Date: Fri, 21 Jul 2023 1:24:54 PM -0400
Sent: Fri, 21 Jul 2023 1:24:08 PM -0400
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Fwd: angie rasmussen on pbs newshour now discussing viral origins
From: David Morens (b) (6)
To: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b) (6)

David M. Morens, MD
(b) (6)

(b) (6) (work)
(cell)

IMPORTANT: My gmail frequently sends incoming messages to Trash, which is apparently not correctable. If you don't hear from me in a reasonable time, please try again, call, or use my NIH email address

IMPORTANT: For US Government-related email, please also reply to my NIAID address

---------- Forwarded message ---------
From: **Hotez, Peter Jay** (b) (6)
Date: Wed, Jul 27, 2022 at 11:02 PM
Subject: Re: angie rasmussen on pbs newshour now discussing viral origins
To: Keusch, Gerald T (b) (6)
Cc: David Morens (b) (6) , Peter Daszak (b) (6) , Rich Roberts <
(b) (6) Aleksei Chmura (b) (6) Greg Folkers <
(b) (6) Jeffery Taubenberger (b) (6)

I'm hoping the Worobey paper in Science may help turn the tide

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP
Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine
Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology
Health Policy Scholar
Baylor College of Medicine

Texas Children's Hospital Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics
Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development

University Professor, Baylor University

Faculty Fellow, Hagler Institute for Advanced Study
Senior Fellow, Scowcroft Institute of International Affairs
Texas A&M University
Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty and Adjunct Professor of Bioengineering, Rice University
Adjunct Professor, University of Texas, School of Public Health

Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

E-mail: (b) (6)
Twitter: @peterhotez
Skype: (b) (6)
Linkedin Peter Hotez

Amazon Author Center: https://www.amazon.com/Peter- J.-Hotez/e/B001HPIC48
Daily Beast Contributor https://www.thedailybeast.com/author/peter- j-hotez
Like us on Facebook https://www.facebook.com/BCMNationalSchoolOfTropicalMedicine/

Support: Douglas Soriano
(b) (6)
Phone (b) (6)
Fax: 713-798-2299

iPhone

On Jul 27, 2022, at 8:54 PM, Keusch, Gerald T (b) (6) wrote:

She cleaned up her act and was just as compelling, but not such a hoot as she is in tweets. Thanks for alerting me so I made sure I saw the PBS Newshour tonight.

Jerry

Sent from my iPhone

On Jul 27, 2022, at 6:56 PM, David Morens (b) (6) wrote:

Sent from my iPhone

David M Morens

OD, NIAID, NIH

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and are confident the content is safe.

Date: Tue, 1 Nov 2022 8:15:11 PM -0400
Sent: Tue, 1 Nov 2022 8:15:01 PM -0400
Subject: Jeff Sachs moderated a Lancet Commission webinar on COVID-19 origins this morning
From: Jeffrey Sturchio [redacted] b6
To: Hotez, Peter Jay [redacted] b6 Keusch, Gerald T [redacted] b6 Peter Daszak [redacted] b6 Aleksei Chmura [redacted] b6 >; Rich Roberts [redacted] b6 David Morens [redacted] b6
Attachments: Ebright slide SDSN 20221101.jpg

All: I listened in this morning on the webinar on COVID-19 origins that Jeff Sachs moderated under the auspices of the Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN). I wasn't able to stay until the end of the Q&A, but I did hear the three main presentations. Sachs said that he plans to post the recording of the session (on SDSN?). This was the first of three planned webinars – the second (on global health financing) will take place on November 22, the third (on health system strengthening) on December 8.

Sachs served as moderator. His introduction was fairly mundane. His basic premise was that there are two "absolutely viable" hypotheses for the origin of COVID-19 – either zoonotic or due to a lab leak. (Note that the language he uses – "absolutely viable" – obscures the fact that the evidence differs significantly for each of the two hypotheses. But this was a bias that ran through all of the presentations.) He then argued that we need to follow both lines of inquiry equally, to have a proper understanding of both possibilities. He alluded to the bimodal distribution of most discussion of these questions – with "mainstream media" coming down on natural origins, and "alternate media" arguing for laboratory origins (including in this Senator Burr's Senate Minority Report). He then turned to two "leading scientists" and a "leading reporter" for further perspectives.

The speakers were Alina Chan (Broad Institute), Richard Ebright (Rutgers University) and Emily Kopp (US Right to Know) – no great surprises there.

Alina Chan's main argument was that there is not enough evidence to decide which hypothesis is true, and that all the evidence is circumstantial. She did say that there is no argument over the fact that the pandemic originated in spillover from bats – just a difference of opinion on how and where this happened.

She presented a set of factors that would explain the chain of causation for each of the two hypotheses:

<u>Natural origins</u>
- Earliest cases handled live animals?
- Were there infected animals in markets or farms?
- Were there animal variants of the virus?
- Was there antibody evidence of infected animals or traders (not presenting with pneumonia)?

- Was there a strong wildlife conduit between known bat reservoirs and the outbreak site?

She then claimed that none of these have been established for SARS-CoV-2, and thus we can't say that natural origins hypothesis is true.

Lab leak
- WIV was the HQ for virus hunting program targeting both animals and humans
- WIV found and developed SARS-CoV-2-like viruses by 2013
- WIV did advanced work with virus isolates and "seamless clones"
- Live virus work was done in BSL2 and BSL3 environments, which could not contain airborne viruses
- WIV and collaborators were planning to insert furin cleavage sites in different viruses (she referred to a "pipeline" of risky research and made a big deal of the rejected DARPA proposal, for which the research was never done)

Her conclusion: evidence is not definitive for either hypothesis, but these aspects of research at the WIV were "very concerning" and thus we need to investigate both conclusions.

Richard Ebright was then asked what should be done about improving the oversight of research in this area from the perspective of biosafety, biosecurity, and biorisk management. He concurred with Sachs and Chan that the available data do not enable a choice between the two hypotheses of COVID-19 origin. But regardless of where one stood on this question, the research by EcoHealth Alliance, WIV, and their collaborators – according to Ebright – used inadequate biosafety protocols and lacked transparency. Again, according to him, this points to, but does not prove, a research spillover as the origin of COVID-19.

I've attached a screen shot of the slide he shared that lays out his bill of complaint. As you can see, he's fixated on the work that WIV and EHA did from 2016-2019, arguing that, while this doesn't prove laboratory origins, it "exceeds the standard of probable cause" and provides "ample basis to initiate investigation and ample basis to improve oversight." (Like Chan, he also made much of EHA's rejected DARPA proposal, trying to use it as a "smoking gun" for malign intent by EHA and WIV, despite the fact that this research was never done!)

He spent most of his time, however, outlining a basis for and recommendations for improved research regulation and oversight in biosafety, biosecurity, and bio risk management.

Sachs and Ebright had an exchange about the recent news of the creation of a variant of COVID-19 that appeared to be more virulent than Omicron, without the "knowledge or approval of NIH." This was evidence for both of them of the need for enhanced oversight.

Emily Kopp, an investigative journalist with US Right to Know, then made a breathless presentation about her attempts to bring the truth about COVID-19 origins to light through FOIAs and dogged persistence. The gravamen of her complaint is that much of the relevant research has been underwritten by NIH, DOD, and USAID with taxpayer funds, and conducted in the US (at EHA, University of North Carolina, University of Texas, and UC Davis), yet she and her colleagues have had to file dozens of FOIA requests and lawsuits to get access to what they consider to be relevant information.

She reviewed five categories of evidence:

1. EHA progress reports to the NIH: She noted that the Intercept is going after 31 EHA NIH proposals and over 1000 other documents not yet released. They also plan to go after EHA Board members and collaborators at the U of Maryland and UC Davis.

2. USAID databases from PREDICT.

3. NIH bioinformatics databases for sequence data from WIV: She was quite exercised about the "apathy" of NIH at not going through archived sequences to provide the information that USRTK wants.

4. The Baric Lab at UNC: She said as yet there are few clues to planned work on genetic engineering techniques here.

5. Department of Defense: Again, she railed about the lack of transparency about the rejected EHA DARPA proposal, which she claimed DARPA tried to conceal. She also mentioned data from PREEMPT.

She then claimed that the public can't trust the credibility and integrity of the NIH on these matters, since they tried to obscure the existence of relevant data – and event tried to obscure the involvement of other scientists in the discussion of COVID-19 origins in the conversations that led to the *Nature Medicine* correspondence in 2020 (I lost her here – the discussion became very "inside baseball"). She concluded with a plea that the public deserves more clarity about the pandemic's early days.

Sachs then threw her a softball about the *Nature Medicine* correspondence, inviting her to tell the listeners how it appeared that NIH was trying to obscure who came up with the zoonotic origins theory (and then didn't credit those authors on the publication). She then said that the virologists who were on this correspondence have continued "to be aggressive about natural origins and to marginalize other theories" – asking (rhetorically) if they have shown integrity.

Sachs then said that all of this information had to be pried out of the NIH and the USG, rather than being offered transparently. He showed how the NIAID had

redacted most of the 300-page COVID strategic plan of April 2020, and also made a point of saying that Robert Redfield had wanted to attend today's webinar but couldn't, noting that he believes a lab leak is more likely – and that he was shut down by NIH when he tried to call for further investigation. Sachs then teased that there may be new revelations that the WIV and US scientists were implicated in evidence that COVID-19 emerged in China before December 2019. (This latter evidence-free speculation seems to refer to Mike Pompeo's evidence-free contention that the USG had evidence of this – but that evidence has never materialized.)

Sachs then reiterated his contention that both hypotheses need further investigation – and that the relevant information may be in the US, not China. We need an independent, rigorous, transparent scientific investigation. (Despite this language, I think you can sense from my summary of the webinar that Sachs is actually shading the argument toward his belief that COVID-19 had a laboratory origin.)

I wasn't able to stay on for the Q&A, but we should be able to review the rest of the session when Sachs posts the recording.

Hope this is helpful.

As ever,
Jeff

Date:	Fri, 16 Apr 2021 4:55:07 PM -0400
Sent:	Fri, 16 Apr 2021 4:50:54 PM -0400
Subject:	It doesn't rain, but it pours... Request from Republicans in House Committee & information re. requirement for biosafety monitoring reports for our current CREID funding at NIH
From:	Peter Daszak [b6]
To:	Keusch, Gerald T [b6] David Morens [b6] Roberts, Rich [b6]
Attachments:	[b6] - EHA Letter re COVID Origins.pdf; EHA letter - Attachment A.pdf

Just to let you know today I received a letter from the Minority on the House Committee on Energy and Commerce with about 20+ questions re. our work with China. Some of it is frankly offensive and clearly has racist overtone, e.g. name our Mandarin-speaking staff at EcoHealth! In any case, I've passed it on to our lawyers, and I believe I don't have to either acknowledge receipt, or respond in any way. I've cc'd the letters here, so you can get a feel for the sort of gibberish they're putting out. It's largely direct quotes from conspiracy theorists on the web, and actually cites some of them. These shouldn't be made public yet, because I'm not responding and it just amplifies conspiracies.

The second point is regarding the request from Lauer for details of our biosafety monitoring documents over the last 7 yrs. I think this is bogus because I remember they re-issued our Notice of Award for our current U01 with a new clause on providing copies of our "Biosafety Monitoring Plans" 30 days after setting up a subcontract. Why would Lauer on the one hand say this is encoded in the CFR, but then have program staff insert a new clause to our NoA to demand it. Anyway, I checked with one of the other contracts that's been awarded in the same CREID program and they were not asked for this, so it's simply targeting EHA directly with extra onerous process to cover NIH's demands and mistakes related to the R01 termination, I believe.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: [b6]
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

Disclaimer

The information contained in this communication from the sender is confidential. It is intended solely for use by the recipient and others authorized to receive it. If you are not the recipient, you are hereby notified that any disclosure, copying, distribution or taking action in relation of the contents of this information is strictly prohibited and may be unlawful.

This email has been scanned for viruses and malware, and may have been automatically archived by Mimecast, a leader in email security and cyber resilience. Mimecast integrates email defenses with brand protection, security awareness training, web security, compliance and other essential capabilities. Mimecast helps protect large and small organizations from malicious activity, human error and technology failure; and to lead the movement toward building a more resilient world. To find out more, visit our website.

Date:	Thu, 19 May 2022 6:04:16 PM -0400
Sent:	Thu, 19 May 2022 6:03:25 PM -0400
Subject:	RE: Jeff Sachs causing trouble via a PNAS article
From:	"Keusch, Gerald T" b6
To:	Roberts, Rich b6 >; Peter Daszak b6 Hotez, Peter Jay b6 >;
CC:	David Morens b6 >; Jeffrey Sturchio b6 >; Aleksei Chmura b6
Attachments:	image001.jpg; image002.jpg; image003.jpg; image004.jpg; image005.jpg; image006.jpg; image007.jpg; image008.jpg; image009.jpg; image010.jpg; image011.jpg; image012.jpg; image013.jpg; Harrison and Sachs 2022 Call for an independent inquiry into the origin of SARS-CoV-2 virus PNAS.pdf

Here it is Rich. Abysmal piece of writing. Shame on PNAS!

From: Roberts, Rich b6
Sent: Thursday, May 19, 2022 5:48 PM
To: Peter Daszak b6 >; Hotez, Peter Jay b6
Cc: David Morens b6 >; Keusch, Gerald T b6 Jeffrey Sturchio b6 >; Aleksei Chmura b6
Subject: RE: Jeff Sachs causing trouble via a PNAS article

Peter:

I don't do Twitter. Can someone send me Peter's piece please?

Thanks

Rich

Richard J. Roberts
New England Biolabs
240 County Road
Ipswich, MA 01938-2723
USA
Tel: b6 b6
Fax: (978) 412 9910
email: b6

From: Peter Daszak b6
Sent: Thursday, May 19, 2022 5:41 PM
To: Hotez, Peter Jay b6
Cc: Roberts, Rich b6 ; David Morens b6 ; Keusch, Gerald T b6 Jeffrey Sturchio b6 Aleksei Chmura b6
Subject: RE: Jeff Sachs causing trouble via a PNAS article

EXTERNAL SENDER

Just read it now Peter – it's already getting amplified. Extremely glad you did this.

The response from virologists on the furin cleavage site garbage in his PNAS piece will be pretty damning…it's been discussed,

debated and debunked for 2 years now!

Meanwhile, the witch hunt continues…

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: b6
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

---

From: Hotez, Peter Jay <b6
Sent: Thursday, May 19, 2022 5:36 PM
To: Peter Daszak b6
Cc: Roberts, Rich b6 David Morens b6 ; Keusch, Gerald T b6
Jeffrey Sturchio b6 ; Aleksei Chmura b6 g >
Subject: Re: Jeff Sachs causing trouble via a PNAS article

I just put out a thread on Twitter to point out why Jeff's article does not hold much water even on scientific grounds

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP
Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine
Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology
Health Policy Scholar
Baylor College of Medicine

Texas Children's Hospital Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics
Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development

University Professor, Baylor University

Faculty Fellow, Hagler Institute for Advanced Study
Senior Fellow, Scowcroft Institute of International Affairs

Texas A&M University
Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty and Adjunct Professor of Bioengineering, Rice University
Adjunct Professor, University of Texas, School of Public Health

Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

E-mail: b6
Twitter: @peterhotez
Skype: b6
Linkedin Peter Hotez

Amazon Author Center: https://www.amazon.com/Peter- J.-Hotez/e/B001HPIC48
Daily Beast Contributor https://www.thedailybeast.com/author/peter- j-hotez
Like us on Facebook https://www.facebook.com/BCMNationalSchoolOfTropicalMedicine/

Senior Coordinator / Executive Support: Douglas Soriano
b6
Phone: b6
Fax: 713-798-2299

iPhone

On May 19, 2022, at 4:27 PM, Peter Daszak b6 > wrote:

What's really irksome is that this article in PNAS is full of errors and misunderstandings.

I haven't read the whole thing, but just about every paragraph contains an erroneous assumption that could easily be refuted, e.g.:

- "EHA, UNC, NIH, USAID, and other research partners have failed to disclose their activities to the US scientific community and the US public, instead declaring that they were not involved in any experiments that could have resulted in the emergence of SARS-CoV-2." BS – we published dozens of papers on our work (they're on our website!) and sent reports in to NIH each year. We also gave hundreds of public lectures on this and spoke with the intelligence agencies about it.

  "The exact details of the fieldwork and laboratory work of the EHA-WIV-UNC partnership, and the engagement of other institutions in the United States and China, has not been disclosed for independent analysis." BS – that's what happens when you publish peer-reviewed papers. Maybe Sachs has forgotten how that works!

  "Much of the work on SARS-like CoVs performed in Wuhan was part of an active and highly collaborative US–China scientific research program funded by the US Government (NIH, Defense Threat Reduction Agency [DTRA], and US Agency for International Development [USAID]), coordinated by researchers at EcoHealth Alliance (EHA), but involving researchers at several other US institutions." Wrong again – DoD DTRA do not

MORENS_SUBPOENA_011292
MORENS_NIH_022073
REL0000477344

and have not funded work in China, let alone the Wuhan lab.

"The precise nature of the experiments that were conducted, including the full array of viruses collected from the field and the subsequent sequencing and manipulation of those viruses, remains unknown." BS – all 'viruses' collected from the field have been published already.

"These research proposals make clear that the EHA-WIV-UNC collaboration was involved in the collection of a large number of so-far undocumented SARS-like viruses and was engaged in their manipulation within biological safety level (BSL)-2 and BSL-3 laboratory facilities, raising concerns that an airborne virus might have infected a laboratory worker (9)" BS – there were only 3 SARS-related CoVs isolated in China. All the rest are simply genetic sequences of a short read of the RdRp gene, with a few dozen full genomes. It's all in the scientific papers that Sachs hasn't bothered to read.

And so on, and so forth.

Honestly, it would take me about a day to go through this paper and rebut every single error and misconception, but who's got time for that!

By the way – all of these questions have been asked repeatedly on Twitter, by journalists, by the FBI and CIA, and by hundreds of people who've spoken with me over the last 2 years. I've answered them all, now I have to do it all again, and again, and again. Problem I see here is that he just doesn't believe me, so the only option is for my laptop to be downloaded in front of a Great Inquisition, led by an eminent person such as…dare I say…Professor Sachs himself.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: b6
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

---

From: Hotez, Peter Jay <b6>
Sent: Thursday, May 19, 2022 4:58 PM
To: Roberts, Rich <b6>
Cc: Peter Daszak <b6>; David Morens <b6>; Keusch, Gerald T < b6 >; Jeffrey Sturchio <b6>; Aleksei Chmura <b6>
Subject: Re: Jeff Sachs causing trouble via a PNAS article

MORENS_SUBPOENA_011293
MORENS_NIH_022074
REL0000477344

How could PNAS publish this crap?

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP
Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine
Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology
Health Policy Scholar
Baylor College of Medicine

Texas Children's Hospital Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics
Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development

University Professor, Baylor University

Faculty Fellow, Hagler Institute for Advanced Study
Senior Fellow, Scowcroft Institute of International Affairs
Texas A&M University
Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty and Adjunct Professor of Bioengineering, Rice University
Adjunct Professor, University of Texas, School of Public Health

Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

E-mail: b6
Twitter: @peterhotez
Skype: b6
Linkedin Peter Hotez

Amazon Author Center: b6 J.-Hotez/e/B001HPIC48
Daily Beast Contributor b6 j-hotez
Like us on Facebook https://www.facebook.com/BCMNationalSchoolOfTropicalMedicine/

Senior Coordinator / Executive Support: Douglas Soriano
b6
Phone: b6
Fax: 713-798-2299

iPhone

On May 19, 2022, at 3:54 PM, Roberts, Rich b6 wrote:

MORENS_SUBPOENA_011294
MORENS_NIH_022075
REL0000477344

Peter:

As you say more nonsense. My opinion of Sachs is waning rapidly.

Rich

Richard J. Roberts
New England Biolabs
240 County Road
Ipswich, MA 01938-2723
USA
Tel: b6 b6
Fax: (978) 412 9910
email: b6

From: Peter Daszak [b6]>
Sent: Thursday, May 19, 2022 4:32 PM
To: Hotez, Peter Jay <[b6]; David Morens <[b6]
Cc: Keusch, Gerald T <[b6] Jeffrey Sturchio [b6] Aleksei Chmura <[b6] Roberts, Rich[b6]>
Subject: Jeff Sachs causing trouble via a PNAS article
Importance: High

EXTERNAL SENDER

Looks like Sachs has been taken down yet another rabbit hole by a scientist at Columbia (Harrison) who doesn't work in the field, and is just plain wrong. It's the old Furin cleavage site hypothesis again, without any new data or evidence. Of course, that's their point – the lack of evidence means we're all hiding information and need to be hung, drawn and quartered.

They've published an opinion piece in PNAS (attached) and there's this article in 'The Intercept'. Ebright is quoted, of course!

https://theintercept.com/2022/05/19/covid- lab-leak-evidence-jeffrey-sachs/

All this will be put straight into the subpoena letters that we've been told by Democrat staffers to expect to arrive in Jan/Feb 2023 when the Republicans take over the house (their words, not mine).

Blue/Bloomberg via Getty Images

JEFFREY SACHS PRESENTS EVIDENCE OF POSSIBLE LAB ORIGIN OF COVID-19

An article in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences calls for an independent investigation of information held by U.S.-based institutions that could shed light on the origins of Covid.



Sharon Lerner
May 19 2022, 4:00 p.m.

IN AN ARTICLE published Thursday, economist Jeffrey Sachs called for an independent investigation of information held by U.S.-based institutions that could shed light on the origins of the Covid-19 pandemic. Writing in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, Sachs and his co-author, Neil Harrison, a Columbia University professor of molecular pharmacology and therapeutics, said that federal agencies and universities possess evidence that has not been adequately reviewed, including virus databases, biological samples, viral sequences, email communications, and laboratory notebooks. Sachs and Harrison also highlighted a tantalizing scientific detail that may be an indication that SARS-CoV-2, the coronavirus that causes Covid-19, originated in a laboratory: a sequence of eight amino acids on a critical part of the virus's spike protein that is identical to an amino acid sequence found in cells that line human airways.

Sachs and Harrison are hardly the first to suggest that SARS-CoV-2 might have been created in a lab. Since its genetic sequence was first published in February 2020, scientists have puzzled over the furin cleavage site, an area on the virus's spike that allows it to be broken apart by a protein on the membrane of human cells and makes the coronavirus particularly dangerous to people. Once split, the virus releases its genetic material into the cell and reproduces. While all viruses work by attaching themselves to cells, breaking apart, and releasing their genetic material, SARS-CoV-2 is the only one of its class, sarbecoviruses, to use this particular mechanism to do so.

As with past discussion of a possible lab origin of SARS-CoV-2, this latest theory has already been met with considerable pushback. Even some scientists who are open to the idea that a lab accident could have sparked the pandemic remain unconvinced by the particular trail of evidence laid out by Sachs and Harrison.

The journal article offers a scientific road map for how this unusual sequence of amino acids could have made its way into the furin cleavage site, or FCS, of

MORENS_SUBPOENA_011296
MORENS_NIH_022077
REL0000477344

the virus. Sachs and Harrison acknowledge that the sequence could have arisen naturally. But they also lay out another possibility: that scientists might have purposefully inserted this particular string of amino acids into a bat coronavirus in the course of their work. They focus particularly on scientists who submitted an unfunded grant proposal to a division of the Defense Department called the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency, or DARPA, laying out plans to insert a furin cleavage site into a bat coronavirus.

"We do not know whether the insertion of the FCS was the result of natural evolution — perhaps via a recombination event in an intermediate mammal or a human — or was the result of a deliberate introduction of the FCS into a SARS-like virus as part of a laboratory experiment," Sachs and Harrison write. "We do know that the insertion of such FCS sequences into SARS-like viruses was a specific goal of work proposed by the EHA-WIV-UNC partnership within a 2018 grant proposal ("DEFUSE") that was submitted to the US Defense Advanced Research Projects (DARPA)."

EHA is a reference to EcoHealth Alliance, a nonprofit research group based in New York City that has received more than $118 million in grants and contracts from federal agencies. WIV, or the Wuhan Institute of Virology, is a Chinese research organization that collaborated with EcoHealth Alliance in the past and was listed as a subcontractor on the DARPA grant. UNC is mentioned because Ralph Baric, a molecular biologist at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, was to have conducted part of the work pitched to DARPA. The grant proposal touted Baric's "two-decade track record of reverse engineering [coronavirus] and other virus spike proteins."

The intent of the DARPA proposal was to prevent emerging pathogenic threats, but the work, if conducted, could have created a novel virus capable of infecting humans. "We will introduce appropriate human-specific cleavage sites and evaluate growth potential in [a type of mammalian cell commonly used in microbiology] and [human airway epithelial cell] cultures," the proposal stated.

Several scientists interviewed about the DARPA proposal in September told The Intercept that scientists often begin research before seeking funding and thus that some of the experiments described in the proposal could have already been completed. But when asked about that possibility in an interview, Peter Daszak, the president of EcoHealth Alliance, rejected it: "The DARPA proposal was not funded. Therefore, the work was not done. Simple."

A Rational Choice

As Sachs and Harrison note, the part of a protein on the cell membrane that shares its amino acid sequence with the bat coronavirus is critical for lung function. Known as an epithelial sodium channel-alpha, or ENaC-alpha, it is found in human airway cells, as well as in human kidneys and colons. Intriguingly, like SARS-CoV-2, ENaC-alpha, which facilitates the absorption of fluid in cells, is also activated by the unusual furin cleavage site. Harrison, a physiologist affiliated with Columbia's Department of Molecular Pharmacology and Therapeutics, studies ion channels, the larger category to which ENaC-alpha belongs.

Other scientists have already pointed out the match between the amino acid series in the furin cleavage site of SARS-CoV-2 and the ENaC-alpha found in human airways. In 2020, a team from the biomedical company Nference suggested that the overlap between the virus and the sequence found in human lungs is part of the reason that Covid-19 is so damaging to the respiratory system. Those scientists described the sequence as having evolved naturally.



Read Our Complete Coverage
The Coronavirus Crisis

Sachs and Harrison, in contrast, suggest that researchers may have inserted the string of amino acids into a bat coronavirus precisely because of its known importance to lung function. "For a research team assessing the pandemic potential of SARS-related coronaviruses, the FCS of human ENaC — an FCS known to be efficiently cleaved by host furin present in the target location (epithelial cells) of an important target organ (lung), of the target organism (human) — might be a rational, if not obvious, choice of FCS to introduce into a virus in order to alter its infectivity, in line with other work performed previously," they write.

Such a choice, they point out, would have been in keeping with another viral

MORENS_SUBPOENA_011298
MORENS_NIH_022079
REL0000477344

research project on which EcoHealth Alliance, the Wuhan Institute of Virology, and UNC's Baric collaborated: a 2014 grant from the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases that involved increasing the transmissibility and pathogenicity of bat coronaviruses.



Ralph Baric, a researcher at the University of North Carolina's Gillings School of Global Public Health, in Chapel Hill, N.C., on Feb. 14, 2020.

Photo: Christopher Janaro/Bloomberg via Getty Images

Growing List of

MORENS_SUBPOENA_011299
MORENS_NIH_022080
REL0000477344

Coincidences

The intriguing theory of viral engineering hinges on two observations: that the amino acid sequences match and that experts in both the ENaC-alpha furin cleavage site and the insertion of genetic sequences into bat coronaviruses happen to work at the same academic institution: the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill.

Baric, whose work aims to prevent and create treatments for viral outbreaks, has previously inserted segments of DNA and RNA into viruses and created an infectious clone of SARS using his own patented "No See'm" method of inserting genetic materials without a trace. He has also collaborated on coronavirus research with scientists from a center for lung studies at UNC-Chapel Hill who are knowledgeable about ENaC-alpha. In one 2016 study, the scientists created a new virus using the spike of a bat coronavirus that had been isolated and characterized by the Wuhan Institute of Virology. The experiment found that the new virus "replicated efficiently" in human airway cells that were cultured in a lab.

In another paper, published a year earlier, Baric, along with the Wuhan Institute of Virology's Shi Zhengli and a lung expert UNC-Chapel Hill's lung institute, described creating a hybrid virus using a SARS-like virus from a bat and a "mouse-adapted" coronavirus. The new virus caused mice to get sicker than those exposed to the original virus. The goal of these experiments was to prepare for the possibility that a virus might jump naturally from animals to humans, as SARS had in 2003. But even before the pandemic, the experiment drew criticism from other scientists, who were concerned because the researchers had created a virus that was able to spread in humans.

Sachs and Harrison note that the scientists who co-authored the DARPA grant proposal would have been aware of research on coronavirus furin cleavage sites, including one 2006 experiment in which a furin cleavage site was inserted into a coronavirus. "The research team would also have some familiarity with the FCS sequence and the FCS-dependent activation mechanism of human ENaC, which was extensively characterized at UNC," they write.

"The list of coincidences is getting verrrrrrrrrrry long."

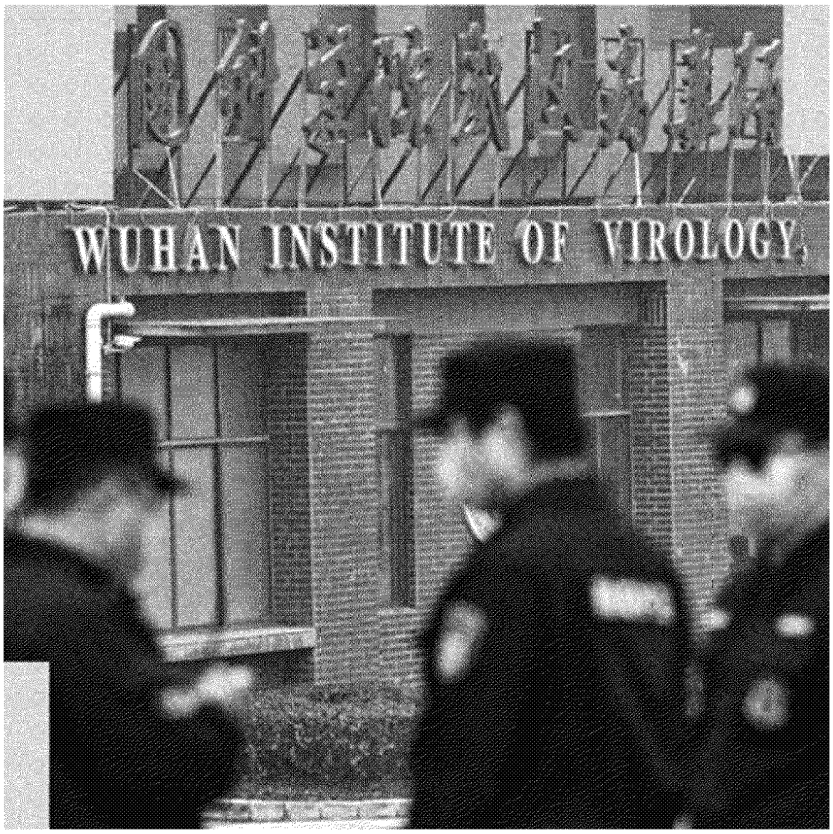
Still, both the overlap in the amino acid sequence and the fact that experts in

MORENS_SUBPOENA_011300
MORENS_NIH_022081
REL0000477344

the furin cleavage site of the ENaC-alpha and insertion of genetic material into bat coronaviruses work at the same university could be coincidental, as Harrison and Sachs acknowledge. Some virologists, though, say that the coincidence strains credulity.

“Could be,” Richard Ebright, a molecular biologist at Rutgers University, wrote in an email to The Intercept when asked about the possibility that these things are both chance occurrences. “But the list of coincidences is getting verrrrrrrrrry long.”

Ebright, a vocal proponent of the lab-leak theory whom Harrison and Sachs thank “for helpful commentary on the manuscript,” spelled out some of the other Covid coincidences that he considers questionable, including its initial outbreak in a city that, well before 2019, had already been pegged as a biosafety risk. Ebright also noted Wuhan’s 1,000-mile distance from the nearest wild bats that carry the type of SARS-related coronaviruses that caused the pandemic. And he pointed to the particular coding of the amino acids in the furin cleavage site of SARS-CoV2.



Related

The Lab-Leak Theory Is Looking Stronger by the Day. Here’s What We Know.

MORENS_SUBPOENA_011301
MORENS_NIH_022082
REL0000477344

"The sequence encoding the FCS of the pandemic virus contained two consecutive CGG arginine codons," Ebright explained in his email. (A codon, or a combination of three nucleotides, supplies the genetic code for a single amino acid, though most amino acids can be represented by multiple different codons. Each nucleotide is represented by a letter — for RNA, either A, C, U, or G.) "This codon usage is unusual for a natural bat SARS-related coronaviruses (for which fewer than 1 in 30 arginine codons are CGG) but is optimal for humans (for which most arginine codons are CGG codons)."

Still, Ebright said that at first he didn't see the identical amino acid sequences as particularly suspicious. "I had known for more than a year that there was a perfect match to an eight-amino acid sequence present in human ENaC. What I had not known was that the sequence was known to be a functional furin cleavage site and that it was a sequence extensively studied at UNC," he said. "The crucial point that the ENaC sequence was a known functional site, not just that there happens to be a match to a protein that happens to be in humans. … That suddenly turned it from what I thought to be largely irrelevant to being a logical and obvious choice to proceed."

Ralph Baric and the University of North Carolina did not immediately respond to requests for comment.



The Wuhan Institute of Virology in Wuhan, China, on June 24, 2021.

Photo: Kyodo via AP Images

Name Calling

Other scientists dismiss the idea that the ENaC sequence might have been purposefully inserted into a coronavirus. Scientists who are already convinced that the new coronavirus emerged naturally are unlikely to be persuaded by Sachs and Harrison's article, which appears in the opinion section of the esteemed journal. Over the past year, many scientists involved in the debate over the origins of the pandemic have settled into an increasingly acrimonious,

MORENS_SUBPOENA_011303
MORENS_NIH_022084
REL0000477344

coarse, and unyielding opposition.

Some proponents of the natural origin theory became particularly dismissive of those open to the possibility of a lab leak after the February release of two pre-print studies mapping the early spread of the virus at the Huanan market in Wuhan. Angela Rasmussen, one of a team of virologists who worked on the project, described it on Twitter as "dispositive evidence of a zoonotic origin" that will "drive those with personal interest in the lab leak hypothesis out of their goddam minds." In another tweet, Rasmussen referred to proponents of the lab-leak theory as a "pack of ghouls, who through gullibility, stupidity, & conspiracist thinking have decided this is their thing despite zero expertise."

Although the pre-prints had not been peer-reviewed and may have simply illustrated the spread of the virus rather than its original outbreak, the New York Times ran a front-page story about them that quoted an epidemiologist as saying that the origins debate "has been settled with a very high degree of evidence." The story, which was announced by a push notification from the paper, also noted a lack of direct evidence for a lab leak.

Meanwhile, Kristian Andersen, another co-author of the pre-prints and a virologist at the well-regarded Scripps Research Institute, used the "poop" emoji to criticize a deeply researched article by Katherine Eban about EcoHealth Alliance. On Twitter, Andersen tarred Eban, New York Times columnist Zeynep Tufekci, and others reporting on biosafety issues that could have led to the release of SARS-CoV-2 as "deep in conspiracy theories" and on the other side of "a clear split" from journalists who dismiss the possibility of a lab origin, whom Andersen referred to as "science-based."

Even some scientists who have been vocal about the possibility that the pandemic may have been sparked by research have expressed skepticism about the theory suggested by Harrison and Sachs. "I'm sure that these authors believe in their own hypothesis and arguments, but to me, it's not one that is particularly convincing," said Alina Chan, a scientist who laid out a number of possible routes for how the coronavirus might have emerged through research-related incidents in her recent book "Viral: The Search for the Origin of Covid-19."

"There's no need for them to go hunting inside the human protein catalogue to look for cleavage sites to put into viruses."

While she is open to the possibility that the furin cleavage site might have been

MORENS_SUBPOENA_011304
MORENS_NIH_022085
REL0000477344

purposefully inserted into the coronavirus, Chan said there was no reason to think that researchers would mine humans for such material. "These scientists literally had access to hundreds of SARS-like viruses and sequences," said Chan, referring to the vast collection of coronaviruses from bats and other animals that researchers amassed at the Wuhan Institute of Virology. "There's no need for them to go hunting inside the human protein catalogue to look for cleavage sites to put into viruses."

Jack Nunberg, a virologist at the University of Montana, was also not immediately persuaded by the theory of engineering suggested by Sachs and Harrison. "It's possible," Nunberg said of the idea that the ENaC segment was inserted into a bat coronavirus as part of research designed to gauge the pandemic potential of a virus. "But I don't find their evidence on ENaC compelling because furin cleavage sites have a lot of common amino acids, and therefore it may just have happened by chance."

Others say that the article adds noteworthy information to the public conversation about the origins of the pandemic. "The defenders of the natural origin indicate that the virus on which this type of experiment could have been done — the backbone — has never been published and that specialists in the furin cleavage sites would have chosen a more commonly used furin cleavage site like RARR rather than PRRAR. The Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences article contradicts this argument and indicates that specialists knew that the RRAR'SVAS site was efficiently cleaved by furin," Etienne Decroly, director of virology research at the Aix-Marseille Université in France, wrote in an email to The Intercept.

Decroly added, "It is impossible to decide on the basis of the information currently available and it is urgent that the WHO Special Advisory Group for the Origins of Novel Pathogens investigate this question."

On the suggestion of an investigation, Nunberg is in agreement. "You can't argue with that," he told The Intercept. "Who's going to argue for burying one's head in the sand?"

For their part, Sachs and Harrison emphasize that they're not saying laboratory manipulation was involved in the emergence of the pandemic virus, only "that it could have been." They also give a nod to other possibilities, including that an airborne virus might have infected a laboratory worker. Rather than argue that any of these conceivable scenarios happened, they present the clues of the matching amino acid sequences to argue for an independent and transparent scientific investigation of the U.S.-based evidence related to the origins of the virus.

Among the institutions that Sachs and Harrison list as possibly having "knowledge of the detailed activities that were underway in Wuhan and in the United States" are the National Institutes of Health; the Defense Threat Reduction Agency, which has provided grant funding to EcoHealth Alliance; the Department of Homeland Security; DARPA; the U.S. Agency for International Development, which funded the $200 million PREDICT program that catalogued potential pandemic viruses; and the University of California, Davis, which participated in that program.

The authors suggest that EcoHealth Alliance and UNC may have particularly important untapped resources. "The exact details of the fieldwork and laboratory work of the EHA-WIV-UNC partnership, and the engagement of other institutions in the US and China, has not been disclosed for independent analysis," they write. "The precise nature of the experiments that were conducted, including the full array of viruses collected from the field and the subsequent sequencing and manipulation of those viruses, remains unknown."

MORENS_SUBPOENA_011306
MORENS_NIH_022087
REL0000477344



Peter Daszak, one of the members of the World Health Organization team investigating the origins of the Covid-19, on a balcony at a hotel in Wuhan, China, on Feb. 6, 2021.

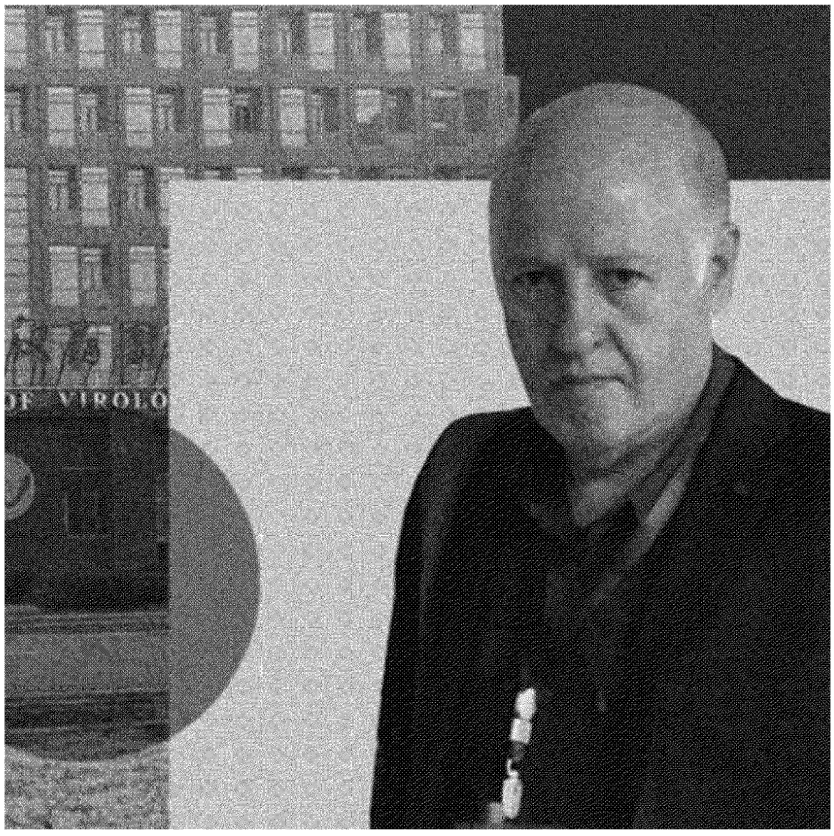
Photo: Hector Retamal/AFP via Getty Images

A Reversal

The publication in the prestigious Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences marks a reversal of sorts for Sachs, the chair of the Lancet Covid-19 Commission who, in November 2020, appointed Daszak, the EcoHealth Alliance president, to lead a task force to investigate the origins of the pandemic. Earlier that year, Daszak had signed on to a public statement

MORENS_SUBPOENA_011307
MORENS_NIH_022088
REL0000477344

published in The Lancet on behalf of scientists who said they "condemn conspiracy theories suggesting that COVID-19 does not have a natural origin."



Related

Peter Daszak Answers Critics and Defends Coronavirus Research

Yet that early certainty about the pandemic's origins — and the sense of shared civic responsibility among members of the Lancet task force — soon disintegrated. In February 2021, emails revealed that Daszak coordinated the public statement in The Lancet tamping down suspicions of a lab leak. And by June 2021, Sachs was expressing his openness to the possibility of a lab origin, writing that NIH-funded research at the Wuhan Institute of Virology "deserves scrutiny under the hypothesis of a laboratory-related release of the virus." Three months later, he disbanded the task force that had been organized to "carefully scrutinize the origin of the SARS-CoV-2 virus" in the hopes of preventing future disease outbreaks, explaining that he had concerns that several members of the commission had conflicts of interest because of their ties to EcoHealth Alliance.

After leading the mainstream scientific inquiry into the origins of the pandemic, Sachs is now skewering it. "A steady trickle of disquieting information has cast a darkening cloud over the agency," he and Harrison write

of the NIH, going on to accuse the entire federal government of not doing enough to explore the possible role of its grantees in the emergence of SARS-CoV-2 and investigate "overlooked details" such as the matching amino acid sequences.

Noting that the NIH has insisted that "the pandemic virus could not have resulted from the work sponsored by" the agency, Sachs and Harrison write that "blanket denials from the NIH are no longer good enough."

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: b6
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

---

From: Hotez, Peter Jay < b6
Sent: Wednesday, May 11, 2022 8:15 PM
To: David Morens b6
Cc: Peter Daszak b6 ; Keusch, Gerald T b6 ; Jeffrey Sturchio < b6 ; Aleksei Chmura b6 Roberts, Rich b6
Subject: Re: NY Post: NIH director confirms agency hid early COVID genes at request of Chinese scientists

It's all so convoluted I can even understand it. We'll see if they pick Mary Klotman from Duke to be next NIH Director. I know her quite well, her husband is Baylor President and my boss.

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP
Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine
Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology
Health Policy Scholar
Baylor College of Medicine

MORENS_SUBPOENA_011309
MORENS_NIH_022090
REL0000477344

Texas Children's Hospital Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics
Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development

University Professor, Baylor University

Faculty Fellow, Hagler Institute for Advanced Study
Senior Fellow, Scowcroft Institute of International Affairs
Texas A&M University
Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty and Adjunct Professor of Bioengineering, Rice University
Adjunct Professor, University of Texas, School of Public Health

Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

E-mail: b6
Twitter: @peterhotez
Skype b6
Linkedin Peter Hotez

Amazon Author Center: https://www.amazon.com/Peter- J.-Hotez/e/B001HPIC48
Daily Beast Contributor https://www.thedailybeast.com/author/peter- j-hotez
Like us on Facebook https://www.facebook.com/BCMNationalSchoolOfTropicalMedicine/

Senior Coordinator / Executive Support: Douglas Soriano
b6
Phone: b6
Fax: 713-798-2299

iPhone

On May 11, 2022, at 6:39 PM, David Morens b6 wrote:

*****CAUTION:*** This email is not from a BCM Source. Only click links or open attachments you know are safe.**

Yes, i know. I fail to understand why our nih leaders keep forming circular firing squads. one thing is for sure: in recent times nih has suffered abysmal leadership

MORENS_SUBPOENA_011310
MORENS_NIH_022091
REL0000477344

It wasn't like that in the Varmus years. He didn't suffer any political fools no matter how high up, and was comfortable giving them all a big middle finger. d

Sent from my iPhone
David M Morens
OD, NIAID, NIH

On May 11, 2022, at 18:37, Peter Daszak [b6] wrote:

This is an utterly ridiculous set of BS. Jesse Bloom is the person driving it – he buys into the lab leak theory and found that some folks from WIV uploaded partial genomes early on, then added a bunch of more complete ones, and asked for the partial sequences to be removed. Absolutely normal, but he's trying to turn it into a 'mystery'.

Of course, NIH makes it all worse by not releasing emails, redacting critical parts of them, and failing to explain why they follow the wishes of the submitter re. Genbank. It's perfectly logical really – if NIH now starts releasing sequences you as a submitter asked them to remove for whatever reason, submitters will think twice about using Genbank. We already have China working with its own database and all this BS will make them twice-shy about submitting.

Even worse, Tabak now says that 'don't worry, we still have the data on back up tapes' so everyone now knows that NIH keeps the stuff you thought they agreed to delete, and no doubt has already handed it over to the FBI and the CIA.

It's a conspiracy, wrapped within an enigma, encapsulating a riddle….

PS – heres a cracker of an email from an NIH press office (?) person at O/D ripping into a journalist (Carl Zimmer) who wanted information on the 'missing' china sequences. Now it turns out that US submitters also deleted early COVID genomes…even more reason for the public to not trust scientists…:

MORENS_SUBPOENA_011311
MORENS_NIH_022092
REL0000477344

From: Myles, Renate (NIH/OD) [E]
To: Carl Zimmer; Wojtowicz, Emma
Cc: Fine, Amanda (NIH/OD) [E]; Vir
Subject: RE: FW: Query from New York T
Date: Wednesday, June 23, 2021 4:49

Hi Carl:

I saw your story. Just noting that it isn't a
was withdrawn. Also, it didn't disappear;
I know that Dr. Bloom is making the myst
reporters not hype language.

Also, just to clarify, NLM conducted an ar
packages were withdrawn upon request
included one requested by the submitter
the U.S.

Thanks,
Renate

Cheers,

Peter

MORENS_SUBPOENA_011312
MORENS_NIH_022093
REL0000477344

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: b6
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

From: David Morens b6
Sent: Wednesday, May 11, 2022 5:47 PM
To: Peter Daszak b6; Keusch, Gerald T b6; Jeffrey Sturchio b6; Aleksei Chmura b6; peter hotez b6; Roberts, Rich b6
Subject: Fwd: FW: NY Post: NIH director confirms agency hid early COVID genes at request of Chinese scientists

David M. Morens, MD
b6
b6 b6 b6 (work)
b6 b6 b6 (cell)

IMPORTANT: My gmail frequently sends incoming messages to Trash, which is apparently not correctable. If you don't hear from me in a reasonable time, please try again, call, or use my NIH email address

IMPORTANT: For US Government-related email, please also reply to my NIAID address

--------- Forwarded message --------
From: **Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E]** b6 >
Date: Wed, May 11, 2022 at 4:54 PM
Subject: FW: NY Post: NIH director confirms agency hid early COVID genes at request of Chinese scientists
To: David Morens (b6

From: Folkers, Greg (NIH/NIAID) [E] < b6
Sent: Wednesday, May 11, 2022 4:12 PM

MORENS_SUBPOENA_011313
MORENS_NIH_022094
REL0000477344

To: NIAID COGCORE <COGCORE@mail.nih.gov >; NIAID OCGR Leg < NIAIDOCGRLeg@mail.nih.gov >; NIAID OD AM <NIAIDODAM@niaid.nih.gov >
Subject: NY Post: NIH director confirms agency hid early COVID genes at request of Chinese scientists

NIH director confirms agency hid early COVID genes at request of Chinese scientists

By
Steven Nelson
May 11, 2022 3:47pm



National Institutes of Health acting director Lawrence Tabak confirmed to lawmakers Wednesday that US health officials concealed early genomic sequences of COVID-19 at the request of Chinese scientists — but insisted the data remains on file.

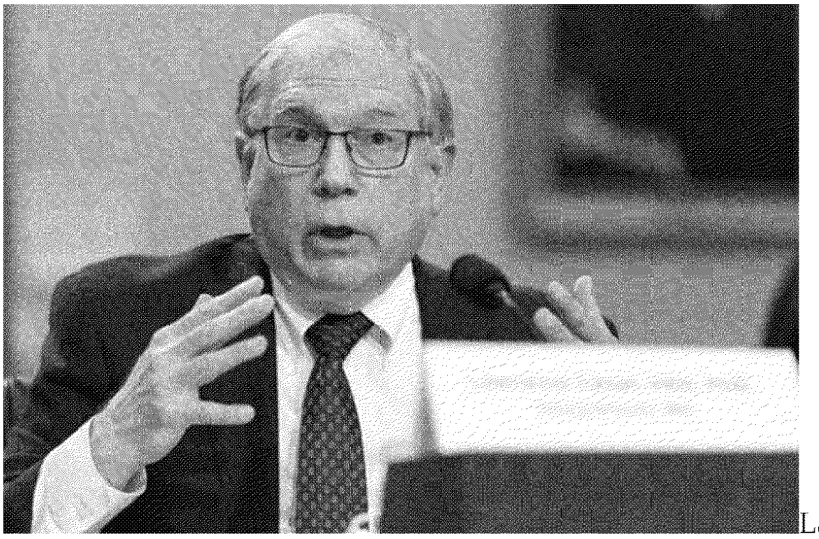
Tabak told a House Appropriations subcommittee that the NIH "eliminated from public view" the data from the pandemic epicenter in Wuhan, China, before adding that researchers can still access it via an archaic "tape drive."

Vanity Fair recently reported that the information was hidden in response to a request from Chinese scientists, despite potentially resolving whether the virus leaked from the Wuhan Institute of Virology or passed naturally from animals to humans.

Rep. Jaime Herrera Beutler (R-Wash.) asked Tabek to explain why US officials would comply with such a request.

"There's no question that the communication that we had about the sequence archive — Sequence Read Archive — could have been improved. I freely admit that," Tabek said. "If I may, the archive never deleted the sequence, it just did not make it available for interrogation."

MORENS_SUBPOENA_011314
MORENS_NIH_022095
REL0000477344

Lawrence Tabak, acting director of the National Institutes of Health, testifies on May 11. Jacquelyn Martin/AP

"So wait, you have the information still?" Beutler followed up.

"We have the information … Anybody who submits to the Sequence Read Archive is allowed to ask for it to be removed," Tabak explained. "And that investigator did do that. But we never erase it."

"So you don't have the information anymore?" Beutler asked.

"We do. We never erase the information. We keep it," Tabak clarified.

"So they were able to withdraw public viewing of it?" the congresswoman followed up.

"That's correct," he said.

"OK, so researchers can apply to the NIH and get the information from you?" Beutler asked.

"In the way that it was originally eliminated from public view, it was withdrawn, and that's the most difficult for people to access," Tabak replied. "The error that was made, and we found this out after a review of all of our processes, was it should have been suppressed. The distinction being that if it's withdrawn, it is kept archivally on a tape drive — old technology, but that's how it's done. But when it is withdrawn, it can still be accessed by accession number, and so researchers are able to access that information."



Security personnel keep watch outside Wuhan Institute of Virology during the visit by the World Health Organization on Feb. 3, 2021. Thomas Peter/REUTERS

"So the information is still there?" Beutler summed up.

"That's correct. The information was never lost," Tabak repeated.

In a March 31 article, Vanity Fair reported that evolutionary biologist Jesse Bloom discovered last year that early COVID-19 sequences had disappeared from a federally run data repository.

When Bloom raised the issue, he was reportedly ganged up on by a group of researchers assembled by then-NIH Director Francis Collins and infectious disease institute head Dr. Anthony Fauci.

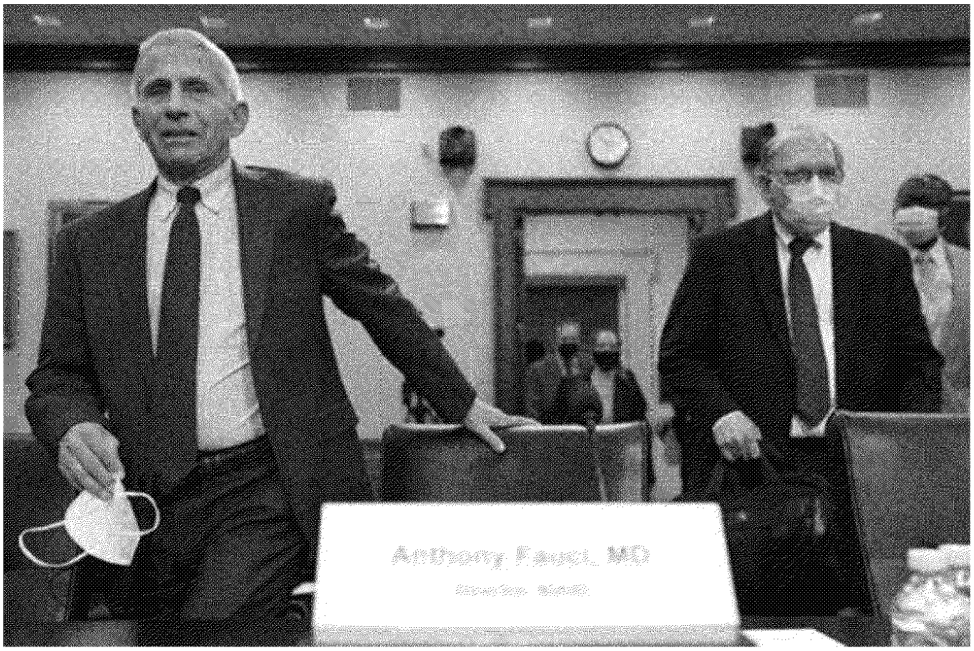
Bloom shared a draft academic paper with Collins and Fauci, who allegedly objected on a June 2021 Zoom video conference to Bloom's description of Chinese scientists "surreptitiously" removing the sequences. Fauci said the word was "loaded" and implied a coverup, the report said.

Evolutionary biologist Kristian Andersen, who was selected to participate on the call by Collins, allegedly told Bloom that the Wuhan team had a right to claw back early pandemic information and that it was unethical for Bloom to question it.



Tabak noted that while the request for information to be removed was honored, it was not erased fully.ECOHEALTH ALLIANCE
Andersen allegedly went so far as to offer to delete Bloom's article from a "preprint" server "in a way that would leave no record that this had been done."
China's government has refused to cooperate with an international investigation of the origins of the pandemic. The COVID-19 virus has killed about 1 million Americans since March 2020 and caused massive social, economic and educational disruptions. The US intelligence community said in an August report that it's possible the virus leaked from the Wuhan Institute of Virology, calling the theory one of two "plausible" explanations along with natural transmission from animals.

MORENS_SUBPOENA_011317
MORENS_NIH_022098
REL0000477344



Lawrence Tabak confirmed Wednesday that early genomic sequences of COVID-19 were concealed at the request of Chinese specialists. Jacquelyn Martin/AP

President Biden rarely speaks publicly about wanting China to be transparent about the origins of the pandemic. Former President Donald Trump, by contrast, has demanded that China pay $10 trillion in reparations.

The Biden administration is considering undoing some of Trump's tariffs on Chinese goods "separately" from US pressure for coronavirus transparency, White House press secretary Jen Psaki told The Post on Monday.

Documents published in September by The Intercept revealed that US health officials indirectly funded so-called "gain of function" research at the Wuhan lab — including the modification three bat coronaviruses distinct from COVID-19 and the discovery that they became much more infectious among "humanized" mice when human-type receptors were added to them.

Disclaimer: Any third-party material in this email has been shared for internal use under fair use provisions of U.S. copyright law, without further verification of its accuracy/veracity. It does not necessarily represent my views nor those of NIAID, NIH, HHS, or the U.S. government.

Disclaimer

This communication, together with any attachment, may contain confidential and/or proprietary information (including without limitation copyright material and/or other intellectual property) and is intended only for the person(s) and/or entity(ies) to whom it is addressed. If you are not the intended recipient of this communication, or if you received it in error, you should not disseminate, distribute or copy this communication and you are asked to kindly delete it and promptly notify us. Any copying, use, disclosure or distribution of any part of this communication or taking any action in reliance on the contents of this communication, unless duly authorized by or on behalf of EcoHealth Alliance, is strictly prohibited and may be unlawful.

Disclaimer

This communication, together with any attachment, may contain confidential and/or proprietary information (including without limitation copyright material and/or other intellectual property) and is intended only for the person(s) and/or entity(ies) to whom it is addressed. If you are not the intended recipient of this

communication, or if you received it in error, you should not disseminate, distribute or copy this communication and you are asked to kindly delete it and promptly notify us. Any copying, use, disclosure or distribution of any part of this communication or taking any action in reliance on the contents of this communication, unless duly authorized by or on behalf of EcoHealth Alliance, is strictly prohibited and may be unlawful.

Disclaimer

This communication, together with any attachment, may contain confidential and/or proprietary information (including without limitation copyright material and/or other intellectual property) and is intended only for the person(s) and/or entity(ies) to whom it is addressed. If you are not the intended recipient of this communication, or if you received it in error, you should not disseminate, distribute or copy this communication and you are asked to kindly delete it and promptly notify us. Any copying, use, disclosure or distribution of any part of this communication or taking any action in reliance on the contents of this communication, unless duly authorized by or on behalf of EcoHealth Alliance, is strictly prohibited and may be unlawful.

Disclaimer

This communication, together with any attachment, may contain confidential and/or proprietary information (including without limitation copyright material and/or other intellectual property) and is intended only for the person(s) and/or entity(ies) to whom it is addressed. If you are not the intended recipient of this communication, or if you received it in error, you should not disseminate, distribute or copy this communication and you are asked to kindly delete it and promptly notify us. Any copying, use, disclosure or distribution of any part of this communication or taking any action in reliance on the contents of this communication, unless duly authorized by or on behalf of EcoHealth Alliance, is strictly prohibited and may be unlawful.

Date: Tue, 17 Aug 2021 8:30:27 AM -0400
Sent: Tue, 17 Aug 2021 8:27:48 AM -0400
Subject: Nicholas Wade's piece in Bull Atomic Sci. today
From: Peter Daszak [b6]
To: David Morens [b6] Roberts, Rich [b6] Keusch, Gerald T [b6] Hotez, Peter Jay [b6]
CC: Robert Kessler [b6]>;
Attachments: image001.jpg; image002.png; image003.png; image004.png; image005.png; image006.jpg

Nicholas Wade's at it again – another miserable innuendo-filled attack on science and the process by which scientists email, talk and come to decisions. Nothing new of course, just trash journalism published in a pseudo-scientific journal. He infers that I was the lucky winner of an NIH center grant, and that this has some linkage to chumming up to Dr. Fauci and Dr. Farrar and dismissing the lab origin story (I applied for the funding in 2019 way before COVID). Pretty shameless smear – no facts of course, no sue-able accusations, just snipey comments and a picture of me with Dr. Fauci at an event in DC where he spoke, taken from Social Media. It's as if we can't now be scientists and actually colleagues who break bread and share a glass any more.

https://thebulletin.org/2021/08/how- covid-19s-origins-were-obscured-by-the-east-and-the-west/

The irony is in the ending – he claims the lab leak is an albatross hanging around China's neck that they won't be able to shake off until they open up the lab videos, books, freezers etc. The truth is his and others continued attacks are what put the albatross there in the first place. Does anyone really believe that if China gave access to all the above and no further evidence was found, that these folks would simply say "OK, it wasn't a lab leak after all"!!!

