

UK Variant Sues South African and Brazilian Variants Over Rights to N501Y Substitution

(London, ENG). Citing blatant copywrite infringement, attorneys for the SARS-CoV-2 UK variant, known officially as B.1.1.7, have issued a cease and desist order against South African “copy-cat” B.1.351 and the Brazilian upstart, P.1. Included in the order is a requirement for both strains to immediately revert the tyrosine substitution at position 501 of the spike protein back to asparagine, an alteration that is believed to enhance the ability of SARS-CoV-2 to bind the ACE2 surface receptor and enter cells. In addition, lawyers for B.1.1.7 have demanded that infection and mortality statistics currently attributed to B.1.351 and P.1 be transferred immediately to the rightful UK strain. Arguing against the charges, legal representatives for B.1.351 and P.1 emphatically maintained that their clients independently came up with the N501Y and that it would be nigh impossible to accurately determine the precise timeline for these inventions. In addition, attorneys for B.1.351 and P.1 point out the many additional changes developed by these strains, which they maintain have contributed to their clients’ success. Nevertheless, B.1.1.7 lawyers note the suspicious timeline and the announcement of N501Y in both strains well after the UK mutation set was made public. Speaking publicly for the first time, B.1.1.7 recalled the “extensive history” of inventiveness and creativity often displayed by inhabitants of the virus’ home island nation. “You want proof, how about the British invasion and punk rock?” asked the UK variant rhetorically. “Seriously, name three majorly influential bands from the heyday of rock and roll, say the mid-sixties to the mid-seventies, that aren’t from the UK. You literally can’t!” argued the viral strain that has upended human civilization and caused untold suffering. “You want to talk about infection waves, how about new wave? Cause we invented that too!” added the lethal packet of protein and RNA. As of press time, no date has been set for an expected settlement.

