

## **COVID-19 and More: Global Health Problem Solvers Headquartered in Missouri**

As leaders in biosafety with pandemic preparedness and infectious disease, Kansas City-based MRIGlobal is engaged in the study of SARS-CoV-2 corona virus/COVID-19 corona virus and its transmission. <https://www.mriglobal.org/expertise-posts/global-health-surveillance/>

Founded in 1944, MRIGlobal conducts applied scientific and engineering research in defense, health, and energy. Their work impacts the health and safety of millions of people around the world each year. MRIGlobal has a reputation for expertise in infectious disease, supporting global clients to predict, prevent, and control outbreaks such as Ebola and other coronaviruses like SARS and MERS. It's not surprising MRIGlobal is implementing programs for commercial and government stakeholders in the recent pandemic.

Here are few areas MRIGlobal is fast at work in today's health crisis:

**Evaluate the efficacy and safety of vaccines and therapeutics and develop diagnostic assays to detect COVID-19 in patients and in the environment.** Initially, MRIGlobal's focus in SARS-CoV-2 corona virus/COVID-19 was developing Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) assays, followed by further testing to obtain FDA clearance for the diagnostic assays. In addition, MRIGlobal evaluated the efficacy and safety of vaccines and therapeutics, including efforts to discover new antiviral candidates. Simultaneously, they are ramping up teams to support human clinical trials of medical countermeasures now under development.

<https://www.mriglobal.org/expertise/in-vitro-diagnostics/>

<https://www.mriglobal.org/expertise/human-health/>

**Develop and share biosafety procedures and offer subject matter expertise and training to partner organizations working with SARS-CoV-2 corona virus and COVID-19**

Beyond COVID-19, 2020 promises to be a banner year for changes to the global biosafety and biorisk management landscape. The imminent release of highly anticipated updates to foundational U.S. and World Health Organization (WHO) biosafety guidelines, combined with the late-2019 publication of the first international standard for laboratory biorisk management, means that biological laboratories around the world will be reevaluating their existing biosafety programs this year.

MRIGlobal has more than 75 years of experience in the support of internal and client biological laboratory research. For more than 20 years, MRIGlobal has supported biosafety and biorisk management program development in the U.S. and internationally. Credentialed safety experts are at the forefront of efforts to remain compliant in its own facilities, and clients rely on MRIGlobal to continue providing relevant, up-to-date site assessments and training around the world. <https://www.mriglobal.org/looking-ahead-at-2020s-changing-biosafety-landscape/>

**Develop and deploy flyable infectious disease biocontainment systems and mobile diagnostic laboratories that can be fielded wherever needed.** MRIGlobal's [CBCS units](#) have been used to

transport infected patients safely to medical treatment centers. (These biocontainment units have been featured in local and national media coverage recently.)

MRIGlobal also offers mobile lab design, fabrication and staffing, so you can take your lab and the experts to the field for fast answers.

<https://www.mriglobal.org/expertise/defense/laboratory-management-operations/mobile-lab-design-fabrication-and-staffing/>

### **MRIGlobal experts in various aspects of coronavirus include:**

Gene G. Olinger, Ph.D., MBA, Principal advisor Doctorate degree in microbiology and immunology with an emphasis in virology. His greatest expertise lies in BSL 1-4 biocontainment laboratories to include select agents and serving on various global health committees.

Lolly Gardiner MBA, RBP, SM (NCRM), RBP Program Manager, BS&S Global Bio Engagement Specialties include Biological Safety and Security, Laboratory Start-up, Staff Training and Development

Dean Gray, Ph.D., MBA, MRIGlobal's Defense program Director of Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance division, Dr. Gray is responsible for the institute's portfolio of programs in national security and defense, including mobile diagnostic laboratories and biocontainment systems for the safe transport of infected patients to medical treatment centers.

As leaders in biosafety with pandemic preparedness expertise, MRIGlobal shares its expertise:

#### **In case you missed it:**

Reddit: MRIGlobal answered COVID-19/SARS-CoV-2 questions.

Recently (March 4, 2020) on Reddit ("the front page of the internet") MRIGlobal experts were available on to answer COVID-19/SARS-CoV-2 questions. ([Here is a link to the AMA.](#))

Upvotes and comments/questions rolling in from all over the world.

Plus: -Reddit's Community Managers reached out to MRIGlobal to make their AMA "Reddit Verified" and to invited MRIGlobal to be included in the team of experts on the global coronavirus situation and listed the MRIGlobal AMA & our experts on the [Reddit blog](#).

-The AMA was also posted on the r/Coronavirus, r/WorldNews, r/China\_Flu, and r/KansasCity subreddits. It was the top science AMA for that week.

#### **Dateline China: MRIGlobal Dr. Gene Olinger cited in "Coronavirus vs the human immune system: The brutal microscopic war for survival"**

Read all about it in the March 14 South China Morning Post by Hong Kong-based reporter Simone McCarthy. MRIGlobal's Dr. Gene Olinger explains what we know about the body's immune response to SARS-CoV-2 on a cellular level; how the virus evades detection and attacks cells; and the challenges for the body's immune response.

<https://www.scmp.com/news/china/society/article/3075165/coronavirus-how-sneezes-coughs-and-fevers-set-stage-brutal>

If you're looking for assistance with your programs, please contact MRIGlobal, a Kansas City resource with international impact. Visit at [MRIGlobal.org](http://MRIGlobal.org)

**More about MRIGlobal**

The work of Kansas City-based MRIGlobal impacts health and safety around the world. From defense, and energy to health, since 1944, its scientists and engineers serve government, industry and academia. MRIGlobal spearheaded global health initiatives to help people with Ebola, cancer, Alzheimer's, HIV, and coronavirus such as SARS and MERS.