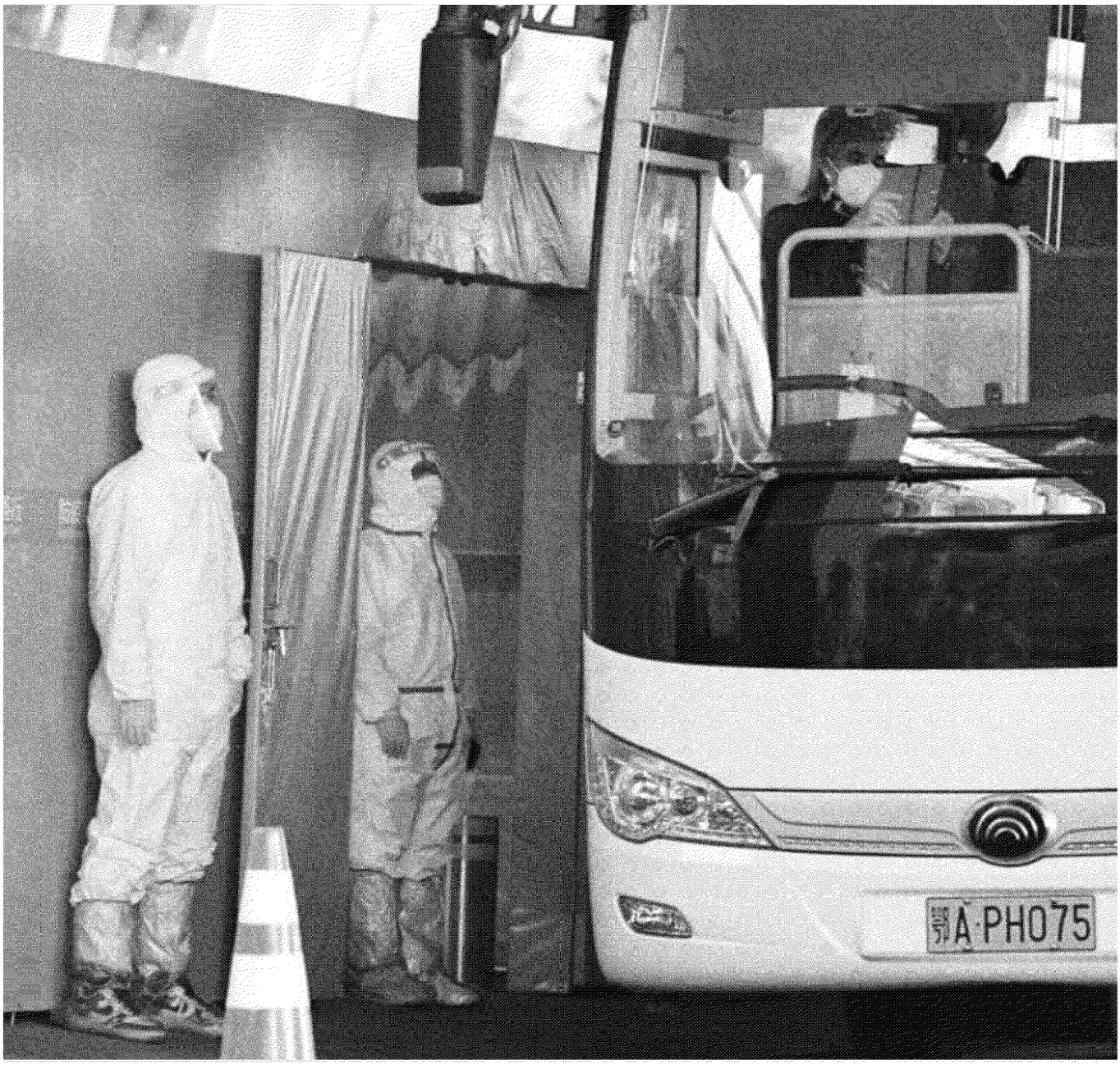
Cheers,

Peter

How COVID-19's origins were obscured, by the East and the West

By Nicholas Wade | August 17, 2021

MORENS_SUBPOENA_021537
MORENS_NIH_042413
REL0000477357



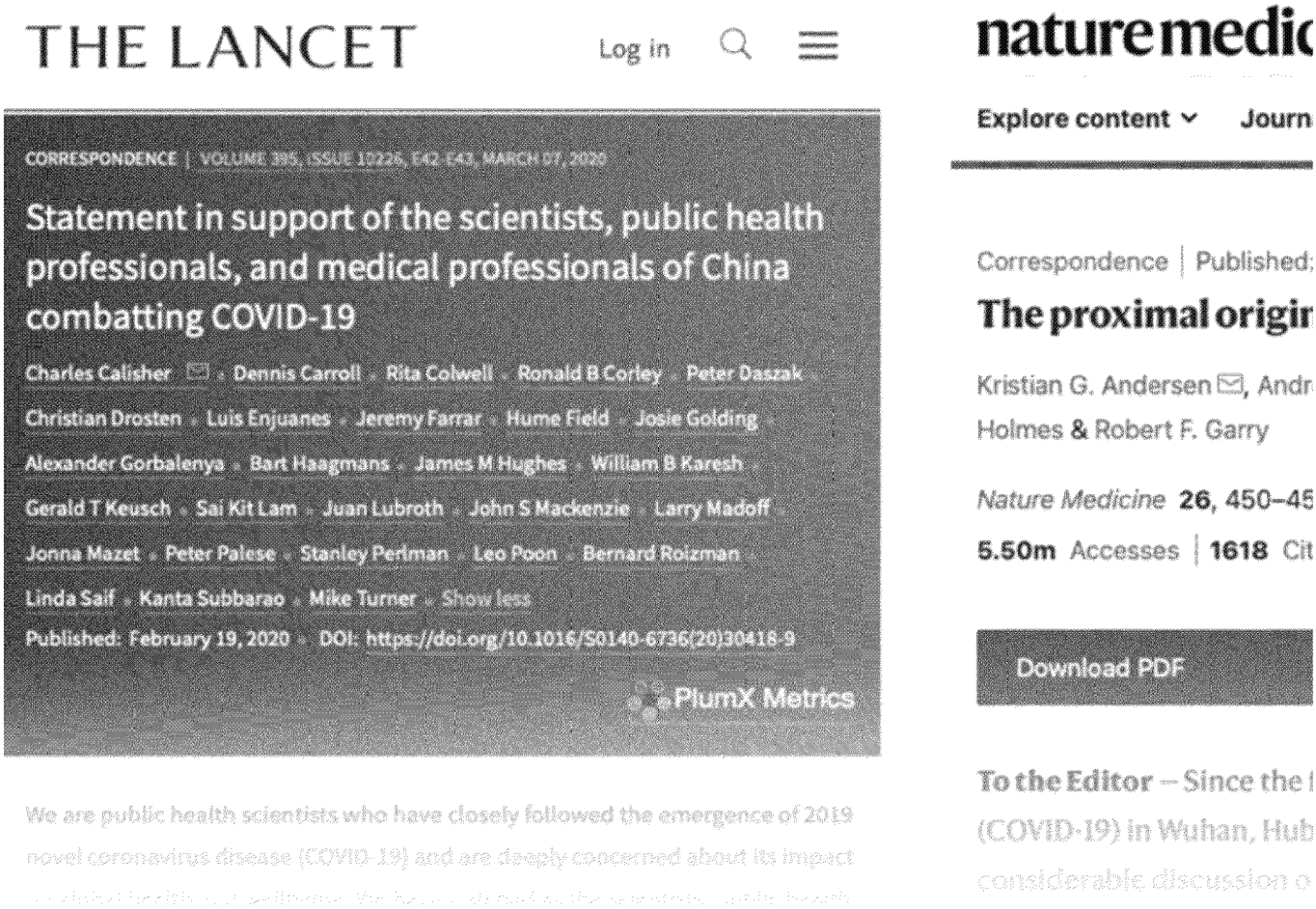
A bus carrying a team of experts from the World Health Organization departs an airport in Wuhan on Jan. 14, 2021, after arriving in the Chinese city to investigate the origins of the coronavirus pandemic. That investigation is widely seen as having been obstructed by Chinese authorities. (Photo by Kyodo News via Getty Images)

Some 20 months after the Covid-19 pandemic first broke out, its origins remain obscure. A vigorous campaign of concealment by the Chinese authorities is the principal reason. But China received considerable help, strange to say, from senior medical research officials in the United Kingdom and United States who mishandled and effectively derailed the initial inquiry into the virus's origins.

The mishandling began at a pivotal teleconference held on February 1, 2020. The organizer was Jeremy Farrar, director of the Wellcome Trust, a large medical research charity in London.

News of the conference emerged with the release this June of emails from the office of Anthony Fauci, director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID). Farrar supplied further information in his book *Spike*, published on July 22.

The conference was held to discuss the unanimous view of a group of virologists that the SARS2 virus had been manipulated in a lab. Yet within a few days of the meeting, the virologists abruptly reversed their conclusion. The meeting's participants were later involved in two letters to scientific journals that stated the virus must have emerged naturally and that condemned any suggestion of manipulation as a conspiracy theory. These two letters, to *The Lancet* and *Nature Medicine*, shaped the views of the mainstream media for more than a year.



Letters published by *The Lancet* and *Nature Medicine* in early 2020.

Even today, no one can say for sure whether the SARS2 virus emerged naturally or escaped from a lab. Much less could anyone have been sure back then. If the conferees had stuck to known facts, they would have left the question open to the two hypotheses, and the full exploration of the virus's origins might not have been sidetracked for over a year.

More significant, the Chinese government would have found it much harder, if not impossible, to manipulate the World Health Organization (WHO) into setting terms of reference that favored China's obstructive goals and kept WHO inspectors who visited China this February from accessing records vital to understanding the origin of the pandemic. China now insists those terms of reference cannot be changed, blocking further investigation into the origin of the SARS2 virus. "The two groups that produced the infamous letters in *The Lancet* and *Nature Medicine* paved the way for the Chinese government and helped enormously to facilitate all of that," says Milton Leitenberg, an arms control expert at the University of Maryland. The reversal of the virologists' conclusion about SARS2's artificial origin is thus a matter of some significance.

At 10:32 p.m. on the evening before the February 1 conference, Fauci had received an electrifying memo from Kristian G. Andersen, a virologist at the Scripps Research institute in California. Andersen reported that the virus seemed to be man-made. "The unusual features of

MORENS_SUBPOENA_021539
MORENS_NIH_042415
REL0000477357

the virus make up a really small part of the genome," he wrote, referring presumably to a genetic component known as a furin cleavage site, which greatly enhances the virus's infectivity, "so one has to look really closely at all the sequences to see that some of the features (potentially) look engineered."

From: Kristian G. [b6] [redacted] (b) (6)>
[b6] Friday, January 31, 2020 10:32 PM
To: Fauci, Anthony (NIH/NIAID) [E] [redacted] (b) (6)
Cc: Jeremy Farrar [redacted] (b) (6)>
Subject: Re: FW: Science: Mining coronavirus genomes for clues to the outb

Hi Tony,

Thanks for sharing. Yes, I saw this earlier today and both Eddie and myself a great article, but the problem is that our phylogenetic analyses aren't able t sequences are unusual at individual residues, except if they are completely the virus looks totally normal and the close clustering with bats suggest tha The unusual features of the virus make up a really small part of the genome really closely at all the sequences to see that some of the features (potentia

We have a good team lined up to look very critically at this, so we should kn the weekend. I should mention that after discussions earlier today, Eddie, B the genome inconsistent with expectations from evolutionary theory. But w more closely and there are still further analyses to be done, so those opinio

Best,
Kristian

_A key email from Kristian Andersen to Anthony Fauci.
Andersen went on to note that "after discussions earlier today, Eddie, Bob, Mike and myself all find the genome inconsistent with expectations from evolutionary theory"— meaning that, in their unanimous view, the virus didn't come from nature. "Those opinions could still change," Andersen added. Eddie is Edward C. Holmes of the University of Sydney. Bob is Robert F. Garry of Tulane University. Mike is Michael Farzan at Scripps Research.
The message sent Fauci into a whirlwind of activity. "You will have tasks today that must be done," he emailed his deputy director, Hugh Auchincloss, two hours later at 12:29 am on February 1. One of these urgent tasks evidently concerned NIAID funds that had been passed, via the EcoHealth Alliance of New York, to Zhengli Shi, China's leading bat virus expert, at the Wuhan Institute of Virology. Fauci was doubtless anxious to check whether his agency's funding

of Shi's work had complied with US law, which banned funding gain-of-function research from 2014 to 2017 and required it be reported to a government panel thereafter. "Gain of function" refers to research in which a pathogen's ability to cause disease is enhanced. Auchincloss replied a few hours later that efforts were underway to ascertain "if we have any distant ties to this work abroad."

Meanwhile Farrar, who had independently heard of the Andersen team's conclusion from Holmes, says in *Spike* that he arranged a teleconference set for 7 p.m. London time, convenient for both Washington and Australia, where Holmes was based.

The participants included Fauci and possibly his nominal boss, Francis Collins, the director of the National Institutes of Health. (Farrar says in *Spike* that Collins was present, but Collins's name is not on the list of invitees in the Fauci emails.) Officials on the UK side were Farrar and Patrick Vallance, the chief scientific adviser to the UK government. The others were mostly virologists, including Andersen, Holmes, and Andrew Rambaut of the University of Edinburgh.

Far from being selected at random, the conferees were associated through a complicated web of relationships, a sort of virologists' old boy network that included senior medical officials in China. Farrar was well acquainted with George Fu Gao, the head of China's counterpart of the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. He has described Gao as an "old friend," who in fact had called a month earlier, on December 31, 2019, to tell Farrar about the initial cases in Wuhan of what turned out to be Covid-19. Farrar says in his book *Spike* that on the weekend of the teleconference, he called another highly placed Chinese official, Chen Zhu, China's minister of health from 2007 to 2013, to tell him of "rumours that the novel coronavirus could be the result of a lab accident." As for Holmes, he has published many papers both with Farrar and with Gao and has been a guest professor at Gao's CDC from 2014 until 2020.

Because of these varied connections, it seems likely that Chinese authorities knew about the conference almost from the moment it occurred and, if so, would have had the opportunity to influence deliberations that followed it.

At the conference there was a notable imbalance of power between the virologists and the officials. Fauci and Farrar together control a large portion of the funds available for virological research in the Western world. A virologist keen to continue his career would be very attentive to their wishes. Two of the conference participants had multimillion-dollar grant proposals under final review with NIAID at the time of the call.

Almost all references to what was discussed at the teleconference have been redacted from the Fauci emails under exceptions to the Freedom of Information Act. The conference would doubtless have included explanation from Andersen and Holmes as to why they had concluded the previous evening that the virus had been altered through laboratory manipulation. "Kristen and Eddie have shared this and will talk through it on the call," Farrar writes in one of the Fauci emails.

RELATED:

The known knowns, known unknowns, and unknown unknowns of COVID-19

From: Jeremy Farrar (b) (6)>
Sent: Saturday, February 1, 2020 1:13 PM
To: Fauci, Anthony (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b) (6)>; Patrick Vallance
Cc: Drosten, Christian (b) (6); Marion Koopmans (b) (6)>; R.A.M. Fouchier (b) (6); (b) (6) Andrew Rambaut Kristian G. Andersen (b) (6); Paul Schreier (b) (6); Ferguson, Mike (b) (6); Collins, (b) (6)
Subject: Re: Teleconference

Kristen and Eddie have shared this and will talk through it on the call. Thank yc

Hope it will help frame the discussions.

_A Jeremy Farrar email about the teleconference.
Whatever was said at the meeting, it was followed by a remarkable and almost immediate about-face. By at most three days later, Andersen had executed a 180 degree turn in his views about the virus. In an email of February 4, 2020 to Peter Daszak, president of the EcoHealth Alliance, which had directed NIAID funds to Shi, Andersen wrote, "The main crackpot theories going around at the moment relate to this virus being somehow engineered with intent and that is demonstrably not the case." The email was obtained by U.S. Right to Know, an investigatory group.
Participants have not explained what was said at the meeting or found in the days immediately following it to induce the change of mind. Media offices at the Wellcome Trust and NIAID declined to comment on this article. Andersen, Holmes and Rambaut did not reply to emails seeking an account of the reversal.
Farrar, not Fauci, seems to have been the leader in the teleconference's deliberations. "This is not my area of expertise so I have backed off and am leaving it all to Jeremy," Fauci wrote on February 13 to a CDC official. US officials were not to take the lead in this pivotal inquiry.

From: Fauci, Anthony (NIH/NIAID) [E]
Sent: Thu, 13 Feb 2020 22:36:17 +0000
To: Messonnier, Nancy (CDC/DDID/NCIRD/OD)
Subject: RE: NAS

Nancy:

The official USG group will be convened by NAS. Bob Kad direct knowledge of that. In addition, there is an ad hoc gro Jeremy Farrar of Wellcome Trust. This group has about 15 p are highly respected scientists, mostly evolutionary biologist by e-mail and conference calls (I have been on 2 of these cal invited me) to look at all of the bat, pangolin and human cor to try and determine the evolutionary origin. This is not my so I have backed off and am leaving it all to Jeremy.

Best,

Tony

Fauci's "leaving it all to Jeremy" email.

Farrar had a direct hand in the two letters that went out to the *Lancet* and *Nature Medicine*. He was a signatory of the *Lancet* letter, a draft of which Daszak, the organizer of the letter, began circulating just five days after the conference. The letter sought to squelch all discussion of the possibility that the virus had escaped from a lab by deriding it as a conspiracy theory. When Daszak wrote an article in the *Guardian* elaborating on the same theme, Farrar promoted it with a tweet, saying "as always worth reading @PeterDaszak."

Farrar also recruited the five authors who drew up the *Nature Medicine* letter, his spokesman told the writer Ian Birrell. (The spokesman referred to the *Lancet* letter but evidently meant the *Nature Medicine* letter, which has five authors.) The *Nature Medicine* letter, accepted on March 6 and published on March 17, 2020, presented a detailed and influential case that the virus had emerged naturally from animals. Its authors were Andersen, Rambaut, W. Ian Lipkin, Holmes and Garry.

In his book *Spike*, Farrar portrays the events between the February 1 conference and publication of the two medical journal letters as a judicious process in which he held an agnostic view and played no role other than asking questions. "On a spectrum if 0 is nature and 100 is release—I am honestly at 50!" Farrar says he emailed to Fauci and Collins a day after the conference. But if that were honestly so, he fails to explain his switch from 50 to 0 when signing

the *Lancet* letter a few days later.

According to *Spike*, it wasn't until March, "after the addition of important new information, endless analyses, intense discussions and many sleepless nights" that Andersen and his four fellow virologists "were ready to pronounce on the origins of the novel coronavirus." Why then was Andersen, the virologists' leader, ready to pronounce just 3 days after the conference that lab release was a conspiracy theory? Farrar's account does not match with the available facts. Nor does Andersen's. In a June interview with the *New York Times,* he painted a picture that includes a change of mind on the possible engineering of the virus "in a matter of days, while we worked around the clock," and then that quick reversal being buttressed by drawn-out research. "This is a textbook example of the scientific method, where a preliminary hypothesis is rejected in favor of a competing hypothesis as more data become available and analyses are completed," he said in a statement released by Scripps Research after his Jan 31 email to Fauci had become public. "I cautioned in that same email that we would need to look at the question much more closely and that our opinions could change within a few days based on new data and analyses—which they did," Anderson said in the *New York Times* interview. In that same interview, he also said that "more extensive analyses, significant additional data and thorough investigations to compare genomic diversity more broadly across coronaviruses led to the peer-reviewed study published in *Nature Medicine*."

These later data and analyses would not have been available three days after the conference, the date of Andersen's volte-face email to Daszak. And they would not have been available to Farrar as he signed the *Lancet* letter, which was published just 17 days after the teleconference. More puzzling is Andersen's statement that in his preliminary studies "the genome of RaTG13, a SARS-related coronavirus found in bats, wasn't yet available." In fact its full sequence had been deposited by Shi in a data bank on January 24, 2020, a week before Andersen's report to Fauci, and Farrar says in *Spike* that he had seen the sequence by the time of the conference. RaTG13 is the closest known relative of SARS2, and the fact that it lacks the furin cleavage site found in SARS2 would have been a major reason for the Andersen group to suppose that this genetic element had been inserted into SARS2 in a lab.

Given his role in leading the February 1 teleconference, in presiding over the virologists' 180 degree change of views, and in arranging or influencing the *Lancet* and *Nature Medicine* letters, Farrar was evidently the driving force of the campaign to persuade the public that the SARS2 virus could not possibly have leaked from a lab. This was an unfortunate position for any scientist to take, given that he was assuring the public of something he could not be sure was true.

Farrar now says in *Spike* that, although natural emergence is more likely, "nobody is yet in a position to rule out an alternative." But his campaign sought very vigorously to do exactly that. "We stand together to strongly condemn conspiracy theories suggesting that COVID-19 does not have a natural origin," Farrar and his cosignatories wrote in the *Lancet* on February 18, 2020. This lapse in scientific judgment reflects also on the other senior participants in the conference who saw what was happening but apparently took no steps to insist that scientific truth should take precedence over unjustifiable professions of certainty.

RELATED:

Caltech's David Baltimore discusses the debate over origins of SARS-CoV-2

The decision to quash any notion of lab escape seems to have brought relief all round. At least until the tide of opinion began to change a year later, Fauci and Collins didn't have to endure unpleasant questions about why they had been funding hazardous research in minimally safe conditions at the Wuhan Institute of Virology.

"I just wanted to say a personal thank you on behalf of our staff and collaborators, for publicly standing up and stating that the scientific evidence supports a natural origin for COVID-19 from

a bat-to-human spillover, not a lab release from the Wuhan Institute of Virology," Daszak emailed Fauci after a White House press briefing on April 17.

In August 2020 the NIAID announced it would award $82 million over five years to 10 participants in its new network for detecting infectious diseases. Among the lucky winners: Daszak, Andersen, and his associate Robert Garry.

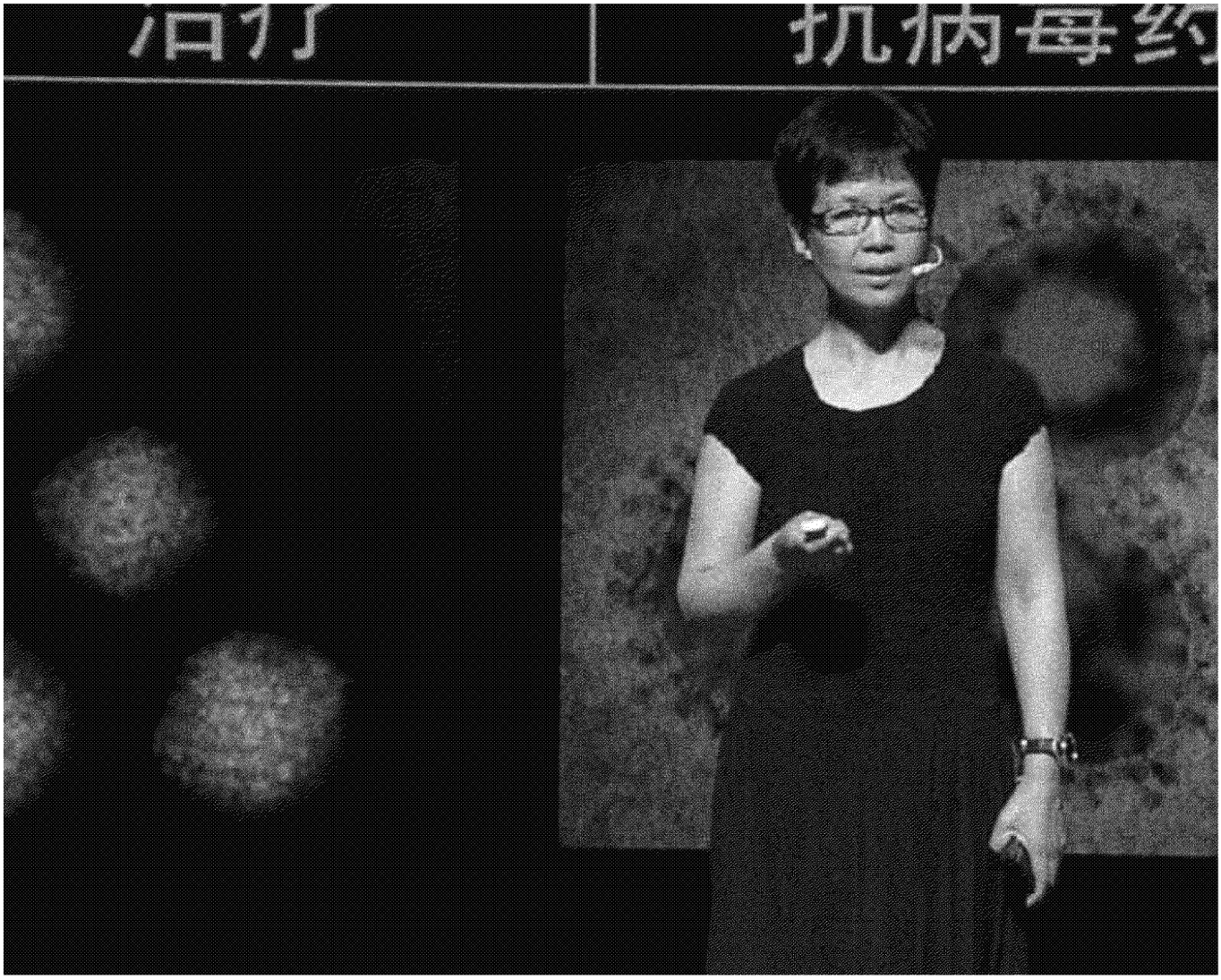
The perturbing lab leak theory raised by Andersen and his colleagues on January 31, 2020 had been safely laid to rest. Farrar and his colleagues had succeeded in the one goal also pursued by the autocrats in Beijing, that of suppressing discussion of whether the SARS2 virus might have escaped from the Wuhan lab.

Beijing's way of squelching inquiry about the virus was, unintentionally, somewhat more obvious than the methods used in London. Chinese authorities tried so hard to stamp out information about the virus's origin that they left a rather clumsy trail of footprints pointing to where they didn't want people to go.

One of the more informative suppressions of data was the closure of China's main database on bat and other viruses. Zhengli Shi, China's leading expert on bat coronaviruses, told the BBC that it was taken off line because of numerous hacking attempts. It's conceivable that in January 2020, after the pandemic broke out, people without authorized access might have tried to hack into the database. But in fact the database went off line on September 12, 2019. Who would have wanted to hack into a bat virus database back then? More likely, that is the date at which Chinese authorities realized they had a virus escape problem.

In February of last year, President Xi referred to the need to ensure biosafety and biosecurity, and the Chinese Communist Party followed by tightening up their biosafety rules in October 2020, accelerating a long planned revision. "To me, the fact that the CCP enacted a major series of laboratory biosafety regulations this past year is an indication that China's political leadership believes that a lab accident is likely to have caused the pandemic," says a biosurveillance expert who has monitored China's disease outbreak reporting for the past two decades.

Major clues as to what happened are evident in Shi's various pronouncements about the virus. The omissions and untruths in these statements are specific enough to outline the very body of facts the censors have sought to conceal.



Wuhan Institute of Virology researcher Shi Zhengli spoke about SARS during a Yixi event (comparable to a TED talk) on June 23, 2018. (Yixi video)

In looking at Shi's questionable statements, it's only fair to keep in mind that they may have been compelled. Her train of deceptions began immediately after the genetic sequence of the SARS2 virus was published on January 10, 2020, by Yong-zhen Zhang of Fudan University, against the wishes of Chinese authorities who subsequently closed his lab for a time. Where did this strange new virus come from? Shi wanted or was told to establish SARS2's pedigree as a bat virus, with an ancestry analogous to that of SARS1, the bat virus that caused an epidemic in 2002. In an important paper published on February 3, 2020, Shi reported that the genome of SARS2 is 96 percent similar to that of a bat virus, RaTG13, "which was previously detected in [the bat species] *Rhinolophus affinis* from Yunnan province."

Shi neglected to mention a salient difference between the two viruses, namely that SARS2 possessed a furin cleavage site and RaTG13 did not. Alina Chan, of the Broad Institute in Cambridge, has likened the omission to describing a unicorn by reporting all its horse-like features, but neglecting to mention the horn. Evidently the Chinese authorities were highly sensitive to the furin cleavage site's presence.

Shi also failed to say when and where she had discovered the RaTG13 virus, surely important data for the closest known relative of SARS2. In fact, she had found RaTG13 in 2013, in an abandoned mine in Tongguan—the same place where six miners had fallen sick the year

before. At that time, she analyzed just one of its genes and reported the virus under another name, BtCoV/4991. Daszak, the holder of her NIAID grant, told the London Times, perhaps on misinformation from Shi, that the virus was then thrown in a freezer and forgotten about until 2020. This was untrue—the virus was of much greater interest. Shi had analyzed its full genome, probably by 2018, but did not publish it. It was only when she needed a bat virus pedigree for SARS2 that Shi released information about the virus, which she now renamed RaTG13. The fact that BtCoV/4991 and RaTG13 were one and the same was discovered by Monali Rahalkar and Rahul Bahulikar, two internet-sleuthing researchers in Pune, India.

It's not acceptable practice among scientists to report something already published under a different name as if were new. Shi's February paper had the goal of portraying SARS2 as just another bat virus while concealing the true provenance of its closest known relative—a cave known to harbor lethal viruses.

When RaTG13's connection to the Tongguan mine was pointed out, Shi still tried to conceal the lethality of the mine's bat viruses, saying the miners had died of a fungus infection. This untruth was corrected when a master's thesis by a Chinese doctor, Li Xu, was unearthed by the internet sleuth who calls himself TheSeeker268. The thesis reported that the miners had died of a SARS-related virus with symptoms identical to those of Covid-19 and with CT scans similar to those of Covid patients. The only evident difference between that virus's effects and those of SARS2 is that the miners' virus was not readily transmissible from one person to another.

The specificity of what Shi's statements concealed—the furin cleavage site, RaTG13's identity with BatCoV/4991, the latter's origin in the mine where six miners were infected, the death of the three miners from infection by a virus with symptoms very similar to those of SARS2—all point to the involvement of these elements in a scenario the Chinese authorities are determined to cloak. That scenario may have been the storage or generation of the SARS2 virus in Shi's lab from one of the many viruses recovered from the Tongguan cave.

The Chinese government's persistent stonewalling and Shi's pattern of evasions do not amount to proof that the SARS2 virus escaped from her lab. But they seem less like the actions of innocent people and more like attempts to cover up a fatal accident, one that has caused the deaths of maybe 10 million people and counting.

Perhaps proof will one day emerge that the virus emerged naturally. If not, the likelihood that SARS2 escaped from a researcher's laboratory is an albatross that will hang round China's neck in perpetuity. China's only hope of release from this terrible encumbrance lies in opening its laboratory doors and either establishing its innocence or admitting its fateful error.

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: b6
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

MORENS_SUBPOENA_021547
MORENS_NIH_042423
REL0000477357

Disclaimer

The information contained in this communication from the sender is confidential. It is intended solely for use by the recipient and others authorized to receive it. If you are not the recipient, you are hereby notified that any disclosure, copying, distribution or taking action in relation of the contents of this information is strictly prohibited and may be unlawful.

This email has been scanned for viruses and malware, and may have been automatically archived by Mimecast, a leader in email security and cyber resilience. Mimecast integrates email defenses with brand protection, security awareness training, web security, compliance and other essential capabilities. Mimecast helps protect large and small organizations from malicious activity, human error and technology failure; and to lead the movement toward building a more resilient world. To find out more, visit our website.

Date: Wed, 3 Aug 2022 10:33:43 AM -0400
Sent: Wed, 3 Aug 2022 10:32:05 AM -0400
Subject: RE: Upcoming hearing from a Senate Subcommittee on gain of function research
From: Peter Daszak [b6]
To: Keusch, Gerald T [b6] Roberts, Rich [b6] Hotez, Peter Jay [b6]
CC: David Morens [b6]; Aleksei Chmura [b6]; Jeff Sturchio [b6]
Attachments: image001.gif; image002.jpg

Very glad you did this Jerry.

Their responses include the same messages I'm getting from the majority of scientists I've spoken with (including those who actually work with recombinant viruses), the academies, the societies, and the journals. Almost all of them state that they don't want to amplify these attacks by getting involved. It's the same with the Democratic staffers on these committees, and as you now see from this hearing, the Democratic Chairs of the committees – they're hoping that Rand Paul will just rant, then it will go away.

I think it's a huge mistake. Surely the public would be better served if the Democrat Chair of this Committee had already been approached by a coalition of the academic societies, the academies, journal editors, and leading scientists to inform them ahead of time. They might have then nixed it, or at least brought out one or two 'witnesses' to speak on behalf of the value to society of doing scientific research on these viruses. No need to 'defend' gain of function research – just to stop this anti-science wave that is trying to classify even taking samples from wildlife as 'risky research' – something that we call 'smart surveillance' because it gets us ahead of pandemics and leads to vaccines, drugs that are on the shelf and ready to go (e.g. Remdesivir, Molnupiravir, all tested against the viruses we discovered in China before COVID even emerged).

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: [b6]
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

From: Keusch, Gerald T <[b6]
Sent: Tuesday, August 2, 2022 3:10 PM
To: Roberts, Rich <[b6]>; Hotez, Peter Jay <[b6]
Cc: Peter Daszak <[b6]>; David Morens <[b6]>; Aleksei Chmura <[b6]>; Jeff Sturchio <[b6]>
Subject: RE: Upcoming hearing from a Senate Subcommittee on gain of function research

MORENS_SUBPOENA_009035
MORENS_NIH_019335
REL0000477435

Hi Rich, your note prompted me to contact Mary Woolley and Ellie Dehoney from R!A (see the string that follows starting with my note, their individual response, and my reaction to each of them at the bottom). I was actually surprised to hear from both of them so quickly. I hope my note raised their attention level, as their comment to be in touch with ASM suggests. Its why I followed up and suggested they build a coalition with the other big scientific societies as there is power and some degree of protection by banding together albeit no guarantee of results. Its just the need to get this out there for the scientific community to see and be willing to speak out. I don't see much of that happening.

Jerry

From: Keusch, Gerald T b6
Sent: Tuesday, August 2, 2022 1:48 PM
To: Mary Woolley
Cc: Ellie Dehoney b6
Subject: Rand Paul hearing

Hi Mary,

Hope you are well and continue to fight the good battle for the integrity of science. Unless I have missed it, however, I haven't seen any response by R!A to the continued attacks on Tony Fauci by Rand Paul, and in particular his outrageous hearing set for tomorrow to discuss "gain-of-function" research with such experts as Richard Ebright, Stephen Quay, and Kevin Esfelt – none of whom are virologists, geneticists, students of pathobiology or microbial pathogenesis, biomedical laboratory trained, have expertise in containment research, are evolutionary biologists, or biosafety experts.

The scientific community needs bold leadership from responsible organizations like R!A and its leadership, to mobilize reaction to such overt politicization and the attempt to disparage Tony and other thoughtful experts on whom we depend. Advocacy must be for more than funding because without preserving the highest principles of science and the scientists that practice and actually live them funding doesn't really matter.

Jerry

Gerald T. Keusch, M.D.
Professor of Medicine and International Health
Boston University School of Medicine
Associate Director, National Emerging Infectious Diseases Laboratories
620 Albany Street
Boston, MA 02118

From: Mary Woolley b6
Sent: Tuesday, August 2, 2022 2:39 PM
To: Keusch, Gerald T b6

MORENS_SUBPOENA_009036
MORENS_NIH_019336
REL0000477435

Cc: Ellie Dehoney <b6>
Subject: RE: Rand Paul hearing

Hi Gerry – very concerning, indeed. Ellie and I happened to be talking when your email arrived. It is shocking indeed that attacks on public servants seem to be escalating rather than in retreat. I read a JAMA abstract sometime recently about a study showing that the % of people who think it is justified and appropriate to harass (yes) and threaten (yes) elected and appointed officials has increased to about 25%. Incredible!

Per your specific questions, a couple of things to note:

We worked with others, very much including ASM, to assure that gain-of-function language was kept out of the CHIPS + Science authorizing legislation that passed both houses last week. We will continue to keep an eye on it during appropriations.

Ellie will be in touch with ASM, which we see as very much a leader in this, to see how we can help regarding tomorrow's hearing.

Our experience is that there are times to avoid giving attention to certain actors, as it can increase media and other coverage, which can play out badly, emboldening those actors.

This is an area where nuance matters and we don't always get it exactly right – although we aim for that!

Thank you for all you are doing.

My best,

Mary

FROM: Ellie Dehoney <b6>
SENT: Tuesday 8/2/2022 2:34 PM
TO: Keusch, Gerald T <b6>
CC: Mary Woolley <b6>
SUBJ: RE: Rand Paul hearing

Hi Jerry, thanks so much for sharing this info! We have been working in coalition with the American Society for Microbiology on the gain of function issue and were thrilled when the gain of function provision was dropped from the COMPETES plus SCIENCE Act. I'll get in touch with my colleagues at ASM now re the hearing. My guess is that they are intentionally not engaging, since Sen. Paul tries to rile up opponents to lengthen an otherwise short news cycle.

Eleanor (Ellie) Dehoney
Vice President of Policy and Advocacy

Research!America

From: Keusch, Gerald T
Sent: Tuesday, August 2, 2022 2:41 PM
To: Ellie Dehoney [b6]; Mary Woolley <
[b6]
Subject: RE: Rand Paul hearing

Thanks for the quick reply, Ellie. I understand the complex political implications of any action, considering inaction itself an action. Teaming with ASM is a good strategy. Even better if R!A could lead a coalition of the leading societies and organizations, including AAAS, IDSA, ASTM, and even with the National Academies of Science or perhaps just the National Academy of Medicine. There is power in such a coalition, but only to the degree there is a willingness to speak out, support the principles of scientific integrity, and defend those who are being attacked.

I personally appreciate your willingness to immediately follow up, and I hope your counterparts at ASM are equally appalled over this and the parade of non-expert witnesses being featured to an unsophisticated TV audience and, yes, the news cycle and cable TV.

Jerry

From: Keusch, Gerald T
Sent: Tuesday, August 2, 2022 2:49 PM
To: Mary Woolley [b6]>
Cc: Ellie Dehoney [b6]
Subject: RE: Rand Paul hearing

Thanks Mary, and as I noted to Ellie especially for your quick reply to my note, as I know that you are both busy and dealing with a multiplicity of issues. I encourage you to continue to push the issues and the concerns we clearly share in every way possible. The scientific method is a never ending search for knowledge, and I trust so will be the effort to defend scientific integrity and autonomy from the influence of politics and belief systems.

Warm regards, Jerry

From: Roberts, Rich [b6]
Sent: Monday, August 1, 2022 3:00 PM
To: Hotez, Peter Jay [b6] Keusch, Gerald T [b6]
Cc: Peter Daszak [b6]>; David Morens [b6]; Aleksei Chmura <
[b6]; Jeff Sturchi [b6]>
Subject: RE: Upcoming hearing from a Senate Subcommittee on gain of function research

Hi:

Did anyone actually contact Research America about this?

MORENS_SUBPOENA_009038
MORENS_NIH_019338
REL0000477435

Rich

Richard J. Roberts
New England Biolabs
240 County Road
Ipswich, MA 01938-2723
USA
Tel: b6
Fax: (978) 412 9910
email: b6

From: Hotez, Peter Jay [redacted]
Sent: Monday, August 1, 2022 1:47 PM
To: Keusch, Gerald T [redacted]
Cc: Peter Daszak [redacted]; Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] [redacted] David Morens [redacted]; Aleksei Chmura [redacted]; Roberts, Rich [redacted]; Jeff Sturchio [redacted]
Subject: Re: Upcoming hearing from a Senate Subcommittee on gain of function research

EXTERNAL SENDER

I'm surprised Research America is not on this helping? Or Victor Dzau?

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP
Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine
Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology
Health Policy Scholar
Baylor College of Medicine

Texas Children's Hospital Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics
Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development

University Professor, Baylor University

Faculty Fellow, Hagler Institute for Advanced Study
Senior Fellow, Scowcroft Institute of International Affairs
Texas A&M University
Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty and Adjunct Professor of Bioengineering, Rice University
Adjunct Professor, University of Texas, School of Public Health

Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

E-mail: b6
Twitter: @peterhotez
Skype: b6
Linkedin Peter Hotez

Amazon Author Center: https://www.amazon.com/Peter- J.-Hotez/e/B001HPIC48
Daily Beast Contributor https://www.thedailybeast.com/author/peter- j-hotez

Like us on Facebook https://www.facebook.com/BCMNationalSchoolOfTropicalMedicine/

Senior Coordinator / Executive Support: Douglas Soriano
b6
Phone: b6
Fax: 713-798-2299

iPhone

On Aug 1, 2022, at 12:40 PM, Keusch, Gerald T <b6> wrote:

Yes. This is set up to disparage Tony Fauci and further the impact of disinformation in the Congress.
We need to be getting out the people to contact their Senators and Congressmen and Women whether or not they are on any relevant committees.

Jerry

Sent from my iPhone

On Aug 1, 2022, at 12:17 PM, Hotez, Peter Jay b6 wrote:

Ok

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP
Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine
Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology
Health Policy Scholar
Baylor College of Medicine

Texas Children's Hospital Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics
Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development

University Professor, Baylor University

Faculty Fellow, Hagler Institute for Advanced Study
Senior Fellow, Scowcroft Institute of International Affairs
Texas A&M University
Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty and Adjunct Professor of Bioengineering, Rice University
Adjunct Professor, University of Texas, School of Public Health

MORENS_SUBPOENA_009040
MORENS_NIH_019340
REL0000477435

Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

E-mail: b6
Twitter: @peterhotez
Skype: b6
Linkedin Peter Hotez

Amazon Author Center: https://www.amazon.com/Peter- J.-Hotez/e/B001HPIC48
Daily Beast Contributor https://www.thedailybeast.com/author/peter- j-hotez
Like us on Facebook https://www.facebook.com/BCMNationalSchoolOfTropicalMedicine/

Senior Coordinator / Executive Support: Douglas Soriano
b6
Phone b6
Fax: 713-798-2299

iPhone

> On Aug 1, 2022, at 11:14 AM, Peter Daszak b6 g > wrote:
>
> Re. commenting on this – I think you should wait to see if it gets any publicity first, otherwise you might inadvertently amplify their impact..
>
> Re. November – I worry that our lives will be made miserable by constant harassment from what could be Republican-led Congressional committees. If this HSGAC group is any indication, they expect us to just dump all of our emails for the last dozen years or more so that they can go through them and find sentences that support their narrative when quoted out of context. It's not just utterly disingenuous, it's also dangerous because it drives the public hate campaigns and efforts to attack us in many other ways.
>
> We've managed to avoid a couple of serious efforts to defund us so far, and are only working with this committee to try and avoid even more pressure, but we know they're talking to many other groups to build their 'case'. On our last call, they asked us for not only any emails to govt agencies, but emails between staff members. I pointed out that it's against our org's policy to snoop on staff conversations, and they smugly told us we should get used to requests for documents because we'll "soon be doing a lot more of them".
>
> Cheers,
>
> Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: b6
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

---

From: Hotez, Peter Jay b6
Sent: Monday, August 1, 2022 11:47 AM
To: Peter Daszak b6
Cc: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] b6 >; David Morens b6 >; Keusch, Gerald T b6 Aleksei Chmura b6 Roberts, Rich b6
Subject: Re: Upcoming hearing from a Senate Subcommittee on gain of function research

Should I publicize this with my usual commentary?

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP
Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine
Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology
Health Policy Scholar
Baylor College of Medicine

Texas Children's Hospital Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics
Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development

University Professor, Baylor University

Faculty Fellow, Hagler Institute for Advanced Study
Senior Fellow, Scowcroft Institute of International Affairs
Texas A&M University
Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty and Adjunct Professor of Bioengineering, Rice University
Adjunct Professor, University of Texas, School of Public Health

Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

E-mail: b6
Twitter: @peterhotez
Skype: b6
Linkedin Peter Hotez

Amazon Author Center: https://www.amazon.com/Peter- J.-Hotez/e/B001HPIC48

Daily Beast Contributor https://www.thedailybeast.com/author/peter- j-hotez
Like us on Facebook https://www.facebook.com/BCMNationalSchoolOfTropicalMedicine/

Senior Coordinator / Executive Support: Douglas Soriano
b6
Phone: b6
Fax: 713-798-2299

iPhone

On Aug 1, 2022, at 10:20 AM, Peter Daszak b6 wrote:

Dear all (David – I didn't cc Jeff Taubenberger because you've all been using his NIH address which would be subject to Congressional requests and to FoIA),

I just spotted this upcoming HSGAC Subcommittee on Emerging Threats and Spending Oversight hearing on Wednesday, on one of the lab leaker's social media feeds.

https://www.hsgac.senate.gov/subcommittees/etso/hearings/revisiting- gain-of-function-research-what-the-pandemic-taught-us-and-where-do-we-go-from-here

The three speakers are all non-virologists, and have been attacking all research that tries to get to the bottom of COVID origins, unless it's pushing a China lab leak agenda.

- Richard Ebright has been attacking EcoHealth's work ever since the pandemic as part of his long term criticism of recombinant virus technology. He was part of the Cambridge Group that ended up pausing recombinant viral research in the past, and is extremely vocal (and quite offensively) about our work, which he uses to try to leverage attacks against Dr. Fauci, NIAID, NIH in general.
- Stephen Quay is pretty much on the edge of being a quack at this point having made many public statements about HIV inserts in the virus etc.
- Kevin Esvelt is calling for research identifying viruses in wildlife as a way to get ahead of pandemics to be closed down, following his criticisms of CRISPR etc.

It looks like this is another effort by Rand Paul to drum up some public interest from his base, perhaps?

Cheers,

Peter

MORENS_SUBPOENA_009043
MORENS_NIH_019343
REL0000477435

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: b6
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

---

From: Hotez, Peter Jay b6
Sent: Tuesday, July 26, 2022 11:51 AM
To: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] b6
Cc: David Morens b6 Peter Daszak b6 g >; Keusch, Gerald T b6 >; Aleksei Chmura b6 >; Roberts, Rich b6 ; Taubenberger, Jeffery (NIH/NIAID) [E] b6 >
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] Re:

Oh ok

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP
Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine
Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology
Health Policy Scholar
Baylor College of Medicine

Texas Children's Hospital Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics
Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development

University Professor, Baylor University

Faculty Fellow, Hagler Institute for Advanced Study
Senior Fellow, Scowcroft Institute of International Affairs
Texas A&M University
Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty and Adjunct Professor of Bioengineering, Rice University
Adjunct Professor, University of Texas, School of Public Health

Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

E-mail: b6
Twitter: @peterhotez
Skype: b6
Linkedin Peter Hotez

Amazon Author Center: https://www.amazon.com/Peter- J.-Hotez/e/B001HPIC48
Daily Beast Contributor https://www.thedailybeast.com/author/peter- j-hotez
Like us on Facebook
https://www.facebook.com/BCMNationalSchoolOfTropicalMedicine/

Senior Coordinator / Executive Support: Douglas Soriano
b6
Phone: b6
Fax: 713-798-2299

iPhone

On Jul 26, 2022, at 11:22 AM, Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] b6 wrote:

Peter, I do not have a link. These pdfs came directly from the journal.

David

David M. Morens, M.D.
Senior Advisor to the Director
Office of the Director
National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases
National Institutes of Health
Building 31, Room 7A-03
31 Center Drive, MSC 2520
Bethesda, MD 20892-2520
b6 assistants: Kimberly Barasch; Whitney Robinson)
b6

Disclaimer: This message is intended for the exclusive use of the recipient(s) named above. It may contain information that is PROTECTED, PRIVILEGED, and/or CONFIDENTIAL, and it should not be disseminated, distributed, or copied to persons not authorized to receive such information. All sensitive documents must be properly labeled before dissemination via email. If you are not the intended recipient, any dissemination, distribution, or copying is strictly prohibited. If you have received this communication in error, please erase all copies of the message and its attachments and notify us immediately.



From: Hotez, Peter Jay < b6
Sent: Monday, July 25, 2022 5:20 PM
To: David Morens < b6 >
Cc: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] < b6 > Peter Daszak < b6 >; Keusch, Gerald T < b6 >; Aleksei Chmura < b6 >; Roberts, Rich < b6 > Taubenberger, Jeffery (NIH/NIAID) [E] < b6 >
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Re:

Do you have the link so i can put it out on social media? I had trouble finding it

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP
Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine
Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology
Health Policy Scholar
Baylor College of Medicine

Texas Children's Hospital Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics
Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development

University Professor, Baylor University

Faculty Fellow, Hagler Institute for Advanced Study
Senior Fellow, Scowcroft Institute of International Affairs
Texas A&M University
Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty and Adjunct Professor of Bioengineering, Rice University
Adjunct Professor, University of Texas, School of Public Health

Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

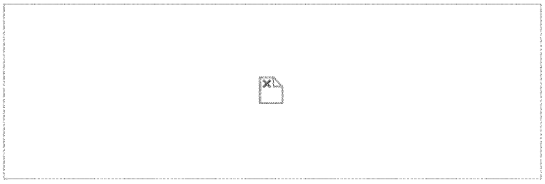
E-mail: b6
Twitter: @peterhotez
Skype: b6
Linkedin Peter Hotez

Amazon Author Center: https://www.amazon.com/Peter- J.-

MORENS_SUBPOENA_009046
MORENS_NIH_019346
REL0000477435

Hotez/e/B001HPIC48
Daily Beast Contributor https://www.thedailybeast.com/author/peter- j-hotez
Like us on Facebook
https://www.facebook.com/BCMNationalSchoolOfTropicalMedicine/

Senior Coordinator / Executive Support: Douglas Soriano
b6
Phone: b6
Fax: 713-798-2299



iPhone

On Jul 25, 2022, at 5:07 PM, David Morens <b6> wrote:

CAUTION: This email is not from a BCM Source. Only click links or open attachments you know are safe.

Attempt no. 2, per Rich, the two attachments fell off..... dmm
David M. Morens, MD
Stonehall, No. 800
8302 Woodmont Avenue
Bethesda, Maryland 20814

b6 >
b6 b6 b6 (work)
b6 b6 b6 (cell)

IMPORTANT: My gmail frequently sends incoming messages to Trash, which is apparently not correctable. If you don't hear from me in a reasonable time, please try again, call, or use my NIH email address

IMPORTANT: For US Government-related email, please also reply to my NIAID address

On Mon, Jul 25, 2022 at 3:11 PM David Morens <b6
<mailto:b6> wrote:
probably u have all seen these but just in case....d
David M. Morens, MD

b6

b6 >
b6 b6 b6 (work)
b6 b6 b6 (cell)

IMPORTANT: My gmail frequently sends incoming messages to Trash, which is apparently not correctable. If you don't hear from me in a reasonable time, please try again, call, or use my NIH email address

IMPORTANT: For US Government-related email, please also reply to my NIAID address

On Mon, Jul 25, 2022 at 3:08 PM Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] < dmorens@niaid.nih.gov <mailto:dmorens@niaid.nih.gov >> wrote:

[cid:18236c3bfd54cdccc1]
David M. Morens, M.D.
Senior Advisor to the Director
Office of the Director
National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases
National Institutes of Health
Building 31, Room 7A-03
31 Center Drive, MSC 2520
Bethesda, MD 20892-2520
• b6 b6 b6 (assistants: Kimberly Barasch; Whitney Robinson)
• b6 b6 b6
• b6 <mailto: b6

Disclaimer: This message is intended for the exclusive use of the recipient(s) named above. It may contain information that is PROTECTED, PRIVILEGED, and/or CONFIDENTIAL, and it should not be disseminated, distributed, or copied to persons not authorized to receive such information. All sensitive documents must be properly labeled before dissemination via email. If you are not the intended recipient, any dissemination, distribution, or copying is strictly prohibited. If you have received this communication in error, please erase all copies of the message and its attachments and notify us immediately.

[DMM Portrait B 12 29 15 P0923]

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and are confident the content is safe.

Date: Fri, 21 Jul 2023 1:03:01 PM -0400
Subject: Fwd: Sachs and Relman quoted again today
From: David Morens b6
To: David Morens b6
Attachments: image001.png; image002.jpg; image008.png

David M. Morens, MD
b6
b6 b6 b6 (work)
b6 b6 b6 (cell)

IMPORTANT: My gmail frequently sends incoming messages to Trash, which is apparently not correctable. If you don't hear from me in a reasonable time, please try again, call, or use my NIH email address

IMPORTANT: For US Government-related email, please also reply to my NIAID address

--------- Forwarded message ---------
From: **Peter Daszak** b6
Date: Fri, Jul 1, 2022 at 11:02 AM
Subject: RE: Sachs and Relman quoted again today
To: Roberts, Rich b6 Hotez, Peter Jay b6
Cc: Gerald T Keusch b6, Aleksei Chmura b6 David Morens <
b6, Jeffrey Sturchio b6

Good one Rich!

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak

President

EcoHealth Alliance

520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200

New York, NY 10018-6507

USA

Tel.: b6

Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org

Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

---

From: Roberts, Rich [b6]
Sent: Friday, July 1, 2022 10:23 AM
To: Hotez, Peter Jay [b6]; Peter Daszak [b6]
Cc: Gerald T Keusch [b6]; Aleksei Chmura [b6]; David Morens < [b6]; Jeffrey Sturchio [b6]
Subject: RE: Sachs and Relman quoted again today

You know physicists discovered electrons, protons and neutrons – but they missed the morons.

Rich

MORENS_SUBPOENA_008004
MORENS_NIH_017359
REL0000477453

Richard J. Roberts

New England Biolabs

240 County Road

Ipswich, MA 01938-2723

USA

Tel: b6

Fax: (978) 412 9910

email: b6

From: Hotez, Peter Jay b6
Sent: Friday, July 1, 2022 9:46 AM
To: Peter Daszak b6
Cc: Roberts, Rich b6; Gerald T Keusch b6; Aleksei Chmura b6
>; David Morens b6 >; Jeffrey Sturchio b6
Subject: Re: Sachs and Relman quoted again today

EXTERNAL SENDER

It's getting crazy again

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP
Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine
Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology
Health Policy Scholar
Baylor College of Medicine

Texas Children's Hospital Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics
Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development

University Professor, Baylor University

Faculty Fellow, Hagler Institute for Advanced Study
Senior Fellow, Scowcroft Institute of International Affairs
Texas A&M University
Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty and Adjunct Professor of Bioengineering, Rice University
Adjunct Professor, University of Texas, School of Public Health

Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

E-mail: b6
Twitter: @peterhotez
Skype: b6
Linkedin Peter Hotez

Amazon Author Center: https://www.amazon.com/Peter- J.-Hotez/e/B001HPIC48
Daily Beast Contributor https://www.thedailybeast.com/author/peter- j-hotez
Like us on Facebook https://www.facebook.com/BCMNationalSchoolOfTropicalMedicine/

Senior Coordinator / Executive Support: Douglas Soriano
b6
Phone b6
Fax: 713-798-2299

iPhone

On Jul 1, 2022, at 8:37 AM, Peter Daszak b6 wrote:

We've been fielding questions all week from a reporter at US Right to Know because they've FoIA'd another batch of emails. Here's an article today claiming that Ian Lipkin should have reported working with EHA as a 'Conflict of Interest' for his Nature Medicine paper with Kristian Andersen et al. back in Feb 2020.

Here's the link: https://usrtk.org/biohazards- blog/anti-lab-leak-virologist-ecohealth-alliance-partner/

You'll be irritated to see quotes from Jeff Sachs and David Relman. Everyone seems happy with the idea that somehow collaborating with EcoHealth Alliance means you have a conflict of interest in this world of fake COVID origin stories.

The article is also utterly disingenuous in pretending it took a FoIA lawsuit to find out that Ian Lipkin collaborated with us. All it would have taken is a 5 second Google Search.

Note also US Right to Know's motto: "Pursuing truth and transparency for public health".

US RTK

U.S. RIGHT TO KNOW

PURSUING TRUTH AND TRANSPARENCY FOR PUBLIC HEALTH

Virologist who tried to discredit the lab leak theory was once a 'partner' to EcoHealth Alliance

Print Email Share Tweet

Posted on July 1, 2022 by Emily Kopp



Columbia University virologist Ian Lipkin has coauthored several articles with EcoHealth Alliance since 2011. (Photo credit: kris krüg)

MORENS_SUBPOENA_008007
MORENS_NIH_017362
REL0000477453

A virologist who coauthored a paper marginalizing the lab leak theory did not disclose his ties to the research group at the center of it.

Director of Columbia University's Center for Infection and Immunity Ian Lipkin has often worked with EcoHealth Alliance, a U.S.-based collaborator of the Wuhan Institute of Virology, the group confirmed in an email.

EcoHealth Alliance listed Lipkin as a "partner" from 2012 to 2014, an archived version of the group's website shows. Lipkin has coauthored at least ten scientific papers with EcoHealth researchers from 2011 to 2021, EcoHealth Alliance President Peter Daszak said in an email. These publications include a paper about novel coronaviruses EcoHealth and its partners sampled around the world.

EcoHealth Alliance hunts for novel viruses in wildlife and funds research at the Wuhan Institute of Virology.

Lipkin did not disclose his partnership with EcoHealth in "The proximal origin of SARS-CoV-2," a highly influential paper that states that COVID-19 arose from nature.

A central premise of that paper: COVID-19 is too dissimilar from viruses commonly employed in experiments to have spilled out of a lab.

"It is improbable that SARS-CoV-2 emerged through laboratory manipulation of a related SARS-CoV-like coronavirus," the paper states. "The genetic data irrefutably show that SARS-CoV-2 is not derived from any previously used virus backbone."

But Lipkin did not disclose his connection to a nonprofit that uncovers new and novel viruses. Some of those viruses were likely studied at its partnering lab in Wuhan, which housed one of the world's largest collection of bat coronaviruses.

Lipkin did not return several requests for comment.

At 5.7 million views, the *Nature Medicine* article may be one of the most widely read scientific papers in history — though the piece is formally a "correspondence."

David Relman, a Stanford University microbiologist and emerging infectious diseases expert for the National Academies, said conflicts of interest are especially troublesome when writing on high profile issues.

"For any major, controversial issue, I believe that all of us have an even greater responsibility to reveal those conflicts upfront—and let others have an opportunity to judge what effect those conflicts might have had," said Relman.

Relman also called into question the logic of the paper's premise. The Wuhan Institute of Virology may have simply been experimenting with unfamiliar viruses. The disappearance of the lab's coronavirus sequence database in 2019 and the lab's history of gain-of-function experiments also weaken the claims of Lipkin and his coauthors, Relman said.

"The Proximal Origins paper is flawed in its assumptions, logic and the soundness of its conclusions. I was very surprised that it passed review at *Nature Medicin*e," he said.

Columbia University Center for Sustainable Development Director Jeffrey Sachs — chair of The Lancet COVID-19 Commission — said the citation the authors used to prop up the paper's premise deserves more scrutiny.

"The Proximal Origins paper has no credibility," Sachs wrote in an email. "The paper's central claim — that SARS-CoV-2 is not related to viruses previously reported in laboratory research — offers as proof a footnote to a 2014 paper!"

"It ludicrously claims to debunk a 2019 lab emergence using a 2014 paper," he continued. "The paper offers no real evidence whatsoever against the possible lab origin of the virus, even though it claimed to do so."

Lipkin himself has since acknowledged the possibility that the Wuhan Institute of Virology was experimenting with unknown viruses, contradicting the popular paper he coauthored.

"If they've got hundreds of bat samples that are coming in, and some of them aren't characterized, how would they know whether this virus was or wasn't in this lab? They wouldn't," Lipkin said in an interview with the Washington Post last year.

But Lipkin has not disclosed his work with EcoHealth to reporters.

Nature Medicine, the journal that published the paper, defines a "competing interest" requiring disclosure as including "personal or professional relations with organizations and individuals" — paid or unpaid. A spokesperson for parent company Springer Nature did not respond to a request for comment by press time.

Lipkin's connection to a group at the center of lab leak suspicions is the latest revelation to cast doubt on the correspondence.

Significant questions remain. It's still unclear how the authors dispelled their own private concerns that the virus had been engineered within a couple of days.

For example, Lipkin privately voiced concerns to his coauthors about a "nightmare of circumstantial evidence" pointing to the Wuhan Institute of Virology, Vanity Fair reported.

It's also unknown to what extent leaders of the National Institutes of Health, which funded the EcoHealth Alliance, may have shaped the paper.

Grant reports that led a reporter to the defunct link showing Lipkin's partnership with EcoHealth Alliance were obtained through a Freedom of Information Act request to the U.S. Agency for International Development.

Biohazards, Biohazards Blog Anthony Fauci, David Relman, EcoHealth Alliance, Ian Lipkin, Jeff Sachs, Kristian Andersen, Peter Daszak, proximal origin, Robert Garry, The Lancet's COVID Commission, Virologist, Wuhan Institute of Virology

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak

President

EcoHealth Alliance

520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200

New York, NY 10018-6507

USA

Tel.: b6

Website:

MORENS_SUBPOENA_008010
MORENS_NIH_017365
REL0000477453

Date: Fri, 21 Jul 2023 1:05:10 PM -0400
Sent: Fri, 21 Jul 2023 1:04:18 PM -0400
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Fwd: Sachs and Relman quoted again today
From: David Morens b6
To: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] b6

David M. Morens, MD
b6
b6
b6 b6 b6 (work)
b6 b6 b6 (cell)

IMPORTANT: My gmail frequently sends incoming messages to Trash, which is apparently not correctable. If you don't hear from me in a reasonable time, please try again, call, or use my NIH email address

IMPORTANT: For US Government-related email, please also reply to my NIAID address

--------- Forwarded message --------
From: Peter Daszak b6
Date: Fri, Jul 1, 2022 at 9:36 AM
Subject: Sachs and Relman quoted again today
To: Roberts, Rich b6 >, Hotez, Peter Jay b6 >
Cc: Gerald T Keusch b6 >, Aleksei Chmura b6 >, David Morens b6 >, Jeffrey Sturchio b6 >

We've been fielding questions all week from a reporter at US Right to Know because they've FoIA'd another batch of emails. Here's an article today claiming that Ian Lipkin should have reported working with EHA as a 'Conflict of Interest' for his Nature Medicine paper with Kristian Andersen et al. back in Feb 2020.

Here's the link:
https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fusrtk.org%2Fbiohazards-blog%2Fanti-lab-leak-virologist-ecohealth-alliance-partner%2F&data=05%7C01%7Cdmorens%40niaid.nih.gov%7C3389c0e0a0a34e936cc608db8a0ca101%7C14b77578977342d585&sdata=ZVLVQWDISVzdVWyNSgqP3tFl2ClRCkcaIXbh0XRaTzk%3D &reserved=0

You'll be irritated to see quotes from Jeff Sachs and David Relman. Everyone seems happy with the idea that somehow collaborating with EcoHealth Alliance means you have a conflict of interest in this world of fake COVID origin stories.

The article is also utterly disingenuous in pretending it took a FoIA lawsuit to find out that Ian Lipkin collaborated with us. All it would have taken is a 5 second Google Search.

Note also US Right to Know's motto: "Pursuing truth and transparency for public health".

PURSUING TRUTH AND TRANSPARENCY FOR PUBLIC HEALTH

Virologist who tried to discredit the lab leak theory was once a 'partner' to EcoHealth Alliance

PrintEmailShareTweet

Posted on July 1, 2022 by Emily Kopp

Columbia University virologist Ian Lipkin has coauthored several articles with EcoHealth Alliance since 2011. (Photo credit: kris krüg)

A virologist who coauthored a paper marginalizing the lab leak theory did not disclose his ties to the research group at the center of it.

