airway epithelia where infections typically begin. Because K18-hACE2 are susceptible to SARS-CoV-2 and SARS-CoV viruses, they are useful for studying antiviral therapies to COVID-19 and SARS. 14 weeks old K18 female mice (B6.CgTg(K18ACE2)2Prlmn/J, Hemizygot) were infected 10^5 pfu in a total of 40 ul medium (20 ul/nostril). SARS-CoV-2 was isolated from a nasopharyngeal sample of a patient in Sweden on Vero E6 cells. Virus was titered using a plaque assay as previously described (Becker et al., 2008) with fixation of cells 72 hours post infection. The SARS-CoV-2 isolate was sequenced by Next-Generation Sequencing (Genbank accession number MT093571).

Mice were sacrificed every 2 days post infection**.** At euthanasia, collection of nasal lavage sample, serum, lung, liver, spleen and kidney.

Viral RNA detectible in challenged animals. Clinical symptoms starting 4 days post infection. The hACE2 mice is a good model and will be used to evaluate protection against infection/disease after vaccination.

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