SARS-CoV-2 RNA can be reverse-transcribed to be part of chimeric viral-human genome

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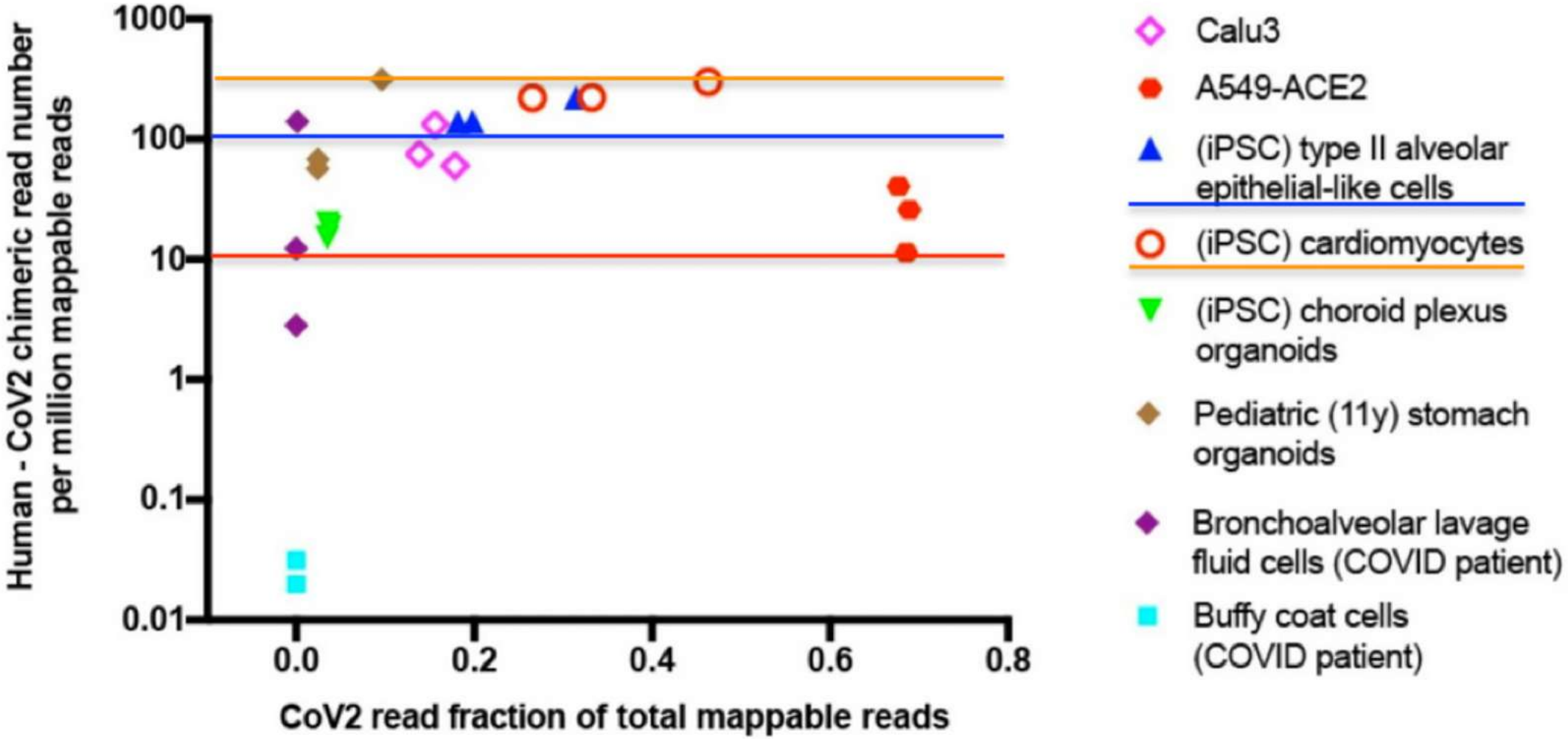
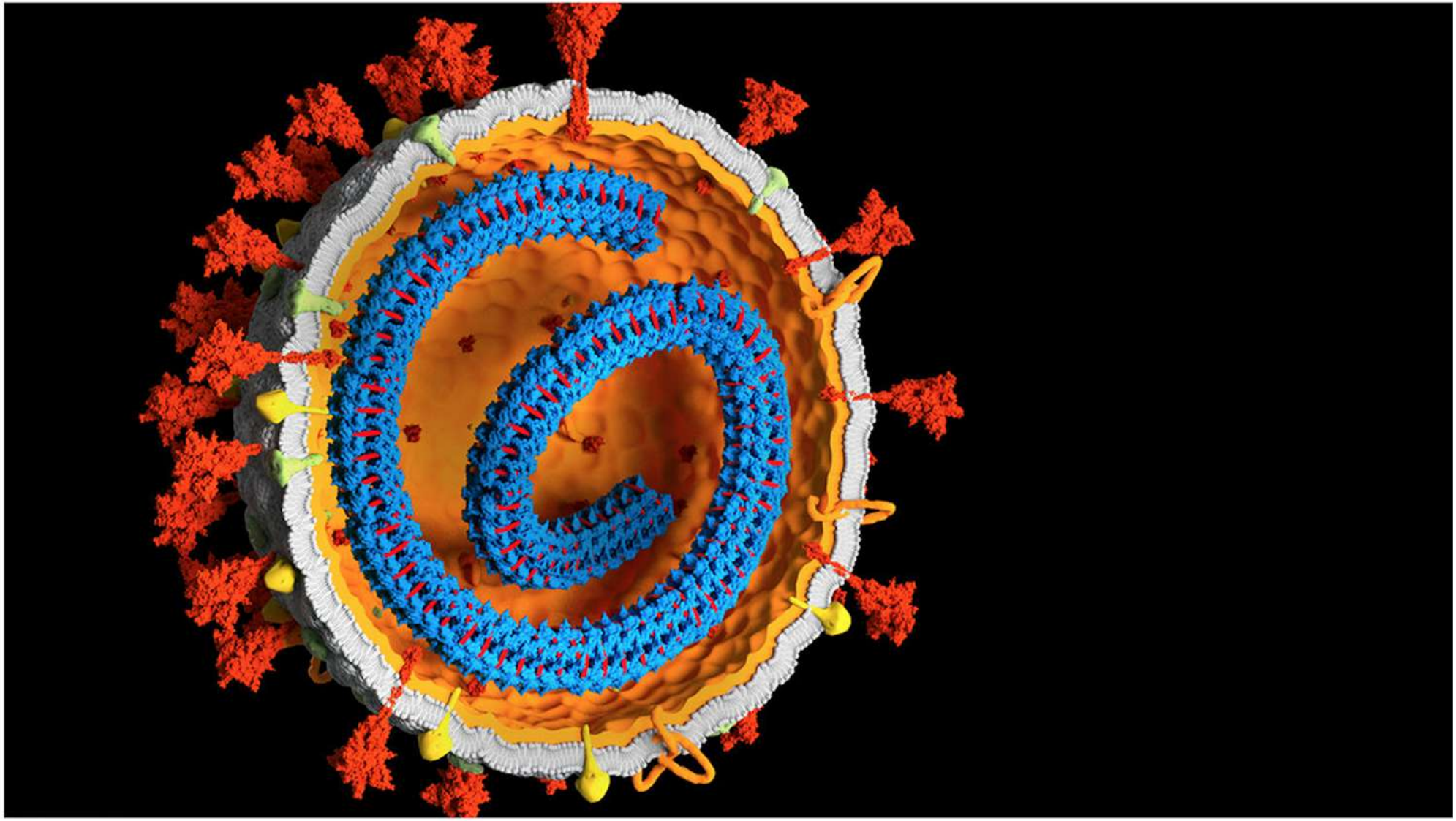
By Dr. Liji Thomas, MD Dec 16 2020

As the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic continues to take its toll on human life and economic activity, reports have emerged about the repeated positive tests and continued shedding of the virus for weeks and months after clinical recovery.

A study appearing as a preprint on the *bioRxiv** server in December 2020 reveals that the genome of the severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus-2 (SARS-CoV-2) is inserted into the human genome, accounting for the detection of viral RNAs, even in late convalescence.



News Medical SARS-CoV-2 RNA can be reverse-transcribed



Lab studies of genetically engineered human cells suggest the RNA (blue) of SARS-CoV-2 could convert to DNA in infected people and slip into their chromosomes.

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Further evidence supports controversial claim that SARS-CoV-2 genes can integrate with human DNA