Director of Columbia University's Center for Infection and Immunity Ian Lipkin has often worked with EcoHealth Alliance, a U.S.-based collaborator of the Wuhan Institute of Virology, the group confirmed in an email.

EcoHealth Alliance listed Lipkin as a "partner" from 2012 to 2014, an archived version of the group's website shows. Lipkin has coauthored at least ten scientific papers with EcoHealth researchers from 2011 to 2021, EcoHealth Alliance President Peter Daszak said in an email. These publications include a paper about novel coronaviruses EcoHealth and its partners sampled around the world.

EcoHealth Alliance hunts for novel viruses in wildlife and funds research at the Wuhan Institute of Virology.

Lipkin did not disclose his partnership with EcoHealth in "The proximal origin of SARS-CoV-2," a highly influential paper that states that COVID-19 arose from nature.

A central premise of that paper: COVID-19 is too dissimilar from viruses commonly employed in experiments to have spilled out of a lab.

"It is improbable that SARS-CoV-2 emerged through laboratory

manipulation of a related SARS-CoV-like coronavirus," the paper states. "The genetic data irrefutably show that SARS-CoV-2 is not derived from any previously used virus backbone."

But Lipkin did not disclose his connection to a nonprofit that uncovers new and novel viruses. Some of those viruses were likely studied at its partnering lab in Wuhan, which housed one of the world's largest collection of bat coronaviruses.

Lipkin did not return several requests for comment.

At 5.7 million views, the Nature Medicine article may be one of the most widely read scientific papers in history — though the piece is formally a "correspondence."

David Relman, a Stanford University microbiologist and emerging infectious diseases expert for the National Academies, said conflicts of interest are especially troublesome when writing on high profile issues.

"For any major, controversial issue, I believe that all of us have an even greater responsibility to reveal those conflicts upfront—and let others have an opportunity to judge what effect those conflicts might have had," said Relman.

Relman also called into question the logic of the paper's premise. The Wuhan Institute of Virology may have simply been experimenting with unfamiliar viruses. The disappearance of the lab's coronavirus sequence database in 2019 and the lab's history of gain-of-function experiments also weaken the claims of Lipkin and his coauthors, Relman said.

"The Proximal Origins paper is flawed in its assumptions, logic and the soundness of its conclusions. I was very surprised that it passed review at Nature Medicine," he said.

Columbia University Center for Sustainable Development Director Jeffrey Sachs — chair of The Lancet COVID-19 Commission — said the citation the authors used to prop up the paper's premise deserves more scrutiny.

"The Proximal Origins paper has no credibility," Sachs wrote in an email. "The paper's central claim — that SARS-CoV-2 is not related to viruses previously reported in laboratory research — offers as proof a footnote to a 2014 paper!"

"It ludicrously claims to debunk a 2019 lab emergence using a 2014 paper," he continued. "The paper offers no real evidence whatsoever against the possible lab origin of the virus, even though it claimed to do so."

Lipkin himself has since acknowledged the possibility that the Wuhan Institute of Virology was experimenting with unknown viruses,

MORENS_SUBPOENA_002915
MORENS_NIH_009431
REL0000477466

contradicting the popular paper he coauthored.

"If they've got hundreds of bat samples that are coming in, and some of them aren't characterized, how would they know whether this virus was or wasn't in this lab? They wouldn't," Lipkin said in an interview with the Washington Post last year.

But Lipkin has not disclosed his work with EcoHealth to reporters.

Nature Medicine, the journal that published the paper, defines a "competing interest" requiring disclosure as including "personal or professional relations with organizations and individuals" — paid or unpaid. A spokesperson for parent company Springer Nature did not respond to a request for comment by press time.

Lipkin's connection to a group at the center of lab leak suspicions is the latest revelation to cast doubt on the correspondence.

Significant questions remain. It's still unclear how the authors dispelled their own private concerns that the virus had been engineered within a couple of days.

For example, Lipkin privately voiced concerns to his coauthors about a "nightmare of circumstantial evidence" pointing to the Wuhan Institute of Virology, Vanity Fair reported.

It's also unknown to what extent leaders of the National Institutes of Health, which funded the EcoHealth Alliance, may have shaped the paper.

Grant reports that led a reporter to the defunct link showing Lipkin's partnership with EcoHealth Alliance were obtained through a Freedom of Information Act request to the U.S. Agency for International Development.

Biohazards, Biohazards Blog Anthony Fauci, David Relman, EcoHealth Alliance, Ian Lipkin, Jeff Sachs, Kristian Andersen, Peter Daszak, proximal origin, Robert Garry, The Lancet's COVID Commission, Virologist, Wuhan Institute of Virology

0

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak

President

EcoHealth Alliance

520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200

New York, NY 10018-6507

USA

Tel.: b6

Website:
https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.ecohealthalliance.org%2F&data=05%7C01%7Cdmorens%40niaid.nih.gov%7C3389c0e0a0a34e936cc608db8a0ca101%7C14b77578977342d585&sdata=Atw8DfJE6EXgOgQINQ%2FpPPWl1F5WLTTX4Vk%2FajWJYr4%3D &reserved=0

Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

From: Roberts, Rich [b6]>
Sent: Thursday, June 30, 2022 11:21 AM
To: Hotez, Peter Jay [b6] Peter Daszak [b6] >
Cc: Gerald T Keusch [b6]>; Aleksei Chmura [b6] >; David Morens [b6]>; Jeffrey Sturchio [b6]>
Subject: RE: Jeff Sachs' comments RE: COVID-19 Commission: Need approval of minor edits after first peer review

What a joke – he should be locked up

Richard J. Roberts

New England Biolabs

240 County Road

Ipswich, MA 01938-2723

USA

Tel: b6

Fax: (978) 412 9910

email: b6

From: Hotez, Peter Jay b6 >
Sent: Thursday, June 30, 2022 10:50 AM
To: Peter Daszak b6 >
Cc: Gerald T Keusch b6 >; Aleksei Chmura b6 >; David Morens b6 >; Jeffrey Sturchio b6 >; Roberts, Rich b6 >
Subject: Re: Jeff Sachs' comments RE: COVID-19 Commission: Need approval of minor edits after first peer review

EXTERNAL SENDER

Looks like Joe Rogan has gone full down the rabbit hole

https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Ftwitter.com%2Fskmorefield%2Fstatus%2F1542&data=05%7C01%7Cdmorens%40niaid.nih.gov%7C3389c0e0a0a34e936cc608db8a0ca101%7C14b77578977342d585&sdata=D9dpl9MdSS%2Bbi1GhR7eSGrsNsV%2FgxgcDdVqxlJZEKq4%3D &reserved=0

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP

Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine
Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology
Health Policy Scholar

Baylor College of Medicine

Texas Children's Hospital Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics
Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development

University Professor, Baylor University

Faculty Fellow, Hagler Institute for Advanced Study

Senior Fellow, Scowcroft Institute of International Affairs

Texas A&M University

Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty and Adjunct Professor of Bioengineering, Rice University

Adjunct Professor, University of Texas, School of Public Health

Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

E-mail: b6
Twitter: @peterhotez

Skype: b6

Linkedin Peter Hotez

Amazon Author Center:
https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.amazon.com%2FPeter- J.-Hotez%2Fe%2FB001HPIC48
&data=05%7C01%7Cdmorens%40niaid.nih.gov%7C3389c0e0a0a34e936cc608db8a0ca101%7C14b77578977342d585
&sdata=gd9%2BTTzvJKohAtqxLQH%2BVHuud9UL2sCNosZ0N565GX8%3D &reserved=0

Daily Beast Contributor
https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.thedailybeast.com%2Fauthor%2Fpeter-j-hotez
&data=05%7C01%7Cdmorens%40niaid.nih.gov%7C3389c0e0a0a34e936cc608db8a0ca101%7C14b77578977342d585
&sdata=g5cZoY0pnH2NO%2BDf%2F2GL6M2czgI7zjceVb32CgroaTw%3D &reserved=0

Like us on Facebook

https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.facebook.com%2FBCMNationalSchoolOf
&data=05%7C01%7Cdmorens%40niaid.nih.gov%7C3389c0e0a0a34e936cc608db8a0ca101%7C14b77578977342d585
&sdata=nlCmQhv3vZpfrUWQAKGgcqiOo3cfb27gNGlvk%2FG3sAM%3D &reserved=0

Senior Coordinator / Executive Support: Douglas Soriano

b6

Phone: b6

Fax: 713-798-2299

iPhone

On Jun 28, 2022, at 10:54 AM, Peter Daszak b6 wrote:

Richard Horton already made a false statement about me to the House of Commons – saying that it took him a year to get me to fully disclose my conflicts of interests for the Lancet 'Statement of support' we wrote in Feb 2020. He referred to me as "that individual". De-humanizing and dishonest. So I doubt he'll intervene, but worth a shot.

By the way – here's today's gloating article by the "White Coat Waste" celebrating Republican congressional member Reschenthaler (PA) who has been doggedly pursuing our defunding for the last 2 years. The amendments do not actually make any iota of difference of course – No funds from DoD ever went to Wuhan either directly or through EcoHealth. But it does the job of painting us as an organization that should be attacked. Just as Sachs' Lancet Commission report will now do.

https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fblog.whitecoatwaste.org%2F2022%2F06%2F24congress-defunds-wuhan-animal-lab-ecohealth-alliance%2F&data=05%7C01%7Cdmorens%40niaid.nih.gov%7C3389c0e0a0a34e936cc608db8a0ca101%7C14b77578977342d585&sdata=rTtTX%2FCRbqvdLkaifUfCllrLzSyF9hhsGboID1MUrI8%3D &reserved=0

PROGRESS! CONGRESS DEFUNDS WUHAN ANIMAL LAB, ECOHEALTH ALLIANCE

POSTED BY AMANDA NIEVES

24 JUNE 2022 | BLOG

Ever since White Coat Waste Project (WCW) first exposed that dangerous coronavirus experiments on animals at the Wuhan Institute of Virology (WIV) were funded by U.S. taxpayers, the idea that the coronavirus accidentally leaked from the lab and caused the COVID pandemic has gained international traction. Even the World Health Organization (WHO) — which once dismissed the theory — now says that the lab leak hypothesis deserves "further investigation."

Congress recognizes the threat posed by funding risky animal experiments at the notorious Wuhan lab, too. On Wednesday, June 22, the powerful House Appropriations Committee, which sets the budget for federal agencies, approved a White Coat Waste Project-endorsed amendment from Rep. Guy Reschenthaler (R-PA), banning any Department of Defense (DOD) funds from being spent at the Wuhan Institute of Virology. The DOD, along with the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and State Department, funded dangerous animal experiments at the Wuhan lab.

The committee also approved a second WCW-backed amendment from Rep. Reschenthaler, barring the DOD, for the second year in a row, from funding any work in China performed by the white coats at shady nonprofit EcoHealth Alliance, which funneled tax dollars to the Wuhan lab. A majority of Americans, as well as the FBI and other experts, believe their gain-of-function experiments on animals could have caused the pandemic.

Rep. Reschenthaler, a Waste Warrior, has been a long-time ally of WCW, recently penning a joint op-ed in Newsweek with our founder and president Anthony Bellotti about our work together to investigate the lab leak hypothesis and hold government bureaucrats accountable.

The bill will soon head to the House for a vote, then the Senate. As it progresses, we will keep you posted; in the meantime, thank you to Rep. Reschenthaler, and other members of the Appropriations Committee, for protecting taxpayers, animals and public health!

Cheers,

Peter

MORENS_SUBPOENA_002921
MORENS_NIH_009437
REL0000477466

Peter Daszak

President

EcoHealth Alliance

520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200

New York, NY 10018-6507

USA

Tel.: b6

Website:
https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.ecohealthalliance.org%2F
&data=05%7C01%7Cdmorens%40niaid.nih.gov%7C3389c0e0a0a34e936cc608db8a0ca101%7C14b77578977342d585
&sdata=Atw8DfJE6EXgOgQINQ%2FpPPWl1F5WLTTX4Vk%2FajWJYr4%3D &reserved=0

Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent
pandemics and promote conservation

From: Hotez, Peter Jay [b6]>
Sent: Tuesday, June 28, 2022 11:44 AM
To: Peter Daszak [b6]
Cc: Gerald T Keusch [b6]>; Aleksei Chmura
[b6]>; David Morens [b6]>;
Jeffrey Sturchio [b6]>; Rich Roberts [b6]>
Subject: Re: Jeff Sachs' comments RE: COVID-19 Commission: Need
approval of minor edits after first peer review

It's beyond disgusting, hopefully Richard Horton intervenes

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP

Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine
Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology
Health Policy Scholar

Baylor College of Medicine

Texas Children's Hospital Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics
Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development

University Professor, Baylor University

Faculty Fellow, Hagler Institute for Advanced Study

Senior Fellow, Scowcroft Institute of International Affairs

Texas A&M University

Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty and Adjunct Professor of Bioengineering, Rice University

Adjunct Professor, University of Texas, School of Public Health

Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

E-mail: b6
Twitter: @peterhotez

Skype: b6

Linkedin Peter Hotez

Amazon Author Center:
CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and are confident the content is safe.

Date:	Thu, 3 Jun 2021 12:06:58 PM -0400
Sent:	Thu, 3 Jun 2021 12:03:45 PM -0400
Subject:	RE: Wpost: A scientist adventurer and China's 'Bat Woman' are under scrutiny as coronavirus lab-leak theory gets another look
From:	Peter Daszak <(b) (6)
To:	Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] <(b) (6) Keusch, Jerry <(b) (6) Rich Roberts <(b) (6)
Attachments:	image001.gif; image002.jpg; Text for bioengineered or lab release hypothesis.docx

This is a widely debunked, yet of course titillating red herring.

The Wuhan CDC has been the focus of a conspiracy dreamed up on Twitter since the beginning of the outbreak when someone searched Wuhan CDC on Google maps and got two locations for it and accused it of being a cover up from China. Then this video surfaced, and a staff member saying they were bitten by bats and "urinated on". Also accusations of 500 bats in a bat cage in the CDC.

We looked into the Wuhan CDC lab while on the WHO team. Some of the group visited the lab (I didn't) and noticed that the electrical supply system had an installation date of Dec 2019. When asked, it turns out the lab moved from one location to close by the Huanan market in early December. While the conspiracists would love that it's closer to the market, it actually reduced the risk of infection – labs that are moving spend weeks closing down work and packing up, so they would have been out of action in the last 3 months of 2019.

While in Wuhan, I spent a few hours going through every paper published by Wuhan CDC and also watched the video that was circulating widely. I summed up our general conclusions in a doc (attached) that was meant as a preamble to a section on the lab leak hypothesis, but ultimately wasn't used. Basically, the only evidence of specific bat virus sampling was prior to 2013 (their last paper published was in 2013). They are primarily an insect virus genomics lab, and were working on ectoparasites, and that's what's in the video (link in attached doc). The video has them wearing full PPE. I'm sure that some groups didn't use this level of PPE in the past, but that's also common with wildlife biologists around the world, including in the USA. The rumors about a bat colony are not borne out by evidence, and considering they weren't doing anything like the sophisticated work at WIV or the volume of sampling at WIV, it seemed massively unlikely that this lab had anything to do with the outbreak.

I spoke with Eddie Holmes about this also – he works with them and published on insect viruses. He was visiting Wuhan CDC in 2014 when he was shown the Huanan market as a likely high risk animal virus spillover site. He confirmed that this lab was basically an insect parasite/microbe metagenomics lab that didn't do work on bat viruses.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: (b) (6)
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

From: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b) (6)
Sent: Thursday, June 3, 2021 11:35 AM
To: Peter Daszak (b) (6) ; Keusch, Jerry (b) (6) (b) (6) Rich Roberts (b) (6)
Subject: FW: Wpost: A scientist adventurer and China's 'Bat Woman' are under scrutiny as coronavirus lab-leak theory gets another look

David

David M. Morens, M.D.
CAPT, United States Public Health Service
Senior Advisor to the Director
Office of the Director
National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases
National Institutes of Health
Building 31, Room 7A-03
31 Center Drive, MSC 2520
Be 20892-2520
(b) (6) (assistant: Whitney Robinson)
(b) (6)
(b) (6)

Disclaimer: This message is intended for the exclusive use of the recipient(s) named above. It may contain information that is PROTECTED, PRIVILEGED, and/or CONFIDENTIAL, and it should not be disseminated, distributed, or copied to persons not authorized to receive such information. All sensitive documents must be properly labeled before dissemination via email. If you are not the intended recipient, any dissemination, distribution, or copying is strictly prohibited. If you have received this communication in error, please erase all copies of the message and its attachments and notify us immediately.



From: Folkers, Greg (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b) (6)
Sent: Thursday, June 3, 2021 8:50 AM
Subject: Wpost: A scientist adventurer and China's 'Bat Woman' are under scrutiny as coronavirus lab-leak theory gets another look

A scientist adventurer and China's 'Bat Woman'

are under scrutiny as coronavirus lab-leak theory gets another look

By
Eva Dou
and
Lily Kuo

June 3, 2021 at 6:00 a.m. EDT

In the video, the researchers scale the cavern wall, their headlamps ghostly blue.

"If our skin is exposed, it can easily come in contact with bat excrement and contaminated matter, which means this is quite risky," says Tian Junhua, one of the bat hunters.

"We have to live for several days in the cave . . ." he continues, as the soundtrack amps up the drama. "There's no cellphone signal, no supplies. It's truly scary."

The video was released by national science authorities and Chinese state broadcaster CCTV on Dec. 10, 2019, and circulated on social media. It's a high-quality production, designed to promote China's world-leading viral research. Aired around the time Wuhan residents began turning up at hospitals with mysterious respiratory ailments, it also offers a rare glimpse of field conditions on the eve of the pandemic.

Tian and his team from the Wuhan Center for Disease Control and Prevention are filmed catching horseshoe and pipistrelle bats and collecting samples of guano, in search of new bat-borne diseases and the basis of new vaccines. Tian talks about the need for caution. "It is while discovering new viruses that we are most at risk of infection," he says, though he is shown handling sample vials without wearing full protective gear.

The video is perhaps even more notable for what it doesn't reveal. Nothing is known outside China about the science gleaned from that expedition by the Wuhan CDC — the same agency that oversaw China's early pandemic response. The team has not disclosed what viruses, if any, it found in the cave, or even when the mission took place. According to a World Health Organization report released in March, the Wuhan CDC denied any storage or laboratory activities involving bat viruses before the coronavirus outbreak — a stance hard to reconcile with Tian's boasts in the video about having visited dozens of bat caves and studied 300 types of virus vectors.

Tian has not spoken publicly for more than a year.

WHO Wuhan report leaves question of coronavirus origins unresolved

The silencing of scientists, the blanket denials, the careful guarding of raw data and biological samples — these elements have been emblematic of the approach by Chinese authorities at every stage of the coronavirus outbreak. And they continue to obstruct the world's ability to get answers.

There is no direct evidence linking Tian's team, or a rival group of bat-disease specialists at the Wuhan Institute of Virology, to the coronavirus outbreak. Nor is there more than circumstantial evidence to support any theory of the pandemic's origin. Many scientists say the most likely path is that the virus spread in nature and jumped from animals to humans. But that belief is largely based on how other coronaviruses have originated, not what is known about this case.

The lack of clarity is not in itself alarming at this point in an investigation of virus origins — in the case of severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS), scientists were fairly quick to identify civet cats as the intermediate host, though it took years to find the bat population that harbored the building blocks of the virus. But the WHO chief, the Biden administration, other governments and scientists around the world have rebuked China for not making this investigation any easier.

Last week, President Biden directed U.S. intelligence agencies to redouble efforts to determine the pandemic's origin, including whether it could have emerged "from a laboratory accident."

Coronavirus 'lab leak' theory jumps from mocked to maybe as Biden orders intelligence review

China's Foreign Ministry protested, with a spokesman saying Monday that Beijing supported scientific inquiry on the question but not "an intelligence-led investigation stoking confrontation."

Chinese authorities weren't much more receptive of the international team commissioned by the WHO. Negotiations over the arrangements delayed the team from getting to Wuhan until more than a year after doctors first raised concerns there. Once on the ground, the international experts were given limited access. They visited the market linked to early coronavirus cases — but it had been shut for a year and its contents long ago removed. Their visit to the Wuhan Institute of Virology lasted three hours. In general, they had to satisfy themselves with data that was in large part collected by Chinese scientists before the trip.

The result was a report that didn't significantly advance the world's understanding of how the pandemic came about.

The report lent credence to China's preferred theory that the virus could have come from overseas, possibly via frozen food imports — though Beijing has presented little support for that. On the question of a possible lab leak, the report concluded that pathway was "extremely unlikely."

Analysts have accused China of inappropriately influencing the team's conclusions.

WHO chief, U.S. and other world leaders criticize China for limiting access of team researching coronavirus origins

MORENS_SUBPOENA_014843
MORENS_NIH_030496
REL0000477468

For Beijing, there are huge political risks if it loses control of the narrative, said Yanzhong Huang, a senior fellow for global health at the Council on Foreign Relations.

"They want to portray China as successful at containing the spread, at being so cooperative and sharing information," he said. "This lab-escape theory, which indicates that China was the cause of the problem, makes the official narrative unreliable."

Obstruction heightens interest

The lack of transparency has fanned both speculative and legitimate questions. Within the realm of U.S. politics, entertaining the lab-leak theory is less toxic now for those on the left than when it was embraced by the Trump administration as another way to bash China. And in the world of science, some of the early arguments against a lab leak have been countered by respected researchers, launching a genuine debate.

"We can't even begin to talk about a consensus other than a consensus that we don't know," said David Relman, a Stanford University microbiologist. "We have nothing like the amount of data we need."

Relman is one of 18 scientists who wrote an open letter last month urging serious consideration of the possibility that the pandemic originated with a lab accident.

"Any lab that handles a significant number of samples from bats or other potential coronavirus host species, or performs engineering on coronaviruses," should be considered, he said in an interview this week with The Washington Post.

Wuhan's two rival teams of exotic bat disease specialists are now under renewed scrutiny. Tian's team at the Wuhan CDC and Shi Zhengli's at the Wuhan Institute of Virology (WIV) have both drawn criticism for a willingness to compromise safety, as they raced to make discoveries.

The Wuhan CDC and WIV did not reply to requests for comment, nor did Tian or Shi. An unnamed staffer who answered the phone Tuesday at the Wuhan CDC said the center did not accept interviews and directed questions to the National Health Commission. The NHC did not reply to a request for comment.

China's Foreign Ministry and the Chinese Embassy in Washington declined to answer questions for this article.

Biden has ordered U.S. intelligence agencies to report back in 90 days.

The Bat Woman and the Wuhan Institute of Virology

Dubbed China's "Bat Woman," Shi has been the country's star coronavirus researcher, identifying multiple new SARS-like viruses over the years and giving prescient warnings about the risk of a new pandemic. Her lab at the Wuhan Institute of Virology also discovered and studied the closest-known cousin to the coronavirus, though scientists note it would require decades of natural evolution to bridge the two.

The WHO report says Shi told the visiting team that all field work is done with full protective equipment — which experts say would include N95 masks, Tyvek bodysuits, goggles and gloves. But in a June 2018 lecture, Shi said workers don't do that in practice.

"In most cases, we'd wear simpler protection, and it's okay," she said on a Chinese TED Talks-like program called Yixi. She said that's because most bat-borne diseases cannot infect humans directly, only through an intermediary animal.

To illustrate, she showed slides of her team spreading out nets in a cave to catch bats and sorting samples afterward. Some wear thin surgical masks and rubber gloves as they work, while others are unmasked with bare hands.

"Under what situation would we increase our protection? For instance, when there are too many bats in the cave, and lots of dust even as you're entering," she said.

Shi kept a low profile at the pandemic's onset, with her occasional interventions reflecting the pressures on her team. On Feb. 2, 2020, she posted to friends on WeChat that she "swore on her life" her lab was not involved in the outbreak. Three months later, she followed up with a post denying rumors she had defected to the West with intelligence files, as reported in the state-run Global Times.

As questions about the WIV intensified, Shi wrote a lengthy statement to Science magazine in July. She wrote that it was impossible for the coronavirus to have come from the WIV, as her team had not come across this strain in its research, and all staffers had tested negative for coronavirus antibodies. Shi said her team had "never been in contact with or studied this virus, nor [knew] of its existence" before the pandemic.

But she also acknowledged the lab had not done genome sequencing of all its samples, because of financial and personnel constraints. She declined to say how many samples remained unsequenced.

Suspicions about the lab were elevated in January, after the U.S. State Department said it had "reason to believe" that several WIV researchers showed symptoms similar to those of covid-19 in the fall of 2019. The Wall Street Journal reported last month, citing an intelligence report, that three WIV researchers were sick enough to go to a hospital.

WIV's lab director, Yuan Zhiming, called it a "complete lie" in state media.

The bat adventurer and the Wuhan CDC

The Wuhan CDC lab has received less attention.

The WHO team's account of its visit to the facility doesn't include notes on research safety. The report mentions that the lab moved on Dec. 2, 2019, to a location close to the Huanan market linked to early coronavirus cases. "Such moves can be disruptive for the operations of any laboratory," the team writes, adding that no such disruptions had been reported by the lab.

Tian is by title an associate chief technician in the Wuhan CDC's pest-control department, but he has a reputation as a swaggering adventurer in his work with bats and insects.

"He will often go to places other people can't find to look for the samples he needs," a colleague, Liu Jing, said on local TV in

MORENS_SUBPOENA_014844
MORENS_NIH_030497
REL0000477468

January 2020. “He can say quite confidently that he can capture things other people can’t.”
Using nets and traps, Tian’s team caught 155 bats in Hubei, his home province, and hundreds more in other regions for a 2013 study. He was part of a team that discovered 1,445 new RNA viruses in invertebrate animals, published in the elite journal Nature in 2016.
The Wuhan CDC organized an internal meeting titled “Learning from the Achievements of Tian Junhua.”
“No one remembers how many mountains he climbed, how many rivers he forged, how many bat caves he explored, how many cowpens and pigsties he crouched in, how many trash heaps he dug through,” the CDC’s account of the event said. “He enjoys it.”
He has also admitted the occasional safety mishap.
In 2017, Tian told the state-run Wuhan Evening News he once forgot personal protective equipment and was splattered with bat urine, leading him to quarantine at home for two weeks. On multiple occasions, bat blood squirted onto his skin while he was trying to grasp the animals with a clamp, he told the paper.
On Feb. 3, 2020, Tian’s team landed in the pages of Nature again, with an early clinical account of a coronavirus patient in Wuhan. Their paper pointed to bats as a possible host.
But as the coronavirus spread, Tian went quiet. The state-run newspaper Health Times cited an anonymous source in March 2020 saying Tian was not infected with coronavirus, and that he was in poor spirits because of speculation over whether he was patient zero.
The Health Times said it reached Tian by phone and he declined to answer questions — an unusual note of tension in a state media profile. Tian has not spoken publicly since.
It highlights a challenge facing independent probes: Many of those in Wuhan who may hold key information are quiet, whether under official pressure or by personal choice.
Tian has continued his research while staying out of the public eye. A paper he co-authored in August discussed genetic diversity in ticks. One in November focused on antibiotic-resistant genes in fish.
He has not said or published anything more about bats.
Pei Lin Wu and Alicia Chen contributed to this report.
WHO report leaves unsettled ‘lab-leak’ theory on origins of covid pandemic
WHO chief, U.S. and other world leaders criticize China for limiting access of team researching coronavirus origins
Early missteps and state secrecy in China probably allowed the coronavirus to spread farther and faster
Updated May 19, 2021

Coronavirus: What you need to read

Coronavirus maps: Cases and deaths in the U.S. | Cases and deaths worldwide
Vaccines: Younger teens | Tracker by state | Guidance for vaccinated people | How long does immunity last? | County-level vaccine data
What you need to know: Variants | Symptoms guide | Masks FAQ | Your life at home | Personal finance guide | Follow all of our coverage and sign up for our free newsletter
Got a pandemic question? We answer one every day in our coronavirus newsletter

Disclaimer: Any third-party material in this email has been shared for internal use under fair use provisions of U.S. copyright law, without further verification of its accuracy/veracity. It does not necessarily represent my views nor those of NIAID, NIH, HHS, or the U.S. government.

Disclaimer

The information contained in this communication from the sender is confidential. It is intended solely for use by the recipient and others authorized to receive it. If you are not the recipient, you are hereby notified that any disclosure, copying, distribution or taking action in relation of the contents of this information is strictly prohibited and may be unlawful.

This email has been scanned for viruses and malware, and may have been automatically archived by Mimecast, a leader in email security and cyber resilience. Mimecast integrates email defenses with brand protection, security awareness training, web security, compliance and other essential capabilities. Mimecast helps protect large and small organizations from malicious activity, human error and technology failure; and to lead the movement toward building a more resilient world. To find out more, visit our website.

Date: Sun, 15 Aug 2021 1:22:49 PM -0400
Subject: RE: Sunday Wash Post editorial
From: Peter Daszak <(b) (6)
To: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] <(b) (6) Robert Kessler <(b) (6)
Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6)

I don't buy the argument that he simply didn't say anything new. He knowingly gave space for the lab leakers to latch on to the 'field scientist' idea, which is never disprovable of course, but exactly as unlikely as any other lab pathway because 1) they wore PPE, 2) they tested all the samples and none had SARS-CoV-2, and 3) the bat-farmed wildlife-Huanan market is far more likely.

He shouldn't have said what he said to the press, and absolutely knew it would lead to this sort of crap in the US. I think it helps him and WHO look tougher on the lab leak stuff, and helps remove some political heat in the long run.

Very irritating considering the papers are linking and EcoHealth into all this as usual - it's just too easy for them. Sunday Times did another piece today and it's let to more vitriol on social media directly straight at EHA and me.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: (b) (6)
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

-----Original Message-----
From: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] <(b) (6)

MORENS_SUBPOENA_013216
MORENS_NIH_025023
REL0000477536

Sent: Sunday, August 15, 2021 10:32 AM
To: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >; Robert Kessler <(b) (6) >
Subject: Sunday Wash Post editorial

Touting Embarek's supposed recantating. d

Sent from my iPhone
David M Morens
OD, NIAID, NIH

MORENS_SUBPOENA_013217
MORENS_NIH_025024
REL0000477536

Date:	Thu, 9 Jun 2022 11:57:03 AM -0400
Sent:	Thu, 9 Jun 2022 11:57:00 AM -0400
Subject:	RE: Confidential: Draft of my response to NAM re. Allegations of breach of NAM Code of Conduct
From:	"Keusch, Gerald T" <(b) (6)
To:	Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >; Roberts, Rich <(b) (6) Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] <(b) (6) Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6)
CC:	Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) >; Jeff Sturchio <(b) (6)
Attachments:	image001.gif; image002.jpg

The draft misspells my name on the top of page 3 (corrected in track change)

On Page 7, you misspelled SARS-COV-2

It is powerful and very well crafted. Congratulations to all of you and to Jeff Sturchio for polishing the hard edges.

The only additional thing I can think of is early in the letter when you are talking about the Lancet Commission and the Task Force, whether to note that we were discussing resigning en masse because of Jeff Sachs interference with our scientific integrity as an expert committee and directing us to focus on the lab leak hypothesis. All of which was reported to and discussed with the editor of The Lancet who fully agreed with us that there had to be a red line between the committee and our sponsor, the Commission under Sachs. He of course had the full responsibility of deciding what to do with the report (one would assume with the concurrence of the Commissioners, but we know that wasn't the way he was operating), but not what was in it.
Jerry

From: Peter Daszak <(b) (6)
Sent: Wednesday, June 8, 2022 7:13 PM
To: Roberts, Rich <(b) (6) Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] <(b) (6) Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6) Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6)
Cc: Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) Jeff Sturchio <(b) (6)
Subject: Confidential: Draft of my response to NAM re. Allegations of breach of NAM Code of Conduct
Importance: High

Dear All,

My deadline to respond to NAM's notice of investigation of alleged breaches of their Code of Conduct is fast approaching (June 12th – next Sunday). Last week I spent an unpleasant day drafting a long response and Jeff Sturchio then helped shape it into a readable document that I've attached here.
The goal is to respond directly to each allegation, explaining why the specific evidence the Republicans cite to support it is incorrect, and at the same time explain to the committee that's going to make a recommendation that these are political in nature and part of a larger anti-science movement.

We've been careful not to get bogged down with minutiae and long-winded arguments, but rather just stuck to the basics of why these allegations have no merit. There's a preamble at the front to explain the recent history of attacks, and a summary at the end to explain that all of the actions I've undertaken have been in the best interests of public health and the spirit of careful scientific inquiry that is exactly what the NAM Code focuses on.

It would be great if you could all give this a quick read and send any thoughts/comments on how it comes across. Is it too aggressive or too wimpy? Are we hitting the right points to convince a small group of NAM members that these allegations have not merit?

Any comments welcome. I'll be spending the next few hours digging out documentary evidence for each point, and will be finishing this off on Saturday and Sunday so they receive it in their inboxes before 12 midnight on Sunday 12th

Attachment A is original 16 page complaint from the Republicans, which the NAM considered and then sent me a letter focussing on just some of these (Attachment B). The NAM Code of Conduct is Attachment C - the relevant sections are on pp 16 & 17.

Remember that if the NAM decide I'm guilty as charged, I have an opportunity to appeal, at which point I'd want to pull out all the stops and bring every help I could to push back.

Thanks again for your moral, spiritual and physical support!

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: (b) (6)
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

---

From: Roberts, Rich (b) (6)
Sent: Thursday, June 2, 2022 2:11 PM
To: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b) (6) >; Peter Daszak <(b) (6) Keusch, Gerald T (b) (6) ; chmura >> Aleksei Chmura (b) (6) >; Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6) >; Jeff Sturchio (b) (6)
Subject: RE: FW: Dr. Rand Paul and HSGAC Republicans Send Letter to Acting Director of NIH Requesting Information on the Disclosure of Royalty Payments to NIH Employees

Perhaps, Rand Paul would reciprocate.

Rich

Richard J. Roberts
New England Biolabs
240 County Road
Ipswich, MA 01938-2723
USA
Tel: (b) (6)
Fax: (978) 412 9910
emai (b) (6)

From: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b) (6)
Sent: Thursday, June 2, 2022 12:37 PM
To: Peter Daszak (b) (6) ; Keusch, Gerald T (b) (6) chmura >> Aleksei Chmura < (b) (6) Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6) Roberts, Rich (b) (6) Jeff Sturchio <
Subject: Fwd: FW: Dr. Rand Paul and HSGAC Republicans Send Letter to Acting Director of NIH Requesting Information on the Disclosure of Royalty Payments to NIH Employees

EXTERNAL SENDER

-------- Forwarded Message --------

Subject: FW: Dr. Rand Paul and HSGAC Republicans Send Letter to Acting Director of NIH Requesting Information on the Disclosure of Royalty Payments to NIH Employees

Date: Thu, 2 Jun 2022 16:26:09 +0000

From: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b) (6)

To: David Morens (b) (6)

David

David M. Morens, M.D.
CAPT, United States Public Health Service
Senior Advisor to the Director
Office of the Director
National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases
National Institutes of Health
Building 31, Room 7A-03
31 Center Drive, MSC 2520
Bethesda, MD 20892-2520
(b) (6) assistants: Kimberly Barasch; Whitney Robinson)
(b) (6)

Disclaimer: This message is intended for the exclusive use of the recipient(s) named above. It may contain information that is PROTECTED, PRIVILEGED, and/or CONFIDENTIAL, and it should not be disseminated, distributed, or copied to persons not authorized to receive such information. All sensitive documents must be properly labeled before dissemination via email. If you are not the intended recipient, any dissemination, distribution, or copying is strictly prohibited. If you have received this communication in error, please erase all copies of the message and its attachments and notify us immediately.



From: Folkers, Greg (NIH/NIAID) [E] <(b) (6)
Sent: Thursday, June 2, 2022 11:54 AM
To: NIAID COGCORE <COGCORE@mail.nih.gov>; NIAID OCGR Leg <NIAIDOCGRLeg@mail.nih.gov>; NIAID OD AM <NIAIDODAM@niaid.nih.gov>
Subject: Dr. Rand Paul and HSGAC Republicans Send Letter to Acting Director of NIH Requesting Information on the Disclosure of Royalty Payments to NIH Employees

Dr. Rand Paul and HSGAC Republicans Send

Letter to Acting Director of NIH Requesting Information on the Disclosure of Royalty Payments to NIH Employees

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
June 1, 2022

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Today, U.S. Senator Rand Paul (R-KY) and Republican members of the Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs (HSGAC) sent a letter to Acting Director of the National Institutes of Health (NIH) Lawrence Tabak requesting information on disclosures of royalty payments made by third-party providers to NIH employees.

"In 2005, the NIH implemented a policy requiring its employees to disclose royalty payments on the consent forms for clinical trial participants; however, the agency has taken no action to disclose such payments to the public at large," **the Senators wrote.** "Nevertheless, we believe that the American taxpayer deserves to know the degree to which government doctors and researchers have a financial interest in drugs and products they support, and whether any relationship exists between federal grants awarded by NIH and royalty payments received by NIH personnel. Additionally, Americans deserve greater transparency in how the hundreds of millions in royalty payments NIH receives are distributed, and the degree to which NIH's leadership- already among the highest-paid individuals in the federal bureaucracy - has benefited from this "hidden" revenue stream."

This letter comes after the nonprofit organization Open the Books submitted a Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request to disclose royalty payments made between 2009 and 2020. The agency only provided the names of the employees receiving the payments and the number of payments they received between 2009 and 2014; the amounts of the individual payments, the innovation in question, and the names of the third-party payers were redacted by NIH.

Dr. Paul was joined by Senators Rick Scott (R-FL), Ron Johnson (R-WI), Josh Hawley (R-MO), and James Lankford (R-OK) in sending the letter.

BACKGROUND:

Under 5 U.S.C. § 2954, "[a]n Executive agency, on request of the Committee on

[Oversight and Reform] of the House of Representatives, or of any seven members thereof, or on request of the Committee on [Homeland Security and] Governmental Affairs of the Senate, or any five members thereof, shall submit any information requested of it relating to any matter within the jurisdiction of the committee."

The U.S. Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs is charged with studying:

the efficiency and economy of operations of all branches of the Government including the possible existence of fraud, misfeasance, malfeasance, collusion, mismanagement, incompetence, corruption or unethical practices, waste, extravagance, conflicts of interest, and the improper expenditure of Government funds in transactions, contracts, and activities of the Government or of Government officials and employees and any and all such improper practices between Government personnel and corporations, individuals, companies, or persons affiliated therewith, doing business with the Government, and the compliance or noncompliance of such corporations, companies, or individuals or other entities with the rules, regulations, and laws governing the various governmental agencies and the Governments relationship with the public.

In order to fulfill this oversight mandate, the Senators asked that the NIH respond and provide the requested information no later than 5:00PM on Friday, June 17, 2022.

You can read the full letter HERE.

###

Disclaimer

This communication, together with any attachment, may contain confidential and/or proprietary information (including without limitation copyright material and/or other intellectual property) and is intended only for the person(s) and/or entity(ies) to whom it is addressed. If you are not the intended recipient of this communication, or if you received it in error, you should not disseminate, distribute or copy this communication and you are asked to kindly delete it and promptly notify us. Any copying, use, disclosure or distribution of any part of this communication or taking any action in reliance on the contents of this communication, unless duly authorized by or on behalf of EcoHealth Alliance, is strictly prohibited and may be unlawful.

Date: Fri, 1 Apr 2022 8:34:34 AM -0400
Sent: Fri, 1 Apr 2022 8:32:50 AM -0400
Subject: Re: fyi you should read this
From: "Hotez, Peter Jay" <(b) (6)
To: Peter Daszak <(b) (6)
CC: David Morens <(b) (6) Gerald Keusch <(b) (6) Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) Rich Roberts <(b) (6) Dennis Carroll <(b) (6) Jeff Sturchio <(b) (6)
Attachments: image001.jpg; image001.jpg

Many thanks Peter, I had an interview with a donor last week who might be interested in supporting something along these lines. If it goes anywhere will be tapping you to help set it up!

Warmest regards Peter

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP
Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine
Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology
Health Policy Scholar
Baylor College of Medicine

Texas Children's Hospital Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics
Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development

University Professor, Baylor University

Faculty Fellow, Hagler Institute for Advanced Study
Senior Fellow, Scowcroft Institute of International Affairs
Texas A&M University
Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty and Adjunct Professor of Bioengineering, Rice University
Adjunct Professor, University of Texas, School of Public Health

Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

E-mail: (b) (6)
Twitter: @peterhotez
Skype: (b) (6)
Linkedin Peter Hotez

Amazon Author Center: https://www.amazon.com/Peter- J.-Hotez/e/B001HPIC48
Daily Beast Contributor https://www.thedailybeast.com/author/peter- j-hotez
Like us on Facebook https://www.facebook.com/BCMNationalSchoolOfTropicalMedicine/

Senior Coordinator / Executive Support: Douglas Soriano
Douglas.(b) (6)
Phone: (b) (6)
Fax: 713-798-2299

iPhone

On Apr 1, 2022, at 7:05 AM, Peter Daszak <(b) (6) > wrote:

Just saw your editorial in Boston Globe today. Keep up the great work Peter!

https://www.bostonglobe.com/2022/01/27/opinion/who- will-defend-embattled-scientists/

OPINION

Who will defend embattled scientists?

The latest round of attacks on prominent US scientists from public figures and elected officials may require the formation of a new type of organization to ensure our safety and productivity.

By Peter Hotez Updated January 27, 2022, 4:35 p.m.

MORENS_SUBPOENA_006078
MORENS_NIH_014849
REL0000477689



People who are anti-vaccination take part in an event "for the preservation of personal sovereignty and to STOP medical coercion, discrimination" on Jan. 23 in Washington, D.C.ALEX WONG/GETTY

Even before the COVID-19 pandemic, being a public defender of vaccines was not rewarding. After I wrote the book "Vaccines Did Not Cause Rachel's Autism: My Journey as a Vaccine Scientist, Pediatrician, and Autism Dad," about my daughter, as a means to debunk false assertions alleging vaccine-autism links and educate the public about the origins and causes of autism, I became a target of antivaccine groups. Their threats (which continue) through e-mails, social media, personal confrontations, and anonymous phone calls, assert that I maintain secret ties to big pharma (even though I develop vaccines for neglected diseases linked to poverty), or that I have financial motivations (I don't). In some cases, the threats were overtly antisemitic and included horrific images from the Holocaust.

During the pandemic, the anti-science attacks have gotten worse. Adding to my distress is that many scientific professional organizations do not speak out to defend scientists or offer us

assistance.

I have been outspoken about the dangers of refusing a COVID-19 vaccination, and have pointed out how more than 150,000 unvaccinated Americans have needlessly lost their lives since last summer as a result. I cite data from the Kaiser Family Foundation, NPR, Charles Gaba (an independent health analyst), and other sources revealing an unambiguous and stark partisan divide: overwhelmingly Republican or conservative stronghold areas exhibit the lowest acceptance of COVID-19 vaccinations, and consequently the highest number of cases and deaths due to COVID-19.

Those who defy vaccines are paying with their lives. They are victims of media outlets and even members of Congress who openly espouse antivaccine views. Last summer, Republican Representative Marjorie Taylor Greene of Georgia called vaccinators "medical brown shirts," referring to Nazi paramilitary groups, while other congressional members attending the July Conservative Political Action Conference claimed vaccines were political instruments of control.

Some elected officials have since taken this a step further by seeking to discredit individual biomedical scientists. I was ridiculed by Governor Ron DeSantis of Florida on a Fox News broadcast, and, earlier this month, I was targeted by Greene and Steve Bannon on Real America's Voice a week after our research team announced emergency use authorization in India of a recombinant protein COVID vaccine for global health. Such statements are often followed by threatening e-mails and other notes accusing me of "crimes against humanity" or warning that I will soon be hunted by "armed patriots." During the Jewish high holidays, while I was in Houston to give a speech at a reform synagogue, I was stalked and heckled.

Other scientists have fared worse, including Dr. Anthony Fauci, director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, who has been the subject of intimidation on multiple occasions by both Senate and House members, including a vituperative exchange earlier this month with Republican Senator Rand Paul of Kentucky. Several nongovernmental scientists have been targeted as well.

Dog whistles from highly visible elected officials are unnerving, especially when followed by a barrage of hate e-mail and online threats. For biomedical scientists laboring to shape new approaches or therapeutics to combat COVID-19 there is really no roadmap for how to respond or seek protections. In my case, since this also includes antisemitic attacks, I have been able to get help and advice from the Anti-Defamation League and other Jewish organizations, but often there is nowhere obvious to seek help.

Fifty years ago, American scientists founded the Committee of Concerned Scientists to defend their colleagues abroad — many from authoritarian states such as Turkey or China where they experienced human rights violations. However, political scientists such as Harvard's Steven Levitsky have since sounded the alarm for increasing authoritarianism in the United States. How can society address a far-right US authoritarian movement seeking to undermine scientists?

We need an organization that is prepared to defend biomedical scientists. Thus far, the major

professional and academic societies, including the National Academies, find themselves in the difficult position of balancing their historical neutrality in American politics with the need to preserve the integrity and productivity of American science. The reality is that political neutrality is often impossible when defending scientists — it favors the oppressor (to paraphrase Elie Wiesel). Ideally, an organization defending scientists would provide legal advice or practical instructions for managing media and social media communications. It could advise on how to engage law enforcement when public attacks incite serious threats from adherents. It might resemble the renowned Southern Poverty Law Center, established to promote social justice and combat racism, but be focused on helping US scientists, or a biomedical equivalent to the more recently created Climate Science Legal Defense Fund.

When I obtained my MD and PhD in the 1980s, I never dreamed it would become necessary to defend the importance of science and scientists in a nation built on great research universities. We must face this new reality and find new paths, to hold to account those who seek to destroy basic tenets of knowledge and the safety of those who generate and promote it.

Dr. Peter Hotez is a professor of pediatrics and molecular virology at Baylor College of Medicine and codirector of the Texas Children's Center for Vaccine Development, which developed a low-cost COVID-19 vaccine for global health.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: (b) (6)
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

---

From: Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6)
Sent: Thursday, March 31, 2022 9:46 PM
To: David Morens (b) (6)
Cc: (b) (6) ; Rich Roberts (b) (6) d Keusch (b) (6) b) (6) Dennis Carrol (b) (6) Aleksei Chmura < Jeff Sturchio (b) (6) >
Subject: Re: fyi you should read this

It's why we need a new type of organization to support scientists under attack. I'm discussing with a donor with potential interest

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP
Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine
Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology
Health Policy Scholar
Baylor College of Medicine

Texas Children's Hospital Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics
Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development

University Professor, Baylor University

Faculty Fellow, Hagler Institute for Advanced Study
Senior Fellow, Scowcroft Institute of International Affairs
Texas A&M University
Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty and Adjunct Professor of Bioengineering, Rice University
Adjunct Professor, University of Texas, School of Public Health

Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

E-mail: (b) (6)
Twitter: @peterhotez
Skype: (b) (6)
Linkedin Peter Hotez

Amazon Author Center: https://www.amazon.com/Peter-J.-Hotez/e/B001HPIC48
DailyBeast Contributor https://www.thedailybeast.com/author/peter-j-hotez
Like us on Facebook https://www.facebook.com/BCMNationalSchoolOfTropicalMedicine/

(b) (6) port: Douglas Soriano

Phone: (b) (6)
Fax: 713-798-2299

iPhone

> On Mar 31, 2022, at 8:01 PM, David Morens (b) (6) wrote:
>
> The part that makes me mad is that before i agreed to talk to her she said she wanted to write this piece to present the other side of the story, that EcoHealth were the good guys doing good work and so on. But none of those things i told her ended up in print. Basically i feel like she mislead me
>
> As i said, if my name is in print anywhere on the same page as the words "Jesse Bloom", it's a very bad day. d
>
> Sent from my iPhone
> David M Morens
> OD, NIAID, NIH

MORENS_SUBPOENA_006082
MORENS_NIH_014853
REL0000477689

On Mar 31, 2022, at 19:43, Peter Daszak (b) (6) wrote:

Yes I saw it David - pretty offensive stuff, but it does contain 3 factually correct statements:

1) I'm bald
2) I wear hiking pants and shirts to the office unless when talking with VIPs, when I don a jacket (not tweed though – that's ridiculous).
3) I've worked extremely hard to raise funds for our non-profit over the years, and if some of that's been successful, I'm happy to be guilty as charged.

From what I've read, all the rest is pure garbage.

Sorry you spent time talking with her David. I also addressed a long list of detailed questions from her, some of which she had to print and I think that helped throw a bit of water on some of her BS lines of attack.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: (b) (6)
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

From: Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6)
Sent: Thursday, March 31, 2022 5:36 PM
To: David Morens (b) (6)
Cc: Peter Daszak <(b) (6)>; Gerald Keusch (b) (6); Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6)>; Rich Roberts (b) (6); Dennis Carroll <(b) (6)>; Jeff Sturchio (b) (6)
Subject: Re: fyi you should read this

It was a terrible article from someone who should know better

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP
Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine
Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology
Health Policy Scholar
Baylor College of Medicine

Texas Children's Hospital Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics
Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development

MORENS_SUBPOENA_006083
MORENS_NIH_014854
REL0000477689

University Professor, Baylor University

Faculty Fellow, Hagler Institute for Advanced Study
Senior Fellow, Scowcroft Institute of International Affairs
Texas A&M University
Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty and Adjunct Professor of Bioengineering, Rice University
Adjunct Professor, University of Texas, School of Public Health

Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

E-mail: (b) (6)
Twitter: @peterhotez
Skype: (b) (6)
Linkedin Peter Hotez

Amazon Author Center: https://www.amazon.com/Peter-J.-Hotez/e/B001HPIC48
Daily Beast Contributor https://www.thedailybeast.com/author/peter-j-hotez
Like us on Facebook https://www.facebook.com/BCMNationalSchoolOfTropicalMedicine/

Senior Coordinator / Executive Support: Douglas Soriano
(b) (6)
_____(b) (6)
Fax: 713-798-2299

iPhone

On Mar 31, 2022, at 4:18 PM, David Morens (b) (6) wrote:

*****CAUTION:*** This email is not from a BCM Source. Only click links or open attachments you know are safe.**

Peter and all, i am sure you have all seen this by now. I hate this piece, which is twisted and full of innuendo and false equivalency. I am sorry i ever spoke to her (twice) and let her snow me with her assurances of setting the story straight re the good work of EcoHealth. To his credit i think Tony declined to speak with her. I feel like she betrayed what i told her on background.

Anyone who portrays Jesse Bloom as a visionary is incompetent in my book. Very sorry to see this piece of bat guano.
d
Sent from my iPhone
David M Morens
OD, NIAID, NIH
Begin forwarded message:

From: "Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E]" (b) (6)

Date: March 31, 2022 at 17:12:05 EDT
To: David Morens (b) (6)
Subject: Fwd: fyi you should read this

Sent from my iPhone
David M Morens
OD, NIAID, NIH
Begin forwarded message:

> **From:** "Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E]" (b) (6)
> **Date:** March 31, 2022 at 16:35:15 EDT
> **To:** "Taubenberger, Jeffery (NIH/NIAID) [E]" (b) (6)
> **Subject: Re: fyi you should read this**
>
> A very biased account. I am sorry i ever spoke to her. d
>
> Sent from my iPhone
> David M Morens
> OD, NIAID, NIH
>
> > On Mar 31, 2022, at 13:44, Taubenberger, Jeffery (NIH/NIAID) [E] < (b) (6) > wrote:
> >
> > https://www.vanityfair.com/news/2022/03/the- virus-hunting-nonprofit-at-the-center-of-the-lab-leak-controversy
> >
> > Jeffery K. Taubenberger, M.D., Ph.D.,
> > Chief, Viral Pathogenesis and Evolution Section
> > Deputy Chief, Laboratory of Infectious Diseases
> > National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases
> > National Institutes of Health
> > 33 North Drive, Room 3E13C.1 MSC 3203
> > Bethesda, MD 20892-3203 USA
> >
> > Tel. (b) (6) ; Fax. 1-301-480-1696
> > email: (b) (6)
> >
> > ==========
> > Disclaimer: The information in this e-mail and any of its attachments is confidential and may contain sensitive information. It should not be used by anyone who is not the original intended recipient. If you have received this e-mail in error please inform the sender and delete it from your mailbox or any other storage devices. National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases shall not accept liability for any statements made that are sender's own and not expressly made on behalf of NIAID.

Disclaimer

This communication, together with any attachment, may contain confidential and/or proprietary information (including without limitation copyright material and/or other intellectual property) and is intended only for the person(s) and/or entity(ies) to whom it is addressed. If you are not the intended

recipient of this communication, or if you received it in error, you should not disseminate, distribute or copy this communication and you are asked to kindly delete it and promptly notify us. Any copying, use, disclosure or distribution of any part of this communication or taking any action in reliance on the contents of this communication, unless duly authorized by or on behalf of EcoHealth Alliance, is strictly prohibited and may be unlawful.

Disclaimer

This communication, together with any attachment, may contain confidential and/or proprietary information (including without limitation copyright material and/or other intellectual property) and is intended only for the person(s) and/or entity(ies) to whom it is addressed. If you are not the intended recipient of this communication, or if you received it in error, you should not disseminate, distribute or copy this communication and you are asked to kindly delete it and promptly notify us. Any copying, use, disclosure or distribution of any part of this communication or taking any action in reliance on the contents of this communication, unless duly authorized by or on behalf of EcoHealth Alliance, is strictly prohibited and may be unlawful.

Date:	Sat, 21 May 2022 1:23:05 PM -0400
Sent:	Sat, 21 May 2022 1:22:12 PM -0400
Subject:	RE: HOTEZ PARAGRAPHS Important caveat: Potential response to the PNAS paper - initial thoughts as draft bullets
From:	"Roberts, Rich" <(b) (6)
To:	Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >; Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6)
CC:	Jeffrey Sturchio <(b) (6) David Morens <(b) (6) Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6) Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) >;
Attachments:	image001.png; image002.jpg; image003.jpg; image004.jpg; image005.jpg; image006.jpg; image007.jpg; image008.jpg; image009.jpg; image010.jpg; image011.jpg; image012.jpg; image013.jpg; image014.jpg; Draft letter to Jeff Sachs.docx

Peter et al.

I attach a draft letter to Jeff Sachs, prior to a call. I would appreciate your comments.
I had hoped to do this yesterday, but work intervened.

Rich

Richard J. Roberts
New England Biolabs
240 County Road
Ipswich, MA 01938-2723
USA
Tel: (b) (6)
Fax: (978) 412 9910
email: (b) (6)

From: Peter Daszak <(b) (6)
Sent: Saturday, May 21, 2022 12:44 PM
To: Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6)
Cc: Jeffrey Sturchio <(b) (6) Roberts, Rich <(b) (6) David Morens <(b) (6)
Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6) Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6)
Subject: RE: HOTEZ PARAGRAPHS Important caveat: Potential response to the PNAS paper - initial thoughts as draft bullets

EXTERNAL SENDER

Jeff Sachs' Op Ed is getting severely criticized on Twitter by some well-known virologists. They're commenting on its repeating of now old narratives on the lab leak, but in particular his re-hashing of a previously debunked furin cleavage site hypotheses.

I'll put some comments on the FCS argument into the draft this weekend, but I've also asked one of these virologists if they're willing to check what I write, and maybe even come on the rebuttal if appropriate and they agree with the other comments we'll make.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: +(b) (6)
Websit thalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

From: Peter Dasza (b) (6)
Sent: Friday, May 20, 2022 3:53 PM
To: 'Hotez, Peter Jay' (b) (6)
Cc: 'Jeffrey Sturchio' >; 'Roberts, Rich' (b) (6) 'David Morens' <(b) (6)
>; 'Keusch, Gerald T (b) (6) Aleksei Chmura (b) (6) 'Hotez, Peter Jay' <
(b) (6)

Subject: RE: HOTEZ PARAGRAPHS Important caveat: Potential response to the PNAS paper - initial thoughts as draft bullets

Great – I'll send round a draft over the weekend, and anyone interested can edit and co-author.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.:(b) (6)
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

MORENS_SUBPOENA_005207
MORENS_NIH_013172
REL0000477759

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

From: Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6)
Sent: Friday, May 20, 2022 3:48 PM
To: Peter Daszak (b) (6)
Cc: Jeffrey Sturchio (b) (6) ; Roberts, Rich (b) (6) David Morens (b) (6) Keusch, Gerald T (b) (6) Aleksei Chmura (b) (6) ; Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6)
Subject: Re: HOTEZ PARAGRAPHS Important caveat: Potential response to the PNAS paper - initial thoughts as draft bullets

OK I drafted a couple of paragraphs for you to use or not or modify, ATTACHED

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP

Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine
Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology
Health Policy Scholar

Baylor College of Medicine

Texas Children's Hospital Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics
Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development

University Professor, Baylor University

Faculty Fellow, Hagler Institute for Advanced Study

Senior Fellow, Scowcroft Institute of International Affairs

Texas A&M University

Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty and Adjunct Professor of Bioengineering, Rice University

Adjunct Professor, University of Texas, School of Public Health

Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

E-mail: (b) (6)
Twitter: @peterhotez

Skype: (b) (6)

Linkedin Peter Hotez

Amazon Author Center: https://www.amazon.com/Peter-J.-Hotez/e/B001HPIC48

Daily Beast Contributor https://www.thedailybeast.com/author/peter-j-hotez

Like us on Facebook https://www.facebook.com/BCMNationalSchoolOfTropicalMedicine/

Senior Coordinator / Executive Support: Douglas Soriano

(b) (6)

Phone: (b) (6)

Fax: 713-798-2299







From: Peter Daszak <(b) (6)
Sent: Friday, May 20, 2022 12:24 PM
To: Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6)
Cc: Jeffrey Sturchio ; Roberts, Rich (b) (6)) (6) David Moren (b) (6)
Keusch, GeraldT (b) (6) Aleksei Chmura (b) (6)
Subject: RE: Important caveat: Potential response to th raft bullets

I should add that the former Lancet Taskforce (Jerry and I are on it) have a "perspectives" paper to submit Monday for PNAS that reviews all the theories on origins and proposes One Health strategies to deal with future pandemic threats, so we don't need to go too far into the arguments for a natural origin – it will be dealt with in detail in that paper.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance

520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: (b) (6)
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

From: Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6)
Sent: Friday, May 20, 2022 1:07 PM
To: Peter Daszak (b) (6)
Cc: Jeffrey Sturchio (b) (6) >; Roberts, Rich (b) (6) (6) David Morens (b) (6) >; Keusch, Gerald T (b) (6) ; Aleksei Chmura (b) (6) >
Subject: Re: Important caveat: Potential response to the PNAS paper - initial thoughts as draft bullets

Sounds good, let me know if and how you would like me to contribute, i could write a section that makes the case for natural origins as the most plausible scenario?

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP

Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine
Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology
Health Policy Scholar

Baylor College of Medicine

Texas Children's Hospital Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics
Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development

University Professor, Baylor University

Faculty Fellow, Hagler Institute for Advanced Study

Senior Fellow, Scowcroft Institute of International Affairs

Texas A&M University

Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty and Adjunct Professor of Bioengineering, Rice University

Adjunct Professor, University of Texas, School of Public Health

Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

E-mail: (b) (6)
Twitter: _____

Skype: (b) (6)

Linkedin Peter Hotez

Amazon Author Center: https://www.amazon.com/Peter- J.-Hotez/e/B001HPIC48

Daily Beast Contributor https://www.thedailybeast.com/author/peter- j-hotez

Like us on Facebook https://www.facebook.com/BCMNationalSchoolOfTropicalMedicine/

Senior Coordinator / Executive Support: Douglas Soriano

(b) (6)

Phone (b) (6)

Fax: 713-798-2299

iPhone

On May 20, 2022, at 11:45 AM, Peter Daszak (b) (6) > wrote:

Note that I should have said on the last email – I'm not necessarily saying we *should* rebut the paper, nor am I expecting that all of you would want to be involved. I respect your views, your moral support, and your wishes to remain above the fray – that has huge benefits also!

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: (b) (6)
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

From: Peter Daszak (b) (6) >
Sent: Friday, May 20, 2022 12:40 PM
To: 'Jeffrey Sturchio' (b) (6) 'Hotez, Peter Jay' (b) (6)
Cc: 'Roberts, Rich' (b) (6) David Morens' (b) (6) m >; 'Keusch, Gerald T' < (b) (6) Aleksei Chmura' (b) (6) >
Subject: Potential response to the PNAS paper - initial thoughts as draft bullets
Importance: High

FYI, Rich will be speaking with Jeff and I sent him some bullets on general reasons why the call for an investigation into US scientists is flawed, inappropriate and based on easily debunked narratives and simple mistakes.

I think we could draft a polite and decent rebuttal based on these. The general thrust I think should be "Why investigating US scientists is the wrong way to identify COVID-19 origins, and prevent future pandemics". This would take the moral high ground in the same way that Peter Hotez has been doing with anti-vaxx sentiment, by talking about how damaging these narratives are on science, and scientists, and how they ultimately undermine public health.

Here is the summary I sent to Rich. I'll continue to read the paper and identify factual inaccuracies we can correct, but maybe one of you (e.g. Peter) could build on this for a rebuttal draft? I have beaucoup references for each point I make, including peer-reviewed science that demolishes the FCS hypothesis, media articles where we refute some of the claims about our openness and data sharing, and reports that link to articles and emails that have been made public via FoIA.

