Thanks for your email. I apologise if there has been a misunderstanding or miscommunication on our side.

Firstly, I should clarify that I sought advice from the EPA regarding the Liberia ABS requirements in light of your role as the named ABS NFP in Liberia. I understand that the EPA and the FDA oversee applicable regulations and have permit/approval requirements.

For avoidance of doubt, please note that the Cambridge wishes to work together with FDA and EPA bodies in order to obtain any new approvals required to allow the Zoology museum to store use the spider samples in non-commercial research.

For clarity, I have structured my email into 3 parts as follows:

1. I checked if my understanding of your email was correct
2. I asked some further questions regarding ABS requirements
3. I proposed several actions in response to you

**A. Matters to address:**

As I understand, there are two related matters:

1. FDA/EPA checks that the correct FDA permits/permissions were obtained by researchers who collected these samples in the original research study
2. Clarification regarding what, if any, new permits/permissions must be obtained to permit the zoology museum in Cambridge to store and use the spider samples for non-commercial research

Please let me know if this is correct. As required, please correct any potential misunderstandings (*action #1).*

If you believe it is appropriate, could you please include the relevant FDA contact point into this email so they can participate in this discussion? (*action #2).*

**B. Questions**

As a next step, I would like to better clarify the University’s understanding of the Liberian ABS rules with respect to non-commercial research involving genetic resources (such as these spider specimens) that requires various different permits issued FDA and EPA.

I would be grateful if you could please answer these questions:

1. Has Liberia implemented access requirements for users of genetic resources?
2. If yes, when did Liberia implement access requirements? (According to the [Libera interim report](https://absch.cbd.int/en/countries/LR), there were no access measures as of June 2018 – q7, q8, q38)
3. Could you please explain the access procedure in Liberia? In particular, we would appreciate further details:
   1. What are the steps in the access procedure?
   2. Is PIC and/or MAT required?
   3. If yes, what body provides PIC and MAT?
   4. Aside from PIC/MAT, what other permissions/approvals must be obtained from EPA and FDA to permit the access, export and utilisation of spider samples?
   5. Should the PIC/MAT/other permits be obtained in a specific order? (e.g. 1. obtain collection permit from FDA as PIC, 2. Submit ABS application to EPA, 3. negotiate MAT with EPA and 4. obtain an export permit from FDA?)
   6. What documents must the University provide to the EPA in order to seek ABS clearance?
4. What approvals must Cambridge seek from the EPA to allow our Zoology museum to store and use Liberian spider samples for non-commercial research?

Your clarifications to questions 1-4 above will help me to:

1. provide the relevant permit documentation in response to your request *(action #4)*
2. submit a new ABS application to permit the Cambridge Zoology museum to store and use the spider samples from Liberia (*action #5)*
3. Liaise with the FDA (who collaborated on the original study that collected the spiders) in order to address the EPA request to return the spider samples (*action #6*)

I note your concern that the FDA cannot account for the permits that were issued. It is my understanding that the required permits were obtained for the original study. I am keen to check these details with the FDA in order to confirm this is the case.

**C. Proposed actions:**

For your convenience, I have summarised the proposed actions in this email:

1. The EPA confirms whether my understanding is correct (and provides corrections)
2. The EPA adds the relevant FDA contact point to this email
3. The EPA answers questions 1-4 (with involvement from the FDA?)
4. In response to EPA/FDA clarifications to these questions, Cambridge will share the reference number and evidence of the relevant FDA permits with the FDA
5. In response to the EPA clarifications, Cambridge will submit an ABS proposal to the EPA to seek ABS clearance for the Zoology museum to use the spider samples
6. Cambridge will update the researchers involved on the original study regarding the EPA request to return the spider samples. (Please note: individuals in the FDA were involved in the collection of the spider samples in the original study)

Please do advise whether alternative actions are required and/or propose further actions required.

Best wishes,

Sinead