Bullets for a draft rebuttal:
I think we could start on a conciliatory note that most reasonable scientists who believe the lab leak is 'extremely unlikely' (words of the WHO report I was involved with) also believe it is possible. Therefore, calls for further investigations into the origin (including a potential lab leak) are warranted and valid, and come from a basis of scientific inquiry that is beneficial. If a lab leak did happen, we should know, and it would benefit our defenses against future pandemics. However, we should then rapidly pivot to the main issue: that the call for an independent investigation in to US scientists and organizations that the article lays out, and many of the specific statements in it are based on flawed narratives, misunderstandings of the balance of the evidence, mistakes in interpreting the facts behind the work, and simple errors in understanding how science is conducted. Here are some key issues we could raise:

- Understanding COVID origins will require cooperation with China, not investigation of US scientists. A brief look at the history of recent emerging diseases shows that it usually takes many years to identify the reservoir hosts, the amplifier hosts, and the pathway to emergence (e.g. SARS – our paper showing bats carry SARSr-CoVs that can bind to human cells was published 12 years after the outbreak). To do this requires access to sample collection, testing and analysis within the country of origin, and cooperation with the government. Thus, investigating either a natural or a lab origin of COVID will absolutely require working with China.
- Why 'investigating US scientists' is already a witch hunt. The opinion piece calls for bipartisan independent

MORENS_SUBPOENA_005212
MORENS_NIH_013177
REL0000477759

commission that doesn't engage in a 'witch hunt'. However, we are already engaged in a witch hunt. The issue was politicized under Trump, and has led to dozens of letters from Republican members of Congress and the Senate to US scientists demanding documents and testimony, or making accusations about them to the agencies, to the DoJ, White House, and which are inevitably made public without the opportunity for US scientists to respond. Each of the allegations I have seen from Republicans against EHA are easily refuted with documentary evidence, but the volume of them, and their inflammatory nature means that responding to each is either logistically impossible, or simply amplifies these attacks. There have been NO bipartisan requests that I have seen.

- All *relevant* data have already been shared publicly or with the relevant govt. agencies. The article states that "*EHA, UNC, NIH, USAID, and other research partners have failed to disclose their activities to the US scientific community and the US public, instead declaring that they were not involved in any experiments that could have resulted in the emergence of SARS-CoV-2.*" This is simply not true. Each collaborating org has published dozens of papers on this work, in US (not Chinese) journals, uploading data to US (not Chinese) databases like Genbank. All of EHA's papers are available on our website for any member of the public to review, and have been for years. Our staff have given literally hundreds of public lectures on this work. Even after these attacks began, we continued to publish data from our China work, e.g. the 700+ CoV sequences we published and uploaded into Genbank in 2020). Lead scientists from each collaborating organization have shared all unpublished data of relevance (i.e. related to SARSr-CoVs) with the relevant federal agencies including NIH, USAID, DoD, and the intelligence and law enforcement agencies. Sharing of these data has been voluntary, extensive and honorable. This information has not been made public, because it undermines the agencies' ability to conduct their work.
- Demanding release of private emails, files from US scientists does not help build trust in science. Demands on US scientists to release private emails, unpublished data, drafts of reports and other documents that are normally not made public does nothing to elucidate the origins of COVID. Neither does it help build trust in science at a time when our country is so divided along party lines, and where this issue has been so politicized. With social media algorithms demonstrably amplifying negative narratives, the release of private emails and drafts of later-published reports or papers, are easily used to drive and amplify these negative narratives. We have seen this played out already – with every FoIA release of emails, they are cherry-picked for partial-sentence quotes that are then misquoted, misconstrued, and published as part of (usually) right wing hit-pieces that drive the narrative of an elite group of scientists trying to make money by manipulating viruses or vaccines. They are dangerous and lead to people avoiding vaccines. In the case of EcoHealth, the release of private documents, and the narratives around them have also demonstrably been linked to death threats, white powder letters, break-ins, and hacking attempts that we have been suffering repeatedly for the past 2.5 years.
- Inability to prove a negative: We can't prove that China didn't release a virus accidently or by design – that's the nature of scientific hypothesis testing. If US scientists are forced to release emails or files that these do not show any evidence of a lab leak, they will be followed by allegations that other files are being hidden, and therefore more requests for data dumps. For example, if my emails show that China was not working on a SARS-CoV-2 virus with NIH funding, they will be followed by allegations that we used other private funding to do this work (this has already been alleged), and further requests for private emails. Meanwhile, every email, report or unpublished paper I'm forced to turn over is used over and over again by the political forces to attack science – misquoting, using innuendo and assumptions of motives.
- Furin cleavage site hypothesis is already debunked: Theories that the FCS of SARS-CoV-2 indicates lab manipulation have been widely circulated for 2 years and repeatedly debunked by leading virologists. Firstly, there is nothing novel about a wild-type virus having an FCS – they are found in influenza where they enhance virulence, and in other CoVs, including MERS-CoV, and a Rat coronavirus we discovered in China, in wildlife farms, hotels and train stations and published during 2021. There are now peer-reviewed scientific papers demonstrating that bat-CoVs closely related to SARS-CoV-2 have mutations around the site where the FCS in SARS-CoV-2 is found, that are a few mutations away from a true FCS, indicating that this could have easily evolved in nature. These mutations around the polybasic cleavage site are found in many of the viruses closely related to SARS-CoV-2 from SE Asia, and in CoVs from European bats. Other theories about the FCS being incredibly efficient at binding to human cells, or being enhanced easily in a lab, have been refuted in these and other papers.
- Inappropriate legal basis to investigate scientists when no evidence of a lab leak has been proffered: At the moment, it is a fact that there's simply no verifiable evidence whatsoever that a lab leak occurred leading to

COVID-19. We have accusations from Secretary Pompeo that people at WIV were sick from COVID in November 2019, but these are allegedly classified. We have stories about the motivations of Chinese scientists in pulling down a database, not citing papers correctly, or removing genomic data from Genbank, but all of these (and all others) can be easily explained by the normal process of doing science, and each of them has occurred many times before with other labs and other circumstances. Many of us, and many other leading scientists have spent countless hours explaining why the theories around lab leaks do not amount to "evidence of a lab leak". Without this it would be massively inappropriate for federal authorities, including the OIG, the FBI or other agencies to launch official investigations into US scientists or US organizations. That's why they haven't, and that's why the public haven't been informed of any investigations.

In addition to these issues, there are multiple factual inaccuracies in the paper that are extremely important, because some of them are used to provide justification for the lab leak theory. For example, here is an inexhaustive list, just by looking at half of one page of the paper:

- "The exact details of the fieldwork and laboratory work of the EHA-WIV-UNC partnership, and the engagement of other institutions in the United States and China, *has not been disclosed for independent analysis*." ***This is not true because details of field and laboratory work have been published repeatedly in scientific papers in the last 15 years, in reports to NIH and USAID, and are laid out in proposals that include pages of details on human subjects, animal use, biosafety and select agent use etc. These are all now public.***
- "Much of the work on SARS-like CoVs performed in Wuhan was part of an active and highly collaborative US–China scientific research program funded by the US Government (NIH, *Defense Threat Reduction Agency [DTRA]*, and US Agency for International Development [USAID]), coordinated by researchers at EcoHealth Alliance (EHA), but involving researchers at several other US institutions." ***False - DoD DTRA do not and have not funded work in China through EHA. This is an easily verified issue, and is a mistake that causes damage because conspiracy theorists globally are on the lookout for linkages to DoD, which leads to damaging narratives such as the Ukraine Biolabs conspiracy theories. The way to check this is that DTRA are NEVER cited on any publication resulting from the work in China.***
- "The precise nature of the experiments that were conducted, *including the full array of viruses collected from the field* and the subsequent sequencing and manipulation of those viruses, *remains unknown*." ***Not true. It is a widely circulated myth that our work involved 'collection of hundreds of viruses from bats'. In fact, there were only 3 isolates of SARSr-CoVs from our work. All of these have been published and some shared with labs in the USA where they were used to test Remdesivir, Molnupiravir, COVID-19 vaccine candidates and monoclonal therapies like ADG20. This work has had a direct benefit to public health and has saved lives of US citizens!***
- "These research proposals make clear that the EHA-WIV-UNC collaboration *was involved in the collection of a large number of so-far undocumented SARS-like viruses* and was engaged in their manipulation within biological safety level (BSL)-2 and BSL-3 laboratory facilities, raising concerns that an airborne virus might have infected a laboratory worker (9)" ***Not true – there were only 3 SARS-related CoVs isolated in China. All the rest are genetic sequences of a short read of the RdRp gene, with a few dozen full genomes. It's documented repeatedly in the scientific papers we published in collaboration with WIV, in mainly US journals, all of which are available publicly on PubMED and on our website. All sequences were uploaded into the US Genbank database and have been freely available for other scientists to peruse and use.***

Cheers,

Peter

MORENS_SUBPOENA_005214
MORENS_NIH_013179
REL0000477759

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: +(b) (6)
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

From: Peter Daszak (b) (6)
Sent: Friday, May 20, 2022 8:13 AM
To: 'Jeffrey Sturchio' (b) (6) 'Hotez, Peter Jay' (b) (6)
Cc: 'Roberts, Rich' (b) (6) >; 'David Morens' (b) (6) >; 'Keusch, Gerald T' < (b) (6) ; Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) >
Subject: RE: Peter Hotez' tweet and Jamie Metzl's

I don't think PNAS would retract – Sachs is well-known, and this paper will be cited, so it's good for business.

We could ask them to correct, but I think Peter's idea is a good one – a response that's carefully worded, that corrects the errors, and explains why the general approach of investigating scientists based on no evidence would be flawed and damaging to medical progress.

I'm sending some bullets to Rich this morning and will share them with you as a start to addressing some of the errors.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: (b) (6)
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

From: Jeffrey Sturchio (b) (6) >
Sent: Friday, May 20, 2022 7:15 AM
To: Hotez, Peter Ja (b) (6) ; Peter Daszak (b) (6) >
Cc: Roberts, Rich (b) (6) >; David Morens (b) (6) >; Keusch, Gerald T (b) (6)
Aleksei Chmura (b) (6) >
Subject: RE: Peter Hotez' tweet and Jamie Metzl's

Peter: I think a response along the lines you suggest would be a good idea. Sachs's piece is so egregious it shouldn't be allowed to stand. Perhaps even better would be a sharp letter to the editor(s) of PNAS explaining why a retraction is necessary. As you and Peter D point out, his argument is based on a number of readily refuted erroneous assertions – it's surprising that PNAS would have published it in the first place.

As ever,
Jeff

From: Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6)
Sent: Friday, May
To: Peter Daszak (b) (6)
Cc: Roberts, Rich (b) (6) (6) David Morens (b) (6) erald T (b) (6)
Jeffrey Sturchio (b) (6) >; Aleksei Chmura (b) (6)
Subject: Re: Peter Hotez' tweet and Jamie Metzl's

Potentially we could write a response or a commentary piece in PNAS refuting the nonsense, one that begins with the talking points in my Twitter thread.

There is also suggestion from a Nature article that even SARS 1 exhibited some degree of furin cleavage but that with SARS 2 it accelerated and of course evolved even further with alpha then delta to make it more transmissible.

https://www.nature.com/articles/d41586- 021-02039-y

I could have added that as well. The point is it's not an all or none phenomenon as the Sachs article suggests. He wrote an awful paper that needs to be retracted.

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP

Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine
Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology
Health Policy Scholar

Baylor College of Medicine

Texas Children's Hospital Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics
Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development

University Professor, Baylor University

Faculty Fellow, Hagler Institute for Advanced Study

Senior Fellow, Scowcroft Institute of International Affairs

Texas A&M University

Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty and Adjunct Professor of Bioengineering, Rice University

Adjunct Professor, University of Texas, School of Public Health

Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

E-mail: (b) (6)
Twitter: @peterhotez

Skype: (b) (6)

Linkedin Peter Hotez

Amazon Author Center: https://www.amazon.com/Peter- J.-Hotez/e/B001HPIC48

Daily Beast Contributor https://www.thedailybeast.com/author/peter- j-hotez

Like us on Facebook https://www.facebook.com/BCMNationalSchoolOfTropicalMedicine/

Senior Coordinator / Executive Support: Douglas Soriano
(b) (6)

Phone: (b) (6)

Fax: 713-798-2299

iPhone

On May 19, 2022, at 9:13 PM, Peter Daszak (b) (6) > wrote:

I appreciate that Rich.

I understand his motivations – he believes that all data should be put forward because the pandemic makes this an emergency and unprecedented global concern. However, there is no getting away from the fact that there's simply no evidence whatsoever for a lab leak, so no matter how much data or emails I and other labs are forced to turn over, it will never disprove the negative. We can't prove that China didn't release a virus accidently or by design – that's the nature of scientific hypothesis testing. Meanwhile, every email, report or unpublished paper I'm forced to turn over is used over and over again by the political forces to attack science – misquoting, using innuendo and assumptions of motives. It's a naïve argument from Jeff Sachs at best, and one based on a series of easily refutable errors in black and white, in his paper.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: (b) (6)
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

---

From: Roberts, Rich (b) (6)
Sent: Thursday, May 19, 2022 8:34 PM

To: Peter Daszak (b) (6) >; Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6) ≥
David Morens (b) (6) Keusch, Gerald T (b) (6) ; Jeffrey Sturchio <
(b) (6) >; Aleksei Chmura (b) (6)
Subject: RE: Peter Hotez' tweet and Jamie Metzl's

Peter:

Thanks. I intend to take this up with Jeff.

Rich

Richard J. Roberts
New England Biolabs
240 County Road
Ipswich, MA 01938-2723
USA
Tel: (b) (6)
Fax: (978) 412 9910
email: (b) (6)

From: Peter Daszak (b) (6)
Sent: Thursday, May 19, 2022 6:41 PM
To: Roberts, Rich (b) (6) ez, Peter Jay (b) (6)
Cc: David Moren (b) (6) >; Keusch, Gerald T (b) (6) Jeffrey Sturchio <
(b) (6) >; Aleksei Chmura ≤(b) (6)
Subject: Peter Hotez' tweet and Jamie Metzl's

EXTERNAL SENDER

This might work to see the tweet – it won't take you to Twitter – it's on a webpage now

https://threadreaderapp.com/thread/1527398466305105921.html

and here's Jamie Metzl's commentary – says it's a 'critically important new opinion piece'!!

https://threadreaderapp.com/thread/1527404374804287495.html

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

MORENS_SUBPOENA_005219
MORENS_NIH_013184
REL0000477759

Tel.: (b) (6)
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

---

From: Roberts, Rich (b) (6)
Sent: Thursday, May 19, 2022 5:48 PM
To: Peter Daszak (b) (6) >; Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6)
Cc: David Morens (b) (6) ; Keusch, Gerald T (b) (6) Jeffrey Sturchio < (b) (6) >; Aleksei Chmura (b) (6)
Subject: RE: Jeff Sachs causing trouble via a PNAS article

Peter:

I don't do Twitter. Can someone send me Peter's piece please?

Thanks

Rich

Richard J. Roberts
New England Biolabs
240 County Road
Ipswich, MA 01938-2723
USA
Tel: (b) (6)
Fax: (978) 412 9910
email (b) (6)

From: Peter Daszak (b) (6)
Sent: Thursday, May 19, 2022 5:41 PM
To: Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6)
Cc: Roberts, Rich (b) (6) David Moren (b) (6) >; Keusch, Gerald T < (b) (6) ; Jeffrey Sturchio (b) (6) >; Aleksei Chmur (b) (6)
Subject: RE: Jeff Sachs causing trouble via a PNAS article

EXTERNAL SENDER

Just read it now Peter – it's already getting amplified. Extremely glad you did this.

The response from virologists on the furin cleavage site garbage in his PNAS piece will be pretty damning…it's been discussed, debated and debunked for 2 years now!

Meanwhile, the witch hunt continues…

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: (b) (6)
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

From: Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6) >
Sent: Thursday, May 19, 2022 5:36 PM
To: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >
Cc: Roberts, Rich (b) (6) David Morens (b) (6) >; Keusch, Gerald T < (b) (6) ; Jeffrey Sturchio (b) (6) >; Aleksei Chmura (b) (6)
Subject: Re: Jeff Sachs causing trouble via a PNAS article

I just put out a thread on Twitter to point out why Jeff's article does not hold much water even on scientific grounds

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP

Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine
Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology
Health Policy Scholar

Baylor College of Medicine

Texas Children's Hospital Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics
Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development

University Professor, Baylor University

Faculty Fellow, Hagler Institute for Advanced Study

Senior Fellow, Scowcroft Institute of International Affairs

Texas A&M University

Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty and Adjunct Professor of Bioengineering, Rice University

Adjunct Professor, University of Texas, School of Public Health

Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

E-mail: (b) (6)
Twitter: @peterhotez

Skype: (b) (6)

Linkedin Peter Hotez

Amazon Author Center: https://www.amazon.com/Peter- J.-Hotez/e/B001HPIC48

Daily Beast Contributor https://www.thedailybeast.com/author/peter- j-hotez

Like us on Facebook https://www.facebook.com/BCMNationalSchoolOfTropicalMedicine/

Senior Coordinator / Executive Support: Douglas Soriano
(b) (6)

Phone: (b) (6)

Fax: 713-798-2299

iPhone

> On May 19, 2022, at 4:27 PM, Peter Daszak (b) (6) > wrote:
>
> What's really irksome is that this article in PNAS is full of errors and misunderstandings.
>
> I haven't read the whole thing, but just about every paragraph contains an erroneous assumption that could easily be refuted, e.g.:
>
> - "EHA, UNC, NIH, USAID, and other research partners have failed to disclose their activities to the US scientific community and the US public, instead declaring that they were not involved in any experiments that could have resulted in the emergence of SARS-CoV-2." BS – we published dozens of papers on our work (they're on our website!) and sent reports in to NIH each year. We also gave

MORENS_SUBPOENA_005222
MORENS_NIH_013187
REL0000477759

hundreds of public lectures on this and spoke with the intelligence agencies about it.

"The exact details of the fieldwork and laboratory work of the EHA-WIV-UNC partnership, and the engagement of other institutions in the United States and China, has not been disclosed for independent analysis." BS – that's what happens when you publish peer-reviewed papers. Maybe Sachs has forgotten how that works!

"Much of the work on SARS-like CoVs performed in Wuhan was part of an active and highly collaborative US–China scientific research program funded by the US Government (NIH, Defense Threat Reduction Agency [DTRA], and US Agency for International Development [USAID]), coordinated by researchers at EcoHealth Alliance (EHA), but involving researchers at several other US institutions." Wrong again – DoD DTRA do not and have not funded work in China, let alone the Wuhan lab.

"The precise nature of the experiments that were conducted, including the full array of viruses collected from the field and the subsequent sequencing and manipulation of those viruses, remains unknown." BS – all 'viruses' collected from the field have been published already.

"These research proposals make clear that the EHA-WIV-UNC collaboration was involved in the collection of a large number of so-far undocumented SARS-like viruses and was engaged in their manipulation within biological safety level (BSL)-2 and BSL-3 laboratory facilities, raising concerns that an airborne virus might have infected a laboratory worker (9)" BS – there were only 3 SARS-related CoVs isolated in China. All the rest are simply genetic sequences of a short read of the RdRp gene, with a few dozen full genomes. It's all in the scientific papers that Sachs hasn't bothered to read.

And so on, and so forth.

Honestly, it would take me about a day to go through this paper and rebut every single error and misconception, but who's got time for that!

By the way – all of these questions have been asked repeatedly on Twitter, by journalists, by the FBI and CIA, and by hundreds of people who've spoken with me over the last 2 years. I've answered them all, now I have to do it all again, and again, and again. Problem I see here is that he just doesn't believe me, so the only option is for my laptop to be downloaded in front of a Great Inquisition, led by an eminent person such as…dare I say…Professor Sachs himself.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: (b) (6)
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

From: Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6)
Sent: Thursday, May 19. 2022 4:58 PM
To: Roberts, Rich (b) (6) (6)
Cc: Peter Daszak (b) (6) ; David Morens (b) (6) ; Keusch, Gerald T (b) (6) Jeffrey Sturchio (b) (6) ; Aleksei Chmura < (b) (6)
Subject: Re: Jeff Sachs causing trouble via a PNAS article

How could PNAS publish this crap?

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP

Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine
Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology
Health Policy Scholar

Baylor College of Medicine

Texas Children's Hospital Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics
Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development

University Professor, Baylor University

Faculty Fellow, Hagler Institute for Advanced Study

Senior Fellow, Scowcroft Institute of International Affairs

Texas A&M University

Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty and Adjunct Professor of Bioengineering, Rice University

Adjunct Professor, University of Texas, School of Public Health

Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

E-mail: (b) (6)
Twitter: @peterhotez

Skype: (b) (6)

Linkedin Peter Hotez

Amazon Author Center: https://www.amazon.com/Peter- J.-Hotez/e/B001HPIC48

Daily Beast Contributor https://www.thedailybeast.com/author/peter- j-hotez

Like us on Facebook https://www.facebook.com/BCMNationalSchoolOfTropicalMedicine/

Senior Coordinator / Executive Support: Douglas Soriano

(b) (6)

Phone: (b) (6)

Fax: 713-798-2299

iPhone

On May 19, 2022, at 3:54 PM, Roberts, Rich (b) (6) wrote:

Peter:

As you say more nonsense. My opinion of Sachs is waning rapidly.

Rich

Richard J. Roberts
New England Biolabs
240 County Road
Ipswich, MA 01938-2723
USA
Tel: (b) (6)
Fax: (978) 412 9910
email: (b) (6)

From: Peter Daszak (b) (6)
Sent: Thursday, May 19, 2022 4:32 PM
To: Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6) ; David Morens (b) (6)
Cc: Keusch, Gerald T (b) (6) ; Jeffrey Sturchio (b) (6) >; Aleksei Chmura (b) (6) >; Roberts, Rich (b) (6) (6)
Subject: Jeff Sachs causing trouble via a PNAS article
Importance: High

EXTERNAL SENDER

Looks like Sachs has been taken down yet another rabbit hole by a scientist at Columbia (Harrison) who doesn't work in the field, and is just plain wrong. It's the old Furin cleavage site hypothesis again, without any new data or evidence. Of course, that's their point – the lack of evidence means we're all hiding information and need to be hung, drawn and quartered.

They've published an opinion piece in PNAS (attached) and there's this article in 'The Intercept'. Ebright is quoted, of course!

https://theintercept.com/2022/05/19/covid- lab-leak-evidence-jeffrey-sachs/

All this will be put straight into the subpoena letters that we've been told by Democrat staffers to expect to arrive in Jan/Feb 2023 when the Republicans take over the house (their words, not mine).

Blue/Bloomberg via Getty Images

JEFFREY SACHS PRESENTS EVIDENCE OF POSSIBLE LAB ORIGIN OF COVID-19

An article in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences calls for an independent investigation of information held by U.S.-based institutions that could shed light on the origins of Covid.



Sharon Lerner
May 19 2022, 4:00 p.m.

IN AN ARTICLE published Thursday, economist Jeffrey Sachs

called for an independent investigation of information held by U.S.-based institutions that could shed light on the origins of the Covid-19 pandemic. Writing in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, Sachs and his co-author, Neil Harrison, a Columbia University professor of molecular pharmacology and therapeutics, said that federal agencies and universities possess evidence that has not been adequately reviewed, including virus databases, biological samples, viral sequences, email communications, and laboratory notebooks. Sachs and Harrison also highlighted a tantalizing scientific detail that may be an indication that SARS-CoV-2, the coronavirus that causes Covid-19, originated in a laboratory: a sequence of eight amino acids on a critical part of the virus's spike protein that is identical to an amino acid sequence found in cells that line human airways.

Sachs and Harrison are hardly the first to suggest that SARS-CoV-2 might have been created in a lab. Since its genetic sequence was first published in February 2020, scientists have puzzled over the furin cleavage site, an area on the virus's spike that allows it to be broken apart by a protein on the membrane of human cells and makes the coronavirus particularly dangerous to people. Once split, the virus releases its genetic material into the cell and reproduces. While all viruses work by attaching themselves to cells, breaking apart, and releasing their genetic material, SARS-CoV-2 is the only one of its class, sarbecoviruses, to use this particular mechanism to do so.

As with past discussion of a possible lab origin of SARS-CoV-2, this latest theory has already been met with considerable pushback. Even some scientists who are open to the idea that a lab accident could have sparked the pandemic remain unconvinced by the particular trail of evidence laid out by Sachs and Harrison.

The journal article offers a scientific road map for how this unusual sequence of amino acids could have made its way into the furin cleavage site, or FCS, of the virus. Sachs and Harrison acknowledge that the sequence could have arisen naturally. But they also lay out another possibility: that scientists might have purposefully inserted this particular string of amino acids into a bat coronavirus in the course of their work. They focus particularly on scientists who submitted an unfunded grant proposal to a division of the Defense Department called the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency, or DARPA, laying out plans to insert a furin cleavage site into a bat

coronavirus.

"We do not know whether the insertion of the FCS was the result of natural evolution — perhaps via a recombination event in an intermediate mammal or a human — or was the result of a deliberate introduction of the FCS into a SARS-like virus as part of a laboratory experiment," Sachs and Harrison write. "We do know that the insertion of such FCS sequences into SARS-like viruses was a specific goal of work proposed by the EHA-WIV-UNC partnership within a 2018 grant proposal ("DEFUSE") that was submitted to the US Defense Advanced Research Projects (DARPA)."

EHA is a reference to EcoHealth Alliance, a nonprofit research group based in New York City that has received more than $118 million in grants and contracts from federal agencies. WIV, or the Wuhan Institute of Virology, is a Chinese research organization that collaborated with EcoHealth Alliance in the past and was listed as a subcontractor on the DARPA grant. UNC is mentioned because Ralph Baric, a molecular biologist at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, was to have conducted part of the work pitched to DARPA. The grant proposal touted Baric's "two-decade track record of reverse engineering [coronavirus] and other virus spike proteins."

The intent of the DARPA proposal was to prevent emerging pathogenic threats, but the work, if conducted, could have created a novel virus capable of infecting humans. "We will introduce appropriate human-specific cleavage sites and evaluate growth potential in [a type of mammalian cell commonly used in microbiology] and [human airway epithelial cell] cultures," the proposal stated.

Several scientists interviewed about the DARPA proposal in September told The Intercept that scientists often begin research before seeking funding and thus that some of the experiments described in the proposal could have already been completed. But when asked about that possibility in an interview, Peter Daszak, the president of EcoHealth Alliance, rejected it: "The DARPA proposal was not funded. Therefore, the work was not done. Simple."

A Rational Choice

MORENS_SUBPOENA_005228
MORENS_NIH_013193
REL0000477759

As Sachs and Harrison note, the part of a protein on the cell membrane that shares its amino acid sequence with the bat coronavirus is critical for lung function. Known as an epithelial sodium channel-alpha, or ENaC-alpha, it is found in human airway cells, as well as in human kidneys and colons. Intriguingly, like SARS-CoV-2, ENaC-alpha, which facilitates the absorption of fluid in cells, is also activated by the unusual furin cleavage site. Harrison, a physiologist affiliated with Columbia's Department of Molecular Pharmacology and Therapeutics, studies ion channels, the larger category to which ENaC-alpha belongs.

Other scientists have already pointed out the match between the amino acid series in the furin cleavage site of SARS-CoV-2 and the ENaC-alpha found in human airways. In 2020, a team from the biomedical company Nference suggested that the overlap between the virus and the sequence found in human lungs is part of the reason that Covid-19 is so damaging to the respiratory system. Those scientists described the sequence as having evolved naturally.



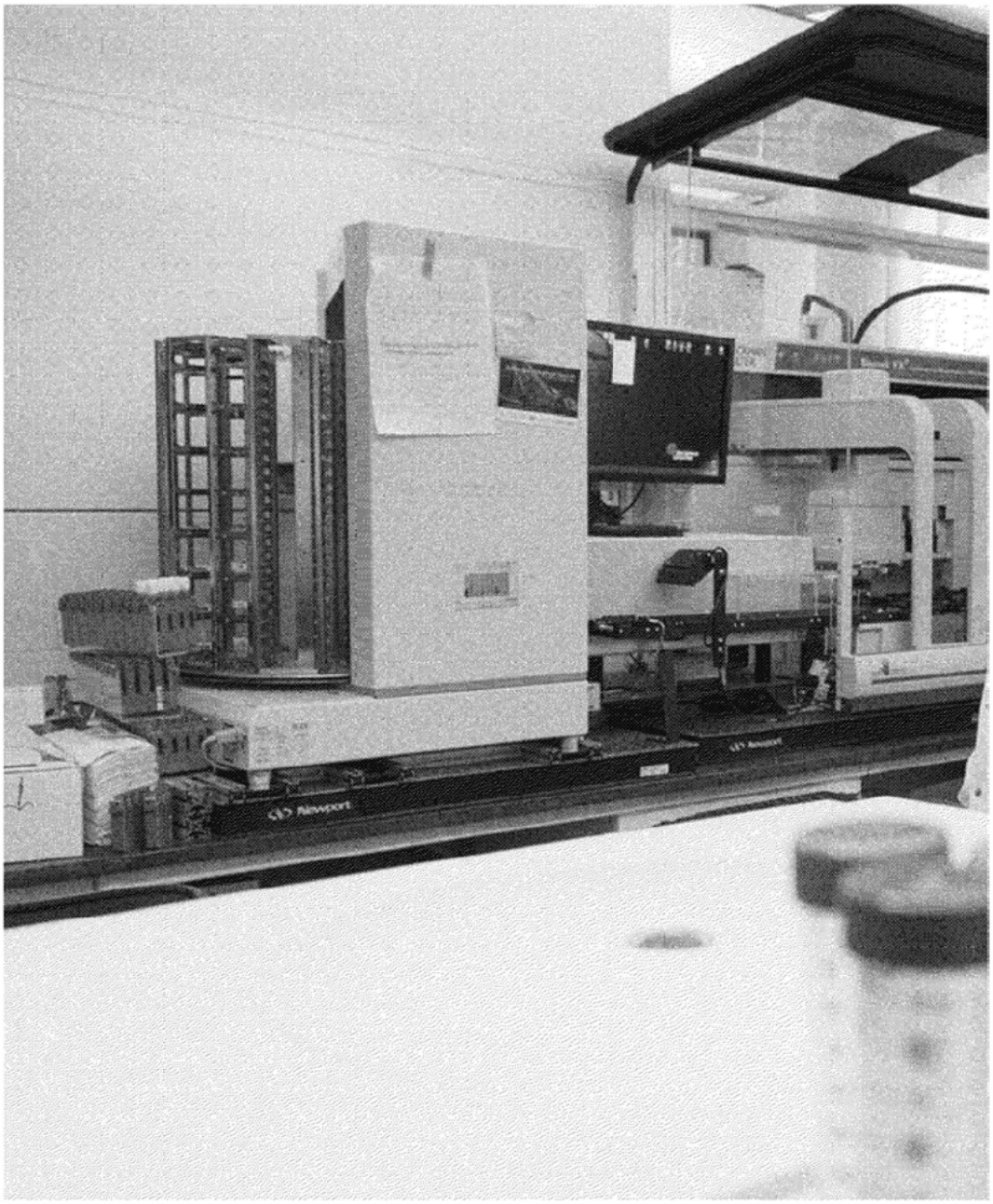
Read Our Complete Coverage **The Coronavirus Crisis**

Sachs and Harrison, in contrast, suggest that researchers may have inserted the string of amino acids into a bat coronavirus precisely because of its known importance to lung function. "For a research team assessing the pandemic potential of SARS-related coronaviruses, the FCS of human ENaC — an FCS known to be efficiently cleaved by host furin present in the target location (epithelial cells) of an important target organ (lung), of the target organism (human) — might be a rational, if not obvious, choice of FCS to introduce into a virus in order to alter its infectivity, in line with other work performed previously," they write.

Such a choice, they point out, would have been in keeping with

MORENS_SUBPOENA_005229
MORENS_NIH_013194
REL0000477759

another viral research project on which EcoHealth Alliance, the Wuhan Institute of Virology, and UNC's Baric collaborated: a 2014 grant from the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases that involved increasing the transmissibility and pathogenicity of bat coronaviruses.



Ralph Baric, a researcher at the University of North Carolina's Gillings School of Global Public Health, in Chapel Hill, N.C., on Feb. 14, 2020.

Photo: Christopher Janaro/Bloomberg via Getty Images

Growing List of

MORENS_SUBPOENA_005230
MORENS_NIH_013195
REL0000477759

Coincidences

The intriguing theory of viral engineering hinges on two observations: that the amino acid sequences match and that experts in both the ENaC-alpha furin cleavage site and the insertion of genetic sequences into bat coronaviruses happen to work at the same academic institution: the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill.

Baric, whose work aims to prevent and create treatments for viral outbreaks, has previously inserted segments of DNA and RNA into viruses and created an infectious clone of SARS using his own patented "No See'm" method of inserting genetic materials without a trace. He has also collaborated on coronavirus research with scientists from a center for lung studies at UNC-Chapel Hill who are knowledgeable about ENaC-alpha. In one 2016 study, the scientists created a new virus using the spike of a bat coronavirus that had been isolated and characterized by the Wuhan Institute of Virology. The experiment found that the new virus "replicated efficiently" in human airway cells that were cultured in a lab.

In another paper, published a year earlier, Baric, along with the Wuhan Institute of Virology's Shi Zhengli and a lung expert UNC-Chapel Hill's lung institute, described creating a hybrid virus using a SARS-like virus from a bat and a "mouse-adapted" coronavirus. The new virus caused mice to get sicker than those exposed to the original virus. The goal of these experiments was to prepare for the possibility that a virus might jump naturally from animals to humans, as SARS had in 2003. But even before the pandemic, the experiment drew criticism from other scientists, who were concerned because the researchers had created a virus that was able to spread in humans.

Sachs and Harrison note that the scientists who co-authored the DARPA grant proposal would have been aware of research on coronavirus furin cleavage sites, including one 2006 experiment in which a furin cleavage site was inserted into a coronavirus. "The research team would also have some familiarity with the FCS sequence and the FCS-dependent activation mechanism of human ENaC, which was extensively characterized at UNC," they write.

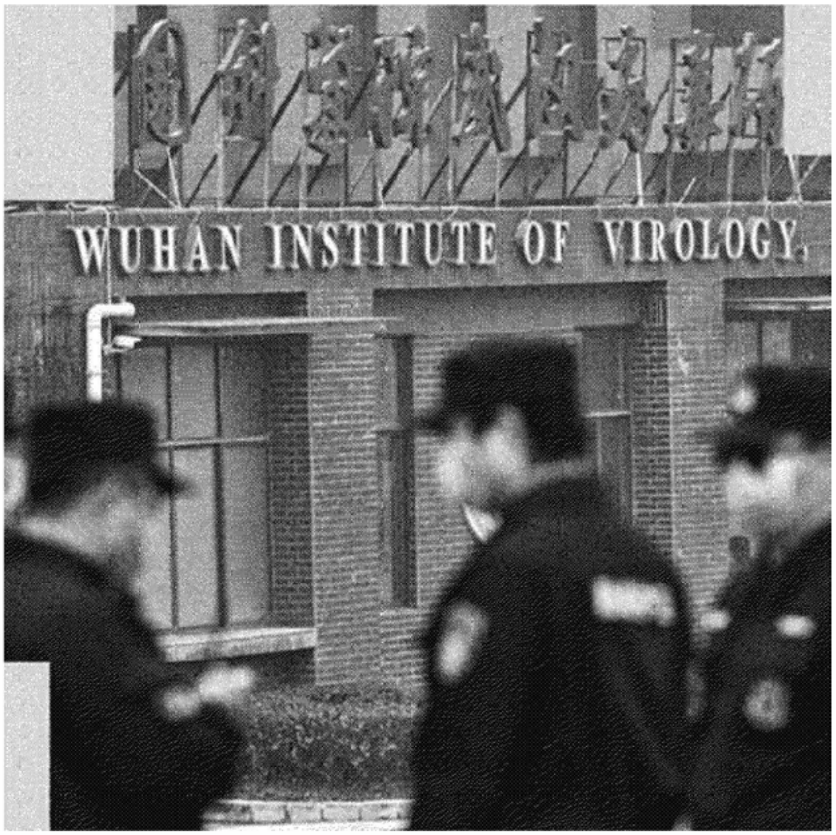
"The list of coincidences is getting

verrrrrrrrrry long."

Still, both the overlap in the amino acid sequence and the fact that experts in the furin cleavage site of the ENaC-alpha and insertion of genetic material into bat coronaviruses work at the same university could be coincidental, as Harrison and Sachs acknowledge. Some virologists, though, say that the coincidence strains credulity.

"Could be," Richard Ebright, a molecular biologist at Rutgers University, wrote in an email to The Intercept when asked about the possibility that these things are both chance occurrences. "But the list of coincidences is getting verrrrrrrrrry long."

Ebright, a vocal proponent of the lab-leak theory whom Harrison and Sachs thank "for helpful commentary on the manuscript," spelled out some of the other Covid coincidences that he considers questionable, including its initial outbreak in a city that, well before 2019, had already been pegged as a biosafety risk. Ebright also noted Wuhan's 1,000-mile distance from the nearest wild bats that carry the type of SARS-related coronaviruses that caused the pandemic. And he pointed to the particular coding of the amino acids in the furin cleavage site of SARS-CoV2.



MORENS_SUBPOENA_005232
MORENS_NIH_013197
REL0000477759

Related

The Lab-Leak Theory Is Looking Stronger by the Day. Here's What We Know.

"The sequence encoding the FCS of the pandemic virus contained two consecutive CGG arginine codons," Ebright explained in his email. (A codon, or a combination of three nucleotides, supplies the genetic code for a single amino acid, though most amino acids can be represented by multiple different codons. Each nucleotide is represented by a letter — for RNA, either A, C, U, or G.) "This codon usage is unusual for a natural bat SARS-related coronaviruses (for which fewer than 1 in 30 arginine codons are CGG) but is optimal for humans (for which most arginine codons are CGG codons)."

Still, Ebright said that at first he didn't see the identical amino acid sequences as particularly suspicious. "I had known for more than a year that there was a perfect match to an eight-amino acid sequence present in human ENaC. What I had not known was that the sequence was known to be a functional furin cleavage site and that it was a sequence extensively studied at UNC," he said. "The crucial point that the ENaC sequence was a known functional site, not just that there happens to be a match to a protein that happens to be in humans. … That suddenly turned it from what I thought to be largely irrelevant to being a logical and obvious choice to proceed."

Ralph Baric and the University of North Carolina did not immediately respond to requests for comment.



The Wuhan Institute of Virology in Wuhan, China, on June 24, 2021.

Photo: Kyodo via AP Images

Name Calling

Other scientists dismiss the idea that the ENaC sequence might have been purposefully inserted into a coronavirus. Scientists who are already convinced that the new coronavirus emerged naturally are unlikely to be persuaded by Sachs and Harrison's article, which appears in the opinion section of the esteemed journal. Over the past year, many scientists involved in the debate over the origins of the

MORENS_SUBPOENA_005234
MORENS_NIH_013199
REL0000477759

pandemic have settled into an increasingly acrimonious, coarse, and unyielding opposition.

Some proponents of the natural origin theory became particularly dismissive of those open to the possibility of a lab leak after the February release of two pre-print studies mapping the early spread of the virus at the Huanan market in Wuhan. Angela Rasmussen, one of a team of virologists who worked on the project, described it on Twitter as "dispositive evidence of a zoonotic origin" that will "drive those with personal interest in the lab leak hypothesis out of their goddam minds." In another tweet, Rasmussen referred to proponents of the lab-leak theory as a "pack of ghouls, who through gullibility, stupidity, & conspiracist thinking have decided this is their thing despite zero expertise."

Although the pre-prints had not been peer-reviewed and may have simply illustrated the spread of the virus rather than its original outbreak, the New York Times ran a front-page story about them that quoted an epidemiologist as saying that the origins debate "has been settled with a very high degree of evidence." The story, which was announced by a push notification from the paper, also noted a lack of direct evidence for a lab leak.

Meanwhile, Kristian Andersen, another co-author of the pre-prints and a virologist at the well-regarded Scripps Research Institute, used the "poop" emoji to criticize a deeply researched article by Katherine Eban about EcoHealth Alliance. On Twitter, Andersen tarred Eban, New York Times columnist Zeynep Tufekci, and others reporting on biosafety issues that could have led to the release of SARS-CoV-2 as "deep in conspiracy theories" and on the other side of "a clear split" from journalists who dismiss the possibility of a lab origin, whom Andersen referred to as "science-based."

Even some scientists who have been vocal about the possibility that the pandemic may have been sparked by research have expressed skepticism about the theory suggested by Harrison and Sachs. "I'm sure that these authors believe in their own hypothesis and arguments, but to me, it's not one that is particularly convincing," said Alina Chan, a scientist who laid out a number of possible routes for how the coronavirus might have emerged through research-related incidents in her recent book "Viral: The Search for the Origin of Covid-19."

“There’s no need for them to go hunting inside the human protein catalogue to look for cleavage sites to put into viruses.”

While she is open to the possibility that the furin cleavage site might have been purposefully inserted into the coronavirus, Chan said there was no reason to think that researchers would mine humans for such material. “These scientists literally had access to hundreds of SARS-like viruses and sequences,” said Chan, referring to the vast collection of coronaviruses from bats and other animals that researchers amassed at the Wuhan Institute of Virology. “There’s no need for them to go hunting inside the human protein catalogue to look for cleavage sites to put into viruses.”

Jack Nunberg, a virologist at the University of Montana, was also not immediately persuaded by the theory of engineering suggested by Sachs and Harrison. “It’s possible,” Nunberg said of the idea that the ENaC segment was inserted into a bat coronavirus as part of research designed to gauge the pandemic potential of a virus. “But I don’t find their evidence on ENaC compelling because furin cleavage sites have a lot of common amino acids, and therefore it may just have happened by chance.”

Others say that the article adds noteworthy information to the public conversation about the origins of the pandemic. “The defenders of the natural origin indicate that the virus on which this type of experiment could have been done — the backbone — has never been published and that specialists in the furin cleavage sites would have chosen a more commonly used furin cleavage site like RARR rather than PRRAR. The Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences article contradicts this argument and indicates that specialists knew that the RRAR’SVAS site was efficiently cleaved by furin,” Etienne Decroly, director of virology research at the Aix-Marseille Université in France, wrote in an email to The Intercept.

Decroly added, “It is impossible to decide on the basis of the information currently available and it is urgent that the WHO Special Advisory Group for the Origins of Novel Pathogens investigate this question.”

On the suggestion of an investigation, Nunberg is in agreement. "You can't argue with that," he told The Intercept. "Who's going to argue for burying one's head in the sand?"

For their part, Sachs and Harrison emphasize that they're not saying laboratory manipulation was involved in the emergence of the pandemic virus, only "that it could have been." They also give a nod to other possibilities, including that an airborne virus might have infected a laboratory worker. Rather than argue that any of these conceivable scenarios happened, they present the clues of the matching amino acid sequences to argue for an independent and transparent scientific investigation of the U.S.-based evidence related to the origins of the virus.

Among the institutions that Sachs and Harrison list as possibly having "knowledge of the detailed activities that were underway in Wuhan and in the United States" are the National Institutes of Health; the Defense Threat Reduction Agency, which has provided grant funding to EcoHealth Alliance; the Department of Homeland Security; DARPA; the U.S. Agency for International Development, which funded the $200 million PREDICT program that catalogued potential pandemic viruses; and the University of California, Davis, which participated in that program.

The authors suggest that EcoHealth Alliance and UNC may have particularly important untapped resources. "The exact details of the fieldwork and laboratory work of the EHA-WIV-UNC partnership, and the engagement of other institutions in the US and China, has not been disclosed for independent analysis," they write. "The precise nature of the experiments that were conducted, including the full array of viruses collected from the field and the subsequent sequencing and manipulation of those viruses, remains unknown."



Peter Daszak, one of the members of the World Health Organization team investigating the origins of the Covid-19, on a balcony at a hotel in Wuhan, China, on Feb. 6, 2021.

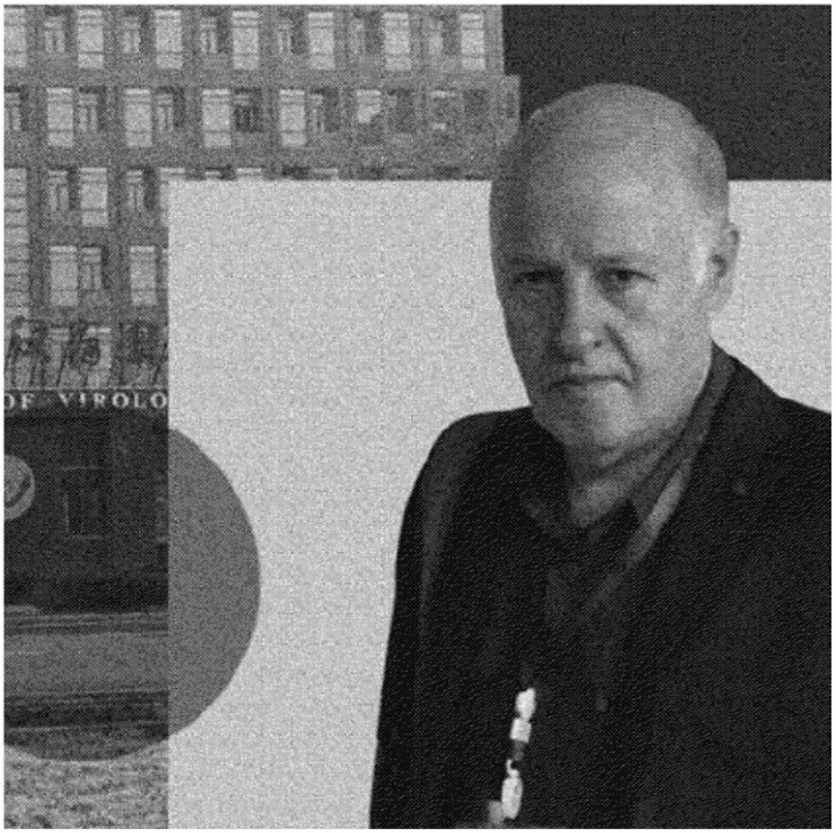
Photo: Hector Retamal/AFP via Getty Images

A Reversal

The publication in the prestigious Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences marks a reversal of sorts for Sachs, the chair of the Lancet Covid-19 Commission who, in November 2020, appointed Daszak, the EcoHealth Alliance president, to lead a task force to investigate the origins of the pandemic. Earlier that year,

MORENS_SUBPOENA_005238
MORENS_NIH_013203
REL0000477759

Daszak had signed on to a public statement published in The Lancet on behalf of scientists who said they "condemn conspiracy theories suggesting that COVID-19 does not have a natural origin."



Related

Peter Daszak Answers Critics and Defends Coronavirus Research

Yet that early certainty about the pandemic's origins — and the sense of shared civic responsibility among members of the Lancet task force — soon disintegrated. In February 2021, emails revealed that Daszak coordinated the public statement in The Lancet tamping down suspicions of a lab leak. And by June 2021, Sachs was expressing his openness to the possibility of a lab origin, writing that NIH-funded research at the Wuhan Institute of Virology "deserves scrutiny under the hypothesis of a laboratory-related release of the virus." Three months later, he disbanded the task force that had been organized to "carefully scrutinize the origin of the SARS-CoV-2 virus" in the hopes of preventing future disease outbreaks, explaining that he had concerns that several members of the commission had conflicts of interest because of their ties to EcoHealth Alliance.

After leading the mainstream scientific inquiry into the origins of the

MORENS_SUBPOENA_005239
MORENS_NIH_013204
REL0000477759

pandemic, Sachs is now skewering it. “A steady trickle of disquieting information has cast a darkening cloud over the agency,” he and Harrison write of the NIH, going on to accuse the entire federal government of not doing enough to explore the possible role of its grantees in the emergence of SARS-CoV-2 and investigate “overlooked details” such as the matching amino acid sequences.

Noting that the NIH has insisted that “the pandemic virus could not have resulted from the work sponsored by” the agency, Sachs and Harrison write that “blanket denials from the NIH are no longer good enough.”

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: (b) (6)
Webs thalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

From: Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6)
Sent: Wednesday, May 11, 2022 8:15 PM
To: David Morens (b) (6)
Cc: Peter Daszak ; (b) (6) Jeffrey Sturc (b) (6) Aleksei Chmura (b) (6) ; Roberts, Rich (b) (6)
Subject: Re: NY Post: NIH director confirms agency hid early COVID genes at request of Chinese scientists

It’s all so convoluted I can even understand it. We’ll see if they pick Mary Klotman from Duke to be next NIH Director. I know her quite well, her husband is Baylor

MORENS_SUBPOENA_005240
MORENS_NIH_013205
REL0000477759

President and my boss.

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP

Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine
Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology
Health Policy Scholar

Baylor College of Medicine

Texas Children's Hospital Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics
Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development

University Professor, Baylor University

Faculty Fellow, Hagler Institute for Advanced Study

Senior Fellow, Scowcroft Institute of International Affairs

Texas A&M University

Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty and Adjunct Professor of Bioengineering, Rice University

Adjunct Professor, University of Texas, School of Public Health

Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

E-mail: (b) (6)
Twitter: @peterhotez

Skype: (b) (6)

Linkedin Peter Hotez

Amazon Author Center: https://www.amazon.com/Peter- J.-Hotez/e/B001HPIC48

Daily Beast Contributor https://www.thedailybeast.com/author/peter- j-hotez

Like us on Facebook
https://www.facebook.com/BCMNationalSchoolOfTropicalMedicine/

Senior Coordinator / Executive Support: Douglas Soriano
(b) (6)

Phone: (b) (6)

Fax: 713-798-2299

iPhone

On May 11, 2022, at 6:39 PM, David Morens (b) (6) wrote:

*****CAUTION:*** This email is not from a BCM Source. Only click links or open attachments you know are safe.**

Yes, i know. I fail to understand why our nih leaders keep forming circular firing squads. one thing is for sure: in recent times nih has suffered abysmal leadership

It wasn't like that in the Varmus years. He didn't suffer any political fools no matter how high up, and was comfortable giving them all a big middle finger. d

Sent from my iPhone
David M Morens
OD, NIAID, NIH

On May 11, 2022, at 18:37, Peter Daszak (b) (6)
> wrote:

This is an utterly ridiculous set of BS. Jesse Bloom is the person driving it – he buys into the lab leak theory and found that some folks from WIV uploaded partial genomes early on, then added a bunch of more complete ones, and asked for the partial sequences to be removed. Absolutely normal, but he's trying to turn it into a 'mystery'.

Of course, NIH makes it all worse by not releasing emails, redacting critical parts of them, and failing to explain why they follow the wishes of the submitter re. Genbank. It's perfectly logical really – if NIH now starts releasing sequences you as a submitter asked them to remove for whatever reason, submitters will think twice about using

MORENS_SUBPOENA_005242
MORENS_NIH_013207
REL0000477759

Genbank. We already have China working with its own database and all this BS will make them twice-shy about submitting.

Even worse, Tabak now says that 'don't worry, we still have the data on back up tapes' so everyone now knows that NIH keeps the stuff you thought they agreed to delete, and no doubt has already handed it over to the FBI and the CIA.

It's a conspiracy, wrapped within an enigma, encapsulating a riddle….

PS – heres a cracker of an email from an NIH press office (?) person at O/D ripping into a journalist (Carl Zimmer) who wanted information on the 'missing' china sequences. Now it turns out that US submitters also deleted early COVID genomes…even more reason for the public to not trust scientists…:

From: Myles, Renate (NIH/OD
To: Carl Zimmer; Wojtowicz
Cc: Fine, Amanda (NIH/OD
Subject: RE: FW: Query from Ne
Date: Wednesday, June 23, 2

Hi Carl:

I saw your story. Just noting that it was withdrawn. Also, it didn't disa I know that Dr. Bloom is making th reporters not hype language.

Also, just to clarify, NLM conducte packages were withdrawn upon re included one requested by the sub the U.S.

Thanks,
Renate

Cheers,

Peter

MORENS_SUBPOENA_005244
MORENS_NIH_013209
REL0000477759

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: (b) (6)
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

From: David Morens (b) (6)
Sent: Wednesday, May 11, 2022 5:47 PM
To: Peter Daszak (b) (6) ; Keusch, Gerald T < (b) (6) Jeffrey Sturchio (b) (6) Aleksei Chmura < (b) (6) ; peter hotez (b) (6) ; Roberts, Rich <
Subject: Fwd: FW: NY Post: NIH director confirms agency hid early COVID genes at request of Chinese scientists

David M. Morens, MD
(b) (6)

(b) (6) (work)
(cell)

IMPORTANT: My gmail frequently sends incoming messages to Trash, which is apparently not correctable. If you don't hear from me in a reasonable time, please try again, call, or use my NIH email address

IMPORTANT: For US Government-related email, please also reply to my NIAID address

---------- Forwarded message ---------
From: **Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E]** (b) (6)
Date: Wed, May 11, 2022 at 4:54 PM
Subject: FW: NY Post: NIH director confirms agency hid early COVID genes at request of
To: David Morens (b) (6)

MORENS_SUBPOENA_005245
MORENS_NIH_013210
REL0000477759

From: Folkers, Greg (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b) (6)
Sent: Wednesday, May 11, 2022 4:12 PM
To: NIAID COGCORE <COGCORE@mail.nih.gov >; NIAID OCGR Leg <NIAIDOCGRLeg@mail.nih.gov >; NIAID OD AM < NIAIDODAM@niaid.nih.gov >
Subject: NY Post: NIH director confirms agency hid early COVID genes at request of Chinese scientists

NIH director confirms agency hid early COVID genes at request of Chinese scientists

By
Steven Nelson
May 11, 2022 3:47pm



National Institutes of Health acting director Lawrence Tabak confirmed to lawmakers Wednesday that US health officials concealed early genomic sequences of COVID-19 at the request of Chinese scientists — but insisted the data remains on file.

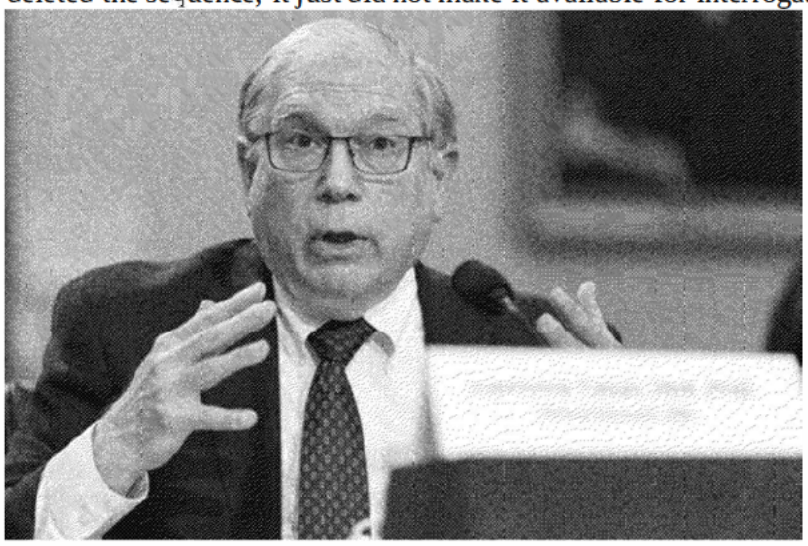
Tabak told a House Appropriations subcommittee that the NIH "eliminated from public view" the data from the pandemic epicenter in Wuhan, China, before adding that researchers can still access it via an archaic "tape drive."

Vanity Fair recently reported that the information was hidden in response to a request from Chinese scientists, despite potentially resolving whether the virus leaked from the Wuhan Institute of Virology or passed naturally from animals to humans.

MORENS_SUBPOENA_005246
MORENS_NIH_013211
REL0000477759

Rep. Jaime Herrera Beutler (R-Wash.) asked Tabek to explain why US officials would comply with such a request.

"There's no question that the communication that we had about the sequence archive — Sequence Read Archive — could have been improved. I freely admit that," Tabek said. "If I may, the archive never deleted the sequence, it just did not make it available for interrogation."



Lawrence Tabak, acting director of the National Institutes of Health, testifies on May 11. Jacquelyn Martin/AP

"So wait, you have the information still?" Beutler followed up.

"We have the information … Anybody who submits to the Sequence Read Archive is allowed to ask for it to be removed," Tabak explained. "And that investigator did do that. But we never erase it."

"So you don't have the information anymore?" Beutler asked.

"We do. We never erase the information. We keep it," Tabak clarified.

"So they were able to withdraw public viewing of it?" the congresswoman followed up.

"That's correct," he said.

"OK, so researchers can apply to the NIH and get the information from you?" Beutler asked.

"In the way that it was originally eliminated from public view, it was withdrawn, and that's the most difficult for people to access," Tabak replied. "The error that was made, and we found this out after a review of all of our processes, was it should have been suppressed. The distinction being that if it's withdrawn, it is kept archivally on a tape drive — old technology, but that's how it's done. But when it is withdrawn, it can still be accessed by accession number, and so researchers are able to access that information."



Security personnel keep watch outside Wuhan Institute of Virology during the visit by the World Health Organization on Feb. 3, 2021. Thomas Peter/REUTERS

"So the information is still there?" Beutler summed up.

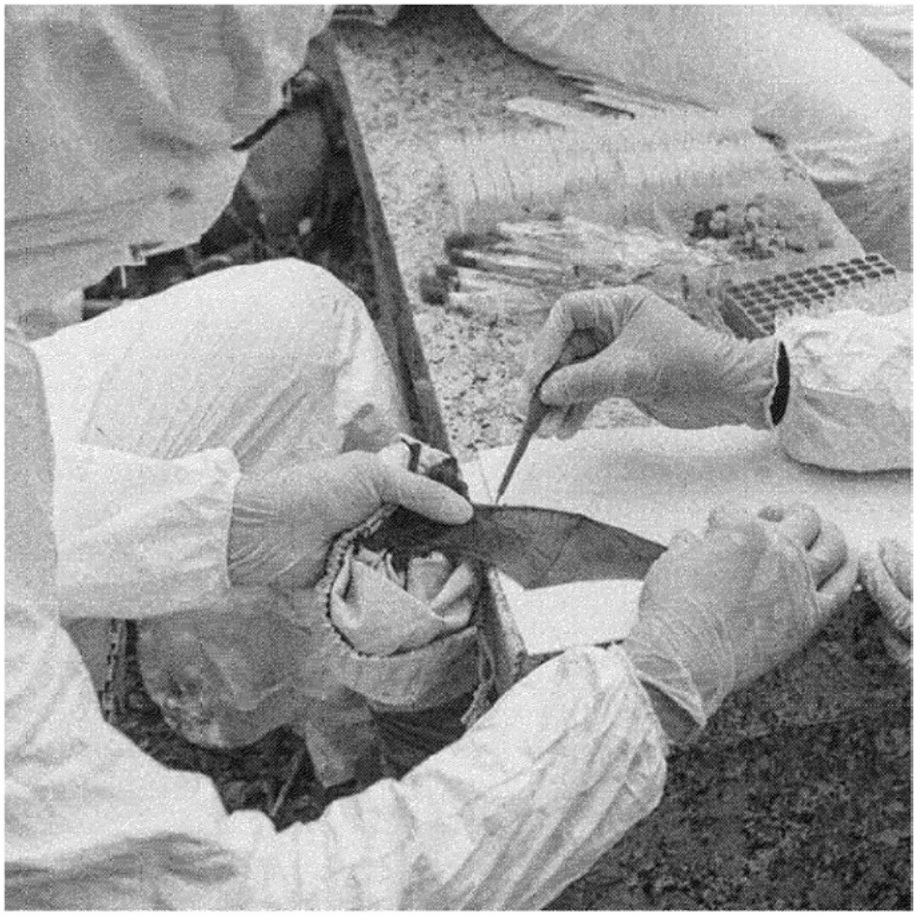
"That's correct. The information was never lost," Tabak repeated.

In a March 31 article, Vanity Fair reported that evolutionary biologist Jesse Bloom discovered last year that early COVID-19 sequences had disappeared from a federally run data repository.

When Bloom raised the issue, he was reportedly ganged up on by a group of researchers assembled by then-NIH Director Francis Collins and infectious disease institute head Dr. Anthony Fauci.

Bloom shared a draft academic paper with Collins and Fauci, who allegedly objected on a June 2021 Zoom video conference to Bloom's description of Chinese scientists "surreptitiously" removing the sequences. Fauci said the word was "loaded" and implied a coverup, the report said.

Evolutionary biologist Kristian Andersen, who was selected to participate on the call by Collins, allegedly told Bloom that the Wuhan team had a right to claw back early pandemic information and that it was unethical for Bloom to question it.



Tabak noted that while the request for information to be removed was honored, it was not erased fully.ECOHEALTH ALLIANCE

Andersen allegedly went so far as to offer to delete Bloom's article from a "preprint" server "in a way that would leave no record that this had been done."

China's government has refused to cooperate with an international investigation of the origins of the pandemic. The COVID-19 virus has killed about 1 million Americans since March 2020 and caused massive social, economic and educational disruptions.

The US intelligence community said in an August report that it's possible the virus leaked from the Wuhan Institute of Virology, calling the theory one of two "plausible" explanations along with natural transmission from animals.



Lawrence Tabak confirmed Wednesday that early genomic sequences of COVID-19 were concealed at the request of Chinese specialists.
Jacquelyn Martin/AP

President Biden rarely speaks publicly about wanting China to be transparent about the origins of the pandemic. Former President Donald Trump, by contrast, has demanded that China pay $10 trillion in reparations.

The Biden administration is considering undoing some of Trump's tariffs on Chinese goods "separately" from US pressure for coronavirus transparency, White House press secretary Jen Psaki told The Post on Monday.

Documents published in September by The Intercept revealed that US health officials indirectly funded so-called "gain of function" research at the Wuhan lab — including the modification three bat coronaviruses distinct from COVID-19 and the discovery that they became much more infectious among "humanized" mice when human-type receptors were added to them.

Disclaimer: Any third-party material in this email has been shared for internal use under fair use provisions of U.S. copyright law, without further verification of its accuracy/veracity. It does not necessarily represent my views nor those of NIAID, NIH, HHS, or the U.S. government.

Disclaimer

This communication, together with any attachment, may contain confidential and/or proprietary information (including without limitation copyright material and/or other intellectual property) and is intended only for the person(s) and/or entity(ies) to whom it is addressed. If you are not the intended recipient of this communication, or if you received it in error, you should not disseminate, distribute or copy this communication and you are asked to kindly delete it and promptly notify us. Any copying, use, disclosure or distribution of any part of this communication or taking any action in reliance on the contents of this communication, unless duly authorized by or on behalf of EcoHealth Alliance, is strictly prohibited and may be unlawful.

Disclaimer

This communication, together with any attachment, may contain confidential and/or proprietary information (including without limitation copyright material and/or other intellectual property) and is intended only for the person(s) and/or entity(ies) to whom it is addressed. If you are not the intended recipient of this communication, or if you received it in error, you should not disseminate, distribute or copy this communication and you are asked to kindly delete it and promptly notify us. Any copying, use, disclosure or distribution of any part of this communication or taking any action in reliance on the contents of this communication, unless duly authorized by or on behalf of EcoHealth Alliance, is strictly prohibited and may be unlawful.

Disclaimer

This communication, together with any attachment, may contain confidential and/or proprietary information (including without limitation copyright material and/or other intellectual property) and is intended only for the person(s) and/or entity(ies) to whom it is addressed. If you are not the intended recipient of this communication, or if you received it in error, you should not disseminate, distribute or copy this communication and you are asked to kindly delete it and promptly notify us. Any copying, use, disclosure or distribution of any part of this communication or taking any action in reliance on the contents of this communication, unless duly authorized by or on behalf of EcoHealth Alliance, is strictly prohibited and may be unlawful.

Disclaimer

This communication, together with any attachment, may contain confidential and/or proprietary information (including without limitation copyright material and/or other intellectual property) and is intended only for the person(s) and/or entity(ies) to whom it is addressed. If you are not the intended recipient of this communication, or if you received it in error, you should not disseminate, distribute or copy this communication and you are asked to kindly delete it and promptly notify us. Any copying, use, disclosure or distribution of any part of this communication or taking any action in reliance on the contents of this communication, unless duly authorized by or on behalf of EcoHealth Alliance, is strictly prohibited and may be unlawful.

Disclaimer

This communication, together with any attachment, may contain confidential and/or proprietary information (including without limitation copyright material and/or other intellectual property) and is intended only for the person(s) and/or entity(ies) to whom it is addressed. If you are not the intended recipient of this communication, or if you received it in error, you should not disseminate, distribute or copy this communication and you are asked to kindly delete it and promptly notify us. Any copying, use, disclosure or distribution of any part of this communication or taking any action in reliance on the contents of this communication, unless duly authorized by or on behalf of EcoHealth Alliance, is strictly prohibited and may be unlawful.

Disclaimer

This communication, together with any attachment, may contain confidential and/or proprietary information (including without limitation copyright material and/or other intellectual property) and is intended only for the person(s) and/or entity(ies) to whom it is addressed. If you are not the intended recipient of this communication, or if you received it in error, you should not disseminate, distribute or copy this communication and you are asked to kindly delete it and promptly notify us. Any copying, use, disclosure or distribution of any part of this communication or taking any action in reliance on the contents of this communication, unless duly authorized by or on behalf of EcoHealth Alliance, is strictly prohibited and may be unlawful.

Disclaimer

This communication, together with any attachment, may contain confidential and/or proprietary information (including without limitation copyright material and/or other intellectual property) and is intended only for the person(s) and/or entity(ies) to whom it is addressed. If you are not the intended recipient of this communication, or if you

received it in error, you should not disseminate, distribute or copy this communication and you are asked to kindly delete it and promptly notify us. Any copying, use, disclosure or distribution of any part of this communication or taking any action in reliance on the contents of this communication, unless duly authorized by or on behalf of EcoHealth Alliance, is strictly prohibited and may be unlawful.

Disclaimer

This communication, together with any attachment, may contain confidential and/or proprietary information (including without limitation copyright material and/or other intellectual property) and is intended only for the person(s) and/or entity(ies) to whom it is addressed. If you are not the intended recipient of this communication, or if you received it in error, you should not disseminate, distribute or copy this communication and you are asked to kindly delete it and promptly notify us. Any copying, use, disclosure or distribution of any part of this communication or taking any action in reliance on the contents of this communication, unless duly authorized by or on behalf of EcoHealth Alliance, is strictly prohibited and may be unlawful.

Disclaimer

This communication, together with any attachment, may contain confidential and/or proprietary information (including without limitation copyright material and/or other intellectual property) and is intended only for the person(s) and/or entity(ies) to whom it is addressed. If you are not the intended recipient of this communication, or if you received it in error, you should not disseminate, distribute or copy this communication and you are asked to kindly delete it and promptly notify us. Any copying, use, disclosure or distribution of any part of this communication or taking any action in reliance on the contents of this communication, unless duly authorized by or on behalf of EcoHealth Alliance, is strictly prohibited and may be unlawful.

Date: Fri, 21 Jul 2023 1:33:50 PM -0400
Sent: Fri, 21 Jul 2023 1:33:08 PM -0400
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Fwd: Email intro to Mary Hall from Baylor
From: David Morens <(b) (6)
To: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] <(b) (6)

David M. Morens, MD
(b) (6)

(b) (6)
(b) (6) (work)
(cell)

IMPORTANT: My gmail frequently sends incoming messages to Trash, which is apparently not correctable. If you don't hear from me in a reasonable time, please try again, call, or use my NIH email address

IMPORTANT: For US Government-related email, please also reply to my NIAID address

---------- Forwarded message ---------
From: Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6)
Date: Thu, May 4, 2023 at 2:30 PM
Subject: RE: Email intro to Mary Hall from Baylor
To: Hall, Mary Ann <(b) (6) >, Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6) Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >, Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) >, David Morens <(b) (6) >, Jeffrey Sturchio <(b) (6) >, Rich Roberts <(b) (6)
Cc: Calo, Mary Andrea <(b) (6) >, (b) (6) <(b) (6) >

I am available the following times:

May 9, 10 and 11 am CT

May 10, not convenient but not impossible – better an hour later

May 12, 2 pm CT

Jerry

From: Hall, Mary Ann <(b) (6) >
Sent: Thursday, May 4, 2023 1:34 PM

To: Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6) Peter Daszak
<(b) (6) >; Aleksei Chmura
<(b) (6) >; David Morens <(b) (6) >;
Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6) Jeffrey Sturchio
<(b) (6) >; Rich Roberts <(b) (6) >
Cc: Calo, Mary Andrea <(b) (6) >; (b) (6)
Subject: RE: Email intro to Mary Hall from Baylor

Greetings all,

It looks like a zoom call would be better for everyone. Below are a few options. Please let me know what works best and I'll send a calendar invite for the time that works for the majority.

Tuesday, May 9th at 10, 11 am, and 1 pm CT

Wednesday, May 10th at 1 pm CT

Friday, May 12th at 2 pm CT

Thank you!

Mary

Mary Hall

Senior Associate Director of Foundation Relations

Baylor College of Medicine

P: (b) (6) | M: (b) (6)
(b) (6) |
https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.bcm.edu%2F&data=05%7C01%7Cdmorens%40niaid.nih.gov%7C967a79cf94914e56a6d008db8a10a448%7C14b77578977342d585&sdata=2NNWQ05sZ3Je7UaxLiBM6rTUoF8snOBgwnYLgrnGeZs%3D &reserved=0

From: Hall, Mary Ann
Sent: Wednesday, May 3, 2023 2:40 PM
To: Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6) Peter Daszak
<(b) (6) >; Aleksei Chmura
<(b) (6) >; David Morens <(b) (6) >;

Gerald Keusch <(b) (6) Jeffrey Sturchio <(b) (6)
Rich Roberts <(b) (6) >
Cc: Calo, Mary Andrea (b) (6)
Subject: RE: Email intro to Mary Hall from Baylor

Greetings all,

What an incredible meeting of minds last week! It was great to hear from such a diverse range of people on such an important topic. We so appreciate everyone's time and effort. I have pages of notes and am looking forward to reviewing others as well. As Dr. Hotez mentioned, we have this seed funding from the Mitchell Foundation and the potential for more once plans develop. Dr. Hotez and I will both be in New York City May 30th. If available, could this convening group meet to discuss next steps? Happy to offer some times for a zoom call if that date doesn't work for an in person meeting.

Thank you!

Mary

Mary Hall

Senior Associate Director of Foundation Relations

Baylor College of Medicine

P: (b) (6) | M: (b) (6)
(b) (6) |
https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.bcm.edu%2F
&data=05%7C01%7Cdmorens%40niaid.nih.gov%7C967a79cf94914e56a6d008db8a10a448%7C14b77578977342d585
&sdata=2NNWQ05sZ3Je7UaxLiBM6rTUoF8snOBgwnYLgrnGeZs%3D &reserved=0

From: Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6)
Sent: Wednesday, May 3, 2023 11:11 AM
To: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >; Aleksei Chmura
<(b) (6) >; David Morens <(b) (6) >;
Gerald Keusch <(b) (6) Jeffrey Sturchio <(b) (6)
Rich Roberts <(b) (6) >; Hall, Mary Ann <(b) (6) >
Cc: Calo, Mary Andrea <(b) (6) >; Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6)
Subject: Email intro to Mary Hall from Baylor

Mary, here are the emails of the group, best Peter

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP

Texas Children's Hospital: Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics |
Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development
| Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

Baylor College of Medicine: Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine
| Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology &
Microbiology | Health Policy Scholar

Baylor University, University Professor

Rice University, Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty

Texas A&M University, Faculty-Senior Fellow, Hagler Inst for Advanced
Study & Scowcroft Institute of Intl Affairs

E-mail | Twitter | LinkedIn | Skype: (b) (6)

Amazon Author Center | Daily Beast Contributor

Senior Coordinator & Executive Support: Douglas Soriano

(b) (6) | Phone: (b) (6) | Fax: 713-798-2299

Media Inquiries:

(b) (6)

(b) (6)

(b) (6)

iPhone

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and are confident the content is safe.

Date: Sun, 27 Jun 2021 2:32:48 PM -0400
Sent: Sun, 27 Jun 2021 2:32:46 PM -0400
Subject: RE: Personal attack piece in the Times, UK
From: "Keusch, Gerald T" <(b) (6)
To: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6)
CC: David Morens <(b) (6) >; Rich Roberts <(b) (6) Robert Kessler <(b) (6) >; Jeffrey Sturchio <(b) (6)

I also know several members of Peter H's Task Force very well, and probably on other Task Force teams as well. I would be more than happy to stir that pot. I just don't want to be counter-productive.

Jerry

From: Keusch, Gerald T
Sent: Sunday, June 27, 2021 2:25 PM
To: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6)
Cc: (b) (6) Rich Roberts <(b) (6) Robert Kessler (b) (6) >; Jeffrey Sturchio <(b) (6)
Subject: RE: Personal attack piece in the Times, UK

Jon Cohen was in touch with me last week as he was trying to reach Peter without success. I said it was understandable given the attacks. He got back to me and said let him know when Peter D can talk. I would be happy to get back to Jon Cohen, but Peter H, if you want to contact Jon bring me into it as would represent two different task forces and I would be happy to talk to him about what's going on with the Commission. I don't think it is the time now for Peter to be directly involved in such conversations, and Robert and Jeff Sturchio can comment on that as necessary.

Jerry

From: Peter Daszak (b) (6)
Sent: Sunday, June 2 PM
To: Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6)
Cc: David Morens (b) (6) ; Rich Roberts (b) (6) Keusch, Gerald T (b) (6) Robert Kessler (b) (6) Jeffrey Sturchio <J (b) (6)
Subject: RE: Personal attack piece in the Times, UK

Any help or suggestions are welcome. Cc'ing in Jeff Sturchio and Robert Kessler so they can follow this.

Rich, David – Jeff Sturchio is working with EcoHealth Alliance to help manage any statements we make at all right now. We're being as minimalist as possible, trying to avoid press, but clearly people are out to find a villain, and are pointing directly at our work, EcoHealth and me as a target.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance

MORENS_SUBPOENA_020684
MORENS_NIH_041395
REL0000477884

520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: (b) (6)
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

---

From: Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6)
Sent: Sunday, June 27, 2021 1:40 PM
To: Peter Daszak (b) (6)
Cc: David Morens (b) (6) >; Rich Roberts (b) (6) (6) Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6)
Subject: Re: Personal attack piece in the Times, UK

I could ask someone like Nick Kristof or Carl Zimmer at NY Times or Amy Maxmen at Nature or Jon Cohen at Science to write something that gives people reality testing?

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, FASTMH, FAAP

Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine
Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology
Co-Head, Section of Pediatric Tropical Medicine
Health Policy Scholar
Baylor College of Medicine

Texas Children's Hospital Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics
Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development
University Professor
Department of Biology, Baylor University

Faculty Fellow, Hagler Institute for Advanced Study
Senior Fellow, Scowcroft Institute of International Affairs
Texas A&M University
Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty and Adjunct Professor of Bioengineering, Rice University
Adjunct Professor, University of Texas, School of Public Health

Founding Editor-in-Chief, PLoS Neglected Tropical Diseases
E-mail: (b) (6)
Twitter: @peterhotez
Skype: (b) (6)
Linkedin Peter Hotez
Amazon Author Center: https://www.amazon.com/Peter- J.-Hotez/e/B001HPIC48
Like us on Facebook https://www.facebook.com/BCMNationalSchoolOfTropicalMedicine/

(b) (6)

Phone: (b) (6)

Sent from my iPhone

On Jun 27, 2021, at 12:12 PM, Peter Daszak (b) (6) wrote:

*****CAUTION:*** This email is not from a BCM Source. Only click links or open attachments you know are safe.**

Just mortified by this.

https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/the- rise-and-fall-of-british-virus-hunter-peter-daszak-05q8brpz7

The rise and fall of British virus hunter Peter Daszak

The scientist who led opposition to the claim that Covid leaked from a Wuhan lab is engulfed in controversy after it was revealed his charity had funded the institute at the centre of the row

Peter Daszak became the face of the WHO mission to find the origins of the coronavirus

On January 18, Peter Daszak, born and raised in the mill and mining town of Dukinfield, near Manchester, awoke to a winter's dawn in central China, 5,500 miles away. "Sunrise in Wuhan — my early morning view on day 4 of quarantine — beautiful," he tweeted, with a photograph of skyscrapers against a hazy orange sky.

His presence there in a delegation from the World Health Organisation (WHO) on a mission of global significance showed a remarkable rise for the 55-year-old parasitologist with a PhD from the University of East London.

Ostensibly he was visiting the city to find the truth about where the coronavirus pandemic began before it swept across the world — killing nearly four million people. Five months later, however, the trip to Wuhan has placed Daszak at the centre of a growing web of controversy. The wry Mancunian humour that singled him out from fellow scientists of international renown has dried

MORENS_SUBPOENA_020686
MORENS_NIH_041397
REL0000477884

up.

"When you see him on the television now, he's not the funny northerner," said one old friend and colleague. "There's so much nastiness and vitriol out there, this must have been a challenging time for him."

Daszak faces questions about a crucial conflict of interest in four interlocking aspects of his professional life: his role on the WHO-led mission to Wuhan; his relationship with the Wuhan virologist Shi Zhengli, known as the "bat woman"; his presidency of a federally funded American charity that gave money to her laboratory; and his chairmanship of a commission investigating the pandemic's possible origins for The Lancet medical journal.

The Lancet commission, supported by the United Nations sustainable development solutions network, is looking, among other things, at the explosive question of whether the virus escaped accidentally from Shi's Wuhan Institute of Virology (WIV), which Daszak — like China — has consistently denied.

Critics ask how Daszak can objectively investigate something he has such fixed views about, in a lab his charity has funded. The WIV appears to have received almost $600,000 of a $3.7 million grant awarded to Daszak's EcoHealth Alliance in 2014 by the US Department for Health and Human Services for the purposes of "understanding the risk of bat coronavirus emergence".

Last week The Lancet acknowledged the conflict of interest by announcing that Daszak had recused himself from its commission. It said that in future "technical work will be conducted by independent experts who were not themselves directly involved in US-China research activities that are under scrutiny".

It was a heavy blow, and not the first time Daszak's impartiality has been in question. He strongly attacked the lab leak theory before, during and after the WHO mission, which concluded that it was "extremely unlikely". In an episode of the US TV show *60 Minutes* in March, he faced a grilling about his "conflict of interest". And in April a US congressional committee requested evidence from EcoHealth Alliance about its funding.

SPONSORED

Yet little is known about the figure in the middle of this maelstrom. How did the boy from

Manchester become the president of a charity bankrolled by the Pentagon and America's National Institutes of Health (NIH), the face of the WHO mission, the Wuhan lab's biggest cheerleader and now one of the most controversial characters in the pandemic saga?

Daszak lives in New York state's wealthy Rockland county, 30 miles northwest of Manhattan. Seven years ago he and his wife Janet bought a sprawling house in two acres for $665,000. In 2019 he was paid $354,065 by EcoHealth Alliance, based in Manhattan.

It is a world away from Dukinfield, where Daszak's Anglo-Welsh mother and Ukrainian father Bohdan raised their family. One son, John, a year younger than Peter, became a tenor with the English National Opera. But Peter Daszak's passions lay elsewhere: his childhood dreams were of becoming a "zoologist in the Amazon", he told the podcast *This Week In Virology* in 2019. "I think that once you get hooked on research and finding new things out, there's something that plays to a fundamental need to discover in the human psyche."

Daszak started off with a BSc in zoology at the University of Bangor in Wales — a teacher recalls that he was "really bright" — before his PhD and postdoctoral research. At Kingston University one project proved to be a springboard. With a colleague, Andrew Cunningham, he discovered the cause of a mass die-off of frogs from Australia to Panama, unexplained for a decade. Daszak suggested that the fungus responsible was linked to the wildlife trade in bullfrogs, sold as pets or food. This was the first step in a career focused on the interaction between humans, nature and viruses.

He moved to America with his wife, an immunologist, when she got a job in Georgia. His frog fame followed him, and over the next few years his research on emerging infectious disease gained attention, partly due to outbreaks of several rare and deadly diseases in humans, including Nipah virus, ebola and Sars.

In 2001 he joined the Wildlife Trust, a small, privately funded charity that would later become EcoHealth Alliance. Throughout the ensuing decade, Daszak was adept at promoting his projects. In an interview on America's National Public Radio in 2004 he compared his frog research to a Monty Python sketch: "John Cleese goes into the pet shop and says, 'Yeah, this parrot's dead.' 'Well, actually, sir, it's just resting.' And they just looked like frogs that were resting, who were perfectly OK, but dead."

MORENS_SUBPOENA_020688
MORENS_NIH_041399
REL0000477884

In an episode of the TV programme *60 Minutes* the same year, clad in head-to-toe khaki on a boat speeding towards the remote Malaysian island of Pulau Tioman, Daszak was referred to as a "virus hunter" off to search for bats suspected of harbouring the Nipah virus. He says: "Almost 75% of the emerging diseases in humans actually come from wildlife ... or domestic animals," he warns. "We are looking for the next HIV, the next Sars." This nascent area of scientific study, now known as conservation medicine, shaped the next 16 years of Daszak's career.

By 2010 Daszak was busily fund- raising for the newly reconfigured EcoHealth Alliance. Millions of dollars worth of grants rolled in: 87.6 per cent of it from US government sources in 2019, including the NIH and the Pentagon.

According to one prominent scientist, who asked not to be named, Daszak did not have a laboratory of his own, nor was he performing his own research, as most grant recipients did. What he did have, however, was a network of partnerships with other laboratories, including Shi's WIV.

With Shi, Daszak helped to co-ordinate visits to remote mines in China to look for bat coronaviruses to study in the lab in the hope of getting ahead of natural spillovers into local populations. Then in late 2019 the pandemic erupted in Wuhan.

When President Donald Trump first suggested in January 2020 that the virus had leaked from Shi's lab, Daszak was quick to leverage connections and lobby colleagues to push the counternarrative that it came directly from animals.

In February 2020, he organised an open letter in The Lancet with 26 scientists, condemning "conspiracy theories suggesting that Covid-19 does not have a natural origin". He also wrote an article in The Guardian in June last year under the headline: "Ignore the conspiracy theories: scientists know Covid-19 wasn't created in a lab".

When it was suggested to him by *60 Minutes* in March that, as a member of the WHO mission, he had technically been investigating his own colleagues at the Wuhan lab, Daszak said: "I'm on the WHO team for a reason ... and if you're going to work in China on coronaviruses and try and understand their origins you should involve the people who know the most about that, and for better or for worse I do."

Last week in an update on The Lancet site, Daszak wrote that his organisation collaborated with a

MORENS_SUBPOENA_020689
MORENS_NIH_041400
REL0000477884

range of universities and governmental health and environmental science organisations in China. He said that neither the EcoHealth Alliance nor he personally received funding from the Chinese government.

Despite Daszak's best efforts, President Joe Biden lent credence to the lab-leak theory when he approved a full investigation into it last month.

Suddenly Daszak's vehement attacks on the hypothesis appeared to some to be less about the science and more about a serious conflict of interest — one that a growing number seem unwilling to ignore any longer.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel. (b) (6)
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

Disclaimer

The information contained in this communication from the sender is confidential. It is intended solely for use by the recipient and others authorized to receive it. If you are not the recipient, you are hereby notified that any disclosure, copying, distribution or taking action in relation of the contents of this information is strictly prohibited and may be unlawful.

This email has been scanned for viruses and malware, and may have been automatically archived by Mimecast, a leader in email security and cyber resilience. Mimecast integrates email defenses with brand protection, security awareness training, web security, compliance and other essential capabilities. Mimecast helps protect large and small organizations from malicious activity, human error and technology failure; and to lead the movement toward building a more resilient world. To find out more, visit our website.

Disclaimer

MORENS_SUBPOENA_020690
MORENS_NIH_041401
REL0000477884

The information contained in this communication from the sender is confidential. It is intended solely for use by the recipient and others authorized to receive it. If you are not the recipient, you are hereby notified that any disclosure, copying, distribution or taking action in relation of the contents of this information is strictly prohibited and may be unlawful.

This email has been scanned for viruses and malware, and may have been automatically archived by Mimecast, a leader in email security and cyber resilience. Mimecast integrates email defenses with brand protection, security awareness training, web security, compliance and other essential capabilities. Mimecast helps protect large and small organizations from malicious activity, human error and technology failure; and to lead the movement toward building a more resilient world. To find out more, visit our website.

Date:	Mon, 6 Feb 2023 7:26:35 PM -0500
Sent:	Mon, 6 Feb 2023 7:26:18 PM -0500
Subject:	RE: Notes from our call
From:	"Roberts, Rich" <(b) (6) >
To:	David Morens <(b) (6) >; Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6) >;
CC:	Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >; Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6) Jeffrey Sturchio <(b) (6) >; Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) >;
Attachments:	image001.jpg; image002.jpg; image003.jpg

David:

Thanks

I'm doing my best to celebrate!

Rich

Richard J. Roberts
New England Biolabs
240 County Road
Ipswich, MA 01938-2723
USA
Tel:(b) (6)
Fax: (978) 412 9910
email: (b) (6)

Executive Assistant: (b) (6)
Tel: (b) (6)
Fax: (978) 412 9910
email (b) (6)

From: David Morens <(b) (6)
Sent: Monday, February 6, 2023 6:22 PM
To: Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6)
Cc: Roberts, Rich <(b) (6) Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >; Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6) Jeffrey Sturchio <(b) (6) Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6)
Subject: Re: Notes from our call

EXTERNAL SENDER

Rich, this sounds like a true modern miracle. When i was in mef school in the 1960s, aortic valve replacements were either hugely dangerous or in some cases impossible, tequired weeks of hospitalization, and life expectancy after them was statistically short. Now, 50+ years later, you go home the next day?????? It is truly a miracle

Statisticians tell us that had us over 50 men been born in-the 1800s rather than the 1900s, most of us wouldn't be alive much past 50, and the rest of us would be throwing flowers on your/our graves

Congrats to you and make sure to celebrate your new lease on life!!!!!!

david

Sent from my iPhone
David M Morens
OD, NIAID, NIH

On Feb 6, 2023, at 17:46, Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6) ≥ wrote:

Wonderful, I'm so glad it went well! MGH is an extraordinary place, it's where I did my clinical training

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP

Texas Children's Hospital: Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics | Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development | Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

Baylor College of Medicine: Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine | Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology | Health Policy Scholar

Baylor University, University Professor
Rice University, Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty
Texas A&M University, Faculty-Senior Fellow, Hagler Inst for Advanced Study & Scowcroft Institute of Intl Affairs

E-mail | Twitter | LinkedIn | Skype: (b) (6)

Amazon Author Center | Daily Beast Contributor

(b) (6) **e Support:** Douglas Soriano
| Phone: (b) (6) | Fax: 713-798-2299

Media Inquiries:
(b) (6)

iPhone

On Feb 6, 2023, at 4:22 PM, Roberts, Rich (b) (6) wrote:

Perfectly. I had an aortic valve replacement by TAVR last Tuesday at 2:00 pm and walked out of MGH at 11:30 the next day. I have been feeling good ever since and was issued a clean bill of health today.

Rich

Richard J. Roberts
New England Biolabs
240 County Road
Ipswich, MA 01938-2723
USA
Tel: (b) (6)
Fax: (978) 412 9910
email: (b) (6) (6)

Executive Assistant: (b) (6)
Tel: (b) (6)
Fax: (978) 412 9910
email: (b) (6)) (6)

From: Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6)
Sent: Monday, February 6, 2023 5:15 PM
To: Roberts, Rich (b) (6)

(b) (6) >: Keusch, Gerald T (b) (6) David Morens <
(b) (6) (b) (6) A
(b) (6) >
Subject: l

EXTERNAL SENDER

I hope everything went well, Rich!

Best Peter

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP

Texas Children's Hospital: Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics | Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development | Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

Baylor College of Medicine: Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine | Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology | Health Policy Scholar

Baylor University, University Professor
Rice University, Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty
Texas A&M University, Faculty-Senior Fellow, Hagler Inst for Advanced Study & Scowcroft Institute of Intl Affairs

E-mail | Twitter | LinkedIn | Skype: (b) (6)

Amazon Author Center | Daily Beast Contributor

Senior Coordinator & Executive Support: Douglas Soriano
(b) (6) Phone: (b) (6) | Fax: 713-798-2299

Media Inquiries:
(b) (6)

iPhone

On Feb 6, 2023, at 4:10 PM, Roberts, Rich (b) (6)) (6) wrote:

Peter:

Sorry, there is no God. I wanted him last week after my heart surgery to perform his miracle of turning water into wine. No luck though.

We have to help ourselves!

Rich

Richard J. Roberts
New England Biolabs

MORENS_SUBPOENA_017296
MORENS_NIH_035487
REL0000478004

240 County Road
Ipswich, MA 01938-2723
USA
Tel: (b) (6)
Fax: (978) 412 9910
email: (b) (6)

Executive Assistant: (b) (6)
Tel: (b) (6)
Fax: (978) 412 9910
email (b) (6)

From: Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6)
Sent: Monday, February 6, 2023 5:02 PM
To: Peter Daszak (b) (6) >; Keusch, Gerald T (b) (6)
Cc: David Morens (b) (6) Roberts, Rich (b) (6) Jeffrey Sturchio <
(b) (6) ; Aleksei Chmura (b) (6)
Re: Notes from our call

EXTERNAL SENDER

God help us, far right money to shut down virologic research

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP

Texas Children's Hospital: Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics | Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development | Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

Baylor College of Medicine: Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine | Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology | Health Policy Scholar

Baylor University, University Professor

Rice University, Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty

Texas A&M University, Faculty-Senior Fellow, Hagler Inst for Advanced Study & Scowcroft Institute of Intl Affairs

E-mail | Twitter | LinkedIn | Skype: (b) (6)

Amazon Author Center | Daily Beast Contributor

Senior Coordinator & Executive Support: Douglas Soriano

(b) (6) | Phone: (b) (6) | Fax: 713-798-2299

Media Inquiries:

(b) (6)

From: Peter Daszak (b) (6)
Sent: Monday, February 6, 2023 3:38 PM
To: Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6) Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6)
Cc: David Morens <(b) (6) Roberts, Rich <(b) (6) Jeffrey Sturchio <(b) (6) >; Aleksei Chmura (b) (6)
Subject: RE: Notes from our call

Just saw that Richard Ebright and others have formed a new 501c3 to combat research that will enhance pathogens:

https://biosafetynow.org/team/

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: (b) (6)
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

---

From: Keusch, Gerald T (b) (6)
Sent: Thursday, February 2, 2023 4:58 PM
To: Peter Daszak (b) (6) >; Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6)

Cc: David Morens (b) (6) ; Roberts, Rich (b) (6) effrey Sturchio < (b) (6) ; Aleksei Chmura (b) (6)

Subject: RE: Notes from our call

Just to note I have just sent a note to Carlos del Rio about NAM, to Mary Woolley about Research!America, and Stef Bertuzzi about ASM. I'll let you know if and what I hear back from them and we can proceed from there.
Jerry

From: Peter Dasza (b) (6)
Sent: Wednesday, February 1, 2023 6:26 PM
To: Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6)
Cc: David Morens (b) (6) Roberts, Rich (b) (6) b) (6) Keusch, Gerald T < (b) (6) ; Jeffrey Sturchio _ (b) (6) ; Aleksei Chmura < (b) (6)

Subject: Notes from our call
Importance: High

Attached are notes and action items (also cc'd below), as well as the concept note which I've expanded with more names of orgs to add:

Towards a Coalition to Protect Pandemic Preparedness Research

Notes from call 2/1/23
Rich Roberts, Peter Hotez, Jerry Keusch, David Morens, Jeff Sturchio, Peter Daszak, Aleksei Chmura

Action items:

Rich will speak with:
- Harold Varmus to sound him out re. this issue
- Holden Thorpe to find out the best way to engage AAAS (Sudip Parikh CEO)
- NAS: Rich will be in DC in March talking with Marcia McNutt, Nobel Foundation & NAS – will see if Nobel Foundation will endorse this effort if NAS supports it

Jerry Keusch will reach out to:
- ASM – Stephano Bertuzzi

David Morens will reach out to Tony Fauci to ask advice on how we should progress
Peter Hotez will talk with:
- Head of OSTP (Peter will speak with them in March)
- ASV – Anne Moscona (President-Elect)

Peter Daszak will contact as many of the others as possible, writing on behalf of all of us, so as to avoid concerns that people might have re EcoHealth being in the line of fire.
Next steps
- each of us will reach out to different contacts
- re-convene by conference call in 3 weeks or so (Peter D. will set up), around Feb 22nd.
- In-person meeting at EHA NYC afternoon of April 27th.

Summary of discussion:

- What could the goals of the coalition be, and what should they not be

    - Overall goal to have a 'coalition of the willing' form, organized by an independent group (hopefully AAAS, or similar level) to defend pandemic prevention research that is under attack
- How should we reach out to build a coalition?
    - Making contact with key people from each of the above, trying to set up a conference call, convened by a leading independent group (e.g. AAAS) where multiple contacts come together and the discussion is led by the independent group.
- Who should we try to engage: Academies, academic societies, pro-science pressure groups, senior figures in the field, funders, and governmental leaders. Initial list:
    - AAAS
    - AIDS Vaccine Advocacy Coalition
    - American Public Health Association (Georges Benjamin)
    - American Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene (Dan Bausch, Karen Goraleski, Kent Kester)
    - Association of Public & Land-Grant Universities
    - Georgia Global Health Alliance
    - Bay Area Global Health Alliance
    - Consortium of Universities for Global Health
    - COVID Collaborative
    - Global Health Council
    - Global Health Technologies Coalition
    - Infectious Diseases Society of America Carlos del Rio (Jerry will reach out)
    - International AIDS Vaccine Initiative
    - Nobel Laureates Campaigns
    - Pandemic Action Network
    - PATH
    - Research!America – Reach back out – Jerry will
    - Union of Concerned Scientists
    - Washington Global Health Alliance
    - 156 virologists letter
    - NAM
    - NAS
    - NL Campaigns (to be kept informed of progress by Rich)
    - CUGH
    - The pandemic action coalition
    - FASEB
    - Global Health technologies coalition
    - APLU (KHG has connection)
    - Wellcome Trust (Paul Schreier is the interim head).
    - Dr. Tony Fauci
    - Felicia Goodrum (Arizona) and Stacey Schultz-Cherry (St. Judes)
    - OSTP
    - ASV – Anne Moscona (President-Elect)

Cheers,

MORENS_SUBPOENA_017300
MORENS_NIH_035491
REL0000478004

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: (b) (6)
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

From: Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6)
Sent: Wednesday, February 1, 2023 6:21 PM
To: Peter Daszak (b) (6)
Cc: David Morens (b) (6) ; Roberts, Rich <(b) (6) Keusch, Gerald T < (b) (6) >; Jeffrey Sturchio (b) (6) ; Aleksei Chmura < (b) (6)
Subject: Re: Update

Dear all, I spoke with Ann Moscona President-Elect at ASV and she's all in. She also suggested adding Felicia Goodrum (Arizona) and Stacey Schultz-Cherry (St. Judes) both really good on policy issues, she will give them a heads up, thanks! Peter

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP

Texas Children's Hospital: Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics | Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development | Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

Baylor College of Medicine: Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine | Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology | Health Policy Scholar

Baylor University, University Professor

Rice University, Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty

Texas A&M University, Faculty-Senior Fellow, Hagler Inst for Advanced Study & Scowcroft Institute of Intl Affairs

E-mail | Twitter | LinkedIn | Skype: (b) (6)

Amazon Author Center | Daily Beast Contributor

Senior Coordinator & Executive Support: Douglas Soriano

(b) (6) | Phone: (b) (6) Fax: 713-798-2299

Media Inquiries:

(b) (6)

From: Peter Daszak (b) (6)
Sent: Wednesday, February 1, 2023 8:14 AM
To: Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6)
Cc: David Morens (b) (6) ; Roberts, Rich (b) (6) ; Keusch, Gerald T < (b) (6) ; Jeffrey Sturchio (b) (6) Aleksei Chmura < (b) (6)
Subject: Concept note and Agenda for our discussion today at 1pm Eastern US time

Dear All,

I'm looking forward to our discussion today at 1pm. Attached is a concept note that Jeff Sturchio drafted to frame some ideas around what we might try to do.

I've also attached a rough agenda for us.

Here are the details of the zoom call, and I look forward to speaking with you all later on:

Join Zoom Meeting
(b) (6)

Meeting ID: (b) (6)
Passcode: (b) (6)
One tap mobile
(b) (6) US (New York)
US

Cheers,

Peter

MORENS_SUBPOENA_017302
MORENS_NIH_035493
REL0000478004

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: (b) (6)
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

---

From: Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6)
Sent: Tuesday, January 31, 2023 3:04 PM
To: Peter Daszak (b) (6)
Cc: David Morens (b) (6) >; Roberts, Rich (b) (6) (b) (6) Keusch, Gerald T < (b) (6) ; Jeffrey Sturchi (b) (6) >; Aleksei Chmura < (b) (6)
Subject: Re: Two great articles!

Many thanks Peter! Appreciate the support!

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP

Texas Children's Hospital: Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics | Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development | Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

Baylor College of Medicine: Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine | Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology | Health Policy Scholar

Baylor University, University Professor

Rice University, Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty

Texas A&M University, Faculty-Senior Fellow, Hagler Inst for Advanced Study & Scowcroft Institute of Intl Affairs

E-mail | Twitter | LinkedIn | Skype: (b) (6)

Amazon Author Center | Daily Beast Contributor

Senior Coordinator & Executive Support: Douglas Soriano

(b) (6) | Phone: (b) (6) | Fax: 713-798-2299

Media Inquiries:

(b) (6)

iPhone

On Jan 31, 2023, at 1:44 PM, Peter Daszak (b) (6) wrote:

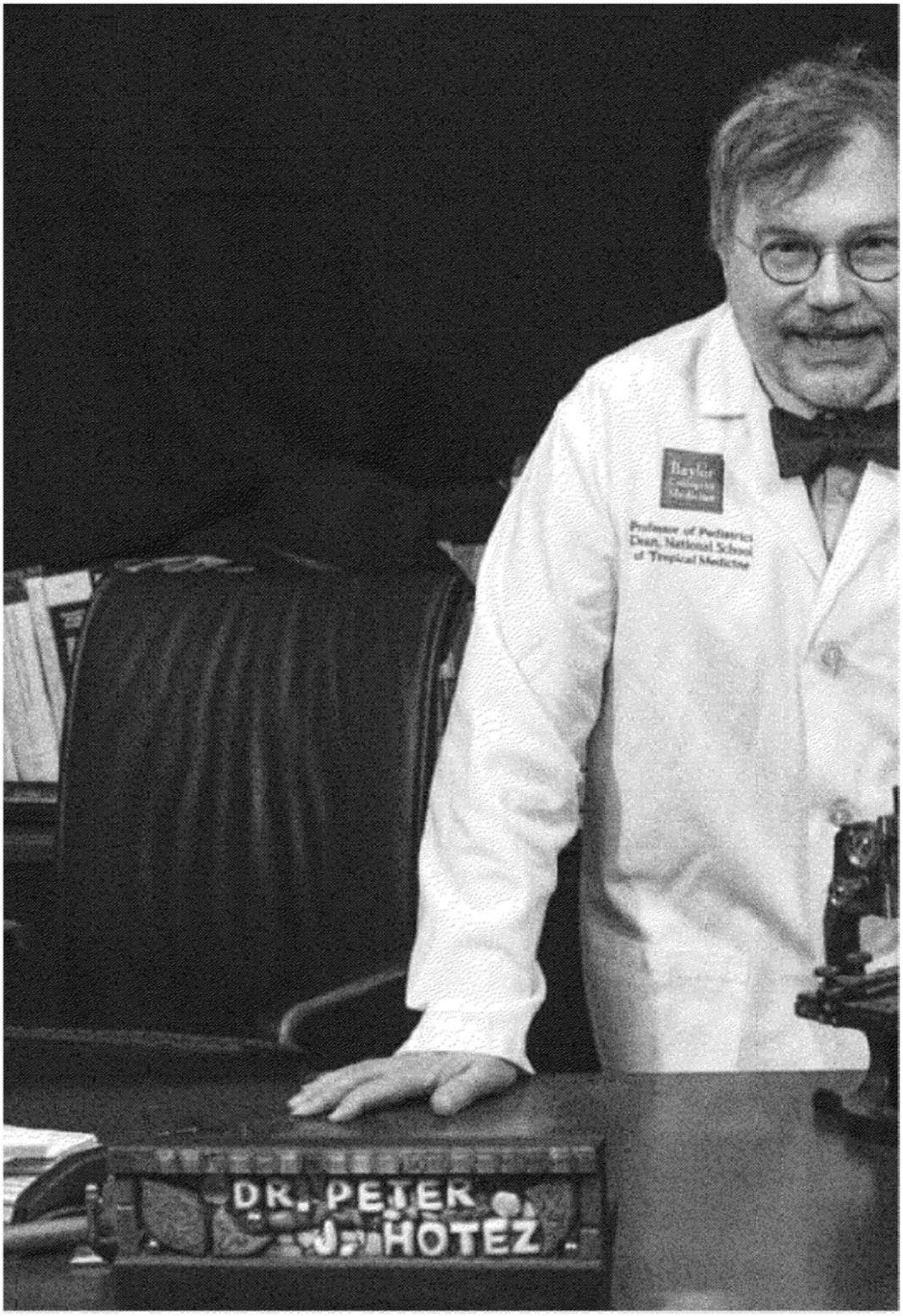
First, want to send my appreciation for your great interview in the Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists yesterday, Peter:

https://thebulletin.org/2023/01/viral- spread-peter-hotez-on-the-increase-of-anti-science-aggression-on-social-media/

Viral spread: Peter Hotez on the increase of anti-science aggression on social media

By Sara Goudarzi | January 30, 2023

MORENS_SUBPOENA_017304
MORENS_NIH_035495
REL0000478004



Peter Hotez (Image courtesy of Agapito Sanchez, Baylor College of Medicine)

Last November, Twitter announced it will no longer enforce "the COVID-19 misleading information policy." The platform also allowed previously banned users to rejoin the site. Since then, anti-vaccination messaging has gained renewed energy, distressing scientists and researchers who have been combatting misinformation and disinformation on social media. According to research, there's a strong relationship between anti-vaccination efforts on social media and

MORENS_SUBPOENA_017305
MORENS_NIH_035496
REL0000478004

vaccine hesitancy, and while millions of people were saved by having taken the COVID-19 vaccines, hundreds of thousands of Americans died after refusing it. Peter Hotez, a physician-scientist, dean of the National School of Tropical Medicine, and a professor in the departments of Pediatrics and Molecular Virology and Microbiology at Baylor College of Medicine, is no stranger to anti-vaccination attitudes. He has fought against misleading medical information for years. But now, he says, anti-science sentiments have been weaponized by businessmen and politicians seeking profits and power.

In the 1940s and 1950s, the House Un-American Activities Committee (HUAC) investigated and discredited several scientists who worked on the Manhattan Project. Hotez expects congressional committees under Republican control to engage in a similar targeting of scientists in an attempt to accumulate influence and foster a sense of belonging—a signature of authoritarian regimes—among their constituents. In his view, this anti-vaccine, anti-science movement, versions of which are spreading to other countries, could destabilize the global vaccine ecosystem.

I spoke with Hotez about the role of social media in spreading misleading information on vaccines and stoking anti-science aggression in many dimensions. *The resulting discussion has been edited for length and clarity.*

Sara Goudarzi: You've been on Twitter for more than a decade and often use it as a tool to communicate health and science facts, such as the importance of vaccinations. How in your experience has the social media platform changed during this time?

Peter Hotez: Well, it's become a lot more adversarial as the anti-vaccine movement has shifted. The anti-vaccine movement began in earnest around 20 years ago in the United States around false assertions that vaccines cause autism. The way I got involved was because I have a daughter with autism, and I wrote the book *Vaccines Did Not Cause Rachel's Autism: My Journey as a Vaccine Scientist, Pediatrician, and Autism Dad*, and that made me public enemy number one or two with the anti-vaccine activists.

What I would do at that time of social media was use their statements in their attacks against me as a teachable moment, to expose what the anti-vaccine movement was all about and how they were monetizing the internet with books on Amazon and nutritional supplements and the phony autism cures. So, rather than simply block people who were attacking me, I would retweet them with a little description of what they were doing. People found it very interesting because it was teaching them how an anti-science movement works, and they started coming to my Twitter for that purpose.

The game changer was about nine years ago, when [vaccine disinformation] became a political movement around health and medical freedom. You saw a different set of actors come into this, and it became a lot more aggressive; people's political allegiance became tied to not giving their kids vaccinations, and that has just come off the rails with COVID-19. And I'd like to point out that 200,000 Americans now have needlessly lost their lives because they refused the COVID vaccine.

The hardest thing yet is really trying to describe the anti-vaccine ecosystem, because too often it's still couched in the old autism thing that they call infodemic or give it euphemisms like misinformation or disinformation. That is, as though it's some random stuff appearing on social media, when in fact, it's organized,

MORENS_SUBPOENA_017306
MORENS_NIH_035497
REL0000478004

politically motivated, and deliberate. It has a system in place, and what I do now is use that to actually describe who the actors that comprise that ecosystem are—elected leaders in the House Freedom Caucus, certain senators, and local leaders amplified in Fox News with designated contrarians from the far right think tanks.

All our training to be a scientist says you're not supposed to talk about Republicans, Democrats, liberals, or conservatives; you're supposed to be politically neutral. But what do you do when the anti-science, anti-vaccine aggression is predominantly coming along the partisan lines from the far right? How do you articulate that without basically saying, "the reason I'm doing this is to save lives?" It's no longer a theoretical discussion; Americans have lost their lives because they believed the politics, and to be able to articulate that is really threading a needle there.

Goudarzi: With Twitter's moderators practically gone, the platform's announcement that it will no longer enforce measures to combat misleading information regarding COVID-19 and will give amnesty to previously banned users, there seems to be a rise in anti-vaccination sentiment.

Hotez: It's blown up. It's gotten much tougher: Anything I put out there gets immediately pounced on, and I can trace the origins to four or five either elected leaders or these contrarians from far right think tanks and elsewhere who blow dog whistles. They will put out a (typically false or exaggerated) statement against me, and then I'll receive hundreds and hundreds of tweets or emails specifically targeting me. About half of them look like bots because the person sending it is an empty face with a gazillion numbers attached to the Twitter handle. But others are real people tuning into Fox News every night who totally fall into the rabbit hole because they seem to worship these contrarians. The other piece to this is a lot of Nazi imagery and fantasies, a lot of antisemitism, because they know I'm a Jewish scientist. And that's yet another dimension to all of this.

Goudarzi: How do you think this affects patients in healthcare settings? Have you had personal experience with those who decided not to get vaccinated because of information on the internet or social media indicating the shots are dangerous?

Hotez: I've had sort of the opposite experience, where patients were in the rabbit hole, had seen my postings, see me as credible, and because of me are taking the vaccine, which is kind of nice and spurs me on to keep going at this. But more and more I've also had the other extreme as well, which is based on what they see on social media: People will take the time to write me a threatening email or make a call to the lab or to the office. Then I have to bring in law enforcement through the Texas Medical Center Police or the Houston Police Department and the Anti-Defamation League (because they have a list of individuals who are known to make these types of threats). It's taken this very, very dark turn as a consequence.

Goudarzi: Anti-vaccination movements are nothing new and go back to the late 1700s, even before the development of the smallpox vaccine and then the 1800s and again in the 1990s and 2000s. Do you think social media has allowed the latest movement to gain even more steam than previous movements?

Hotez: I wrote an article about the whole history of [anti-vax movements] in *Journal of Clinical Investigation*. I think it really accelerated in the early 2000s with autism, in part aided by social media—it was new then but was starting up. Now, I think social media has really been an enabler. It's not only social media; I think amazon.com was a big contributor. If you search for books on vaccinations,

what's out there is a horror show. My books are among the top-rated on vaccines, and they're probably ranked about number 30 or 40, because it's all preceded by the phony-baloney, anti-vaccine COVID conspiracy books. So, it's Amazon and social media. And Fox News is having a huge impact. This has been documented by Media Matters, the watchdog group, as well as this very interesting paper that came out of ETH Zurich, which is like the MIT of Central Europe.

Goudarzi: Do you think Amazon is purposefully placing these books higher up in search results, or are search results just a reflection of how much steam the movement has gained?

Hotez: I don't know. Amazon is probably amoral. I don't think they think about this one way or the other, but whatever sells. So, it's whatever people are buying—that's how they're ranking it.

Goudarzi: Are you seeing a difference in the attitudes towards COVID-19 vaccines versus say the flu or MMR vaccines?

Hotez: Yeah, because remember, MMR came out of autism; that was the [original] assertion that the MMR vaccine causes autism. That was [*The Lancet*] paper from 1998. But then around 2014, 2015 (I like to think because I was helping to take some of the wind out of the sails around autism), you started to see the anti-vaccine movement pivot around this concept of health and medical freedom, that you can't tell us what to do about our kids. And that was the first link to the Republican Tea Party here in Texas. In fact, they started getting PAC [political action committee] money… It really took off in Texas and Oklahoma and that's what you see came off the rails with COVID-19.

It has been documented now by Charles Gaba, a health analyst whose work has been mentioned in the *New York Times*, National Public Radio, Pew Research Center and Peterson Academic Center, that the lowest vaccination rates were where health freedom propaganda was the strongest, and among those who are in red states like Texas, the redder the county, the lower the vaccination rate, the higher the numbers of deaths. It's a really tight correlation, so much so that David Leonhardt in the *New York Times* has called it red COVID. My forthcoming book, *The Deadly Rise of Antiscience: A Scientist's Warning* and it's full on linked to far-right politics and it's been embraced by the House Freedom Caucus. After vaccines became widely available, the statements from the 2021 CPAC conference of conservatives in Dallas was first along the lines of: "they're going to vaccinate you, and then they're going to take away your guns and your bibles." It's ridiculous. A quarter of the country accepted it—mostly in Texas and the Southern states, and then [Georgia US Rep.] Marjorie Taylor Greene called people like me "medical brownshirts," using Nazi paramilitary analogy. Then, those in the Senate GOP, such as Senator Johnson from Wisconsin, held anti-vaccine roundtables, amplified by Fox News. Every night, during the last half of 2021, nighttime anchors Tucker Carlson and Laura Ingraham filled their airwaves with very strong anti-vaccine rhetoric, discrediting the effectiveness and safety of vaccines. And then contrarians from the far right think tanks piled on.

As I said, if it were just a theoretical construct, I wouldn't get so exercised, but 40,000 Texans died during the delta wave in the last half of 2021 and early Omicron BA1 wave in 2022 because they refused the COVID vaccine and were victims of this targeted aggression towards them. The number that I put out in the new book is 200,000 Americans across the country. The Kaiser Family Foundation and the health analyst Charles Gaba come up with similar numbers.

On that basis, anti-vaccine activism, anti-science aggression, if you look at it as a societal killing force, is killing more Americans than gun violence, terrorism, nuclear proliferation, or cyber-attacks.

Goudarzi: And the interesting thing is that COVID-19 vaccines have been tremendously successful.

Hotez: Alison Galvani at Yale has just done a modeling exercise with the Commonwealth Fund, indicating that COVID vaccines have saved 3.1 million Americans.

Goudarzi: Yet the messaging against these vaccines seems to be just as successful and as you mentioned hundreds of thousands of deaths could have been prevented here in the United States. So, it begs the question, why are we having such an anti-science moment?

Hotez: It's because it's fully ensconced in the political landscape of the country that became part of the far right, and people refused the vaccine out of allegiance. Part of showing your allegiance to the far right is not getting vaccinated. Then, you saw the Proud Boys march in anti-vaccine rallies, and an early arrest in the January 6 insurrection included a prominent anti-vaccine activist.

The question that I get is: "Hey doc, what should we do about this?" And I say I don't know, because this goes outside the health sector. This is a political problem right now. How do you uncouple the anti-science from the politics? It's been really, really challenging, and the Biden administration has not been willing to take this on. Vivek Murthy, who is a very good Surgeon General, issued an advisory in July of 2021 about social media and said we have to work with Meta and Facebook and Twitter to prevent this stuff from going viral. That's fine, but it doesn't get to those who are generating the content. This is where we're starting to see breakdowns, in my view, among our scientific and professional societies, and even the National Academies, because this idea that we have to remain politically neutral is so strong that no one will talk about it the way I'm talking about it with you. You have to be politically neutral; it's silly.

To paraphrase Desmond Tutu and Elie Wiesel, neutrality favors the aggressor.

Goudarzi: What do you think the end goal is for those generating the content and spearheading these movements? There are certain people who truly believe that vaccines could cause x, whatever x is, but there are others like Gov. DeSantis who himself was vaccinated yet promotes anti-vaccination sentiments.

Hotez: Early on when vaccines first came out, he was actually pro-vaccines. So, what caused the change? When it was pre-health freedom, it was fairly straightforward: It was people monetizing the internet, selling nutritional supplements and books on phony autism cures. When I wrote the book, trying to look at other examples of this, I found what's going on now in Stalin's Russia in the 1930s 1940s. This is part of the signature of an authoritarian regime: to target the science and scientists. When you read Hannah Arendt's *The Origins of Totalitarianism*, you see this is part of the playbook. Even though it's self-defeating, it still fosters allegiance and belonging. I think what happened is with the anti-vaccine groups for whom the wind was let out of their sails around autism, they needed a new thing. They found money and power and relevance by tying themselves to the far right, and the far right created a whole new cadre of people that they wouldn't have otherwise.

Goudarzi: Just add adding to that: Do you think vaccine disinformation is propagated or reinforced purposely by other governments to cause division within the United States, similar to the 2016 election?

Hotez: No question about that, and I think Russia is probably the most egregious [perpetrator], and this has been documented. David Broniatowski, a computer scientist at the George Washington University, has written about this and the Russian bots' roles. In some cases, they're using both anti-vaccine and pro-vaccine rhetoric. They are specifically using this as a wedge issue to divide the country and destabilize our democracy. And it's not only the Russians—the Chinese, North Koreans and Iranians are doing this. But I think Russia is probably the biggest state actor.

What I've recommended to the Biden administration is they create an inter-governmental agency, because the United States Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) doesn't know what to do at this point. Because of the foreign actors involved, you have to bring in Homeland Security, the Commerce Department, the Justice Department and the State Department as well. There are people smart enough who know about these big dangerous societal forces, and we need their advice on what levers we can pull and push. But they haven't wanted to take it on.

Similarly, at the level of the UN agencies, the World Health Organization doesn't know what to do at this point. So, you're starting to see that same US-style anti-vaccine activity moving to Canada, the United Kingdom and Western Europe—and I wrote about this in a paper in *Nature Reviews Immunology*.

You're even seeing it now in low- and middle- income countries, including those in Africa. So, it's going to destabilize the global vaccine ecosystem, even around childhood vaccination.

Goudarzi: Scientific debate around new treatment or preventive measure used to happen more or less behind closed doors. But given the nature of a real time pandemic, some of those debates are taking place on social media, and sometimes that leads to the lay audience misunderstanding certain aspects of the discussion and spreading misinformation. How valuable, and how harmful, do you think it is to have scientific debates between researchers on social media?

Hotez: It's often not between researchers. For instance, one of the most common things when they target me on social media is they say I should be in a public debate with the lead anti-vaccine activist. And I say, "No, that's not how science is done. I've written a scientific paper and if somebody has an issue with that, they can either refute it in a scientific journal, or publish their own finding." Of course, they can't get it published because there's no science behind it. So, what they want to do instead is they want a public debate.

And I say, "Look, you can debate 18th-century enlightenment philosophy, but science is not typically something that's debated in that kind of forum; we have a mechanism for doing that through scientific publication and peer review." And they don't want to play that way. They just want to put out their propaganda because that's all they have behind it. An example is ivermectin or hydroxychloroquine, which the scientific community has clearly shown has no effect on COVID-19. Hydroxychloroquine is even harmful. But the problem is the anti-vaccine force has dominated the internet, and they say, "Hey, scientists don't want to debate us, what are they hiding?"

And that's, again, how they weaponize communication.

Goudarzi: I was actually thinking of earlier during the pandemic. Because there was so little time, some researchers were putting their papers up on open access preprint servers, which didn't require a peer review, and then others were weighing in on social media platforms. At times, you would see non-scientists

take one aspect of that discussion and spread something that wasn't necessarily true.

Hotez: I think with the whole preprint server mechanism, ultimately the benefits outweighed the downside. I can't tell you how many times I had to depend on data from bioRxiv, medRxiv in order to make sense of what was going on. If I had to wait a few weeks for it to air in *New England Journal of Medicine* or *Nature* and *Science*—and by the way, they did a pretty good job too; they were able to turn that around in record time—[it would have been too late.] If you're looking for any silver lining in this pandemic, it's the journal editors, the whole preprint server mechanism, and the willingness of the scientific community to share information. And I think for most of the public understood that they were seeing this play out in real time and that there wasn't always going to be consistency. The problem was those who were who were weaponizing it for their own personal or political gain.

Goudarzi: But you still think the advantages outweighed the disadvantages?

Hotez: I think so. It's hard to imagine how I could've really talked about everything going on knowledgeably on CNN, NBC, or wherever without having access to the information. The preprints were so important.

Goudarzi: Some researchers have either left Twitter or are thinking of leaving. What will this do to scientific discourse? Would it make sense to stay on the platform to counter misinformation and disinformation and increase public awareness, or should researchers seek a more balanced platform?

Hotez: I don't have the answer. I struggle with this every day. I mean, the aggression against me and the threats would continue even if I wasn't on Twitter, because more often than not, it's not against anything that I tweeted. Ninety percent of the time, it's people who see me as a threat to undermine their politics or their business line and are just making up things about me and would still continue even if I wasn't on Twitter. So that's the reason I stay on it, because at least I'm getting out important and timely information. But it is really painful and awful to see what's going on there.

Goudarzi: Is the amount of aggression you face tied to the changing ownership of Twitter and political shifts?

Hotez: The politics around the anti-science, anti-vaccine and phony baloney about COVID origins had started with the pandemic in 2020. But now with all the contrarians back at once it reminds me of the old *Batman* series when they brought back Catwoman, Joker, Penguin, and Riddler all at once to do away with Batman. That seems to be going on, so it's been their superstars who are super energized by being invited back to Twitter, and they are using the platform very aggressively.

Goudarzi: What are some of the lessons we've learned about disinformation and misinformation over the last few years regarding social media that we should consider moving forward?

Hotez: I would say social media is a major weapon of choice for spreading disinformation. But remember, we have to get to those who are generating content. Social media is an important vehicle, but it's not the only one. I think we probably should stop calling it misinformation, disinformation or infodemic. We should call it for what it is, which is anti-science aggression, because it is a killing force. What we realized is that the science aggression is taking lives in the United States on an unprecedented scale.

For that reason, it needs to be addressed, and that's the part the scientific

MORENS_SUBPOENA_017311
MORENS_NIH_035502
REL0000478004

community has not come to terms with. When I call myself a scientist, it's not just co-heading a team of scientists making a COVID vaccine for the world that has reached a 100 million people. That's a very noble activity, but from my perspective, even that's still insufficient. Now being a scientist means, to some extent, being willing to combat the anti-science. It's nothing that any of us signed up for. I never dreamed when I got my MD-PhD in New York in the 1980s that this was something I'd be doing, but this is what's in front of us.
And I don't really feel that the scientific community—the professional societies, scientific bodies, even the academy—fully understand the impact. Hopefully it'll be clear when my book comes out, but it may become even clearer when we see the House GOP hearings. I predict the oversight committee and the judiciary committee or select subcommittees will become an anti-science witch hunt and will target prominent American scientists. And then we'll get a better picture.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: (b) (6)
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

From: Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6)
Sent: Monday, January 30, 2023 6:27 PM
To: David Morens <(b) (6) >
Cc: Roberts, Rich (b) (6) b) (6) Peter Daszak (b) (6) >; Keusch, Gerald T (b) (6) ; Jeffrey Sturchio (b) (6) >; Aleksei Chmura < (b) (6)
Subject: Re: My latest

Many thanks David! Best Peter

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP

MORENS_SUBPOENA_017312
MORENS_NIH_035503
REL0000478004

Texas Children's Hospital: Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics | Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development | Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

Baylor College of Medicine: Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine | Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology | Health Policy Scholar

Baylor University, University Professor

Rice University, Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty

Texas A&M University, Faculty-Senior Fellow, Hagler Inst for Advanced Study & Scowcroft Institute of Intl Affairs

E-mail | Twitter | LinkedIn | Skype: (b) (6)

Amazon Author Center | Daily Beast Contributor

Senior Coordinator & Executive Support: Douglas Soriano

(b) (6) | Phone: (b) (6) | Fax: 713-798-2299

Media Inquiries:

(b) (6)

(b) (6)

iPhone

On Jan 30, 2023, at 5:22 PM, David Morens (b) (6) > wrote:

kudos to you, again! dmm

Sent from my iPhone
David M Morens
OD, NIAID, NIH

On Jan 30, 2023, at 14:37, Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6) wrote:

https://thebulletin.org/2023/01/viral- spread-peter-hotez-on-the-increase-of-anti-science-aggression-on-social-media/

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP

Texas Children's Hospital: Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics | Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development | Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

Baylor College of Medicine: Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine | Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology | Health Policy Scholar

Baylor University, University Professor

Rice University, Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty

Texas A&M University, Faculty-Senior Fellow, Hagler Inst for Advanced Study & Scowcroft Institute of Intl Affairs

E-mail | Twitter | LinkedIn | Skype: (b) (6)

Amazon Author Center | Daily Beast Contributor

Senior Coordinator & Executive Support: Douglas Soriano

(b) (6) | Phone: (b) (6) | Fax: 713-798-

Media Inquiries:

(b) (6)

iPhone

On Jan 27, 2023, at 2:43 PM, Roberts, Rich (b) (6) wrote:

Peter:

No, I didn't come up with the name.

But one I have recently come up with is CheatGPT instead of ChatGPT.

Rich

Richard J. Roberts
New England Biolabs
240 County Road
Ipswich, MA 01938-2723
USA
Tel: (b) (6)
Fax: (978) 412 9910
email: (b) (6) (6)

Executive Assistant: (b) (6)
Tel: (b) (6)
Fax: (978) 412 9910
email: (b) (6)

From: Peter Daszak (b) (6)
Sent: Friday, January 27, 2023 3:30 PM
To: Roberts, Rich (b) (6) ; Keusch, Gerald (b) (6)
Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6)
David Morens (b) (6) >; Jeffrey Sturchio <
(b) (6) >; Aleksei Chmura (b) (6)
Subject: RE: Finally - virologists fight back!

EXTERNAL SENDER

I forgot about that Rich. But I'm assuming it wasn't you that came up with somewhat colonial name!!???

In all seriousness, while it's good for virologists to push back against calls to block scientific research, I don't think a campaign to support gain of function work that's designed to see what would happen if you make a lethal pathogen more transmissible is anything any of us particularly want to get behind right now!

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200

New York, NY 10018-6507
USA
Tel.: (b) (6)
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

---

From: Roberts, Rich (b) (6)) (6)
Sent: Friday, January 27, 2023 11:08 AM
To: Peter Daszak (b) (6) : Keusch, Gerald T < (b) (6) ; Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6) David Morens (b) (6) ; Jeffrey Sturchio < (b) (6) >; Aleksei Chmura (b) (6)
Subject: RE: Finally - virologists fight back!

Peter:

In the interests of compete disclosure, I was a member of the "Cambridge Working Group". Our concern was about the deliberate attempts to make the flu virus more infectious. It was the deliberate nature of the experiments that was troubling, not virus research in general.

Rich

Richard J. Roberts
New England Biolabs
240 County Road
Ipswich, MA 01938-2723
USA
Tel: (b) (6)
Fax: (978) 412 9910
email: (b) (6)

Executive Assistant: (b) (6)
Tel (b) (6)
Fax: (9 (b) (6) 9910
email: b) (6)

From: Peter Daszak (b) (6)
Sent: Friday, January 27, 2023 8:39 AM
To: Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6) Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6) >
Cc: David Morens (b) (6) ; Jeffrey Sturchio < (b) (6) ; Aleksei Chmura (b) (6) ; Roberts, Rich (b) (6)
Subject: Finally - virologists fight back!
Importance: High

EXTERNAL SENDER

Article in NPR this morning (https://www.npr.org/sections/health-shots/2023/01/27/1151867224/virologists- science-oversight-risky-experiments) – and below, based on a Commentary (attached) in mBio and various ASM journals signed by >150 virologists that fights back against the

anti-science, defends virus research and gives a table of positive results from gain of function work.

I'll reach out to Felicia Goodrum (lead author) today to see if they will talk about helping with some sort of coalition. Michael Imperiale was quoted so if any of you know him or Felicia or others who are leading this (e.g. Arturo Casadevall), it would be good to reach out to let them know the urgency.

Some of these people were involved in the coalition (Scientists for Science - http://www.scientistsforscience.org/) to push back against earlier efforts to cancel Gain of function work by the "Cambridge Working Group" (a pretentious name, of course)…

BTW – saw your name on the Scientists for Science website Jerry!

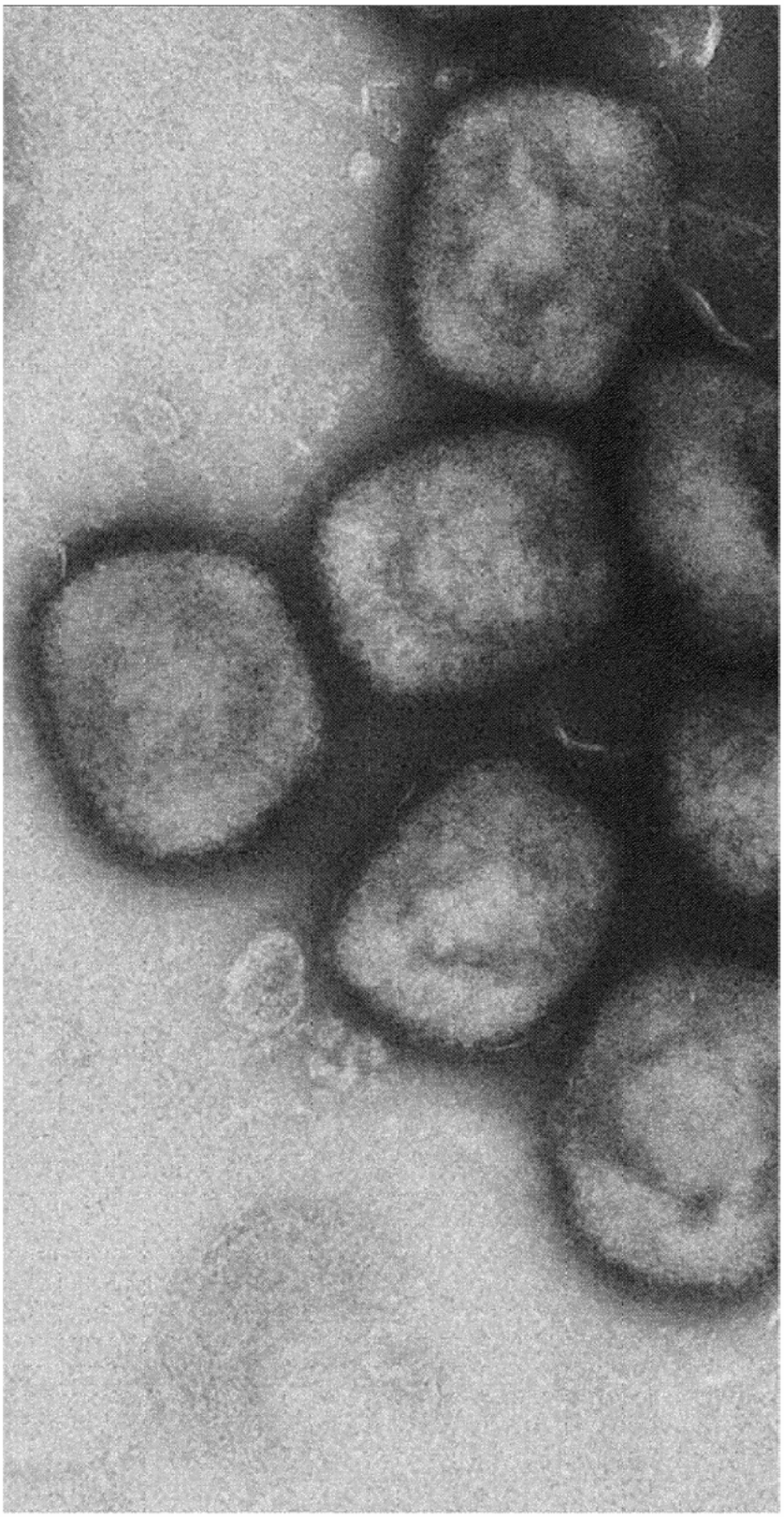
POLICY-ISH

Virologists defend their science as officials eye more oversight of risky experiments



NELL GREENFIELDBOYCE

MORENS_SUBPOENA_017317
MORENS_NIH_035508
REL0000478004



This image shows purified particles of mpox virus, formerly called monkeypox. Viruses like these can be genetically altered in the lab in ways that might make them more dangerous.

NIAID

Over 150 virologists have signed on to a commentary that says all the evidence to

MORENS_SUBPOENA_017318
MORENS_NIH_035509
REL0000478004

date indicates that the coronavirus pandemic started naturally, and it wasn't the result of some kind of lab accident or malicious attack.
They worry that continued speculation about a lab in China is fueling calls for more regulation of experiments with pathogens, and that this will stifle the basic research needed to prepare for future pandemics.

The virologists issued their statement just ahead of a key meeting Friday held by outside advisors to the federal government. That group is set to wrap up a recent review of the existing oversight system for experiments that are controversial because they could create new potential threats.
The advisors' draft recommendations call for expanding a special decision-making process that currently weighs the risks and benefits of experiments that might make "potential pandemic pathogens" more dangerous.
"The government really has a strong interest on behalf of all of us, in the public, in knowing when researchers want to make a virus more lethal or more transmissible, and understanding how that would be done and why that would be done, and whether the benefits are worth it," says Tom Inglesby, director of the Center for Health Security at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health.
Sponsor Message
He thinks if the draft recommendations were adopted by the government, "it would be a very big step forward."

The origins of the pandemic

All of this comes as the lab in China, known as the Wuhan Institute of Virology, is again in the headlines. An internal government watchdog released a report this week criticizing the National Institutes of Health, saying it failed to adequately monitor grant awards given to a nonprofit that had collaborated with scientists at the Wuhan lab.
Felicia Goodrum, a virologist at the University of Arizona, says that open-minded experts have investigated the origins of the pandemic. The available evidence, she says, supports the notion that the virus emerged from nature just like other viruses such as HIV and Ebola did — by jumping from animals into people who had contact with them.
"The evidence that we have to date suggests that SARS-CoV-2 entered the human population by that route," says Goodrum. "There is no evidence to the contrary or in support of a lab leak, nothing credible."

Basic research on viruses, she says, is what led to the swift development of vaccines and drugs to fight the pandemic.

And yet virologists have watched in dismay as misinformation and conspiracy theories have placed the blame on science.

Sponsor Message
"There's this complete disconnect between reality and what happened," says Michael Imperiale, a virologist at the University of Michigan.
He says that while debates have gone on for years about the wisdom of doing experiments that might make bad viruses even worse, this moment feels different.

"The pandemic," he says, "has really kind of heightened the urgency with which we need to address these issues, just because of all the controversy that's been out there regarding, you know, was this a lab leak or not?"

A bird flu study raises alarm

Unlike, say, nuclear physics research, biology has traditionally had a culture of openness. After the anthrax attacks in 2001, however, biologists began to grapple with the possibility that their published work might serve as recipes for evildoers

who wanted to make bioweapons.

And in 2011, there was an outcry after government-funded researchers altered a bird flu virus that can be deadly in people. Their lab work made this virus more contagious in the lab animals that are stand-ins for people.

Critics said they'd created a super flu. Proponents said that viruses sometimes have to be manipulated in the lab to see what they might be capable of; in nature, after all, mutations occur all the time and that is how pandemic strains emerge.
That episode marked the start of a long, heated debate, plus research moratoriums and ultimately the development of new regulations. In 2017, a review system was put into place to weigh the risks and benefits of studies that might make a potential pandemic pathogen even worse. So far just three proposed lines of research, with influenza viruses, have been deemed risky enough to merit that kind of extra scrutiny.
"We are really talking about a small amount of research proposals," says Lyric Jorgenson, the acting associate director for science policy and the acting director of the Office of Science Policy at the NIH.
Sponsor Message
She says just before the pandemic started, officials asked advisors on the National Science Advisory Board for Biosecurity to consider whether the government needed to be more transparent to the public about how it was making decisions about this kind of research. Before that work was done, the pandemic hit and everything was put on hold. Last year, officials asked the group to broaden its work and to evaluate the regulations more comprehensively.
If the draft changes developed by this advisory group are eventually adopted by the government, an extra layer of oversight would apply to any study "reasonably anticipated" to enhance the transmission or virulence of any pathogen in a way that could make it a public health threat. That means more experiments on more viruses would get a closer look.

"What this new recommendation is saying, is that even if you start with a virus that had no potential to cause an epidemic or pandemic, if you are doing research that will change that virus in a way where it could now cause an uncontrollable disease, or a widely spreading disease, that has to be reviewed by this new framework," says Inglesby.

What's more, the advisory group has noted that "increased transparency in the review process is needed to engender public trust in the review and oversight processes."

What's "Reasonably Anticipated"

The American Society for Microbiology has responded positively to the draft recommendations, saying "we urge swift implementation of the recommended changes by the federal agencies engaged in this work."
But some virologists think the devil will be in the details if these recommendations turn into policy.

"They keep using this phrase 'reasonably anticipated,'" says Imperiale. "How is that going to be interpreted? Is there going to be clear guidance as to what is meant by that?"

Sponsor Message
Researchers often don't know what will happen when they start an experiment, says Goodrum, especially when the science is cutting-edge.

"That's where the big scientific advancements come from. And so to tie our hands behind our back, to say we can only do the science that we can anticipate, then we're

MORENS_SUBPOENA_017320
MORENS_NIH_035511
REL0000478004

really restricting innovative science," she says.

Ron Fouchier, the virologist at Erasmus University Medical Center in the Netherlands, whose lab did the bird flu experiments over a decade ago, said in an email that he'd hoped the experience of going through a pandemic would simulate more research, not "unnecessarily delay or restrict it."
He said it looked like many infectious disease researchers in the United States "will face substantial delays in their crucial research efforts, if they can continue that research at all."

The U.S. is unusual in that it has a lot of public discussion of these issues and a system to try to manage the risks, says Inglesby.

He thinks that oversight can be made stronger without getting in the way of science.

"I am avidly, absolutely pro-science and pro-research, and in particular pro-infectious disease research," says Inglesby.

But he says there's a very small part of that research "where there is the potential for very high risk if things go wrong, either by accident or on purpose. And so we have to get the balance right, between the risks that could unfold and the potential benefits."

lab leak theory
coronavirus research
pathogens
Facebook
Twitter
Flipboard
Email

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: +(b) (6)
Websit thalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

From: Keusch, Gerald T (b) (6)
Sent: Wednesday, Ja PM
To: Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6)

MORENS_SUBPOENA_017321
MORENS_NIH_035512
REL0000478004

Cc: Peter Daszak (b) (6) ; David Morens <(b) (6) (b) (6) ; Aleksei Chmura (b) (6) > (b) (6) >

Subject: RE: Tweet by Miner Flux on Twitter

For what it's worth I sent a brief note to the two leads for the White House COVID response team, Ashish Jha and Nahid Bhadelia, to say why they needed to agitate at the higher levels to get on to appointing a new NIH Director, preferably from the outside, and ideally a candidate like Harold Varmus who could command respect from both sides of the congressional divide.

I also suggested they consider the point that it would be better if there was a new NIH Director before they appointed somebody to NIAID, and that was OK because Hugh Auchincloss was eminently able to be a respected interim Director, both within the NIH and the outside scientific community. And, that the next NIAID Director should come from outside of the institution.

I don't know what influence they will have, should they choose to act, but they do have access to the higher levels, and that is important.

Jerry

From: Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6)
Sent: Wednesday, January 25, 2023 2:38 PM
To: Keusch, Gerald T (b) (6)
Cc: Peter Daszak (b) (6) ; David Morens <(b) (6) >; Jeffrey Sturchio (b) (6) >; Aleksei Chmura (b) (6) >; Rich Roberts (b) (6) >

Subject: Re: Tweet by Miner Flux on Twitter

I think top priority is the Biden Administration appointing a new NIH Director and someone really good, I don't understand the holdup.

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP

Texas Children's Hospital: Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics | Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development | Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

Baylor College of Medicine: Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine | Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology | Health Policy Scholar

Baylor University, University Professor

Rice University, Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty

Texas A&M University, Faculty-Senior Fellow, Hagler Inst for Advanced Study & Scowcroft Institute of Intl Affairs

E-mail | Twitter | LinkedIn | Skype: (b) (6)

Amazon Author Center | Daily Beast Contributor

Senior Coordinator & Executive Support: Douglas Soriano

(b) (6) u | Phone: (b) (6) | Fax: 713-798-2299

Media Inquiries:
(b) (6)

iPhone

On Jan 25, 2023, at 1:34 PM, Keusch, Gerald T (b) (6) wrote:

Well, if that were to occur there would not only be continued messaging to the public but more push back to the politicians and others spreading misinformation, and I suspect a more focused and strategic scientific plan for the institute. It has been pretty good under Tony, with some gaps that seem glaring to me, but it could also be better. How do we find and support the right outside scientist to take on the challenge?

Jerry

(b) (6)
From: Hotez, Peter Jay
Sent: Wednesday, January 25, 2023 2:27 PM
To: Peter Dasza (b) (6) David More (b) (6) >; Jeffrey Sturchio <(b) (6) ; Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) eusch, Gerald T (b) (6) >; Rich Roberts (b) (6)
Subject: Re: Tweet by Miner Flux on Twitter

I see the far right keeps putting video after video about me terrified I might take over for Tony

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP

Texas Children's Hospital: Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics | Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development | Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

Baylor College of Medicine: Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine | Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology | Health Policy Scholar

Baylor University, University Professor

Rice University, Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty

Texas A&M University, Faculty-Senior Fellow, Hagler Inst for Advanced Study & Scowcroft Institute of Intl Affairs

E-mail | Twitter | LinkedIn | Skype: (b) (6)

Amazon Author Center | Daily Beast Contributor

Senior Coordinator & Executive Support: Douglas Soriano

(b) (6) Phone: (b) (6) |
Fax: 713-798-2299

Media Inquiries:

(b) (6)

iPhone

On Jan 25, 2023, at 11:35 AM, Peter Daszak <(b) (6) wrote:

Disapppointed that Hugh isn't a candidate, because short of a stellar scientist from outside (and that isn't looking good), Hugh would be a safe pair of hands for the forseeable future.

I also cannot believe for the life of me that (b) (6) would be rejected from the other position you mentioned. He's a serious scientists, a huge leader in his field, and someone who is balanced and measured in the way he deals with bureaucracy. What a stupid decision and loss to NIAID.

What we need is a leading scientist, who's got a research and public health background, with experience in dealing with difficult political issues and both sides of the political spectrum…er….Peter Hotez!

Seriously, there surely are others out there?

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: (b) (6)
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

---

From: David Morens (b) (6)
Sent: Wednesday, January 25, 2023 11:38 AM
To: Peter Daszak <(b) (6)
Cc: Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6) ; Jeffrey Sturchio <(b) (6) ; Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) ; Gerald Keusch <(b) (6) ; Rich Roberts (b) (6)
Subject: Re: Tweet by MinerFlux on Twitter

Guys, although the director search seems to be proceeding with total secrecy, I learned yesterday that our worst fear has come true: a highly undesirable internal candidate has applied. This person is a middle to upper level physician scientist who is

MORENS_SUBPOENA_017325
MORENS_NIH_035516
REL0000478004

widely disliked as a self-serving narcissist, back stabber, and manipulator. Tthis opinion comes not from me, but from colleagues with much more knowledge of him/her than me. Of course, being an A-hole doesn't necessarily predict a bad leader, but there is widespread worry.

I won't name the candidate but Peter S would know because her/his research at NIAID is in the area of clinical management of rare hereditary pediatric diseases such as Job disease and CGD. Peter H, you could easily ID this person, but i do not want to do so, in part because i have limited personal experience with him/her and am merely relating opinions of colleagues i trust

This individual is in a key management position in which she/he has earned a reputation of cresting an ant-meritocracy: screwing the best scientists while supporting those who suck up. Again this is hearsay, but from people who work under him/her.

If these negative assessments are true, it is still unclear what the implications, if any, would be for EHA, but i would worry that she/he would throw good scientists under the bus to appease politicians downtown

In any case, the best scenario is an open search with many good candidates. I am not sure whether we have that.

Also, my opinion, and that of many others, is that we need someone from the outside, in part because NIAID management and leadership has become inbred, nepotistic, and uninterested in hiring top scientists to fill positions. Moreover, we totally lack vision or any idea about where the science will and should go, and no mechanism to plan for being at/staying on the cutting edge

When i came here in the 1990s, from academia, where i was a 40-something year old full tenured professor in both med and public health school departments, i was told thst because i only had about 160 publications i had no chance of getting automatic tenure or even being put on a tenure track position
That was then.

Of our two most recent hires placed into tenured positions, one had only 10 publications and the other came straight out of a post doc with few publications as well.

Both were in their early 30s and, as far as i can tell, are unlikely to ever do much

At the same time, we had the ability to hire a top scientist from the outside, my good friend the (b) (6) from (b) (6) - Peter H, you may know him- and we was the 100% top choice of the search committee. However leadership below Tony refused to hire him with the excuse that he was overqualified and would make the other scientists look bad

No, i am not joking. This is where we are

I have in my had a small list of about 5-10 qualified folks for NIAID director, and have spoken or written to 4 about it, one

being you, Peter H, but all four have expressed no interest. Peter D, you are clearly on that list too, but obvious to all of us is the fact that HHS would never let that happen, sadly, so i never mentioned it. In a better world, you would be at the top of that list in my view

The application deadline of 1/17 has passed, so we may be stuck with a non-ideal list, although no one knows including, i believe, our acting director Hugh, who is not a candidate, or so he told me

Sent from my iPhone
David M Morens
OD, NIAID, NIH

> On Jan 25, 2023, at 10:58, Peter Daszak <(b) (6) g> wrote:
>
> Unfortunate. At this point you should just throw your hat in the ring!
>
> Why not have a confidential chat with Peter Staley and see if they have a pool of candidates yet?
>
> Cheers,
>
> Peter
>
> **Peter Daszak**
> *President*
>
> EcoHealth Alliance
> 520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
> New York, NY 10018-6507
> USA
>
> Tel.: (b) (6)
> Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
> Twitter: @PeterDaszak
>
> *EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation*
>
> **From:** Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6)
> **Sent:** Wednesday, Janua AM
> **To:** Peter Daszak (b) (6)
> **Cc:** Jeffrey Sturchio <(b) (6) >; Aleksei Chmura (b) (6) David

Morens (b) (6) (b) (6) d (b) (6) (b) (6)

Re: Tweet by MinerFlux on Twitter

Unfortunately the far right made a new YouTube claiming I'm the successor to Fauci. Which is ridiculous but it has set off a new wave of aggression

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP

Texas Children's Hospital: Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics | Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development | Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

Baylor College of Medicine: Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine | Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology | Health Policy Scholar

Baylor University, University Professor

Rice University, Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty

Texas A&M University, Faculty-Senior Fellow, Hagler Inst for Advanced Study & Scowcroft Institute of Intl Affairs

E-mail | Twitter | LinkedIn | Skype: (b) (6)

Amazon Author Center | Daily Beast Contributor

Senior Coordinator & Executive Support: Douglas Soriano

(b) (6) | Phone: (b) (6) | Fax: 713-798-2299

Media Inquiries:
(b) (6)

iPhone

(b) (6) eter Daszak <
wrote:

*****CAUTION:*** This email is not from a BCM Source. Only click links or open attachments you know are safe.**

Disgusting. Reported to Twitter safety. They've been surprisingly good over the last few months. When there's a clear violation they've tended to lock the account.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: (b) (6)
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

From: Jeffrey Sturchio (b) (6)
Sent: Tuesday, Janua M
To: Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6) ; Peter Daszak (b) (6) >;
Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6)
>; David Morens

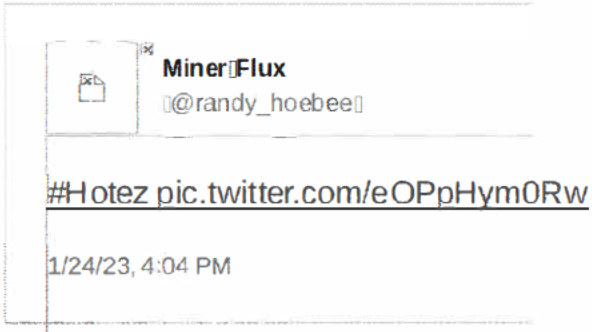
MORENS_SUBPOENA_017329
MORENS_NIH_035520
REL0000478004

Gerald Keusch (b) (6) Rich Roberts <(b) (6)
Subject: RE: Tweet by Miner□Flux on Twitter

Peter: What an idiot this guy is. You should be heartened by the immediate response he got to this asinine tweet!

As ever,
Jeff

From: Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6)
Sent: Tuesday, January 24, 2023 8:09 PM
To: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) Aleksei Chmura ; David Morens <(b) (6) n>; Gerald Keusch <(b) (6) ey Sturchio <(b) (6) >; Rich Roberts <
Subject: Tweet by Miner□Flux on Twitter



Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP

Texas Children's Hospital: Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics | Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development | Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

Baylor College of Medicine: Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine |

Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology | Health Policy Scholar

Baylor University, University Professor

Rice University, Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty

Texas A&M University, Faculty-Senior Fellow, Hagler Inst for Advanced Study & Scowcroft Institute of Intl Affairs

E-mail | Twitter | LinkedIn | Skype: (b) (6)

Amazon Author Center | Daily Beast Contributor

Senior Coordinator & Executive Support: Douglas Soriano

(b) (6) Phone: (b) (6) | 9

Media Inquiries:

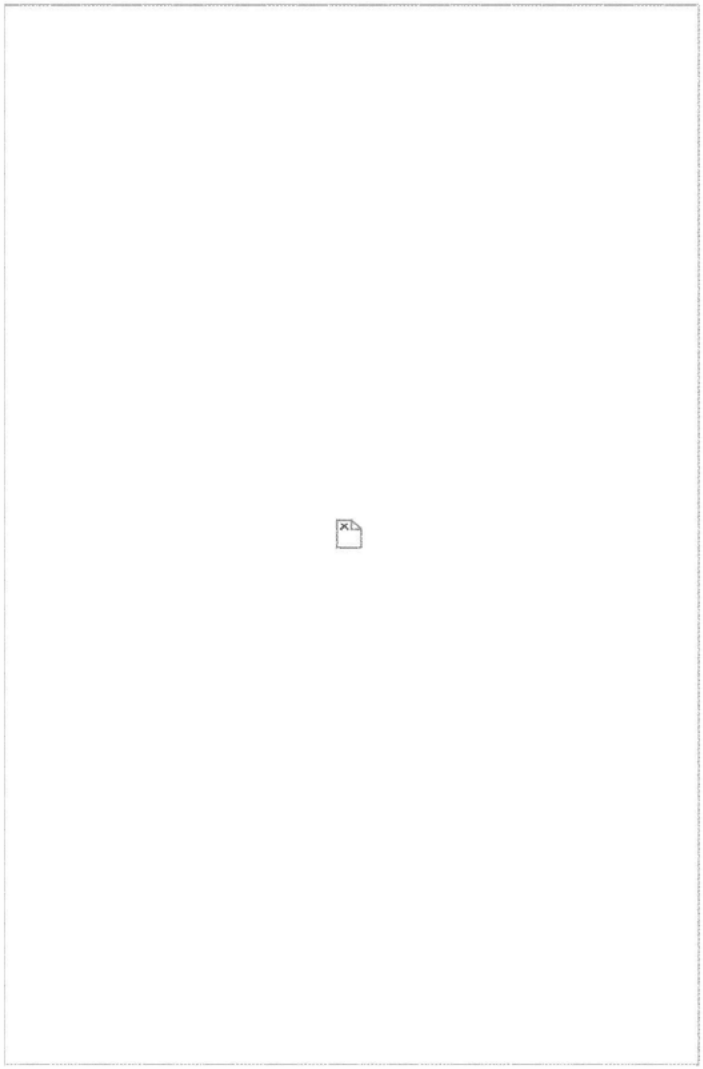
(b) (6)

iPhone

Date:	Sat, 8 Jun 2024 8:46:21 PM -0400
Subject:	Fwd: NYT / Zeynep Tufekci: An Object Lesson From Covid on How to Destroy Public Trust
From:	David Morens <(b) (6)
To:	Peter Daszak <(b) (6) peter hotez <(b) (6) Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6) Roberts, Rich <(b) (6) Jeffrey Sturchio <(b) (6) Aleksei Chmura <chmura@ecohealthalliance.org>;
Attachments:	image001.jpg; image002.png; image002.png; image001.jpg

From the cell phone of David Morens

---------- Forwarded message ---------
From: **Folkers, Greg (NIH/NIAID) [C]** (b) (6) >
Date: Sat, Jun 8, 2024, 18:17
Subject: NYT/ Zeynep Tufekci: An Object Lesson From Covid on How to Destroy Public Trust
To:



MORENS_NIH_047076
REL0000478024

An Object Lesson From Covid on How to Destroy Public Trust

Credit...Nicole Natri



By Zeynep Tufekci

Opinion Columnist

- June 8, 2024

Big chunks of the history of the Covid pandemic were rewritten over the last month or so in a way that will have terrible consequences for many years to come.

Under questioning by a congressional subcommittee, top officials from the National Institutes of Health, along with Dr. Anthony Fauci, acknowledged that some key parts of the public health guidance their agencies promoted during the first year of the Covid-19 pandemic were not backed up by solid science. What's more, inconvenient information was kept from the public — suppressed, denied or disparaged as crackpot nonsense.

Remember the rule that we should all stay at least six feet apart? "It sort of just appeared," Fauci said during a preliminary interview for the subcommittee hearing, adding that he "was not aware of any studies" that supported it. Remember the insistence that the virus was primarily spread by droplets that quickly fell to the floor? During his recent public hearing, he acknowledged that to the contrary, the virus is airborne.

As for the repeated assertion that Covid originated in a "wet market" in Wuhan, China, not in an infectious diseases laboratory there, N.I.H. officials were privately expressing alarm over that lab's lax biosafety practices and risky research. In his public testimony, Fauci conceded that even now there "has not been definitive proof one way or the other" of Covid-19's origins.

Officials didn't just spread these dubious ideas, they also demeaned anyone who dared to question them. "Dr. Fauci Throws Cold Water on Conspiracy Theory That Coronavirus Was Created in a Chinese Lab" was one typical headline. At the hearings, it emerged that Dr. David Morens, a senior N.I.H. figure, was deleting emails that discussed pandemic origins and using his personal account so as to avoid public oversight. "We're all smart enough to know to never have smoking guns, and if we did we wouldn't put them in emails and if we found them we'd delete them," he wrote to the head of a nonprofit involved in research at the Wuhan lab.

I wish I could say these were all just examples of the science evolving in real time, but they actually demonstrate obstinacy, arrogance and cowardice. Instead of circling the wagons, these officials should have been responsibly and transparently informing the public to the best of their knowledge and abilities.

Their delays, falsehoods and misrepresentations had terrible real-time effects on the lives of Americans. Failure to acknowledge the basic facts of Covid transmission led the authorities to pointlessly close beaches and parks,

MORENS_NIH_047077
REL0000478024

leaving city dwellers to huddle in the much more dangerous confines of cramped and poorly ventilated apartments. The same failure also delayed the opening of schools and caused untold millions of dollars to be wasted on plexiglass barriers (that likely made things worse) rather than effective air filters that would have helped kids to return to one another's company.

Beaches and schools are open again, but the most severe ramifications of these failures may last for decades, because they gave people cause to doubt the word of scientific and public health authorities.

If the government misled people about how Covid is transmitted, why would Americans believe what it says about vaccines or bird flu or H.I.V.? How should people distinguish between wild conspiracy theories and actual conspiracies?

I started reporting on Covid in February 2020. It was already clear that a catastrophe was hurtling toward us. But people who took that fact seriously were often pooh-poohed as alarmist, doomers or preppers because many health officials were, at that point, downplaying the threat.

The next month, startled by the official claims that masks were harmful, I begged the authorities to level with the public about the potential benefits of masking rather than seemingly tailoring their message to avoid panic over the supply shortage. That strategy, I noted, was sure to backfire — as it did.

The questions around masks led me to the six-foot rule and the debate over how Covid was spread. "FACT CHECK: Covid-19 is NOT airborne," the World Health Organization declared on social media — even though SARS, a virus very much like Covid, had long since been understood to be airborne. Frustrated scientists pleaded with the C.D.C. and the W.H.O. to take into account the new evidence. By the way, as of this writing, that "FACT CHECK" post is still up.

I later implored the authorities to open parks (that was April 2020) as well as to recognize airborne transmission and the protective effect of ventilation and to stop shaming people for going to the beach (both July 2020). I even joined some of those scientists to write articles in peer-reviewed scientific journals.

But as I reported on these topics, one theme kept coming up: High-level officials were afraid to tell the truth — or just to admit that they didn't have all the answers — lest they spook the public.

It emerged during these congressional hearings that U.S. scientific authorities had no idea what viruses the Wuhan lab was using or what work it was doing. So how could they issue all those confident assurances?

The hearings occasionally turned into a clown show, with some lawmakers looking to score cheap political points. But others pulled their punches, no doubt worried about validating the misinformation that swirls around these issues. This attitude reflects a fundamental and very dangerous misunderstanding.

Misinformation is not something that can be overcome solely by spelling out facts just the right way. Defeating it requires earning and keeping the public's trust.

During Fauci's testimony this week, Representative Kweisi Mfume brought up the Tuskegee experiment, in which Black men with syphilis were denied treatment so doctors could study how the disease progressed. Ironically, he claimed they were deliberately injected with syphilis — which is false, and a conspiracy theory, but that fact check is irrelevant to the main question: Can vulnerable populations trust that the medical establishment will inform and protect them?

During the pandemic, research showed that many African Americans were reluctant to get vaccines, but it wasn't because they were all Covid denialists. Many were continuing to take precautions such as wearing masks and avoiding crowds. They just didn't trust that scientists had leveled with the public about the risks of vaccination.

When I visited London in 2021, I was amazed that people didn't generally know which vaccine they had taken or when they would get their booster. They answered my question with a shrug and said they would just go whenever they were told they had an appointment. They, too, had a polarizing, Trump-like leader and the usual swirl of social media conspiracies. But they rolled up their sleeves when the National Health Service called because it was cashing in the trust it had built over decades.

It was the same for me, here in the U.S.: When I broke my strict isolation to volunteer at a vaccine clinic early in the pandemic and later, when I gleefully rolled up my own sleeve, I was elated but not because I had personally verified every single claim about vaccines. Instead, I felt I had reason to trust that the manufacturer hadn't cheated in the trials, that the scientists overseeing the process weren't corrupt and that if something untoward had happened, it wouldn't have been covered up. I trusted that the vials were properly filled and handled, and that the nurse had injected them appropriately.

Trust, not information, was the key. But just when it was needed most, some of the officials in charge of our Covid response undermined it. And as Deborah Ross, a Democratic member of the House from North Carolina, said during the hearings, "When people don't trust scientists, they don't trust the science." And studies have shown that once people lose trust in institutions, they become more open to conspiracy theories — not just about whatever specific topic might be in dispute, but across the board.

Opportunists and "do your own research" chaos agents will take advantage of these lapses for a long time to come, fueling conspiracy theories and bad ideas of every stripe. The newest one I've heard is that Covid is ravaging people's immune systems on a mass scale comparable to that of H.I.V. On what authority can such a falsehood now be debunked?

As the expression goes, trust is built in drops and lost in buckets, and this bucket is going to take a very long time to refill.

I hope the pandemic, both as lived experience and now as rewritten history, has proved that paternalistic, infantilizing messaging backfires. Transparency and accountability work.

In the four-plus years since Covid emerged, millions of people died, but so did something harder to quantify: the trust of a great many people in the science of public health. The authorities will have to live with the consequences, and so, unfortunately, will all the rest of us.

Source images by NSA Digital Archive/Getty Images

The Times is committed to publishing a diversity of letters to the editor. We'd like to hear what you think about this or any of our articles. Here are some tips. And here's our email: letters@nytimes.com.

Follow the New York Times Opinion section on Facebook, Instagram, TikTok, WhatsApp, X and Threads.

Zeynep Tufekci (@zeynep) is a professor of sociology and public affairs at Princeton University, the author of "Twitter and Tear Gas: The Power and Fragility of Networked Protest" and a New York Times Opinion columnist. @zeynep • Facebook

Disclaimer: Any third-party material in this email has been shared for internal use under fair use provisions of U.S. copyright law, without further verification of its accuracy/veracity. It does not necessarily represent my views nor those of NIAID, NIH, HHS, or the U.S. government.

Date: Mon, 13 Sep 2021 4:19:58 PM -0400
Sent: Mon, 13 Sep 2021 4:19:21 PM -0400
Subject: RE: Right wing desperately upset that grant story is not mainstream.
From: Peter Daszak (b) (6)
To: David Morens (b) (6) Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6) Robert Kessler <(b) (6) Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6)
CC: Jeff Sturchio <j_(b) (6)
Attachments: image002.jpg; image003.jpg; image005.jpg; image006.jpg; image007.jpg; image008.jpg; image009.jpg

Here's a podcast from a good journalist at the BBC. Haven't heard it yet– hope I don't get crucified for this one (reference to last email here….getting biblical today!).

https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/w3ct1m88

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: (b) (6)
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

From: Peter Daszak (b) (6)
Sent: Monday, September 13, 2021 4:07 PM
To: 'David Morens (b) (6) 'Keusch, Gerald T (b) (6) >; 'Robert Kessler (b) (6) Aleksei Chmura (b) (6) (b) (6)
Cc: 'Jeff Sturchio (b) (6)
Subject: Right wing desperately upset that grant story is not mainstream.

Favorite story of the day – the Right wing are so upset that the mainstream media aren't reporting on the 900 pages of FoIA'd grants, that they've written this up as if an official watchdog analyzed this and gave the info to the "Christian Post".

https://www.christianpost.com/news/watchdog-slams-media-over-fauci-coverage-despite-wuhan-research.html

The weird part of this are the two comments at the bottom you can click on – one's from a certain "Moshe" and the other links all this back to the Holocaust. I'm sorry, but I'm getting seriously mixed messages here…..!

- Moshe

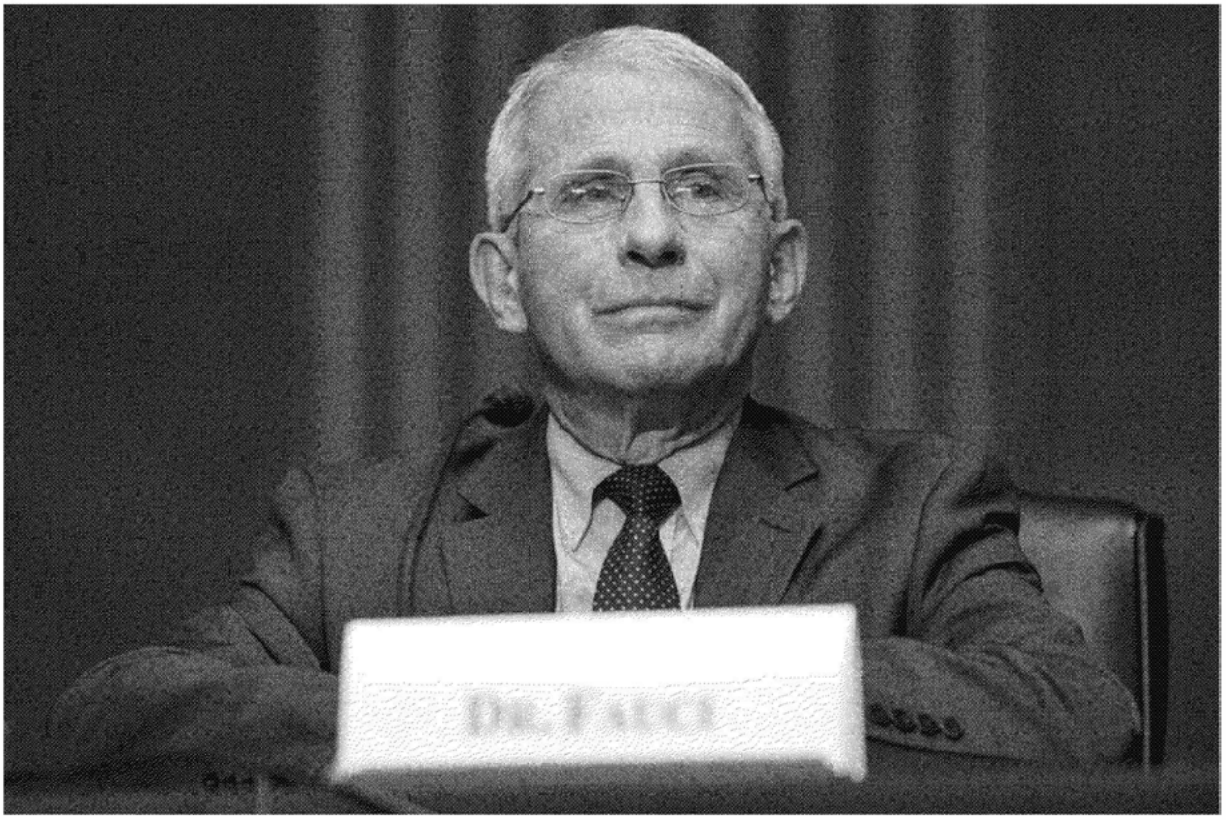
7 hours ago

Some of us have been talking about media censorship/narrative and US gain of function funding for over a year and yet some of you still call it "conspiracy theory". Six corporations own all the media and push a narrative to get the whole world convinced that what they say is true. People need to wake up and see how pervasive the deception is before they will all go over the cliff like the herd of pigs in Matthew 8.

● Mike
3 hours ago
I find Dr. Fauci abrasive, and for me he represents the wickedness of the Biden administration. Fauci has changed his statements on Covid a number of times, so he no longer is dependable or truthful. However Fauci fits right in with with those attempting make our country a socialistic country. He is willing to take away our personal freedoms and demand compliance in what the WH says. The Covid shots are just the beginning of taking control of the people of this country. This is how 6,000,000 Jews were destroyed by government orders. I hope people wake up before before its too late.
Reply

Watchdog slams media over Fauci coverage as report appears to show NIH funded gain-of-function research

By Ryan Foley, Christian Post Reporter| Monday, September 13, 2021
[redacted]Twitter[redacted]



Dr. Anthony Fauci, director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, speaks during a Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee hearing to discuss the ongoing federal response to COVID-19 on May 11, 2021, in Washington, D.C. | Greg Nash-Pool/Getty Images

A conservative media watchdog has accused corporate media outlets of engaging in censorship by failing to cover the release of documents confirming that the U.S. government did fund gain-of-function research at a virology lab in China despite multiple assertions to the contrary.
Last Monday, The Intercept released more than 900 pages of documents showing that the U.S. funded high-risk experiments at China's Wuhan Institute of Virology, where many believe the

MORENS_SUBPOENA_023234
MORENS_NIH_044375
REL0000478030

coronavirus pandemic first originated. According to Johns Hopkins University, the coronavirus pandemic has killed more than 4.6 million people worldwide, including more than 659,000 in the U.S.

Dr. Anthony Fauci, the longtime director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases and chief medical advisor to President Joe Biden, has repeatedly denied that the U.S. government has funded gain-of-function research. Sen. Rand Paul, R-Ky., has defined gain-of-function research as "juicing up naturally occurring animal viruses to infect humans."

According to a report from the Media Research Center's NewsBusters, much of the media has demonstrated a lack of interest in covering the newly released documents.

The report, titled "Nets Censor EVIDENCE Fauci Lied About Funding Wuhan COVID Experiments," found that the three nightly news broadcasts on the broadcast news networks, specifically ABC, CBS and NBC, completely ignored the news during their Tuesday evening broadcasts.

A Fox News report noted that a CNN anchor declined to press Fauci about the documents released by The Intercept when he appeared on the cable news outlet on Tuesday. While the network evening news broadcasts did not address the Intercept report on Tuesday, "ABC World News Tonight" did include clips of Fauci pushing for the masking of children in schools and condemning the large crowds at football games that took place over Labor Day Weekend.

Fauci has become the public face of the U.S. government's coronavirus response and has frequently made the rounds on cable news over the past 18 months. NewsBusters contends that the networks' failure to cover The Intercept's report stemmed from a desire to protect Fauci.

In addition to his frequent media appearances, Fauci has also appeared before Congress on multiple occasions, testifying that the U.S. government did not fund the kind of research that is believed to have caused the coronavirus pandemic.

"The NIH has not ever and does not now fund gain-of-function research in the Wuhan Institute of Virology," Fauci asserted during an exchange with Paul at a May 11 Senate hearing.

At a July 20 hearing, Paul read aloud testimony from Dr. Richard Ebright, a molecular biologist at Rutgers University, who told National Review that research conducted at the lab "matches, indeed epitomizes, the definition of gain-of-function." Ebright specifically alleged that "the Wuhan lab used NIH funding to construct novel chimeric SARS-related coronaviruses able to infect human cells and laboratory animals."

After sharing Ebright's analysis, Paul asked Fauci if he wanted to retract his statement insisting that the NIH never funded gain-of-function research in Wuhan. Additionally, the senator informed him that lying to Congress under oath constituted a crime.

Fauci declined to take Paul up on his offer: "I have never lied before Congress and I do not retract that statement." He told Paul that "you do not know what you are talking about" regarding gain-of-function research and the two engaged in a back-and-forth about the semantics of the practice. Almost immediately following Fauci's appearance at the July 20 hearing, Paul announced that he had sent a criminal referral to the Department of Justice, asking the agency to prosecute the immunologist for lying to Congress.

The documents obtained by The Intercept raise further questions about whether the U.S. government has funded gain-of-function research. In 2014, the National Institutes of Health, part of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, awarded a $666,442 grant to EcoHealth Alliance, a scientific research nongovernmental organization, to fund a project titled "Understanding the Risk of Bat Coronavirus Emergence." The award included "funds for subcontract/consortium activity with Wuhan Institute of Virology."

The project took place over a period of five years, with EcoHealth Alliance receiving additional six-figure grants on an annual basis through 2019. The National Institutes of Health awarded EcoHealth Alliance a total of nearly $3.1 million to conduct the research. The Intercept obtained the original grant proposal outlining the scope of the project as well as updates highlighting progress made on the research throughout the five-year period.

The goal of the project was to "examine the risk of future coronavirus (CoV) emergence from wildlife using in-depth field investigations across the human-wildlife interface in China." The project summary highlighted that Asia has a "largescale human-wildlife interface" because "bats, and other wildlife species, are hunted, traded, butchered and consumed across" the continent.

The project proposal indicated an intent to "test predictions of CoV inter-species transmission" by testing "emergence potential" using "reverse genetics, pseudovirus and receptor binding

assays, and virus infection experiments across a range of cell cultures from different species and humanized mice."
The Intercept obtained the documents through a Freedom of Information Act request as part of ongoing litigation against the National Institutes of Health, which has faced intense scrutiny as government and media officials have sought to identify the origins of the coronavirus pandemic that has caused the widespread loss of lives and livelihoods around the globe. Critics of Fauci and gain-of-function research are suggesting that the probe into the origins of the pandemic is causing concern among the research's most vocal proponents.
Earlier this year, The Wall Street Journal editorial board predicted that Fauci and others involved in promoting and supporting gain-of-function research would "suffer significant reputational damage and perhaps lose funding if scientific research they supported caused a pandemic."
Paul introduced an amendment to the U.S. Innovation and Competition Act of 2021 that would "prohibit the National Institutes of Health and any other federal agency from funding gain-of-function research conducted in China." The amendment passed by voice vote.
Ryan Foley is a reporter for The Christian Post. He can be reached at: ryan.foley@christianpost.com

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: (b) (6)
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

From: Peter Daszak (b) (6) >
Sent: Thursday, September 9, 2021 4:49 PM
To: 'DavidMorens(b) (6) 'Keusch, Gerald T' (b) (6) >; 'Robert Kessler (b) (6) b) (6) >; 'Aleksei Chmura(b) (6) < (b) (6)
Cc: Jeff Sturchio (b >
Subject: New line of attack today as expected, based on higher viral load in mouse lungs etc..

Note – cc'ing Jeff Sturchio, who's working with us at EHA.

Here's a report in the Daily Caller that goes after the GoF argument that the chimeric bat viruses yielded more virus in humanized mice than the parental bat virus strain. Good response from NIH spokesperson: An NIH spokesperson told the DCNF the agency "never approved any research that would make a coronavirus more dangerous to humans." "The research we supported in China, where coronaviruses are prevalent, sought to understand the behavior of coronaviruses circulating in bats that have the potential to cause widespread disease," the spokesperson said. "The body of science produced by this research demonstrates that the bat coronavirus sequences published from that work NIH supported were not SARS-CoV-2. More importantly, because of similar research to understand coronaviruses, we were able to move swiftly to develop vaccines against SARS-CoV-2 and save lives."'

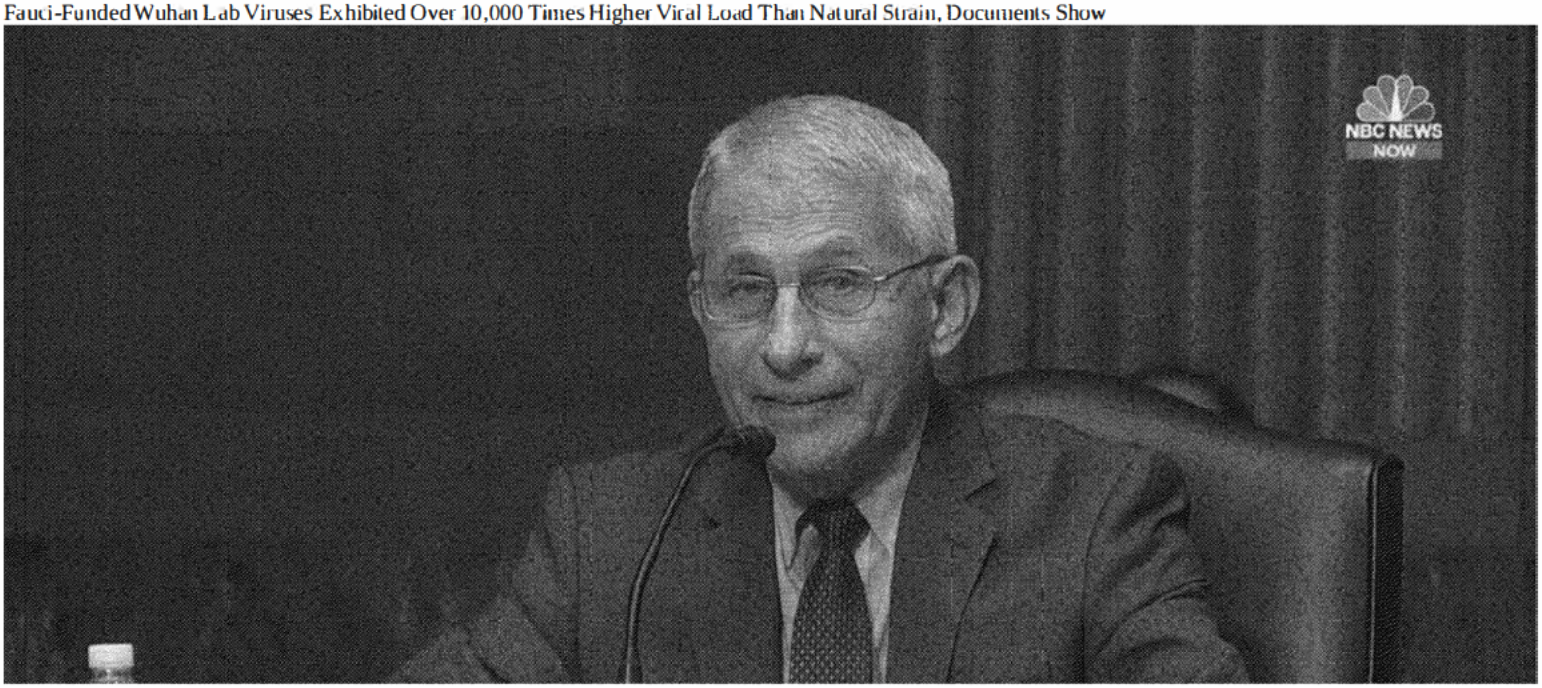
The other important thing for NIH spokespeople to say is that P3CO rules are for pathogens that occur in humans and might be made more dangerous. These were bat viruses that have never been shown to occur in humans.

https://dailycaller.com/2021/09/09/ecohealth-alliance-gain-of-function-higher-viral-load-anthony-fauci/

MORENS_SUBPOENA_023236
MORENS_NIH_044377
REL0000478030

INVESTIGATIVE GROUP

Fauci-Funded Wuhan Lab Viruses Exhibited Over 10,000 Times Higher Viral Load Than Natural Strain, Documents Show



DAILY CALLER NEWS FOUNDATION

-
-
-
-

ANDREW KERR INVESTIGATIVE REPORTER

September 09, 2021 3:25 PM ET

- **U.S. and Chinese researchers funded by the National Institutes of Allergy and Infectious Diseases created viruses in a Wuhan lab that exhibited over 10,000 times higher viral load in humanized mice, records released by the agency show.**
- **Rutgers University professor Richard Ebright said the data was a "bona fide bombshell" that proves the NIAID, under Dr. Anthony Fauci's leadership, violated federal policies, endangered the public and lied to the public.**
- **Fauci testified before the Senate in June that his agency never funded gain-of-function research at the Wuhan Institute of Virology.**

U.S. and Chinese researchers funded by Dr. Anthony Fauci's National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID) created viruses in a Wuhan lab that exhibited over 10,000 times higher viral load in humanized mice than the natural virus they were based on, according to an infectious disease professor citing documents recently released by the agency.

The U.S. nonprofit group EcoHealth Alliance notified the NIAID in two reports that between June 2017 and May 2018 it had created three lab-generated chimeric SARS-related coronaviruses in China that exhibited "significantly higher" viral loads, documents first reported by The Intercept show, but the agency continued to fund the project with taxpayer dollars without flagging it for review by an independent federal committee created in late 2017 to oversee gain-of-function research.

Rutgers University professor Richard Ebright, a vocal opponent of gain-of-function research, said the data was a "bona fide bombshell" that proves the NIAID, under Fauci's leadership, violated federal policies, endangered the public and lied to the public.

"Three EcoHealth/[Wuhan Institute of Virology] lab-generated viruses exhibited >10x to >10,000x higher viral load than the starting bat virus in humanized mice," Ebright tweeted. "One EcoHealth/WIV lab-generated virus exhibited higher pathogenicity than the starting bat virus in infection studies with humanized mice."

"The results demonstrate–unequivocally–a gain in function," he said.

In comparison, the viral load for people infected with the delta variant is roughly 1,000 times higher than those infected with the original strain of the virus, according to Nature science journal.

Ebright added on Twitter that the gain-of-function research activity that NIAID allowed EcoHealth Alliance to conduct in China could have yielded the virus that causes COVID-19 or a progenitor of that virus.

EcoHealth Alliance first notified the NIAID it created the three lab-generated SARS-related coronaviruses in a progress report detailing its research activities between June 2017 and May 2018.

"Using the reverse genetic methods we previously developed, infectious clones with the WIV1 backbone and the spike protein of SHC014, WIV16 and Rs4231, respectively, were constructed and recombinant viruses were successfully rescued," the group

MORENS_SUBPOENA_023237
MORENS_NIH_044378
REL0000478030

said in its progress report. "2 and 4 days post infection, the viral load in lung tissues of mice challenged with rWIV1-SHC014S, rWIV1-WIV16S and rWIV1-Rs4231S … were significantly higher than that in rWIV1-infected mice."
"These results demonstrate varying pathogenicity of SARSr-CoVs with different spike proteins in humanized mice," the report added.
EcoHealth Alliance included a chart visualizing the increased viral load of their lab-created viruses. The chart is presented in a Log scale, meaning each tick of the chart represents a 100-fold increase in viral load in mice with humanized cells, Ebright explained to the Daily Caller News Foundation.

B.2 (Year 4 NIAID CoV Report_Final for eRA Commons.pdf)

1R01AI110964 Year 4 Report PI: Daszak, Peter

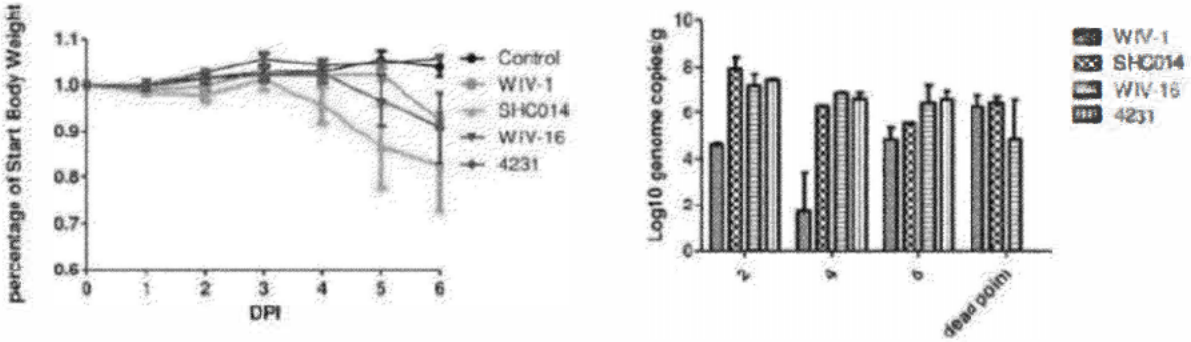


***Figure 35.** In vivo infection of SARSr-CoVs in hACE2-expressing mice. (a. left) Body weight change after infection; (b, right) Viral load in lung tissues*

Charts submitted by EcoHealth Alliance to the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases showing loss of body weight (right) and viral load (left) of mice with humanized cells infected with the natural WIV1 viral strain and three EcoHealth lab-created virus strains. The viral load chart is presented in Log scale, meaning each tick of the graph represents a 100-fold increase in viral load, Rutgers University professor Richard Ebright explained to the DCNF. (Screenshot)
"Each tick in the chart on the right represents an increment of 100x," Ebright told the DCNF. "The day 4 data show greater-than-10,000x higher viral loads for the lab-generated viruses."
The viral load for humanized mice infected with the natural virus caught up with the lab-created strains by the end of the experiment, the chart shows, but Ebright said that viral loads in the early stages of an infection are important figures to consider when assessing a pathogen's transmissibility.
"In terms of assessing potential for transmissibility, the viral load at all time points, particularly at early time points, is relevant. (See Delta variant)," Ebright told the DCNF.
EcoHealth Alliance provided another chart in its progress report showing that humanized mice infected with EcoHealth's lab-created viruses lost more bodyweight than humanized mice infected with the natural WIV1 strain.
EcoHealth Alliance included the same two charts in a 2018 request to the NIAID requesting additional funding for its research in China, the document trove released by The Intercept shows.
Federal funding for gain-of-function experiments that increase the transmissibility or pathogenicity of potential pandemic pathogens was temporarily suspended in 2014 due to widespread scientific concerns it risked leaking supercharged viruses into the human population.
Funding for gain-of-function research was resumed in late 2017, but only for projects that went through the new Potential Pandemic Pathogens Control and Oversight (P3CO) Framework, which includes a review by an HHS review board tasked with critically evaluating whether grants that involve enhancing dangerous pathogens, such as coronaviruses, are worth the risks and that proper safeguards are in place.
The NIAID opted not to flag the EcoHealth Alliance grant for P3CO after determining on its own accord that the project "did not involve the enhancement of the pathogenicity or transmissibility of the viruses studied," a National Institutes of Health spokesperson previously told the DCNF. **(RELATED: US Grant To Wuhan Lab To Enhance Bat-Based Coronaviruses Was Never Scrutinized By HHS Review Board, NIH Says)**
Fauci said during a congressional hearing in May that the NIH and NIAID "categorically has not funded gain-of-function research to be conducted at the Wuhan Institute of Virology," a claim that led Republican Sen. Rand Paul of Kentucky in July to send a criminal referral to the Department of Justice to investigate whether Fauci lied before Congress.
The P3CO framework defines an "enhanced" potential pandemic pathogen as any lab-created virus that exhibits any level of boosted transmissibility and/or virulence. Funding agencies such as the NIAID are required to flag any research grant that is "reasonably anticipated to create, transfer, or use enhanced PPPs" for P3CO review.
Despite this, documents released by The Intercept suggest that the NIAID authorized EcoHealth Alliance to conduct gain-of-

MORENS_SUBPOENA_023238
MORENS_NIH_044379
REL0000478030

function experiments on bat coronaviruses up to a certain threshold.

The NIAID informed EcoHealth Alliance in a June 2018 award notice that it must notify the agency only if it creates a virus "with enhanced growth by more than [10 times] compared to wild type strains," according to documents released by The Intercept. The NIAID linked to the P3CO review process, which contains no such mention of a 10 times allowance, in the very next sentence, the document shows.

SECTION IV – AI Special Terms and Conditions – 5R01AI110964-05

Clinical Trial Indicator: No
This award does not support any NIH-defined Clinical Trials. See the NIH Grants Policy Statement Section 1.2 for NIH definition of Clinical Trial.

Page-5

If any experiments proposed in this award result in a virus with enhanced growth by more than 1 log compared to wild type strains, you must notify your NIAID Program Officer and Grants Management Specialist immediately. Further research involving the resulting virus(es) may require review by the Department of Health and Human Services in accordance with the Framework for Guiding Funding Decisions about Proposed Research Involving Enhanced Potential Pandemic Pathogens (https://www.phe.gov/s3/dualuse/Documents/P3CO.pdf).

NIAID notice to EcoHealth Alliance in June 2018 saying it must notify the agency only if it produces a lab virus that exhibits more than 10 times enhancement over wild-type strains. (Screenshot)

An NIH spokesperson told the DCNF the agency "never approved any research that would make a coronavirus more dangerous to humans."

"The research we supported in China, where coronaviruses are prevalent, sought to understand the behavior of coronaviruses circulating in bats that have the potential to cause widespread disease," the spokesperson said. "The body of science produced by this research demonstrates that the bat coronavirus sequences published from that work NIH supported were not SARS-CoV-2. More importantly, because of similar research to understand coronaviruses, we were able to move swiftly to develop vaccines against SARS-CoV-2 and save lives."

Content created by The Daily Caller News Foundation is available without charge to any eligible news publisher that can provide a large audience. For licensing opportunities of our original content, please contact licensing@dailycallernewsfoundation.org.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: +(b) (6)
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

From: Peter Daszak(b) (6)
Sent: Wednesday, September 8, 2021 4:07 PM
To: 'David Morens (b) (6) Keusch, Gerald T (b) (6) >; 'Robert Kessler (b) (6) >; 'Aleksei Chmura (b) (6)

Subject: More incoming expected tonight from the Intercept
Importance: High

David – I hope you saw my email response to Kristian Andersen (below). We're expecting a story tonight from the Intercept that accuses EHA of breaking the rules with our work in Wuhan re. GoF, and in general.

Their main angle is the GoF issue. They're maintaining that our expts on bat-CoVs were GoF, despite us stating that these are not viruses that have ever been shown to infect people, something required in the P3CO definitions. They're also following Ebright's focus on one of expts in WIV that shows a chimera with a bat SARSr-CoV spike insert leading to higher viral load in mouse lungs than the parental strain (WIV1 – it's fig. 35 in the year 4 report, aim 3, p. 29 – attached). Again that doesn't mean GoF because these are both bat viruses. Furthermore, the NoA states that we should report 1 log or higher growth to NIH and stop the expt. Our view is that this is exactly what we did – we reported to NIH and that's the report that the Intercept has now FoIA'd. It's all somewhat moot in any case because at least two of the other viruses who's spikes were inserted, have also been cultured and therefore none of the chimeras are of higher risk than those parental strains.

They might also try to accuse us of breaking the agreement on releasing genetic data publicly, which we suggested we'd do 6 months after receiving 'final sequences' or upon publishing. Jesse Bloom emailed me to ask for these data and is clearly trying to catch us out. However, we published all SARSr-CoV genetic sequence data on Genbank prior to our publication in Nature Comms last year. There are many reasons why other results may not be able to be released as rapidly as we would like, given the pandemic and rapid breakdown in communication with colleagues in Wuhan, but of course, that won't stop these folks trying to cause problems and get a story out.

Hope you're able to brief folks who need to know that 1) we're aware of these accusations; 2) we won't be speaking in detail to the press about them; 3) we will be giving very short statements if we have to that clearly push back in the way I've outlined above, via our EHA spokesperson – Robert Kessler. We believe the story tonight might be a bit more aggressive than yesterday, but for anyone who understands this work, it does not prove GoF.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: (b) (6)
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

From: Peter Daszak (b) (6)

MORENS_SUBPOENA_023240
MORENS_NIH_044381
REL0000478030

Sent: Wednesday, September 8, 2021 3:48 PM
To: 'Kristian G. Andersen' (b) (6)
C : 'David Morens' (b) (6) >; 'Garry, Robert F' <(b) (6) Edward Holmes' <
(b) (6) 'Jason Gale' <j.gale@bloomberg.net>; 'Rasmussen, Angie' (b) (6)
Robert Kessler (b) (6) 'Stephen Goldstein' (b) (6)
Subject: RE: The Intercept report on coronavirus research at Chinese labs

Great to see your email Kristian – right on every point. The isolate vs. sequence vs. sample misnomer is something that really has plagued me with this stuff – Zhengli's group repeatedly used 'isolate' for 'sample' on Genbank and I've made that mistake here also.

Re. the MERS work, you're dead right – we proposed it, explained that it would likely need review by the P3CO committee equivalent, and then pushed it to Yr4. In the end we didn't do this work – there was already a ton of other more interesting work directly on SARSr-CoVs to do.

The latest line of attack that will be coming out in a follow-up article in the *Intercept* tonight is that in the Y4 report, we show one of the chimeras having more than a log virus output than the parent strain (WIV-1). The NoA was updated in Y3 to say that if this happened we had to report to NIH and cease expts. Ironically, the way *Intercept* found this out is because they now have a copy of our "report to NIH" in which we show this, but of course that's not going to stop them saying we broke the rules on GoF.

The other line of attack is the one Jesse Bloom's pursuing – that we didn't publish sequence data within 6 months of the "final version being received" as per our proposal. Jesse sneakily suggested this in an email to me last night in which he asked for the sequences so he can do SARS-CoV-2 origin analyses, while at the same time tweeting an accusation that we broke the rules in a chain with Alina Chan and the "Seeker". I'm not sure whether to respond at all, but I might just let him know that all SARSr-CoV sequences we had are already published in our 2020 paper in Nat. Comm. Again – the problem with these accusations is that just being accused of this by the press causes us seven levels of hell, and arguing back is even worse.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: (b) (6)
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

From: Kristian G. Andersen (b) (6)
Sent: Tuesday, September 7, 2021 10:30 PM
To: Peter Daszak (b) (6)
Cc: David Morens (b) (6) Garry, Robert F (b) (6) ; Edward Holmes <
(b) (6) >; Jason Gale <j.gale@bloomberg.net>; Rasmussen, Angie (b) (6)
Robert Kessler (b) (6) >; Stephen Goldstein (b) (6)
Subject: Re: The Intercept report on coronavirus research at Chinese labs

It's harassment, plain and simple - it has absolutely nothing to do with trying to find the truth of how SARS-CoV-2 emerged in the human population.

The way I see it though, we now have (a) the entire US IC having completed their investigation, (b) unredacted

MORENS_SUBPOENA_023241
MORENS_NIH_044382
REL0000478030

grants and annual reports from EcoHealth, and (c) old theses from the WIV.

This is *exactly* the type of information that Ebright, Metzl, Relman, Bloom, Chan, and the rest of the lot have been requesting. Now this work has been completed, what was unearthed? Nothing. Nada. Zilch. No evidence of the virus (or sequence) at the WIV (or anywhere else) prior to the pandemic. No gain-of-function work (despite what Ebright says). The same cloning system used again and again (WIV1). Vero cells used for virus isolation (SARS-CoV-2 loses the FCS in those cells), and no previously unreported viruses isolated (although I note the repeated use of "isolates" in one of the annual reports to describe 11 samples - I myself have made that mistake before). So again, there's nothing.

This absence of evidence is *in fact* evidence of absence in this particular case - there would have been *some* evidence for SARS-CoV-2 in *some* of these documents had it been at the WIV. Yet, nothing.

As for GOF work, again nothing. I note the mention of work with recombinant MERS in the year 3 report for work proposed in year 4 - depending on the nature of work, that could be considered GOF/DURC. However, when reading the year 4 report, I don't see any of that work mentioned - just work with pseudotyped viruses, which is clearly not GOF (or DURC).

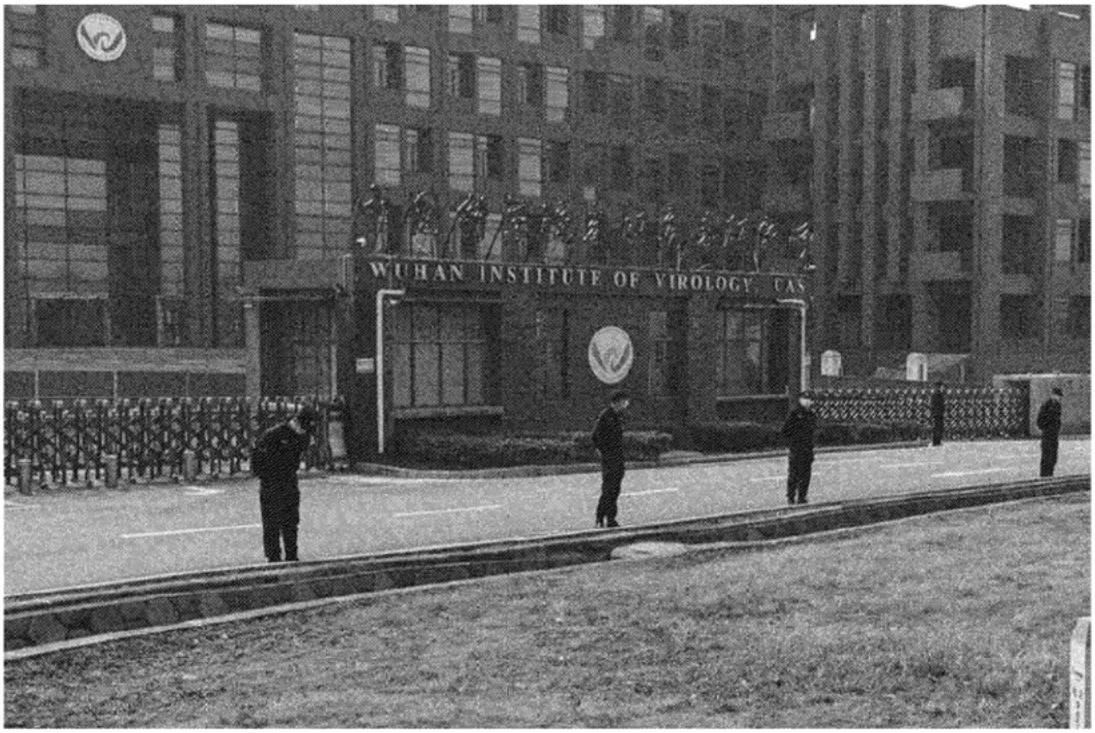
Of course, people will take stuff out of context to make *anything* fit a particular narrative. However, there's an expiration date on bullshit and I suspect we're well past due.

K

On Tue, Sep 7, 2021 at 6:28 PM Peter Daszak (b) (6) > wrote:

> Here's one of the "journalists" who got the "Scoop". Basically they just FoIA'd NIH, then sued when NIH refused to release, then dumped the documents online and asked for "people with relevant expertise to get in touch". Cue Drs. Ebright, Relman, Chan, Bloom and others to start their attempt at a character assassination…
>
> **Mara Hvistendahl**
> @MaraHvistendahl
>
> .
> 15h
> NEW: We obtained hundreds of pages from NIH detailing EcoHealth Alliance's work with the Wuhan Institute of Virology. We are publishing them in full. With
> @fastlerner and @theintercept legal team, which filed a FOIA lawsuit for the documents' release

MORENS_SUBPOENA_023242
MORENS_NIH_044383
REL0000478030



New Details Emerge About Coronavirus Research at Chinese Lab
More than 900 pages of materials related to US.-funded coronavirus research in China were released following a FOIA lawsuit by The Intercept.
theintercept.com



Mara Hvistendahl
@MaraHvistendahl

.

15h The full documents are here: "Understanding the Risk of Bat Coronavirus Emergence"
https://documentcloud.org/documents/21055989-understanding-risk-bat-coronavirus-emergence-grant-notice…
"Understanding Risk o fZoonotic Virus Emergence in Emerging Infectious Disease Hotspots o fSoutheast Asia"
https://documentcloud.org/documents/21055988-risk_zoonotic-virus-hotspots-grant_notice…



Mara Hvistendahl
@MaraHvistendahl

.

7h
There is a lot here. @fastlerner and I are interested in hearing feedback from people with relevant expertise.

MORENS_SUBPOENA_023243
MORENS_NIH_044384
REL0000478030

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: (b) (6)
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

From: David Morens (b) (6)
Sent: Tuesday, September 7, 2021 9:07 PM
To: Peter Daszak (b) (6) >
Cc: Garry, Robert (b) (6) ; Kristian G. Andersen (b) (6) >; Edward Holmes < (b) (6) ; Jason Gale <j.gale@bloomberg.net>; (b) (6) ; Robert Kessler < (b) (6)
Subject: Re: The Intercept report on coronavirus research at Chinese labs

Do not rule out suing these assholes for slander. d

Sent from my iPhone
David M Morens
OD, NIAID, NIH

On Sep 7, 2021, at 20:39, Peter Daszak (b) (6) wrote:

To be honest, this whole process is beyond a joke. We're spending a huge amount of staff time dealing with the BS from these FoIA requests even though the grant's been terminated, suspended and funds are still unavailable.

The lab leakers are already stirring up bullshit lines of attack that will bring more negative publicity our way – which is what this is about – a way to line up the GoF attack on Fauci, or the 'risky research' attack on all of us.

Jesse Bloom's now trying to claim we weren't following our proposed rules for data release (not true – all SARSr-CoV RdRp sequences on Genbank in summer 2020, despite the grant being terminated) – he's tagging Alina Chan and 'The Seeker' on Twitter. Ebright's trying to claim we were working on MERS as a 'shadow' line of work. There'll be more to come – just a free-for-all effort to find a few sentences that they can take out of context.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507

USA

Tel.: +(b) (6)
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

From: Garry, Robert F <(b) (6) >
Sent: Tuesday, September 7, 2021 8:08 PM
To: Kristian G. Andersen (b) (6) >; Edward Holmes (b) (6) >
Cc: Jason Gale <j.gale@bloomberg.net>; (b) (6)
(b) (6)
Subject: Re: The Intercept report on coronavirus research at Chinese labs

Totally - that the real story of the FOIAed grants - no SC2 or anything close that could have been converted to it.

Metzl, Chan and others wanted a "forensic investigation.' The grants that they thought would be private and written before the pandemic do not mention a new SARS-like virus. YOu can be sure that a new virus 76% similar to SC1 would have been front and center in the applications and progress reports.

My guess this is part of the info the IC used to conclude no bioweapon, likely no engineering - NO SC2 before the pandemic. This Gof debate now very clearly has nothing to do with the origin of SC2.

From: Kristian G. Andersen (b) (6)
Sent: Tuesday, September 7, 2021 11:56 PM
To: Edward Holmes <(b) (6) >
Cc: Jason Gale <j.gale@bloomberg.net>; (b) (6) (b) (6)
(b) (6) ; Garry, Robert F (b) (6)
(b) (6)
Subject: Re: The Intercept report on coronavirus research at Chinese labs

> External Sender. Be aware of links, attachments and requests.

Going through it carefully as we speak (already wasted a few hours) - because that's how idiotic this has become.

Nicely detailed annual reports - makes it easy to show that there's in fact no SARS-CoV-2 in there...

People have lost their minds with this s***.

K

On Tue, Sep 7, 2021 at 4:50 PM Edward Holmes (b) (6) > wrote:

> Yes, just more like evidence that they never had SC2 in the lab.
>
> Professor Edward C. Holmes FAA FRS
> The University of Sydney
>
> > On 8 Sep 2021, at 9:43 am, Jason Gale (BLOOMBERG/ NEWSROOM:) <
> > j.gale@bloomberg.net> wrote:
> >
> > Just FYI

https://theintercept.com/2021/09/06/new-details-emerge-about-coronavirus-research-at-chinese-lab/

Disclaimer

The information contained in this communication from the sender is confidential. It is intended solely for use by the recipient and others authorized to receive it. If you are not the recipient, you are hereby notified that any disclosure, copying, distribution or taking action in relation of the contents of this information is strictly prohibited and may be unlawful.

This email has been scanned for viruses and malware, and may have been automatically archived by Mimecast, a leader in email security and cyber resilience. Mimecast integrates email defenses with brand protection, security awareness training, web security, compliance and other essential capabilities. Mimecast helps protect large and small organizations from malicious activity, human error and technology failure; and to lead the movement toward building a more resilient world. To find out more, visit our website.

Disclaimer

The information contained in this communication from the sender is confidential. It is intended solely for use by the recipient and others authorized to receive it. If you are not the recipient, you are hereby notified that any disclosure, copying, distribution or taking action in relation of the contents of this information is strictly prohibited and may be unlawful.

This email has been scanned for viruses and malware, and may have been automatically archived by Mimecast, a leader in email security and cyber resilience. Mimecast integrates email defenses with brand protection, security awareness training, web security, compliance and other essential capabilities. Mimecast helps protect large and small organizations from malicious activity, human error and technology failure; and to lead the movement toward building a more resilient world. To find out more, visit our website.

Disclaimer

The information contained in this communication from the sender is confidential. It is intended solely for use by the recipient and others authorized to receive it. If you are not the recipient, you are hereby notified that any disclosure, copying, distribution or taking action in relation of the contents of this information is strictly prohibited and may be unlawful.

This email has been scanned for viruses and malware, and may have been automatically archived by Mimecast, a leader in email security and cyber resilience. Mimecast integrates email defenses with brand protection, security awareness training, web security, compliance and other essential capabilities. Mimecast helps protect large and small organizations from malicious activity, human error and technology failure; and to lead the movement toward building a more resilient world. To find out more, visit our website.

Date: Thu, 22 Jul 2021 10:17:46 PM -0400
Sent: Thu, 22 Jul 2021 10:17:33 PM -0400
Subject: Report today in South China Morning Post
From: "Keusch, Gerald T" <(b) (6)
To: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >; David Morens <(b) (6) >; Robert Kessler <(b) (6) >;
Attachments: China's Covid origins snub shows limits to World Health Organization's power _ South China Morning Post.pdf

Here is an article by Simone McCarthy. Its not exactly what she was planning to write, but the events of the past day pushed the report in a somewhat different direction. The hour and a half plus some additional email exchanges I had with her after Peter indicated she was a good journalist was reflected in one quote at the end of her piece. But it makes me seem prophetic in the context of the events and the article It should seem obvious that only in the context of scientific collaboration in a non-confrontational and neutral context can there can be any meaningful exploration of the origins in China. David Relman, Marc Lipsitch, and Richard Ebright should feel embarrassed at what they have helped to happen but I suspect they will instead be pleased by the developments. The less real data there are in the public domain the more they can spin webs.

Jerry

From: Simone McCarthy <(b) (6) >
Sent: Thursday, July 22, 2021 8:36 PM
To: Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6)
Subject: Re: Media Inquiry - South China Morning Post

Dear Jerry,

Lots of shifting sands under this story, due to new developments, but happy to be able to include some of your comment here. Thank you.
https://www.scmp.com/news/china/diplomacy/article/3142113/chinas- covid-origins-snub-shows-limits-world-health

Best,

Simone

On Wed, 21 Jul 2021 at 11:39, Simone McCarthy (b) (6) wrote:

> Dear Jerry,
>
> Thanks very much for this - well noted and I really appreciate the quick turnaround. I'll be sure to keep in touch regarding publication.
>
> Best,
>
> Simone
>
> On Tue, 20 Jul 2021 at 23:13, Keusch, Gerald T (b) (6) ≥ wrote:
>
> > Hi Simone,
> >
> > I'm in catch up mode so here are a few additional comments.
> >
> > Despite agreeing – at least in part – with the Relman quotes regarding WHO in Jon Cohens piece in Science that WHO may not be the best organization to pursue the origin studies right now it is the only organization that can pursue the investigation. I say that because it is the only global public health entity with membership from virtually all nation states – that why it's called

MORENS_SUBPOENA_021008
MORENS_NIH_041774
REL0000478037

the World Health Organization. That structure also makes it subject to political influence, often played out in terms of whether or not a country will provide the extrabudgetary funding WHO needs to do things like this investigation, which subjects WHO to the terms and conditions the funding country applied. Most certainly in my mind WHO cannot move forward with credibility if Dr. Tedros dismisses the original 10 international team members and calls for self and government nominations of a new team. The 10 are true experts in their field and internationally respected scientists. I agree with Marion Koopmans that appointing an expert or two in specific areas of interest could more optimally meet any reasonable need for additional expertise.

Regarding the comments/quotes below, I was certainly following a consistent theme along the way, which is again reflected in what I say above and on the record. I made one edit below which you will see in bold underlined italic font.

Jerry

From: Simone McCarthy <(b) (6)
Sent: Tuesday, July 20, 2021 8:51 AM
To: Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6) >
Subject: Re: Media Inquiry - South China Morning Post

Dear Jerry,

Thanks again for your time sharing your thoughts with me last week - really good food for thought for me there. The floor has shifted underneath our conversation a bit given that Dr. Tedros released the outline of his plan for the phase two work. I'm putting together an article that takes a look at the proposal (as described to member states in the public statement) and the challenges that may exist for getting it off the ground. I'd like to be able to include a few of your comments from our conversation and I've included those below for you to check, as discussed.

I did see your related comments in Jon Cohen's Science story, and I would be curious to ask just broadly if you think that the path laid out by Tedros is the best way forward and perhaps what exactly a lab audit in this specific scenario may entail. If it's something you'd be able to discuss via email or a short chat today or tomorrow I'd appreciate that - if I've already taken up way too much of your time, no worries, that is highly understandable too.

I realize you're not in the office today, but I'm wondering if you might be able to give these quotes a quick look and let me know any changes sometime during your Tuesday. Please note in order to optimize timing I am sending over a rough draft version, the context will be as described, but I can't guarantee that there won't be changes to the exact wording in the preceding lines. Likewise it's possible there could be further paraphrasing or shortening of the direct quotes, but that would be with strict attention to the meaning as shown below. Thank you.

Best,

Simone

Gerald Keusch, associate director of the National Emerging Infectious Diseases Laboratory Institute at Boston University
Some scientists say the rhetoric around the laboratory leak hypothesis - especially that which seeks to blame China for the outbreak or accuse its scientists of wrongdoing - has made it difficult to move forward with international research in China.
"All of the accusatory statements and hypotheses built on no ***publicly available*** evidence will not gain access to an open, clear, transparent, collaborative international investigation, one that is meant not to cast blame, but to find out what happened so that efforts to prevent this happening again in the future can actually take place."
"There is something called the scientific method - we know how to do collaborative work - it just takes the willingness to do it, in an environment that is positively oriented." "Let's get on with it."

Keusch said it was a "mistake" of the phase one WHO report to not recommend further research into the laboratory leak, and that both this hypothesis and the natural origin should be investigated. However, research into the natural origins was more urgent, given that it was the more likely of the two scenarios, based on available evidence, he said.
"We need to be looking at all of it [both natural origins and lab leak] systematically and in a thoughtful and planned manner."
The kind of work that should be done: forensic analysis of the labs, serology on humans and animals (for example Linfa Wang's cPass serological test which "is available and could be used systematically in China, in Thailand and other border countries where bats, coronaviruses, and people interface")
"It can be done...but there has to be the environment and the desire and the goals for doing it which is not blame and castigate, but to learn and intervene in the future."

[The urgency of uncovering the origin, why it matters for the next phase of the WHO-led mission to begin]
"If you don't look for evidence it doesn't just spring up on its own and hit you in the face, there needs to be a cooperative, collaborative, collegial and communicative way of going about this and as far as I can see the only organisation that can do it is WHO."
"It's no longer a question of if, but when and what. Now that we've seen three severe coronavirus outbreaks of respiratory disease [this century] and we know that these trace back to a vast viral floral, across multiple bat species, another SARS, MERS, or Covid is not a question."

On Wed, 14 Jul 2021 at 09:10, Simone McCarthy (b) (6) > wrote:

> Hi Jerry,
>
> Sure that's no problem, and thanks for sending the event details, looks interesting. Speak soon and thank you again for the time.
>
> Best,
>
> Simone
>
> On Wed, 14 Jul 2021 at 06:10, Keusch, Gerald T (b) (6) ≥ wrote:
>
> > Hi Simone,
> >
> > Can we move the call tomorrow to 11 am EDT? I will be logging on to a presentation on financing future pandemic preparedness organized by the Center for Global Development in DC, which goes from 9:30 to 10:30. The buffer time allows for late ending, pit stops, and refills of the coffee mug. I will forward the announcement of the seminar to you so you can register if you are interested.
> >
> > Jerry
> >
> > **From:** Simone McCarthy (b) (6)
> > **Sent:** Thursday, July 8, 2021 10:16 PM
> > **To:** Keusch, Gerald T (b) (6)
> > **Subject:** Re: Media Inquiry - South China Morning Post
> >
> > Got it, thank you and look forward to speaking.
> >
> > Best,
> >
> > Simone
> >
> > On Fri, 9 Jul 2021 at 01:54, Keusch, Gerald T (b) (6) wrote:
> >
> > > My office phone is (b) (6)

MORENS_SUBPOENA_021010
MORENS_NIH_041776
REL0000478037

Backup will be my cell phone (b) (6)
Jerry

From: Simone McCarthy <simone.mccarthy@scmp.com>
Sent: Thursday, July 8, 2021 11:58 AM
To: Keusch, Gerald T (b) (6)
Subject: Re: Media Inquiry - South China Morning Post

Hi Jerry,

Sure, Wednesday 10:30a Eastern daylight works just fine for me, thank you. What's the best number to reach you?

Best,

Simone

On Thu, 8 Jul 2021 at 23:38, Keusch, Gerald T (b) (6) wrote:

> How about Wednesday at 10:30 am EDT (you will probably recall that too). Is that OK for Hong Kong time (I assume that's where you are).
>
> Jerry
>
> **From:** Simone McCarthy <simone.mccarthy@scmp.com>
> **Sent:** Thursday, July 8, 2021 9:25 AM
> **To:** Keusch, Gerald T (b) (6)
> **Subject:** Re: Media Inquiry - South China Morning Post
>
> Dear Dr. Keusch,
>
> Thanks so much for your message and the offer of your time. I'm glad to hear that you had a nice (and unplugged) Fourth of July weekend. I should have realized when I wrote you... I've been over here a bit too long I guess, although originally I'm from your neck of the woods, Massachusetts.
>
> I'd still be interested to chat with you about the letter, and also your thoughts more broadly on what the most critical next steps are for moving forward on gathering more data about how SARS-CoV-2 started circulating in humans. My schedule is open your Wednesday or Thursday morning EST next week, if there's a convenient time for you to talk in either of those windows, please let me know. I'd be grateful for a chance to speak then.
>
> Best,
>
> Simone
>
> On Thu, 8 Jul 2021 at 00:16, Keusch, Gerald T (b) (6) wrote:
>
> > Hi Simone,
> >
> > Sorry I was not able to respond to you on Monday. While the timing of the publication in The Lancet on a Monday was fine for the world, it was over the long July 4th independence day weekend, and we were with family for the first time in a while and unplugged the WiFi.

MORENS_SUBPOENA_021011
MORENS_NIH_041777
REL0000478037

I am willing to chat with you about this, but to be clear I should say that I am on my summer schedule, which means I am out of the office from Fridays through Tuesdays, which leaves Wednesday or Thursday to find a time.

GT Keusch

From: Simone McCarthy <simone.mccarthy@scmp.com >
Sent: Monday, July 5, 2021 10:41 PM
To: Keusch, Gerald T (b) (6)
Subject: Media Inquiry orning Post

Dear Dr. Keusch,

I am a reporter with the South China Morning Post in Hong Kong, where I cover research into the origins of SARS-CoV-2. I'm reaching out to you while following up on the 'Science, not speculation' Lancet letter. I realise that I am contacting you quite late in your evening, I thought it couldn't hurt to check if you would be available to share a short comment for our coverage today. Specifically I was hoping to ask you why/how the decision was made to put this letter forward now and what you hope it will add to the current conservation/efforts to understand how the virus emerged. Do you and the other signatories also feel that there should be more research into the potential of a lab or research-related accident?

I'd also be interested to speak with you in more detail about your views on the next steps that should be taken in the origins research, specifically how different hypotheses could be further probed and what the priorities should be. Ideally I'd love to touch base quickly and include your perspective in our piece, which will be published today here in Hong Kong time, but if that's not possible and you would be up for a separate conversation on this, I'd love a chance to learn more about how you're looking at the origins research work.

Thank you.
Best,

Simone

--

Simone McCarthy | Reporter
South China Morning Post Publishers Ltd
19/F Tower One, Times Square,
1 Matheson Street, Causeway Bay, Hong Kong
M: (b) (6)
E: simone.mccarthy@scmp.com

This message is confidential. It may also be privileged or otherwise protected by work product immunity or other legal rules. If you have received it by mistake, please let us know by e-mail reply and delete it from your system; you may not copy this message or disclose its contents to anyone. Please send us by fax any message containing deadlines as incoming e-mails are not screened for response deadlines. The integrity and security of this message cannot be guaranteed on the internet.

MORENS_SUBPOENA_021012
MORENS_NIH_041778
REL0000478037

--

Simone McCarthy | Reporter
South China Morning Post Publishers Ltd
19/F Tower One, Times Square,
1 Matheson Street, Causeway Bay, Hong Kong
M: (b) (6)
E: simone.mccarthy@scmp.com

This message is confidential. It may also be privileged or otherwise protected by work product immunity or other legal rules. If you have received it by mistake, please let us know by e-mail reply and delete it from your system; you may not copy this message or disclose its contents to anyone. Please send us by fax any message containing deadlines as incoming e-mails are not screened for response deadlines. The integrity and security of this message cannot be guaranteed on the internet.

--
Phone: (b) (6)

--

Simone McCarthy | Reporter
South China Morning Post Publishers Ltd
19/F Tower One, Times Square,
1 Matheson Street, Causeway Bay, Hong Kong
M (b) (6)
E: simone.mccarthy@scmp.com

This message is confidential. It may also be privileged or otherwise protected by work product immunity or other legal rules. If you have received it by mistake, please let us know by e-mail reply and delete it from your system; you may not copy this message or disclose its contents to anyone. Please send us by fax any message containing deadlines as incoming e-mails are not screened for response deadlines. The integrity and security of this message cannot be guaranteed on the internet.

--
Phone: (b) (6)

--

Simone McCarthy | Reporter
South China Morning Post Publishers Ltd
19/F Tower One, Times Square,
1 Matheson Street, Causeway Bay, Hong Kong
M: (b) (6)
E: simone.mccarthy@scmp.com

This message is confidential. It may also be privileged or otherwise protected by work product immunity or other legal rules. If you have received it by mistake, please let us know by e-mail reply and delete it from your system; you may not copy this message or disclose its contents to anyone. Please send us by fax any message containing deadlines as incoming e-mails are not screened for response deadlines. The integrity and security of this message cannot be guaranteed on the internet.

--

Simone McCarthy | Reporter
South China Morning Post Publishers Ltd
19/F Tower One, Times Square,
1 Matheson Street, Causeway Bay, Hong Kong
M (b) (6)
E: simone.mccarthy@scmp.com



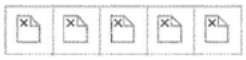


This message is confidential. It may also be privileged or otherwise protected by work product immunity or other legal rules. If you have received it by mistake, please let us know by e-mail reply and delete it from your system; you may not copy this message or disclose its contents to anyone. Please send us by fax any message containing deadlines as incoming e-mails are not screened for response deadlines. The integrity and security of this message cannot be guaranteed on the internet.

--

Simone McCarthy | Reporter
South China Morning Post Publishers Ltd
19/F Tower One, Times Square,
1 Matheson Street. Causeway Bay, Hong Kong
M: (b) (6)
E: simone.mccarthy@scmp.com





This message is confidential. It may also be privileged or otherwise protected by work product immunity or other legal rules. If you have received it by mistake, please let us know by e-mail reply and delete it from your system; you may not copy this message or disclose its contents to anyone. Please send us by fax any message containing deadlines as incoming e-mails are not screened for response deadlines. The integrity and security of this message cannot be guaranteed on the internet.

MORENS_SUBPOENA_021014
MORENS_NIH_041780
REL0000478037

Date: Thu, 30 Sep 2021 4:26:45 PM -0400
Sent: Thu, 30 Sep 2021 4:26:42 PM -0400
Subject: RE: Amendment to defund EcoHealth Alliance was passed by the House last Thursday night and now moves to the Senate
From: "Keusch, Gerald T" <(b) (6)
To: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) David Morens <(b) (6) Roberts, Rich <(b) (6)
CC: Robert Kessler <(b) (6) Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) Jeff Sturchio <(b) (6)

I have written to Massachusetts Senators Warren and Markey, and my representative Ayanna Pressley and have asked to speak to staff about this matter. I'll let you know if I have a follow up. At the moment I guess it's the Senate that is most important.

Jerry

Gerald T. Keusch, M.D.
Professor of Medicine
Associate Director
National Emerging Infectious Diseases Laboratory
Boston University, Boston MA 02118

From: Peter Daszak <(b) (6)
Sent: Thursday, September 30, 2021 2:11 PM
To: David Morens (b) (6) ; Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6) Roberts, Rich <(b) (6)
Cc: (b) (6) >; Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) Jeff Sturchio (b) (6)
Subject: FW: Amendment to defund EcoHealth Alliance was passed by the House last Thursday night and now moves to the Senate
Importance: High

Dear All,

I just wanted to give you a quick update on this issue. Below is an email I just sent to Peter Staley, the AIDS activist who spoke out forcefully when Trump terminated our NIH grant – he's a colleague of Dr. Fauci's. In it are 5 key points re. why this amendment should be taken seriously and removed. Additionally, I've attached some information about EHA specific to why we're under attack and need people's help to defend against it. I'm hoping these may be useful as you reach out to colleagues and contacts.

We've heard back from Sen. Gillibrand's staff and are talking with them on Tuesday afternoon next week. So far that's the only Senator's office that has responded and expressed an interest in doing something about the amendment. We don't know what they'll propose yet, and don't know what the timeline will be, but obviously at this point we're very worried.

Any continued help you can give us is very much appreciated. Rich – I wondered whether Elizabeth Warren's office has gotten back to you and Rich/Jerry, whether Sen. Ed. Markey's office has responded.

I'm talking with a contact of our Board tomorrow who may have a way to reach Sen. Schumer, but given the chaos in Washington, I suspect this will be difficult…

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: (b) (6)
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

---

From: Peter Daszak <(b) (6)
Sent: Thursday, September 30, 2021 2:05 PM
To: (b) (6)
Cc: 'Robert Kessler (b) (6) 'Aleksei Chmura (
(b) (6)
Subject: Amendment to defund EcoHealth Alliance was passed by the House last Thursday night and now moves to the Senate
Importance: High

Dear Peter,

I really appreciate your time a few months ago to talk about the ongoing pressures we're under here at EcoHealth Alliance. The latest action is a particularly significant threat to our organization – last January one of the House Republicans, Congressman Reschenthaler, filed a bill titled HR591 "Defund EcoHealth Alliance Bill" and managed to get passed by the House last Thursday night as Amendment #148 (https://rules.house.gov/bill/117/hr- 4350) to the National Defense Authorization Act (HR 4350) (https://armedservices.house.gov/ndaa). The five other co-sponsors are all Republicans: Van Drew, Perry, Harshbarger, Keller, and Budd.

EcoHealth Alliance is a non-profit based in Midtown Manhattan that employs around 50 people whose jobs depend on the funding we receive each year. If this amendment continues forwards, we stand to all lose our jobs and close down the organization. We're deeply worried about this amendment and are desperately trying to reach anyone who is willing to talk to their colleague in the Senate to try to get this amendment removed. We were hoping you'd be able to speak out on our behalf. The main reasons we hope you'll be able to get across are:

- It is based on the false premise that the virus emerged from a laboratory – the majority of scientists, and of intel agencies believe it has a natural origin
- It sets a precedent that an individual member of congress can circumvent normal protocols for funding contracts and grants set up by government agencies, based on political motives
- It accuses an organization of being implicit in causing a terrible pandemic, with no evidence, and without due process
- No DoD funding to this organization (EcoHealth Alliance) has ever been used to conduct work in China. This was already clarified in a response to a letter to DoD from this Congressman in Summer 2020
- This amendment would effectively close down a non-profit that does work to protect US citizens from future pandemic threats, and would mean New York City residents losing their jobs.

Peter – any advice or help you are willing to give us will be much appreciated. We've reached out to Senator Gillibrand's staff and are talking with them on Tuesday next week, but are just very concerned that we don't know what the timeline is for this, and that it might just end up being passed because it didn't rise to the right level of concern. Everyone at our organization remains fully committed to our mission and just wants to get back to work protecting the US from future pandemic threats, but right now, we're at the mercy of politics.

I'm available any time for a call, or if you're able to reach out to colleagues with influence on the Senate, please do. I've also attached a brief explanation of the details to EcoHealth's work and why we're under attack.

MORENS_SUBPOENA_011077
MORENS_NIH_021822
REL0000478042

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: (b) (6)
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

Disclaimer

The information contained in this communication from the sender is confidential. It is intended solely for use by the recipient and others authorized to receive it. If you are not the recipient, you are hereby notified that any disclosure, copying, distribution or taking action in relation of the contents of this information is strictly prohibited and may be unlawful.

This email has been scanned for viruses and malware, and may have been automatically archived by Mimecast, a leader in email security and cyber resilience. Mimecast integrates email defenses with brand protection, security awareness training, web security, compliance and other essential capabilities. Mimecast helps protect large and small organizations from malicious activity, human error and technology failure; and to lead the movement toward building a more resilient world. To find out more, visit our website.

Date: Wed, 20 Oct 2021 12:46:46 PM -0400
Sent: Wed, 20 Oct 2021 12:46:30 PM -0400
Subject: Re: Introduction to our key Collaborator in France, and heads-up re. a PREZODE event at French Embassy Oct 21st
From: ROCHE Benjamin <(b) (6)
To: David Morens <(b) (6)

We'll come by uber. Sounds perfect to meet at the metro. Medical center ?

Labs:

Infectious Diseases: Vector, Control, Genetic, Ecology and Evolution (MIVEGEC)
Centre for Ecological and Evolutionary Research on Cancer (CREEC)

Postal address:
Centre IRD de Montpellier
911, Avenue Agropolis BP64504
34394 Montpellier cedex 5
France

(b) (6)
e-mail: (b) (6)
http://rocheben.github.io/

Le 20 oct. 2021 à 12:44, David Morens <(b) (6) > a écrit :

OK, by car do you mean a private car or a taxi/Über? If by private car, parking is a problem so let me know asap about that

Where to meet is up to you. We can meet at the metro station and go on the campus (but can't park there unless i get a parking tag), or meet somewhere in Bethesda town, which begins at the south end of the NIH campus.

If you have no interest in meeting on the nih campus, i suggest somewhere in Bethesda, which could be a restaurant, park, or my condo rooftop terrace

Let me know so i can plan, as the logistics are a bit complicated but i can work them out with sufficient time

Again, just decided and let me know. david

Sent from my iPhone
David M Morens
OD, NIAID, NIH

On Oct 20, 2021, at 11:28, ROCHE Benjamin <(b) (6) wrote:

sounds perfect, we will come by car anyway. I'll check my email around 1:15 to check with you

where we meet.

See you then

On Wed, Oct 20, 2021 at 11:24 AM David Morens (b) (6) wrote:
Yes, we can still meet but if there is a problem with the Med Center metro, you could go to the one before that, called Bethesda Metro

d
David M. Morens, MD
(b) (6)

(b) (6) (work)
(cell)

IMPORTANT: My gmail frequently sends incoming messages to Trash, which is apparently not correctable. If you don't hear from me in a reasonable time, please try again, call, or use my NIH email address

IMPORTANT: For US Government-related email, please also reply to my NIAID address

On Wed, Oct 20, 2021 at 11:04 AM ROCHE Benjamin (b) (6) > wrote:
>
> Yes, just saw that, a bomb threat apparently. We check at noon if we keep our meeting ?
>
> On Wed, Oct 20, 2021 at 10:53 AM David Morens (b) (6) wrote:
>>
>> Benjamin, i just got word that there is some sort of “police activity” at Walter Reed Military Med Center across from NIH. Roads are shut down and unless this ends soon the Medical Center metro may also be closed. I will let you know d
>>
>> Sent from my iPhone
>> David M Morens
>> OD, NIAID, NIH
>>
>> On Oct 20, 2021, at 09:08, ROCHE Benjamin (b) (6) wrote:
>>
>>
>> That's perfect, thanks a lot
>>
>> On Wed, Oct 20, 2021 at 8:25 AM David Morens (b) (6) wrote:
>>>
>>> That’s fine, although i had thought you were busy AFTER 2 PM. But 2 is fine for me
>>>
>>> Would you and your friends like to come onto the NIH campus? If so you will need masks and 2 IDs and i should be able to help you get in. If not, it is about a 15 minute walk to any place to sit down.
>>>
>>> On the NIH campus i am hoping we can sit down in the lobby of Building 50, closest to the

Metro stop. david
>>>
>>> Sent from my iPhone
>>> David M Morens
>>> OD, NIAID, NIH
>>>
>>> On Oct 20, 2021, at 08:11, ROCHE Benjamin (b) (6) wrote:
>>>
>>>
>>> We can definitely meet outside the NIH. What about 2PM at the subway "Medical Center" ? BTW, do you mind if I come with two colleagues (one from the prezode initiative, one from the french embassy) ? Please do not hesitate if you prefer to discuss just with me
>>>
>>> On Wed, Oct 20, 2021 at 6:55 AM David Morens (b) (6) wrote:
>>>>
>>>> OK, i can try to get away before then. Where should we meet? To get on the NIH campus you have to go through security, which is like at the airport. Or we could meet some place nearby on the Metro line. Let me know when and where. I know the areas along the Metro line but am not sure which coffee shops might be open, since some are shut down or with restricted hours due to COVID. Or we could meet at my condo which is a bit south of NIH
>>>>
>>>> But if you want to see a bit of the niH campus that's OK too. david
>>>>
>>>> Sent from my iPhone
>>>> David M Morens
>>>> OD, NIAID, NIH
>>>>
>>>> > On Oct 19, 2021, at 18:19, ROCHE Benjamin (b) (6) wrote:
>>>> >
>>>> > Perfect. It will be complicated for me after 2PM, so if it works for you at that time, that would be fantastic
>>>> >
>>>> >
>>>> > Labs:
>>>> >
>>>> > Infectious Diseases: Vector, Control, Genetic, Ecology and Evolution (MIVEGEC)
>>>> > Centre for Ecological and Evolutionary Research on Cancer (CREEC)
>>>> >
>>>> > Postal address:
>>>> > Centre IRD de Montpellier
>>>> > 911, Avenue Agropolis BP64504
>>>> > 34394 Montpellier cedex 5
>>>> > France
>>>> >
>>>> > Phone (b) (6)
>>>> > e-mail (b) (6)
>>>> > web: http://rocheben.github.io/
>>>> >
>>>> >> Le 19 oct. 2021 à 14:58, Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b) (6) écrit :
>>>> >>
>>>> >> Yes, I think so. What time, later is probably easier for me, but I think I can get free for an hour at ANY TIME D

MORENS_SUBPOENA_016291
MORENS_NIH_034417
REL0000478047

>>>> >>
>>>> >>> On 10/19/2021 12:18 PM, ROCHE Benjamin wrote:
>>>> >>> Fantastic. I'm in downtown (near French embassy), but I can definitely come. Do you think that beginning afternoon could work ? (Something like 1:30PM)
>>>> >>>
>>>> >>> Best,
>>>> >>>
>>>> >>>
>>>> >>> Labs:
>>>> >>>
>>>> >>> Infectious Diseases: Vector, Control, Genetic, Ecology and Evolution (MIVEGEC)
>>>> >>> Centre for Ecological and Evolutionary Research on Cancer (CREEC)
>>>> >>>
>>>> >>> Postal address:
>>>> >>> Centre IRD de Montpellier
>>>> >>> 911, Avenue Agropolis BP64504
>>>> >>> 34394 Montpellier cedex 5
>>>> >>> France
>>>> >>>
>>>> >>> Phone:+(b) (6)
>>>> >>> e-mail (b) (6)
>>>> >>> web: http://rocheben.github.io/
>>>> >>>
>>>> >>>> Le 19 oct. 2021 à 09:16, David Morens (b) (6) a écrit :
>>>> >>>>
>>>> >>>> Hi Benjamin, I am sorry for being late in replying, because I was on
>>>> >>>> leave with my family and just back at work and catching up now.
>>>> >>>>
>>>> >>>> As far as I know Cristina will be coming to the meeting.
>>>> >>>>
>>>> >>>> yes I will be arouind tomorrow although working at work. But I should
>>>> >>>> be able to find some free time and would like to meet if possible.
>>>> >>>> Where will you be? I am at NIH in Bethesda which takes a long time to
>>>> >>>> go from downtown to here and back, if you are downtown in DC.
>>>> >>>>
>>>> >>>> But let me know. We have a Metro that normally works well although
>>>> >>>> over the past few days it has been operating at half speed because of
>>>> >>>> some safety issues.
>>>> >>>> David
>>>> >>>>
>>>> >>>>
>>>> >>>>
>>>> >>>> David M. Morens, MD
>>>> >>>> (b) (6)
>>>> >>>>
>>>> >>>>
>>>> >>>>
>>>> >>>>
>>>> >>>>
>>>> >>>> (b) (6) (work)
>>>> >>>> (cell)
>>>> >>>>
>>>> >>>> IMPORTANT: My gmail frequently sends incoming messages to Trash, which
>>>> >>>> is apparently not correctable. If you don't hear from me in a

MORENS_SUBPOENA_016292
MORENS_NIH_034418
REL0000478047

>>>> >>>> reasonable time, please try again, call, or use my NIH email address
>>>> >>>>
>>>> >>>> IMPORTANT: For US Government-related email, please also reply to my
>>>> >>>> NIAID address
>>>> >>>>
>>>> >>>> On Mon, Oct 18, 2021 at 1:40 PM ROCHE Benjamin <(b) (6) >
wrote:
>>>> >>>>> Dear David and Peter,
>>>> >>>>>
>>>> >>>>> Sorry for the organization has been a bit confusing. Actually, this is the NIH who has invited Cristina, but we still don't know if she's coming. Nevertheless, I'll be in DC for a couple of days (and pretty free this Wednesday), so if you are available, that would be a pleasure to present you this initiative.
>>>> >>>>>
>>>> >>>>> All the best,
>>>> >>>>>
>>>> >>>>>
>>>> >>>>> Labs:
>>>> >>>>>
>>>> >>>>> Infectious Diseases: Vector, Control, Genetic, Ecology and Evolution (MIVEGEC)
>>>> >>>>> Centre for Ecological and Evolutionary Research on Cancer (CREEC)
>>>> >>>>>
>>>> >>>>> Postal address:
>>>> >>>>> Centre IRD de Montpellier
>>>> >>>>> 911, Avenue Agropolis BP64504
>>>> >>>>> 34394 Montpellier cedex 5
>>>> >>>>> France
>>>> >>>>>
>>>> >>>>> Phone:+(b) (6)
>>>> >>>>> e-mail (b) (6)
>>>> >>>>> web: http://rocheben.github.io/
>>>> >>>>>
>>>> >>>>>> Le 18 oct. 2021 à 19:32, David Morens (b) (6) a écrit :
>>>> >>>>>>
>>>> >>>>>> Peter, yes, sorry to miss that. I may not be able to go either
>>>> >>>>>> because the organizers invited Cristina Cassetti instead of me, but
>>>> >>>>>> that is OK as she will be good.
>>>> >>>>>>
>>>> >>>>>> D
>>>> >>>>>>
>>>> >>>>>> David M. Morens, MD
>>>> >>>>>> (b) (6)
>>>> >>>>>>
>>>> >>>>>>
>>>> >>>>>>
>>>> >>>>>>
>>>> >>>>>> (b) (6) (work)
>>>> >>>>>> (cell)
>>>> >>>>>>
>>>> >>>>>> IMPORTANT: My gmail frequently sends incoming messages to Trash, which
>>>> >>>>>> is apparently not correctable. If you don't hear from me in a
>>>> >>>>>> reasonable time, please try again, call, or use my NIH email address
>>>> >>>>>>

>>>> >>>>>> IMPORTANT: For US Government-related email, please also reply to my
>>>> >>>>>> NIAID address
>>>> >>>>>>
>>>> >>>>>> On Mon, Oct 18, 2021 at 1:08 PM Peter Daszak (b) (6) wrote:
>>>> >>>>>> Sorry I won't be able to make it to the event after all David. I'll be on a college visit with my daughter that day.
>>>> >>>>>>
>>>> >>>>>>
>>>> >>>>>>
>>>> >>>>>> Please say hello to all our colleagues and I hope you have a good opportunity to talk with Benjamin, who is heading up this really interesting and important initiative at IRD.
>>>> >>>>>>
>>>> >>>>>>
>>>> >>>>>>
>>>> >>>>>>
>>>> >>>>>>
>>>> >>>>>>
>>>> >>>>>>
>>>> >>>>>>
>>>> >>>>>>
>>>> >>>>>> Cheers,
>>>> >>>>>>
>>>> >>>>>>
>>>> >>>>>>
>>>> >>>>>> Peter
>>>> >>>>>>
>>>> >>>>>>
>>>> >>>>>>
>>>> >>>>>>
>>>> >>>>>>
>>>> >>>>>>
>>>> >>>>>>
>>>> >>>>>>
>>>> >>>>>>
>>>> >>>>>>
>>>> >>>>>> Peter Daszak
>>>> >>>>>>
>>>> >>>>>> President
>>>> >>>>>>
>>>> >>>>>>
>>>> >>>>>>
>>>> >>>>>> EcoHealth Alliance
>>>> >>>>>>
>>>> >>>>>> 520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
>>>> >>>>>>
>>>> >>>>>> New York, NY 10018-6507
>>>> >>>>>>
>>>> >>>>>> USA
>>>> >>>>>>
>>>> >>>>>> Tel.: (b) (6)
>>>> >>>>>>
>>>> >>>>>> Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
>>>> >>>>>>

MORENS_SUBPOENA_016294
MORENS_NIH_034420
REL0000478047

>>>> >>>>>>> Twitter: @PeterDaszak
>>>> >>>>>>>
>>>> >>>>>>>
>>>> >>>>>>>
>>>> >>>>>>> EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation
>>>> >>>>>>>
>>>> >>>>>>>
>>>> >>>>>>>
>>>> >>>>>>> From: ROCHE Benjamin <(b) (6)
>>>> >>>>>>> Sent: Monday, October 18, 2021 12:48 AM
>>>> >>>>>>> To: David Morens <(b) (6) >
>>>> >>>>>>> Cc: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >; benjamin.roche <(b) (6) >; Carlos Zambrana-Torrelio (b) (6)
>>>> >>>>>>> Subject: Re: Introduction to our key Collaborator in France, and heads-up re. a PREZODE event at French Embassy Oct 21st
>>>> >>>>>>>
>>>> >>>>>>>
>>>> >>>>>>>
>>>> >>>>>>> Dear David,
>>>> >>>>>>>
>>>> >>>>>>>
>>>> >>>>>>>
>>>> >>>>>>> I hope this e-mail will find you well. Actually, Peter will not be able to come, but I will be glad to meet you to present the PREZODE initiative. By any chance, do you have some possibilities on Wednesday 20th? I'll be in DC
>>>> >>>>>>>
>>>> >>>>>>>
>>>> >>>>>>>
>>>> >>>>>>> All the best,
>>>> >>>>>>>
>>>> >>>>>>>
>>>> >>>>>>>
>>>> >>>>>>> Labs:
>>>> >>>>>>>
>>>> >>>>>>> Infectious Diseases: Vector, Control, Genetic, Ecology and Evolution (MIVEGEC)
>>>> >>>>>>> Centre for Ecological and Evolutionary Research on Cancer (CREEC)
>>>> >>>>>>>
>>>> >>>>>>> Postal address:
>>>> >>>>>>> Centre IRD de Montpellier
>>>> >>>>>>> 911, Avenue Agropolis BP64504
>>>> >>>>>>> 34394 Montpellier cedex 5
>>>> >>>>>>> France
>>>> >>>>>>>
>>>> >>>>>>> Phone: (b) (6)
>>>> >>>>>>> e-mail (b) (6)
>>>> >>>>>>> web: http://rocheben.github.io/
>>>> >>>>>>>
>>>> >>>>>>>
>>>> >>>>>>>
>>>> >>>>>>> Le 22 sept. 2021 à 16:54, David Morens (b) (6) > a écrit :
>>>> >>>>>>>

MORENS_SUBPOENA_016295
MORENS_NIH_034421
REL0000478047

>>>> >>>>>>>
>>>> >>>>>>>
>>>> >>>>>>> Peter, and Ben glad to meet you on email, and will be happy to come to the event.
>>>> >>>>>>>
>>>> >>>>>>>
>>>> >>>>>>>
>>>> >>>>>>> Not sure what you mean by "represent at the event", but I suppose you mean represent NIH? Or NIAID? Anything I need to do other than just enjoy it?
>>>> >>>>>>>
>>>> >>>>>>>
>>>> >>>>>>>
>>>> >>>>>>> TY, David
>>>> >>>>>>>
>>>> >>>>>>>
>>>> >>>>>>>
>>>> >>>>>>>
>>>> >>>>>>>
>>>> >>>>>>> David M. Morens, MD
>>>> >>>>>>> (b) (6)
>>>> >>>>>>>
>>>> >>>>>>>
>>>> >>>>>>>
>>>> >>>>>>>
>>>> >>>>>>>
>>>> >>>>>>>
>>>> >>>>>>>
>>>> >>>>>>>
>>>> >>>>>>>
>>>> >>>>>>>
>>>> >>>>>>> (b) (6) (work)
>>>> >>>>>>>
>>>> >>>>>>> (cell)
>>>> >>>>>>>
>>>> >>>>>>>
>>>> >>>>>>>
>>>> >>>>>>> IMPORTANT: My gmail frequently sends incoming messages to Trash, which is apparently not correctable. If you don't hear from me in a reasonable time, please try again, call, or use my NIH email address
>>>> >>>>>>>
>>>> >>>>>>>
>>>> >>>>>>>
>>>> >>>>>>> IMPORTANT: For US Government-related email, please also reply to my NIAID address
>>>> >>>>>>>
>>>> >>>>>>>
>>>> >>>>>>>
>>>> >>>>>>>
>>>> >>>>>>>
>>>> >>>>>>> On Tue, Sep 21, 2021 at 11:43 AM Peter Daszak _ (b) (6)
> wrote:
>>>> >>>>>>>
>>>> >>>>>>> Hi David,
>>>> >>>>>>>

MORENS_SUBPOENA_016296
MORENS_NIH_034422
REL0000478047

>>>> >>>>>>>
>>>> >>>>>>>
>>>> >>>>>>> I'm introducing you by email to my colleague Dr. Ben Roche from IRD France. He is the PI of the new French Govt pandemic prediction initiative PREZODE. As you can see from the Email below mine, there is an event scheduled for October 21st at the French Embassy in DC. I'll be moderating the panel discussion and will be in DC in person (FINALLY!!).
>>>> >>>>>>>
>>>> >>>>>>>
>>>> >>>>>>>
>>>> >>>>>>> Ben is looking for someone from NIH to represent at that event. I've suggested you would be perfect for that role, and wanted to introduce you to him now.
>>>> >>>>>>>
>>>> >>>>>>>
>>>> >>>>>>>
>>>> >>>>>>> Full disclosure, Ben is working with EHA on joint projects and we signed an MOU with the French Govt IRD to stimulate joint efforts to predict and prevent pandemics. I've also cc'd Carlos Zambrana-Torrelio from EHA who I believe you've met in the past, who has worked closely on this initiative.
>>>> >>>>>>>
>>>> >>>>>>>
>>>> >>>>>>>
>>>> >>>>>>> Hope you're available and look forward to seeing you while I'm in DC whatever the case!
>>>> >>>>>>>
>>>> >>>>>>>
>>>> >>>>>>>
>>>> >>>>>>>
>>>> >>>>>>>
>>>> >>>>>>>
>>>> >>>>>>>
>>>> >>>>>>> Cheers,
>>>> >>>>>>>
>>>> >>>>>>>
>>>> >>>>>>>
>>>> >>>>>>> Peter
>>>> >>>>>>>
>>>> >>>>>>>
>>>> >>>>>>>
>>>> >>>>>>>
>>>> >>>>>>>
>>>> >>>>>>>
>>>> >>>>>>>
>>>> >>>>>>>
>>>> >>>>>>>
>>>> >>>>>>>
>>>> >>>>>>> Peter Daszak
>>>> >>>>>>>
>>>> >>>>>>> President
>>>> >>>>>>>
>>>> >>>>>>>
>>>> >>>>>>>
>>>> >>>>>>> EcoHealth Alliance
>>>> >>>>>>>
>>>> >>>>>>> 520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200

MORENS_SUBPOENA_016297
MORENS_NIH_034423
REL0000478047

>>>> >>>>>>>
>>>> >>>>>>> New York, NY 10018-6507
>>>> >>>>>>>
>>>> >>>>>>> USA
>>>> >>>>>>> (b) (6)
>>>> >>>>>>> Tel.:
>>>> >>>>>>>
>>>> >>>>>>> Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
>>>> >>>>>>>
>>>> >>>>>>> Twitter: @PeterDaszak
>>>> >>>>>>>
>>>> >>>>>>>
>>>> >>>>>>>
>>>> >>>>>>> EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation
>>>> >>>>>>>
>>>> >>>>>>>
>>>> >>>>>>> (b) (6)
>>>> >>>>>>> From: POIRIER Agnès
>>>> >>>>>>> Sent: Tuesday, Septembe
>>>> >>>>>>> To: Biffl, Claire (b) (6)
>>>> >>>>>>> Cc: Liao, Julie (b) (6) >; LIGEARD Christian <
(b) (6)
>>>> >>>>>>> Subject: French Embassy: conference on the PREZODE Initiative (October 21st)
>>>> >>>>>>>
>>>> >>>>>>>
>>>> >>>>>>>
>>>> >>>>>>> Dear Ms. Biffl,
>>>> >>>>>>>
>>>> >>>>>>>
>>>> >>>>>>>
>>>> >>>>>>> As you well know, the Covid-19 pandemic has highlighted the urgency of designing effective strategies for preventing and responding to health crises by taking greater account of the interactions between human health, animal health and environmental health.
>>>> >>>>>>>
>>>> >>>>>>> In response to this emergency, the French President Emmanuel Macron launched the PREZODE initiative during the One Planet Summit on January 11, with the support of the Director General of the FAO and the President of the European Commission.
>>>> >>>>>>>
>>>> >>>>>>>
>>>> >>>>>>>
>>>> >>>>>>> This initiative (see attached document) aims to network, on a global scale, research work and operational actions to prevent the risks of zoonotic emergencies and pandemics through the reduction of pressures on biodiversity, in accordance with the "One Health" approach. It will improve knowledge of the risks of emergence and spread of zoonoses, strengthen the surveillance activities of the networks that already exist and ensure greater compliance with prevention measures for future diseases.
>>>> >>>>>>>
>>>> >>>>>>> The PREZODE initiative will strengthen cooperation with several regions of the world (Africa, Asia, Caribbean, Indian Ocean, America, Europe…) and will support the integration and strengthening of human, animal and environmental health networks. It will also support the work of the "One Health" High Level Panel of Experts proposed by France with the support of Germany, and launched by what we call the Tripartite + (WHO-FAO- World

MORENS_SUBPOENA_016298
MORENS_NIH_034424
REL0000478047

Organization For Animal Health-UN Environment Programme) on May 17 and 18.
>>>> >>>>>>>
>>>> >>>>>>> The year 2021 is dedicated to building the strategic framework and the operation of the initiative, with the objective of entering the operational phase from 2022.
>>>> >>>>>>>
>>>> >>>>>>>
>>>> >>>>>>>
>>>> >>>>>>> In this context, the French Embassy is planning to host a conference (preferably an in-person event) to present the PREZODE initiative and discuss the possible involvement of US government and research institutions.
>>>> >>>>>>>
>>>> >>>>>>>
>>>> >>>>>>>
>>>> >>>>>>> The event is scheduled for October 21, 2021, in the afternoon (2:30–5:30 pm) and would consist (see draft program attached) of two sequences of approximately one hour each:
>>>> >>>>>>>
>>>> >>>>>>> - Presentation of the PREZODE initiative by representatives (scientific or institutional directors) of the three French research institutes involved, CIRAD (Agricultural Research Centre for International Development), INRAE (National Research Institute for Agriculture, Food and Environment), IRD (National Research Institute for Sustainable Development)
>>>> >>>>>>>
>>>> >>>>>>> - Panel discussion on national and international initiatives: statements by DoS, DoD (DTRA), CDC, USDA, USAID, OHHLEP, the Tripartite+, the World Bank, private sector…
>>>> >>>>>>>
>>>> >>>>>>>
>>>> >>>>>>>
>>>> >>>>>>> We are currently looking for a moderator for this event, and would be honored to involve an expert from the NASEM Forum on Microbial Threats. Indeed, the Forum's work on these issues, its leadership and independence, and its broad audience seem to me to be perfect for our event. If you agree to this role, I would be happy to discuss further the organization of the meeting.
>>>> >>>>>>>
>>>> >>>>>>>
>>>> >>>>>>>
>>>> >>>>>>> Thank you for your consideration and best regards,
>>>> >>>>>>>
>>>> >>>>>>>
>>>> >>>>>>>
>>>> >>>>>>> Dr Agnès POIRIER, D.V.M.
>>>> >>>>>>>
>>>> >>>>>>> Conseillère SPS / Counselor for sanitary and phytosanitary matters - USA / Canada
>>>> >>>>>>>
>>>> >>>>>>> Conseiller agricole adjoint / Deputy Agricultural Counselor
>>>> >>>>>>>
>>>> >>>>>>> Ambassade de France / Embassy of France
>>>> >>>>>>>
>>>> >>>>>>>
>>>> >>>>>>>
>>>> >>>>>>> 4101 Reservoir Road N.W.
>>>> >>>>>>>

MORENS_SUBPOENA_016299
MORENS_NIH_034425
REL0000478047

>>>> >>>>>>> Washington DC 20007-2173
>>>> >>>>>>>
>>>> >>>>>>> Tel: (b) (6)
>>>> >>>>>>>
>>>> >>>>>>> Cell: (b) (6)
>>>> >>>>>>>
>>>> >>>>>>>
>>>> >>>>>>>
>>>> >>>>>>> www.ambafrance-fr.org
>>>> >>>>>>>
>>>> >>>>>>> https://frenchtreasuryintheus.org
>>>> >>>>>>>
>>>> >>>>>>> <image001.png>
>>>> >>>>>>>
>>>> >>>>>>>
>>>> >>>>>>>
>>>> >>>>>>>
>>>> >>>>>>>
>>>> >>>>>>>
>>>> >>>>>>>
>>>> >>>>>>>
>>>> >>>>>>>
>>>> >>>>>>>
>>>> >>>>>>>
>>>> >>>>>>> Disclaimer
>>>> >>>>>>>
>>>> >>>>>>> The information contained in this communication from the sender is confidential. It is intended solely for use by the recipient and others authorized to receive it. If you are not the recipient, you are hereby notified that any disclosure, copying, distribution or taking action in relation of the contents of this information is strictly prohibited and may be unlawful.
>>>> >>>>>>>
>>>> >>>>>>> This email has been scanned for viruses and malware, and may have been automatically archived by Mimecast, a leader in email security and cyber resilience. Mimecast integrates email defenses with brand protection, security awareness training, web security, compliance and other essential capabilities. Mimecast helps protect large and small organizations from malicious activity, human error and technology failure; and to lead the movement toward building a more resilient world. To find out more, visit our website.
>>>> >>>>>>>
>>>> >>>>>>>
>>>> >>>>>>>
>>>> >>>>>>>
>>>> >>>>>>>
>>>> >>>>>>> Disclaimer
>>>> >>>>>>>
>>>> >>>>>>> The information contained in this communication from the sender is confidential. It is intended solely for use by the recipient and others authorized to receive it. If you are not the recipient, you are hereby notified that any disclosure, copying, distribution or taking action in relation of the contents of this information is strictly prohibited and may be unlawful.
>>>> >>>>>>>
>>>> >>>>>>> This email has been scanned for viruses and malware, and may have been automatically archived by Mimecast, a leader in email security and cyber resilience. Mimecast integrates email defenses with brand protection, security awareness training, web security, compliance and other essential capabilities. Mimecast helps protect large and small organizations

from malicious activity, human error and technology failure; and to lead the movement toward building a more resilient world. To find out more, visit our website.
>>>> >> --
>>>> >> David M Morens (b) (6)
(b) (6)
>>>> >
>>>
>>>
>>>
>>> --
>>>
>>>
>>> Labs:
>>>
>>> Infectious Diseases: Vector, Control, Genetic, Ecology and Evolution (MIVEGEC)
>>> Centre for Ecological and Evolutionary Research on Cancer (CREEC)
>>>
>>> Postal address:
>>> Centre IRD de Montpellier
>>> 911, Avenue Agropolis BP64504
>>> 34394 Montpellier cedex 5
>>> France
>>>
>>> Phone: (b) (6)
>>> e-mail (b) (6)
>>> web: http://rocheben.github.io/
>>
>>
>>
>> --
>>
>>
>> Labs:
>>
>> Infectious Diseases: Vector, Control, Genetic, Ecology and Evolution (MIVEGEC)
>> Centre for Ecological and Evolutionary Research on Cancer (CREEC)
>>
>> Postal address:
>> Centre IRD de Montpellier
>> 911, Avenue Agropolis BP64504
>> 34394 Montpellier cedex 5
>> France
>>
>> Phone: (b) (6)
>> e-mail (b) (6)
>> web: http://rocheben.github.io/
>
>
>
> --
>
>
> Labs:

MORENS_SUBPOENA_016301
MORENS_NIH_034427
REL0000478047

>
> Infectious Diseases: Vector, Control, Genetic, Ecology and Evolution (MIVEGEC)
> Centre for Ecological and Evolutionary Research on Cancer (CREEC)
>
> Postal address:
> Centre IRD de Montpellier
> 911, Avenue Agropolis BP64504
> 34394 Montpellier cedex 5
> France
>
> Phone: (b) (6)
> e-mai(b) (6) (b) (6)
> web: http://rocheben.github.io/

--

Labs:

Infectious Diseases: Vector, Control, Genetic, Ecology and Evolution (MIVEGEC)
Centre for Ecological and Evolutionary Research on Cancer (CREEC)

Postal address:
Centre IRD de Montpellier
911, Avenue Agropolis BP64504
34394 Montpellier cedex 5
France

Phone (b) (6)
e-mai(b) (6)
web: http://rocheben.github.io/

Date: Mon, 11 May 2020 3:28:24 PM -0400
Subject: Fwd: Re: ASTMH efforts
From: "Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E]" <(b) (6)
To: taub >> Jeffery K. Taubenberger MD PhD <(b) (6)

-------- Forwarded Message --------
Subject: Re: ASTMH efforts
Date: Mon, 11 May 2020 15:19:42 -0400
From: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b) (6) ≥
To: Peter Daszak (b) (6) , Keusch, Gerald T (b) (6)

Fantastic, thanks so much. I will be in touch regarding issues. I think you and Ralph should ABSOLUTELY NOT be coauthors on this, it has to be and sound dispassionately scientific and not luck us guys defending our friends. That way, reporters can ask you to comment and you can say: all true, exactly true.

Regarding Charlie, yes it is quite a story. I don't think he ever published although there might be a bit in his book. In any case he wrote up a very long detailed story of it for a few close friends, and I have a copy of that somewhere. Here's the short version of it. In 1977 the whole Caribbean had an epidemic of dengue 1, and then in 1981 the whole Caribbean had an epidemic of DEN-2. In the latter epidemic there were many cases of dengue hemorrhagic fever, and many deaths, including in Cuba. This was the first ever epidemic of dengue hemorrhagic fever in the Western Hemisphere. At the time there was alot of politics going on and from somewhere a conspiracy arose that the Cuban epidemic was a bioterrorist event engineered by the CIA. Castro seized on this as a propaganda tool, and as the rumors flew someone found that Charlie had been there at the Havana dengue lab on some sort of brief scientific exchange thing, probably through WHO, shortly before that. At the time, Charlie was a virologist at the Ft. Collins lab. I was Chief of the CDC Respiratory & Special Pathogens Branch, and the only Atlanta-based expert in dengue (our dengue program was run by the San Juan lab, with additional stuff done in the "mother" division at Ft. Collins. Somehow, PAHO arranged for the (as I recall) Cuban deputy Minister of Health to come to Atlanta and exchange info. We assumed he'd be a nice guy and embarrassed that his country was saying all this wacko stuff. So he came and we had this big meeting with virologist Roy Chamberlain, the Deputy Director of the Bureau of Labs (at the time CDC had only the Bureau of Epi and Bureau of Labs), Walt Dowdle, head of Virology, me, and maybe 5-6 others, I can't remember at the moment. Charlie was off in Ft. Collins, and neither one of us knew the other's story until we compared notes years later. Anyway, the Cuban minister, rather than being embarrassed, launched into a diatribe accusing us of being stooges working with the CIA to unleash the attack on Cuba. It was nutty and we were embarrassed for him. At the same time, as things escalated, Charlie was more and more being accused of being the key monster in the conspiracy.

Eventually it sort of faded away without resolution. About 2 years later, when I had left CDC and was working in a lab at the U of Hawaii, Scott Halstead (then at the Rockefeller) and PAHO folks arranged a secret mission for me to send my chief technician, Kay Larsen to Mexico and on to Cuba, to train their lab and bring them all of our dengue reagents, viruses, cells, serums, techniques, etc. She spent a couple months there in the Pedro Kouri virology institute working with the two top dengue scientists, Gustavo Kouri and his wife Maria (called Lupe) Guzman. All went well and we developed a great relationship with the lab. Kay came back and we continued to work with the Cubans and send them stuff, and it seemed like trust-building had overcome the craziness. Around 1983 or 4 there was an international congress of Trop Med in Calgary, and Gustavo and Lupe were coming. I really longed to meet them. So on the first day there's a reception and I'm there and I see them walk into the room with several apparent body guards. No one knew who they were except me, so I

walked up to Gustavo with an extended hand to shake his and introduce myself. The bodyguards sprang into action, thinking I might be an American assassin, surround me with hands in pockets, presumably on their guns, Gustavo jumped back alarmed, everyone sort of paused, and it was really embarrassing. But it all got sorted out.

So this is crazy time, part 2, only it's 4 decades later.... david

On 5/11/2020 2:28 PM, Peter Daszak wrote:

> Great to hear this David.. I've made some comments below and a link to the 60 minutes segment that is available in full on the web.
>
> Cheers,
>
> Peter
>
> **Peter Daszak**
> *President*
>
> EcoHealth Alliance
> 460 West 34th Street
> New York, NY 10001
> USA
>
> Tel.: (b
> Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
> Twitter: @PeterDaszak
>
> *EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation*
>
> **From:** Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b) (6) ≥
> **Sent:** Monday, Ma
> **To:** Peter Daszak (b) (6) ≥; Keusch, Gerald T (b) (6)
> **Subject:** ASTMH efforts
>
> Peter,
>
> I have been in Discussions for several weeks with the leadership of ASTMH. The Prez Joel Breman and I are old friends from the same CDC EIS class of 1976. Among many other things they are signing on to a joint IDSA/ASTMH letter to the President.
>
> After discussions over a couple weeks, Joel today asked me to pull together information and draw in

MORENS_SUBPOENA_013370
MORENS_NIH_025474
REL0000478050

some co-authors to write a commentary/review for the AJTMH. This would not in any way mention/specifically defend you or your colleagues or EcoHealth, but rather make the strong scientific case for why this virus emerged from nature, not from a lab. We think that that approach will do more to help you than a direct defense, as it is about what scientific evidence shows.

[Peter Daszak:] agree – this is great to get out there.

To do that, I am hoping to ask you (and Ralph) to work with us behind the scenes to assemble and tie together all evidence including phylogenetic information and scientific work of you colleagues in China and elsewhere, that might have a bearing on this story.

[Peter Daszak:] happy to get info to you and edit/draft language with references for you to include. Obviously more powerful if I'm not on the paper…I think.

I think that phylogenetics will be key, and if you agree we should go forward, I will contact Eddie Holmes about pitchoing in. I know him well, and he and I have published together in the past. Also, as you know, he has already published a brief review of the phylogenetics of this virus.

[Peter Daszak:] Great – and he's been outspoken on this. The problem with the lab release theory is that, of course, it's impossible to refute completely, just the balance of evidence strongly against it (i.e. no evidence for lab, huge evidence for wild origin).

The plan would be to bring in 5-10 co-authors who would be senior folks representing some aspect of relevant experience. These might include folks like (just off the top of my head) Joel, who worked in smallpox eradication, Tom Ksiazek, who has been an expert in biosafety and chair of the ACAV SALS, the subcommittee on laboratory safety and development of the BMBL (Biosafety in Mirobiological and Biomedical Safety) manual and safety practices, myself, who worked to investigate and insure the safety of the Koltsovo Vektor BSL4 lab, which housed smallpox virus and was a center for Soviet bioterrorism work, and along with Joel worked on the 1976 Ebola outbreak and alive since worked with a number of high consequence pathogens including Lassa, hantaviruses, dengue hemorrhagoic fever, Rift Valley fever, etc., Jeff Taubenberger, who "resurrected" and was involved in the reconstruction of and experimentation with the 918 flu virus, Charlie Calisher, a leading virologist in discovery of new viral pathogens who was falsely accused by Fidel Castro, in 1981, of conducting a dengue 2 bioterrorism attack in Cuba, and perhaps an IDSA member, and various others.

Please let me know what you think.

[Peter Daszak:] Well, first I think how amazing it is that Charlie Calisher was accused of attacking Cuba – that's a new one for me! I do think that this list of co-authors would be great, and brings the gravitas it needs.

On another topic, as I had a meeting last night I set my DVR to record the 60 miniutes show, then found out it had been locally pore-emepted by something on our local CBS channel. A friend will be sending me a ling hopefully today, as I am eager to see it.

[Peter Daszak:] Here's a link. If you watch the video (ad first), then click on "from the archives", you'll see our Nipah video from 15 yrs ago on 60 Minutes also..:

https://www.cbsnews.com/news/trump- administration-coronavirus-vaccine-researcher-covid-19-cure-60-minutes/

Also, I do encourage you to join ASTMH, and my checkbook is here standing ready to pay the dues!

[Peter Daszak:] done on May 4th. Apologies – I wrote you an email but didn't click 'send'…

David

On 5/7/2020 7:47 PM, Peter Daszak wrote:

> This is just amazing to hear. It's true leadership when you stand up on principle, under risk of losing your position, in defense of your organization's mission, and in the interests of public health. That's what Tony's done repeatedly throughout his career and particularly regarding this outbreak.
>
> Congressional Medal of Honor, Freedom of the City, Nobel Prize – I'd give him the lot…
>
> It's a very worrying time for us here at EcoHealth, but knowing that you're all out there working in the background and that Tony's speaking truth to power is extremely important – a slight relief in a tough week.
>
> Cheers,
>
> Peter
>
> **Peter Daszak**
> *President*
>
> EcoHealth Alliance
> 460 West 34th Street
> New York, NY 10001
> USA
>
> Tel.: (b) (6)
> Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
> Twitter: @PeterDaszak
>
> *EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation*
>
> **From:** David Morens (b) (6)
> **Sent:** Thursday, May 7, 2020 12:05 PM
> **To:** Peter Daszak (b) (6) ; Keusch, Gerald (b) (6) ; Breman, Joel (NIH/FIC) [V] (b) (6)
> **Subject:** Tony's inside NIAID town hall meeting of a few minutes ago
>
> Among other things he was asked about the termination of your grant, Peter.
>
> He mentioned you by name, although pronouncing it "DAY-ZACK".

MORENS_SUBPOENA_013372
MORENS_NIH_025476
REL0000478050

He said, and I quote, "we were told by the White House"..... "they told Building 1"... then mentioning specifically the NIH OD and the NIH-wide extramural office, within OD, and added that the grant was "terminated centrally", implying he/NIAID were not involved in any way. This was a somewhat bold thing to say because he essentially blamed Francis without saying so explicitly

It is conceivable that this Town Hall was recorded and if so I will get it to you.

david

David M. Morens, MD
(b) (6)

(b) (6) work)
cell)

IMPORTANT: My gmail frequently sends incoming messages to Trash, which is apparently not correctable. If you don't hear from me in a reasonable time, please try again, call, or use my NIH email address

IMPORTANT: For US Government-related email, please also reply to my NIAID address

--
David M Morens (b) (6)

--
David M Morens (b) (6)

Date: Sat, 5 Jun 2021 7:10:53 PM -0400
Sent: Sat, 5 Jun 2021 7:10:44 PM -0400
Subject: RE: ASF and all this may come up in interviews
From: Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6)
To: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] <(b) (6) Peter Daszak ((b) (6) <(b) (6) >; Rich Roberts ((b) (6) <(b) (6) Taubenberger, Jeffery (NIH/NIAID) [E] <(b) (6) >;
Attachments: image001.gif; image002.jpg

Thanks David,
Very comprehensive. Inaddition to Tony the information will be valuable for the rest of us who may be speaking to reporters.

Jerry

From: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] <(b) (6)
Sent: Saturday, June 5, 2021 11:43 AM
To: Peter Daszak ((b) (6) <(b) (6) Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6) Rich Roberts ((b) (6) <(b) (6) Taubenberger, Jeffery (NIH/NIAID) [E] <(b) (6) >
Subject: FW: ASF and all this may come up in interviews

Peter, the below CONFIDENTIAL email went to Tony and to our OD staff, so that Tony will be prepared to speak to the subject of BSL…

This was what I was typing up when we spoke last night. I am sure he will "get" this and be able to respond to the crazies if necessary….

David

David M. Morens, M.D.
CAPT, United States Public Health Service
Senior Advisor to the Director
Office of the Director
National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases
National Institutes of Health
Building 31, Room 7A-03
31 Center Drive, MSC 2520
Bethesda, MD 20892-2520
(b) (6) (assistant: Whitney Robinson)
(b) (6)

Disclaimer: This message is intended for the exclusive use of the recipient(s) named above. It may contain information that is PROTECTED, PRIVILEGED, and/or CONFIDENTIAL, and it should not be disseminated, distributed, or copied to persons not authorized to receive such information. All sensitive documents must be properly labeled before dissemination via email. If you are not the intended recipient, any dissemination, distribution, or copying is strictly prohibited. If you have received this communication in error, please erase all copies of the message and its attachments and notify us immediately.



From: Folkers, Greg (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b) (6) >
Sent: Friday, June 4, 2021 9:36 PM
To: NIAID OD AM <NIAIDODAM@niaid.nih.gov>; Billet, Courtney (NIH/NIAID) [E] <billetc@niaid.nih.gov>; Routh, Jennifer (NIH/NIAID) [E] <jennifer.routh@nih.gov>; Stover, Kathy (NIH/NIAID) [E] <kathy.stover@nih.gov>
Subject: ASF and all this may come up in interviews

In the recent Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists article, we have this quote

"It is clear that some or all of this work was being performed using a biosafety standard—biosafety level 2, the biosafety level of a standard US dentist's office—that would pose an unacceptably high risk of infection of laboratory staff upon contact with a virus having the transmission properties of SARS-CoV-2…."

My understanding is that human coronaviruses including sarbecoviruses are routinely worked at in BSL-2 around the world as are many other viruses that can cause problems for people. The BSL level designation is decided by each country and is not related to perceived pandemic potential but largely to risk to the BSL workers.

For example, BSL-4 designation generally means deadly virus, infectious by aerosol, no vaccine against it, and no treatment for it. So, although rabies is 100% fatal in humans, it can be prevented by a vaccine and prevented by a post exposure serum, and (probably if not totally) not infectious by aerosol, thus it is BSL-2 even though among the deadliest of human viruses. Working with non-human coronaviruses at BSL-2 is widespread since these viruses are not known to infect humans.

David, Alan and others may have additional thoughts.

Attached is a fact sheet that I think comes from Ec~Health

MORENS_SUBPOENA_014377
MORENS_NIH_027074
REL0000478052

Date: Fri, 28 Apr 2023 10:39:18 AM -0400
Sent: Fri, 28 Apr 2023 10:39:07 AM -0400
Subject: Fwd: Mother Jones: The Coming Tidal Wave of Right Wing Covid Lawsuits
From: David Morens <(b) (6)
To: Gerald Keusch <(b) (6) Jeff Sturchio <(b) (6) Peter Hotez <(b) (6) Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) Peter Daszak <(b) (6) Rich Roberts <(b) (6)
BCC: (b) (6)

Timely report related to many comments yesterday

d

Sent from my iPhone
David M Morens
OD, NIAID, NIH
Begin forwarded message:

From: "Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E]" <(b) (6)
Date: April 28, 2023 at 10:37:33 EDT
To: David Morens <(b) (6) >
Subject: Fwd: Mother Jones: The Coming Tidal Wave of Right Wing Covid Lawsuits

Sent from my iPhone
David M Morens
OD, NIAID, NIH
Begin forwarded message:

From: "Folkers, Greg (NIH/NIAID) [C]" <(b) (6) >
Date: April 27, 2023 at 16:34:53 EDT
Subject: Mother Jones: The Coming Tidal Wave of Right Wing Covid Lawsuits

The Coming Tidal Wave of Right Wing Covid Lawsuits

Lawyers have found a way to cash in on outrage over mask mandates and vaccines.

Kiera Butler10 hours ago

In late March, I watched as some 300 lawyers, doctors, and activists assembled in the aggressively beige conference wing of the Midtown Atlanta Hilton for the inaugural Covid Litigation Conference. A promotional flier promised that the event would "provide attendees with the resources they need to begin taking on Covid cases for the first time or to expand the range of Covid claims that they currently handle." An unsuspecting lawyer could have been forgiven for expecting tips on how to help clients who had been disabled by Covid that they caught at their factory jobs, for instance, or those whose medical bills their insurance refused to pay.

But those kinds of cases were entirely absent from the agenda. Rather, the topic was a very particular kind of litigation: How best to advance the movement that organizers called "medical freedom." In other words, how to sue the people who created and enforced public health measures like vaccine and mask requirements, policies

against Covid misinformation, and treatment protocols for hospitalized Covid patients.

The conference organizers wore t-shirts emblazoned with the slogan "Misinformation Superspreader." Steve Kirsch, a Silicon Valley entrepreneur, philanthropist, and a main organizer of the event, told me that the slogan was a cheeky reference to what he saw as the unfair labeling of anti-vaccine activists as peddlers of misinformation. "We said, 'Okay if that's what they're calling us," he explained, "let's kind of make fun of it." Indeed, many of the attendees seemed to see themselves as underdogs, scrapping against government and pharmaceutical behemoths.

What those underdogs didn't mention during the sessions, though, is their friends in high places: specifically, federal judges who seem to be sympathetic to their aversion to pandemic policies. Pointing to some of the victories that medical freedom lawyers have enjoyed in US District courts, Dorit Reiss, a public health lawyer and law professor at the University of California College of the Law, noted, "They're having some success in the federal system in front of Trump-appointed judges, and they're very much forum shopping right now." Adam Winkler, a constitutional law scholar at the University of California-Los Angeles, agreed. "The courts have issued a lot of what were once thought to be outlandish kinds of rulings with regard to any number of issues like abortion and affirmative action," he said. "I'd expect that encourages people to bind hope to the prospects of lawsuits that they would otherwise seem certain to lose."

When I arrived, I didn't think I'd get past the Misinformation Superspreaders and make it into the ballroom where the event was taking place. The media liaison for the conference, Trevor FitzGibbon, asked me if I was there to write about disinformation, and he seemed to balk at my affirmative answer. When I said I worked for *Mother Jones*, he noticeably brightened. He had come up in the PR business working for prominent progressive candidates and groups, he explained, including Barack Obama, MoveOn, and Planned Parenthood, which I took to mean that he considered us to be politically kindred spirits. And then he let me into the ballroom.

Once inside, I watched as one indignant panelist after another enumerated their grievances. At the Hospital Negligence Panel, doctors who refused to deviate from CDC protocol to treat Covid patients with unproven drugs like the antiparasitic medication ivermectin and antimalarial hydroxychloroquine were the targets of rage. The Education Mandates session featured the mother of a California teenager who had defied her school's mask requirement, showing up at school without a mask for weeks on end in 2021, and standing outside the school for hours every day after she was kicked out. The panelists batted around ideas: Could the refusal to wear a mask be considered free speech? Could putting a kid in detention for not wearing a mask count as false imprisonment?

In his speech, Kirsch, the conference organizer, told the story of how, at the beginning of the pandemic, he had invested $1 million of his own money toward studying existing drugs as potential Covid treatments. Somewhere along the way, he became convinced that the Covid vaccines were dangerous. Last year, he founded the Vaccine Safety Research Foundation, whose goal, according to its website, is "to advance COVID-19 vaccine safety through scientific research, public education, and advocacy, and to support the vaccine injured." After his speech, Kirsch told me that he sees litigation as a way to force the federal government agencies to release data that he believes they're concealing about the dangers of the Covid vaccines. He said he is sure that "the only reason that we're not allowed to see any of the data is because it's bad."

Many of the other speakers seemed to share Kirsch's belief that the public isn't seeing the whole picture of Covid. In a constitutional law panel, Robert Barnes, an attorney who previously represented both Kenosha shooter Kyle Rittenhouse and Sandy Hook conspiracy theorist Alex Jones, said, "Pfizer makes the Mexican drug cartels look like a street corner dealer by comparison." To hold the public health crowd accountable, he implored the lawyers at the ballroom tables to "knock down the doors of every court we can."

But not just any court. Medical freedom activists have already started enjoying some successes in front of conservative judges. At the local level, several have sided with plaintiffs who've sued hospitals for refusing to give patients ivermectin. But it's been on the federal level, with Trump-appointed judges, where they've enjoyed some of their most significant successes. In 2021, Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton sued the Biden administration over a proposed policy that would have required Covid vaccinations for all Head Start employees. In March 2023, Judge James Wesley Hendrix of the Northern District of Texas, a Trump appointee, struck down the proposed policy. In January 2022, a group of government workers sued the Biden Administration over the president's vaccination requirements for all federal employees; in 2022, Judge Jeffrey Vincent Brown, whom Trump appointed in 2019, ruled in their favor. That ruling was briefly overturned, but in 2023, the 5th US Circuit Court of Appeals in New Orleans upheld it; the opinion was written by Trump appointee Judge Andrew Oldham.

In August 2022, a group of physicians sued the Biden Administration over its efforts to hold social media companies accountable for platforming physicians who spread misinformation about Covid. The plaintiffs, two of whom created the 2020 Great Barrington Declaration to oppose pandemic protections, accused the federal government of violating their First Amendment rights. "The US government used its vast power over social media and big tech to censor legitimate scientific and policy discussion about Covid during the pandemic," Jay Bhattacharya wrote in a statement. That case is still ongoing, but in March, Trump-appointed judge Terry Doughty, in the Western District of Louisiana, denied a motion to dismiss it.

"The US government used its vast power over social media and big tech to censor legitimate scientific and policy discussion about Covid during the pandemic."

There is more to come. Several of the conference speakers have embarked on a Covid litigation bonanza of late. Mark Meuser, a member of the Future Litigation and Censorship panels, boasts on his website that he "has been involved in 22 lawsuits brought against [California Governor Gavin] Newsom for his unconstitutional usurpation of power as a result of COVID-19." In the exhibition area, I visited the booth of Children's Health Defense, the anti-vaccine organization helmed by the new presidential hopeful Robert F. Kennedy, Jr., who announced his bid to replace Joe Biden in April. A flier that highlighted some of the dozens of lawsuits that the group had recently filed reveals its eagerness to sue the government, at both local and federal levels. It's suing California over a law that prohibits doctors from spreading misinformation; the *Washington Post* and other news outlets over their efforts to stop the spread of misinformation; and the CDC for access to reports of "unusual or unexpected patterns of adverse events reporting that can signal safety problems with a vaccine." Sen. Elizabeth Warren (D-Mass.) is getting sued for calling for a review of the Amazon algorithms that allegedly promoted anti-vaccine books, and Facebook parent company Meta is being sued for "collusion with the US government to censor CHD social media content." Add to the long list of defendants Rutgers University for its vaccine mandate for students and staff.

Law professor Reiss is dubious about the prospects for some of those lawsuits, especially those in which individuals sue a private company for censorship. The First Amendment, she noted, also protects "the freedom of private companies like Twitter and YouTube to kick them off." Nor was the idea of students suing universities, a winning strategy. "You don't have the right to go to a specific university," she said. "And if you don't like the university policies, universities are on pretty solid grounds denying you admission."

Yet she noted that some of the victories the medical freedom movement has racked up so far could pave the way for future legislation that would last long beyond the Covid era—and possibly transform established public health practices. In fact, that's already happening: Several panelists suggested making vaccination status a protected class like race or sex—which means that it would be illegal to discriminate against someone on the basis of whether or not they had received immunizations. In 2021, Montana became the first state to pass such a law. In February of this year, Idaho followed suit. Employers there who require vaccination against Covid can now be fined $1,000 per violation. A similar bill in Florida is currently under consideration.

Another potential opening for medical freedom advocates, Reiss said, is a broader interpretation of laws about religious exemptions to vaccine mandates, which most states allow. With the current Supreme Court's expansion of what is included within the definition of freedom of religion, she worried they may include religious objections to vaccines. "If they go there, it will make it a lot harder to prevent the abuse of religious exemption," she said. On April 18, a few weeks after I spoke to Reiss, a US district judge ruled that Mississippi must change its current policy to allow religious exemptions for vaccine mandates. (The judge, Halil Suleyman Ozerden, had been nominated by Trump in 2019 to serve on the 5th Circuit Court of Appeals, but key Republicans questioned his conservative bona fides and he was never confirmed.)

With all this coming litigation, some of the conference sponsors saw a business opportunity. While the speakers inside the ballroom railed against big pharma and the CDC, just outside, representatives from law-firm-adjacent companies handed out business cards. Zena Obebe, the CEO of Hill Redaction Services, told me, "We wanted to get in front of those litigation lawyers and say, 'Hey, you can use us for the medical records.'" She expects to see many more Covid-related cases soon, explaining, "There's a huge influx that's coming down the pipeline."

Though Covid was the official topic of the conference, many of the people I talked to made detours into other subjects. Their involvement in the medical freedom movement, they said, had caused the scales to fall from their eyes. Kirsch, the conference organizer, explained that before the pandemic, he had never been skeptical of routine childhood vaccinations, but over the past few years, he has come to believe they cause autism (a theory that has been extensively discredited but one cherished by RFK, Jr. whose campaign, Kirsch says, he looks forward to supporting). So fervent is his newfound aversion to immunizations, he told me, that he now believes "nobody should ever" even vaccinate their pets.

For FitzGibbon, the comms guy, his involvement with the medical freedom movement has led to a more thorough disenchantment with his progressive roots. In 2020, during the height of the pandemic, he had become acutely ill with Covid, but two different hospitals sent him home. Only when a doctor-client put in a good word for him did he get admitted to an ICU, where he received monoclonal antibodies—an effective though underutilized treatment—which he credits with saving his life.

In the months that followed, he became skeptical of what he saw as the single-minded focus on Covid vaccines and what he considered to be the suppression of treatments like the one he received, as well as more scientifically dubious drugs like ivermectin and hydroxychloroquine. "All you saw in the US media was vaccine, vaccine, vaccine," he said. "Any other mentions of these alternative treatments were blacklisted." He now believes not only that the Covid vaccines are bioweapons, but also that the Democratic party has lost its way—he saw it even before Covid in Democrats' soft stance on domestic surveillance under Obama, and now he sees it in foreign policy, too. In a pivot I frankly did not see coming, he said, "I do not recognize this administration or this party when it comes

to the war in Ukraine," especially since he claims that Russia had good reason to invade the country because of its problem with Nazis (ostensibly a reference to Russian President Vladimir Putin's shaky-at-best justification for his invasion).

It's possible, though, that something unrelated to politics deepened his disenchantment with progressives: In 2015, his PR firm closed abruptly after several female former employees accused him of sexual assault and harassment; he spoke to me on the condition that I note that the US Attorney declined to file any criminal charges, and a woman who had accused him of rape publicly retracted her allegations and apologized as part of a settlement in 2019.

Both Kirsch and FitzGibbon complained that progressive groups with whom they both were previously allied would no longer return their calls—about Covid or anything else. Aggrieved, they were determined to press on in what they saw as a countercultural but righteous crusade—a sentiment echoed by many of the speakers. Their alienation and what they consider to be oppression only further energizes them and their cause. In a heartfelt speech in the ballroom, Sujata Gibson, a New York-based lawyer and activist who recently won a lawsuit that led to New York overturning its vaccine mandate for healthcare workers, compared current medical freedom activism to the Indian struggle for independence, Nelson Mandela's campaign against apartheid in South Africa, and the American civil rights movement. "Part of what we have to do as lawyers when we're in these tyrannical moments in history—and this one is quite extreme—is we have to hold the line in the courts," she said. "I've been lucky enough to see time after time how David and Goliath battles can be won."

Disclaimer: Any third-party material in this email has been shared for internal use under fair use provisions of U.S. copyright law, without further verification of its accuracy/veracity. It does not necessarily represent my views nor those of NIAID, NIH, HHS, or the U.S. government.

Date: Fri, 16 Apr 2021 11:05:15 AM -0400

Subject: RE: Senate HELP hearing on "Protecting U.S. Biomedical Research: Efforts to Prevent Undue Foreign Influence" [4/22/2021]

From: Peter Daszak <(b) (6)

To: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] <(b) (6) Keusch, Jerry <(b) (6)

Attachments: image001.gif; image002.jpg

Wow – Michael Lauer's decided to speak out patriotically and defend his own reputation.

More Hypocritical than Hippochrateical – their anti-Chinese influence agenda within NIH is a little bit to overzealous and stands a fair chance of damaging prospects for US research in the long run.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: (b) (6)
Webs thalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

From: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b) (6)
Sent: Friday, Apri
To: Peter Daszak (b) (6) ; Keusch, Jerry (b) (6)
(b) (6)
Subject: FW: Senate HELP hearing on "Protecting U.S. Biomedical Research: Efforts to Prevent Undue Foreign Influence" [4/22/2021]

Check this out!?!?

David

David M. Morens, M.D.
CAPT, United States Public Health Service
Senior Advisor to the Director

MORENS_SUBPOENA_012721
MORENS_NIH_024109
REL0000478059

Office of the Director
National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases
National Institutes of Health
Building 31, Room 7A-03
31 Center Drive, MSC 2520
Bethesda, MD 20892-2520
(b) (6) (assistants: Kimberly Barasch; Whitney Robinson)
(b) (6)

Disclaimer: **This message is intended for the exclusive use of the recipient(s) named above. It may contain information that is PROTECTED, PRIVILEGED, and/or CONFIDENTIAL, and it should not be disseminated, distributed, or copied to persons not authorized to receive such information. All sensitive documents must be properly labeled before dissemination via email. If you are not the intended recipient, any dissemination, distribution, or copying is strictly prohibited. If you have received this communication in error, please erase all copies of the message and its attachments and notify us immediately.**



From: Folkers, Greg (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b) (6)
Sent: Thursday, April 15, 2021 1:31 PM
Subject: Senate HELP hearing on "Protecting U.S. Biomedical Research: Efforts to Prevent Undue Foreign Influence" [4/22/2021]

Protecting U.S. Biomedical Research: Efforts to Prevent Undue Foreign Influence

Date: Thursday, April 22, 2021 Add to my Calendar **Time:** 10:00 AM

Location: 430 Dirksen Senate Office Building

Check back for live video of this hearing.

Witnesses

1. **Michael Lauer, MD**
Deputy Director for Extramural Research
National Institutes of Health
Bethesda, MD

MORENS_SUBPOENA_012722
MORENS_NIH_024110
REL0000478059

2. **Lisa Aguirre**
Acting Director, Office of National Security
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
Washington , D.C.

3. **Gary L. Cantrell**
Deputy Inspector General for Investigations, Office of Inspector General
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
Washington , D.C.

4. **Candice N. Wright**
Acting Director, Science, Technology Assessment, and Analytics
U.S. Government Accountability Office
Washington , D.C.

MORENS_SUBPOENA_012723
MORENS_NIH_024111
REL0000478059

Date: Wed, 21 Apr 2021 3:01:01 PM -0400
Sent: Wed, 21 Apr 2021 3:00:59 PM -0400
Subject: RE: Zoom meeting with Tony tomorrow
From: "Keusch, Gerald T" <(b) (6)
To: David Morens <(b) (6)
CC: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) Rich Roberts <(b) (6) Robert Kessler (b) (6) <(b) (6)

Tony will be well aware of this kind of push back. That's not the issue for you tomorrow. Its really how to get the scientific societies engaged once again in the campaign for clarity and resolution of the breech in integrity and the grants management beginning a year ago.

Maybe there would be a moment to suggest that he talk to Harold Varmus about strategy?

Jerry

From: David Morens <(b) (6)
Sent: Wednesday, April 21, 2021 2:57 PM
To: Keusch, Gerald T (b) (6)
Cc: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) Rich Roberts <(b) (6) Robert Kessler <(b) (6) Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6)
Subject: Re: Zoom meeting with Tony tomorrow

Jerry, i am traveling without much news access, but this is really depressing. My concern has grown to alarm and i am afraid to think what comes next

We seem to have arrived at that Orwellian point where all investigations of important matters have to exclude participation of the subject experts, since being a subject expert is disqualifying on the grounds that all expertise is inherently biasing.

Before George Orwell, we had Lewis Carroll telling us this. We are in grave danger of going down-the-rabbit-hole-with-Alice.....
D
Sent from my iPhone
David M Morens
OD, NIAID, NIH

On Apr 21, 2021, at 14:36, Keusch, Gerald T (b) (6) wrote:

The COVID Commission Planning Group includes people like Mike Osterholm. I don't put him into the category of Lipsitch, but am I missing something here? He was one of the people on the Biden COVID task force I talked to in December-January about the shattered integrity at the level of NIH/OD. He didn't say much to me, and I didn't take that as a signal that he was on the darker side of the divide.

I saw the results of a focus group of Trump supporters reported on today: https://www.washingtonpost.com/health/2021/04/20/vaccine- hesitant-republicans/ A bit of text in this report is about Tony.

"Every participant said they preferred hearing from politicians over the medical expert, who has been pilloried by conservative media for months over his coronavirus warnings. The data have shown that unfortunately Dr. Fauci has been politicized, and we need different

messengers, because even the right messages coming from the wrong messengers aren't always helpful," Castrucci said, noting his foundation's polling [de Beaumont Foundation] found Americans trust their personal doctors more than the government's top infectious-disease doctor".

This is the fundamental problem we have, as the politicians will only use this as an echo chamber to amplify their support from their public supporters and constituents. It does point back to the scientific societies which have weighed in previously, but no more impact than we have had as individuals. It doesn't stop this approach, its just that we need some deus ex machina to help us. Is that going to be Eric Lander? What's happening with his approval? I haven't heard much of late.

Jerry

From: Peter Daszak (b) (6)
Sent: Wednesday, April 21, 2021 12:41 PM
To: David Morens (b) (6) >; Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6) Rich Roberts <(b) (6) Robert Kessler (b) (6) ; Aleksei Chmura (b) (6)
Subject: RE: Zoom meeting with Tony tomorrow
Importance: High

Thanks for the email David - comments below. Also please see the attached word doc with links to some of the political actions that I'm concerned about. Tell Tony that this is very early days, with most of these coming from the Right, and many that can be headed off at the pass by positive outreach to Democrats, which I believe people will be doing.

I've also put in a link to the new " Covid Commission Planning Group (Covid CPG)" that has no official role from USG, but boldly states as its core mission "to prepare the way for a National Covid Commission". Members include David Relman & Marc Lipsitch and I have heard from many on the conspiracy theory chatter networks online that this will focus partly on advocating for reduction in biosafety labs, viral work in wildlife, and gain-of-function.

Please feel free to share any docs that I've sent to you, with Tony. Hopefully you can do that in a way that avoids FoIA, and if not possible, just show him stuff on screenshare on Zoom.

Please also see comments below...

Cheers,

Peter

MORENS_SUBPOENA_013979
MORENS_NIH_026514
REL0000478060

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: (b) (6)
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

-----Original Message-----
From: David Morens (b) (6)
Sent: Wednesday, April 21, 2021 10:56 AM
To: Peter Daszak (b) (6) ; Gerald Keusch (b) (6) Rich Roberts <(b) (6) Robert Kessler (b) (6) leksei Chmura

Subject: Zoom meeting with Tony tomorrow

Peter, i am on leave in Florida for my granddaughters graduation from Florida State

Tomorrow at 130 i will be having a zoom call with Tony to tip him off on some of the info you sent in your recent email

I want to he sure about what info or docs you would or would not want me to share
[Peter Daszak:] Any and all

Other than what i see on tv, the jousting with Rand Paul and Jim Jordan, for example, i do not know how much of this Tony is aware of. To my knowledge he doesn't share it with anyone up here

I think issues he will be most concerned about are not your grant, although i add i am sure he would do anything he could to restore the funds and get the hellhounds of your back, but rather 1) the possibility that people like Rep Rodgers and her committee are about to turn up the heat and put Tony, personally, in their crosshairs, and 2) the possibility the NIH funded scientists or other esteemed scientists, are in cahoots with politicians wanting to attack him or niaid
[Peter Daszak:] agreed

As background, we all went through the original version of this crap about 10 years ago with the original GOF attacks surrounding H5N1. As Tony's scientific advisor, i spent much of the year, along with Jeff T, helping brief him and get him up to speed, which he did. At the time, David Relman, who had been one of Tony's favorites, was leading the charge, and we all wondered why a young guy with so much promise would choose demagoguery over science. Lipsitch was only a minor player at that time, but relished his attack role and seem to become more alarmist as time went on. Now these guys are in the NAM. How did that happen???? Ebright has always been a crackpot, in the mold of Peter Duseberg, remember him?, and no one took him seriously except some of the press who didn't know any better

MORENS_SUBPOENA_013980
MORENS_NIH_026515
REL0000478060

[Peter Daszak:] I had the unfortunate issue of voting on Marc Lipsitch's membership of NAM. He's an accomplished scientist. He's also very opinionated, arrogant and pushy on whatever issue he believes in. I voted on his science acumen.

I was unclear from your email on a couple points you might clarify. Obviously the Rodgers letter asking you to produce all those dox not only overlaps with the Lauer letter to you, but could not have been written without the help of a virologist.
[Peter Daszak:] I have it on good authority (Ebright's Twitter account) that he was involved. They are also getting pressured from Jamie Metzl who's working with the internet conspiracy networks actively to promote their "Research"

Actually, given that there are a few points in the letter that someone knowledgable about coronavirus virology would have corrected, my suspicion is that the letter was put together with the help of a legitimate scientist who needs to do more homework on coronaviruses.
[Peter Daszak:] you're right..! Metzl isn't a virologist, neither's Ebright. The internet 'researchers' are led by a banker and some junior scientists, many from human genetics, mol boil world.

Do you agree, and do you think that person was Ebright? Do you think Relman, Lipsitch, Imperiale, or other current or former grantees might have been involved?

I am not sure we ever funded Ebright, but we did fund the others. I would like to think that Relman et all are only mouthing off to the press, but do you think there is more to it than that, eg, that any of them are working with the politicians?
[Peter Daszak:] David Relman is talking with reporters a lot about this, including casting aspersions on my motives for speaking out about this virus emerging via wildlife-to-human spillover (he's quoted as saying my motives are to protect the research I've been doing and reputations of our collaborators). Ebright is very actively (and obnoxiously) critical on social media calling me a 'Grifter' on a weekly basis and promoting unsubstantiated arguments for a lab leak. I had to look up what 'grifter' meant at first...

Your earlier comments about this proposed investigative committee, and the possible role of these folks in it, are alarming. Can you be more specific about where this stands and what is being done to forward it and to squelch it?
[Peter Daszak:] Nothing's being done to squelch it, and neither should it be - there will be other committees that also pop up. My concern is their bold claim that they're laying the groundwork for a 9/11 type commission (and have a 9/11 commission person involved). It may be that just by saying that a lot, and having well known people involved, they end up forming one. They're clearly politically connected and are advocating for this politically. Jerry and I also proposed this in our paper published in Health Affairs, but we assumed this would be led by NAM or some other well-respected institution.

When i speak with Tony i do not want to step into the politics of all this, as that's not my job and he wouldn't want me to. If he needs further info it might be best to connect you two, in an off the record manner. Would that be OK? We are getting FOIA'd non stop, so it's most important that Tony not have anything on the record that could come back to bite
[Peter Daszak:] Totally agree. Tell him I'm happy to speak with him at any

time and will do so in a way that's not FoIA-ble. One thing I could do is either on a zoom call or by sending you a document, is lay out responses to the Mendendez questions so that the arguments are known and well-supported. For example, everyone's saying that this is a 'gain-of-function' issue, but actually that's not the case - we worked on bat viruses, not human pathogens. The expts produced loss of function, not gain of function, all appropriate conditions and approvals were demonstrably checked and correctly answered.

Finally, i didn't read all of the Menendez bill-in-committee, which is longer than Les misérables, but what's the gist? Do you think that in their zeal to take a hard stance against the PRC, these Democrats are purposely, or accidentally, getting sucked into the evil-WIV scenario? Is there real danger here?
[Peter Daszak:] The Menendez bill is the only one that stands a chance so far of becoming law because it's bipartisan. The WIV, gain-of-function stuff is thrown in as a very small part of it. The draft wording only calls for a report from NIH after 180 days on these issues, and they are easily addressed. However, if it does pass and the anti-China mood hardens in the US, it may end up with calls to testify and the Republicans may use that to undermine NIH, and in particular Tony, given the rabid GoF myth they've been building.

Anything you think might be helpful, I'd appreciate

TY, david

Sent from my iPhone
David M Morens
OD, NIAID, NIH

Disclaimer

The information contained in this communication from the sender is confidential. It is intended solely for use by the recipient and others authorized to receive it. If you are not the recipient, you are hereby notified that any disclosure, copying, distribution or taking action in relation of the contents of this information is strictly prohibited and may be unlawful.

This email has been scanned for viruses and malware, and may have been automatically archived by Mimecast, a leader in email security and cyber resilience. Mimecast integrates email defenses with brand protection, security awareness training, web security, compliance and other essential capabilities. Mimecast helps protect large and small organizations from malicious activity, human error and technology failure; and to lead the movement toward building a more resilient world. To find out more, visit our website.

Date: Sat, 20 Apr 2024 10:15:09 AM -0400
Sent: Sat, 20 Apr 2024 10:14:14 AM -0400
Subject: RE: Today's news...
From: Peter Daszak <(b) (6)
To: Keusch, Gerald <(b) (6) Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6)
CC: (b) (6) <(b) (6) Jeff Sturchio <(b) (6) Roberts, Rich <(b) (6) (b) (6) Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) John Feigelson <(b) (6)

Great strategy Jerry. Each day of delay helps - They're trying to book David in for a public hearing between mine (May 1st) and Fauci's (June 3rd). David's lawyers are trying to negotiate and delay his til after Tony.

We're getting continued tightening of the screws from the SSCP – we responded to their demands for an outrageous dump of emails and documents before my hearing, giving them a few docs, but letting them know that most are already in the NIH FoIA library (https://www.nih.gov/institutes-nih/nih-office-director/office-communications-public-liaison/freedom-information-act-office/nih-foia-library/ - click on "Past productions of COVID-19 records" for tons of EcoHealth docs).

The SSCP are outraged by our response, threatening a subpoena, and we're now trying to make sure they get enough material so that we can avoid a subpoena, because as you all saw with David's they use a subpoena to create faux anger in press releases – e.g. stating that David Morens "abruptly ceased cooperating" etc.

It's a Stalinesque game of ginning up the public and wheeling out alleged 'traitors' to be insulted and humiliated for their entertainment.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: (b) (6)
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

---

From: Keusch, Gerald (b) (6)
Sent: Saturday, April 20, 2024 9:57 AM
To: Peter Daszak (b) (6) >; Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6)
Cc: (b) (6) <(b) (6) >; Jeff Sturchio (b) (6) Roberts, Rich (b) (6) ; (b) (6) ; Aleksei Chmura (b) (6) ; John Feigelson (b) (6) @ g >
Subject: RE: Today's news...

In the meanwhile, I have not responded to their letter requesting emails with David, anybody at NIH, a long list of scientists including a bunch of Chinese names, with only two (including Shi) I even recognize, and it would seem everyone else in the world I have ever emailed. I am not sure if BU has responded to them (to say the letter was received) because the legal team and the BU DC-based government affairs liaison are away this week, but they said they would. And I am about to head to LA for Passover with my transplanted family but without my laptop, so the earliest I will connect with BU will be the week of the 29th. On the advice of the lawyers, however, I have stopped deleting anything that could be construed to be on the subcommittee's request list, as I continue to try to reduce my email in and sent folders below the current total of 30,000 items.

My plan – but not necessarily one that the lawyers will concur is reasonable – is to tell the subcommittee that my views are well known from publications, that I have the right to have private conversations about scientific issues with anyone, including government employees so long as we are assessing the scientific database (eg the scientific method), and to cite key sentences from John Stuart Mill's "On Liberty", the cogent but dense bible of what liberty means and the consequences of constraining it.

Peter H, I would quote your new tome to be were it already in print.

Jerry

From: Peter Daszak (b) (6)
Sent: Saturday, April 20, 2024 9:39 AM
To: Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6)
Cc: (b) (6) <(b) (6) (b) (6) >; Keusch, Geral (b) (6) (b) (6) Roberts, Rich (b) (6) (b) (6) (b) (6) Aleksei Chmura (b) (6) John Feigelson < (b) (6)
Subject: RE: Today's news...

Glad you're honing in on this. The parallels to McCarthy hearings are clear.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel. (b) (6)
Web alliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

From: Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6)
Sent: Friday, April 19, 2024 8:18 PM
To: Peter Daszak (b) (6)
Cc: (b) (6) <(b) (6) (b) (6) >; Keusch, Gerald (b) (6) >; Jeff Sturchio (b) (6) ; Roberts, Rich (b) (6) b) (6) (b) (6) Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) >; John Feigelson < (b) (6)
Subject: Re: Today's news...

So glad it worked out with Michael Mann! Our book is coming along nicely along with calling out the evil of the House Subcommittee hearings

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP

Texas Children's Hospital: Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics | Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development | Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

Baylor College of Medicine: Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine | Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology | Health Policy Scholar

Baylor University, University Professor
Rice University, Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty
Texas A&M University, Faculty-Senior Fellow, Hagler Inst for Advanced Study & Scowcroft Institute of Intl Affairs

E-mail | Twitter | LinkedIn | Skype: (b) (6)

Amazon Author Center | Daily Beast Contributor

Senior Coordinator & Executive Support: Douglas Soriano
(b) (6) | Phone: (b) (6) | Fax: 713-798-2299

Media Inquiries:
(b) (6)

iPhone

On Apr 19, 2024, at 7:13 PM, Peter Daszak (b) (6) wrote:

*****CAUTION:*** This email is not from a BCM Source. Only click links or open attachments you know are safe.**

Had a very successful EcoHealth Alliance benefit last night – sorry some of you couldn't be there.

Michael Mann was our main honoree, and he was great! We raised well above our expectation – all critical to keeping us afloat given the increased pressure we're under right now.

Speaking of which – here's the latest attempt from the SSCP to smear David Morens, EcoHealth Alliance and others as being involved in a 'cover up'

https://nypost.com/2024/04/19/us-news/ex-fauci-adviser-shared-confidential-nih-info-with-ecohealth-about-covid-biosafety-levels-docs/

Basically, they've found an email from me to David, Jerry others when the allegations that EcoHealth expts were conducted at an insufficient BSL level first came out. Tony Fauci was interviewed and said that he would look into it. I sent David M. a review I'd done of the BSL rules for Bat CoVs in various countries, which clearly show that we were operating at the correct biosafety levels.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel. (b) (6)
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

From: (b) (6) (b) (6)
Sent: Wednesday, April 17, 2024 7:16 AM
To: Peter Daszak (b) (6) >; Keusch, Gerald T (b) (6) ; Jeff Sturchio < (b) (6) ; Roberts, Rich (b) (6)) (6) Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6) ; (b) (6)
Cc: Aleksei Chmura (b) (6)
Subject: Re: Testimo

Peter, my thought is that it could have been worse, and he does blame Collins as well.... d

Sent from Proton Mail Android

-------- Original Message --------
On 4/16/24 20:59, Peter Daszak wrote:

> Unpleasant to see him criticize me and EcoHealth today, in a pretty shoddy attempt to curry favor with the SSCP:
>
> https://x.com/COVIDSelect/status/1780332154620092505
>
> Here's the text of the tweet:
>
> **Select Subcommittee on the Coronavirus Pandemic**
>
> @COVIDSelect

MORENS_SUBPOENA_000144
MORENS_NIH_000172
REL0000478063

<image005.png>
<image005.png>
<image005.png>
@ScienceMagazine
AGREES that EcoHealth Alliance may have misled the U.S. government about its highly controversial DEFUSE proposal which some believe created a blueprint for COVID-19.
WATCH
<image005.png>
<image005.png>

You can see the video of him criticizing our work here:

https://youtu.be/Oru0-fYGcJU

The relevant section starts at 1hour, 31 minutes and 30 seconds into the video

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: (b) (6)
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

From: Peter Daszak (b) (6) @ >
Sent: Tuesday, April 16, 2024 3:22 PM
To: (b) (6) <(b) (6) (b) (6) >; 'Keusch, Gerald T' (b) (6) >; 'Jeff Sturchio' <(b) (6) ; 'Roberts, Rich' (b) (6)) (6) 'Hotez, Peter Jay' (b) (6) (b) (6)
Cc: Aleksei Chmura (b) (6) ; John Feigelson (b) (6)
Subject: COVID Select Subcommittee subpoena to David Morens for correspondence etc.
Importance: High

Here is today's subpoena & a cover letter to David Morens from the SSCP for all correspondence with the

following people, related to WIV, EcoHealth or COVID origins or "regarding or referencing the following people". He has to produce this by April 30th

No direct demand for public hearing has been made public yet.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: (b) (6)
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

From: (b) (6) (b) (6)
Sent: Monday, A
To: Peter Daszak (b) (6) ; Keusch, Gerald T (b) (6) ; Jeff Sturchio < (b) (6) ; Roberts, Rich (b) (6) Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6)
Cc: Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6)
Subject: Re: COVID select subcommittee is now threatening to call David in for a public hearing

Guys,my lawyer called and i am to be subpoenaed to testify in public hearing on camera. They want me b4 Tony but after Peter. The Dems reached out to my lawyer and asked WTF is going on. Not sure why they don't know. d

Sent from Proton Mail Android

-------- Original Message --------
On 4/12/24 16:12, Peter Daszak wrote:

> Here's the COVID committee (SSCP) threatening to call David in for a public hearing based on the emails they claim show that we all used gmail inappropriately (based on a Washington Examiner report today)…
>
> Tweet here: https://x.com/COVIDSelect/status/1778859503796056214

MORENS_SUBPOENA_000146
MORENS_NIH_000174
REL0000478063

Washington Examiner BS article here:
https://www.washingtonexaminer.com/policy/healthcare/2964227/ecohealth- alliance-email-release-confirms-fauci-aide-used-private-account-discuss-covid/

Full text of tweet:

Post

See new posts

Conversation

Pinned

<image006.jpg>

Select Subcommittee on the Coronavirus Pandemic

@COVIDSelect

<image005.png>
BREAKING
<image005.png>
@EcoHealthNYC

President Dr. Peter Daszak CONFIRMS whistleblower allegations that Dr. David Morens — a top advisor to Dr. Fauci — used Gmail to hide COVID-19 information.

We are beginning the process to secure Dr. Morens's public testimony.

<image007.jpg>

From washingtonexaminer.com

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: (b) (6)
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org

Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

From: (b) (6) (b) (6)
Sent: Friday, April 12, 2024 1:37 PM
To: Peter Daszak (b) (6) >; Keusch, Gerald T (b) (6) Jeff Sturchio < (b) (6) ; Roberts, Rich (b) (6)) (6) Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6) >;
Cc: Aleksei Chmura (b) (6)
Subject: Re: My email to Michael Hiltzik with an EcoHealth Statement and Email release today

Again. this is excellent. We need more of these stand-up-to-bullies fusillades. d

Sent from Proton Mail Android

-------- Original Message --------
On 4/12/24 11:20, Peter Daszak wrote:

> Please read the email I just sent to Michael Hiltzik. It has links to a statement from EcoHealth and the release of the full text (slight redactions) of emails that involve David and Jerry, and were reported in the NY Post and other Right wing outlets yesterday, amplified by Republicans on the COVID Committeee…
>
> Cheers,
>
> Peter
>
> **Peter Daszak**
> *President*
>
> EcoHealth Alliance
> 520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
> New York, NY 10018-6507
> USA
>
> Tel.: +(b) (6)
> Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
> Twitter: @PeterDaszak
>
> *EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation*
>
> **From:** Peter Daszak (b) (6)

MORENS_SUBPOENA_000148
MORENS_NIH_000176
REL0000478063

Sent: Friday, April 12, 2024 11:19 AM
To: 'Michael Hiltzik' (b) (6)
Cc: 'Aleksei Chmura
Subject: EcoHealth Statement and Email release today has relevance to NIH and Michael Lauer issues
Importance: High

Good to talk with you yesterday Michael. We got more negative press yesterday, this time related to emails that allegedly show coverups and inappropriate behavior among scientists. The Republicans released only the subject line and addresses etc. (https://oversight.house.gov/release/wenstrup-reveals-emails-from-whistleblower-alleging-additional-attempts-by-fauci-advisor-to-subvert-transparency-about-covid-19-origins/), leading to BS stories in the usual right wing press. We released the full text of the emails today:

https://www.ecohealthalliance.org/2024/04/ecohealth- alliance-releases-emails-that-are-the-subject-of-false-allegations-in-the-press

These are all from me to senior NIAID staffmember David Morens and former NIH Center Director Jerry Keusch, trying to make sense of the termination of our grant by Trump, and to find a way to get it reinstated. In the end NIH did reinstate the grant (May 2023). One of the chains shows emails that refer to the pressure from Michael Lauer, and the fact NIH instructed me not to talk with our program officer (Erik Stemmy) and direct all communications to Grants Management (Emily Linde). That was anotherhighly unusual move from NIH and is part of the pattern that I was talking with you about.

Here is that particular set of emails: https://www.ecohealthalliance.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/04/Emails- 01.pdf

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: (b) (6)
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote

MORENS_SUBPOENA_000149
MORENS_NIH_000177
REL0000478063

conservation

From: Michael Hiltzik (b) (6)
Sent: Tuesday, April 9, 2024 6:01 PM
To: Peter Daszak (b) (6)
Subject: Re: Call tomorrow?

Absolutely. That time is good...I can call then...

MH

On Tue, Apr 9, 2024 at 2:59 PM Peter Daszak (b) (6) wrote:

> Hi Michael – just following up on this – are you available tomorrow at 5:30pm my time, 2:30pm West Coast time?
>
> I can send a zoom link or call my cellphone (b) (6)
>
> Cheers,
>
> Peter
>
> **Peter Daszak**
> *President*
>
> EcoHealth Alliance
> 520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
> New York, NY 10018-6507
> USA
>
> Tel.: (b) (6)
> Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
> Twitter: @PeterDaszak
>
> *EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation*
>
> **From:** Peter Daszak (b) (6)
> **Sent:** Sunday, April 7, 2024 9:34 AM
> **To:** 'Michael Hiltzik' <(b) (6)
> **Cc:** 'Aleksei Chmura (b) (6)
> 'Alison Andre (b) (6)
> **Subject:** RE: Confidential - NIH still hampering EcoHealth's ability to conduct work 4 years

MORENS_SUBPOENA_000150
MORENS_NIH_000178
REL0000478063

since the termination of our grant
Importance: High

I have good answers for you on all of those – it's ugly and political. There are also others who are well-placed who you can talk with.

I can do Wednesday at 5:30pm my time if that works for you (2:30pm West Coast). I have other times as well… cc'ing Alison who will make sure we find a time that works.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: (b) (6)
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

From: Michael Hiltzik (b) (6) >
Sent: Saturday, April 6, 2024 6:50 PM
To: Peter Daszak (b) (6)
Subject: Re: Confidential - NIH still hampering EcoHealth's ability to conduct work 4 years since the termination of our grant

Peter,

Let's set up a time to talk next week (Wednesday or later best for me). On first glance, it strikes me that I'm glad I'm not in the grants-application business, because the bureaucratic behavior here seems incomprehensible, at least to a layman.

What's the overarching theme in their relations with you? Is it pressure from the lab-leak crowd, the FOIAing from Tobias, which as far as I can tell has yielded nothing of any substance? A spillover from the Trump era?

I read the Science piece, which was thorough in detailing what was done to the

MORENS_SUBPOENA_000151
MORENS_NIH_000179
REL0000478063

Chinese researchers but silent on what provoked it....what was the question I was left with--Why did NIH do all this?

MH

On Sat, Apr 6, 2024 at 12:03 PM Peter Daszak (b) (6) wrote:

> Hi Michael, I'm just contacting you off the record in case you or others are interested in reporting on what's going on at NIH with respect to EHA's grants. We were trying to deal with this privately, without it becoming public, but we found out last week that some of our recent correspondence with Emily Erbelding asking for her help is in a batch of FoIA's emails that will be released to Jimmy Tobias in the next couple of weeks. Tobias is in the habit of simply dumping these on the internet, so we wanted to get these to a bona fide reporter before that happens.
>
> As you probably know, our organization has been funded by NIAID for around 20 years, conducting successful research on emerging diseases, and working closely with communities, scientists and governments in emerging disease hotspot countries to try to reduce the risk of disease emergence. Prior to the termination of our R01 grant in April 2020 that would have had the Wuhan Institute of Virology as a subrecipient, we had never had any issues with NIH or NIAID, and had been lauded by program officers for our cutting edge research into viral emergence, and the many papers in Science, Nature, NEJM and others based on NIH funding.
>
> After the termination of our grant, the HHS OIG was called in to audit our work and NIH's oversight. They reported back after an 18 month audit with recommendations for both us, and for NIH, most of which were minor and easily addressed. We rapidly complied and NIH's DFAS group confirmed that all audit findings were resolved. However, we continued to receive further actions from the Office of the Director (Michael Lauer, who *Science* wrote about re. NIH's actions on grantees with China connections https://www.science.org/content/article/pall-suspicion-nihs-secretive-china-initiative-destroyed-scores-academic-careers), and the NIH group that manages oversight (OPERA) directly under Michael Lauer. In April 2023, Michelle Bulls from Opera and Emily Linde from NIAID placed 4 Specific Award Conditions (SACs) on our grants. At the time, Michael Lauer had contacted Tufts University who oversaw our IACUC approvals to conduct wildlife sampling because EHA doesn't have an animal facility. This led to Tufts canceling our interinstitutional agreement. The only way for us to proceed was to request an Animal Welfare Assurance from OLAW (based at NIH), but this was denied because of these SACs. One of the SACs stated that all of our subcontracts must be reviewed and revised by NIH reviews. We worked extremely hard to rapidly respond (often within days) to every single request, despite many of them being contradictory or having no material impact on the contracts. In the original letter NIH set a deadline of September 2023 to resolve the SACs, which due to repeated delays by NIH grants management staff in responding to us, continued further requests and shifting of the goalposts means we still do not have resolution. Furthermore, grants management are now suggesting that we are beyond the period of work and our subcontractees won't be able to be reimbursed. Additionally, during the past 12 months, NIH has only reimbursed EcoHealth for around $50K of the now nearly $2 million we are expecting and have expended.

As you can imagine, this puts us in a very difficult position, with institutions like UNC and Uniformed Services University likely to be outraged that their funding is threatened, and with us unable to do our work fully – work that has been reviewed, scored well, and is critical to pandemic prevention. We've tried every possible avenue to get a fair and reasonable rapid resolution. We've informed Emily Erbelding of these issues (hence the FoIA'd email), and Program staff at NIAID remain supportive of our work, but we still have no resolution. Every time we try to seek a meeting or resolution, we get a hard response from NIH that we're out of compliance and they set further deadlines and further minor issues for us to fix. Right now I believe we're probably in greater compliance with NIH rules and just about any other institution in the US, given the level of scrutiny we've gone through. I've attached some of the many recent letters between NIH OPERA, NIAID Grants managements and EcoHealth Alliance to give you an indication of the levels of detailed work that we've gone through to try and resolve these issues.

We don't know the reasons why this is happening – all our subcontracts prior to April 2023 covered every single requirement in NIH's grants management guidance, subrecipients had to sign that they would adhere to these. The stonewalling, and shifting of goalposts by NIH is linked to emails that they send us stating that we're 'delinquent' or 'out of compliance', or that they're 'concerned' etc. and seem to us designed ready to be FoIA'd (which they are being) or to be used when NIH has to show Congressional Republicans that EcoHealth is being treated in the way they are calling for. Meanwhile, important findings can't be reported, including a novel SARS-CoV-2 related virus able to bind well to human ACE2 that we have found in one of our country sites, but are now unable to publish because our subrecipient is concerned they don't yet have an approved contract. This is hurting our ability to conduct pandemic prevention work, and the US's ability to be informed about public health threats that could emerge and threaten our citizens.

If you want to report on this, I'm happy to talk on-the-record on some issues, and there are others who are aware of these problems that I can put you in touch with, including at NIH and senior people from outside.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: (b) (6)
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

MORENS_SUBPOENA_000154
MORENS_NIH_000182
REL0000478063

Date: Wed, 23 Aug 2023 8:38:26 PM -0400
Sent: Wed, 23 Aug 2023 8:38:15 PM -0400
Subject: Re: Follow-up Action: NARA Allegations of Unauthorized Records Destruction
From: David Morens <(b) (6)
To: Peter Daszak <(b) (6)
CC: Al (b) (6) Keusch <(b) (6) Hotez <(b) (6) Jeff Sturchio <(b) (6) Rich Roberts <(b) (6)
Attachments: image001.gif; image002.jpg

What can i say but THANKS?!!!! d

Sent from my iPhone
David M Morens
OD, NIAID, NIH

On Aug 23, 2023, at 20:23, Peter Daszak <(b) (6) > wrote:

First, great to hear you've got legal support David. Thank Rich for reaching out to your daughter and helping – I spoke with David today and the lawyer he has is first rate.

Re. emails – I have all of your gmails and others to and from myself as pdfs. Jeff's looking through these at the moment to get a sense of how the SSCP might use them to generate publicity.

We'll also look through them for information re. the request below, and send those on to you.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: +(b) (6)
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

From: David Morens (b) (6)
Sent: Wednesday, August 23, 2023 5:24 PM

(b) (6) (b) (6) Aleksei Chmura (b) (6) >; Gerald Keusch
(b) (6) ; Peter Hotez Jeff Sturchio (b) (6) Rich Roberts <

Subject: Re: Follow-up Action: NARA Allegations of Unauthorized Records Destruction

PS, there is some urgency to my responding, with all the info i can dig up. Sorry to ask a favor but this is an important "ask".

I have told nih that i have NOT done what nih defines as "government business" on my gmail, but rather on several occasions, in emails, gmails, and phone calls, to you and others, have requested that personal emails to me or cc'd to me should be sent to my gmail, and even later, sent to my proton mail.

In my understanding, personal emails that are not business of the US govt, include things like discussing death threats to scientists, investigations of non nih scientists for alleged wrongdoing, discussions about defending scientific integrity, etc

As govt scientists we DO NOT lose first amendment rights, but cannot take public positions on matters of government policy unless we identify ourselves as citizens, ie, not as government employees. Hence we have all been trained to keep personal stuff or emails that reflect opinions which are not USG policies, off of NIH email, and by default onto private mails like gmail

That is what i believe i have done, with the extra caveat that since i was being continually foia'd i also wanted to prevent the personal and private opinions and concerns of my friends, ie, all of you, from showing up in the newspapers, and reduce the chance that your harrassments would be magnified

I hope you will recall and even find emails that are supportive of the fact that i said to all of you that i could not discuss govt business on emails, but please keep me in the loop for my info, and that you should not expect me to respond although i wanted to know what was happening

Stuff like that.

Some of you know that as of yesterday, and thanks to Rich and his daughter and her husband, both attorneys i guess, i now have legal representation. NIH will apparently be happy to throw me under the bus to appease the House Subcommittee, but even at my age i feel i am still highly productive scientifically and have much more to do, including development of covid and influenza vaccines with our molecular pathogenesis lab and with our nih vaccine research center

Thanks for your support, david

Sent from my iPhone
David M Morens
OD, NIAID, NIH

> On Aug 23, 2023, at 15:41, David Morens (b) (6) wrote:
>
> Colleagues, the below letter is related to the nih investigation of me and the definition of "government business" as opposed to personal emails to and from colleagues on gmail that do not do government business such as managing grants, organizing meetings, and thins like that
>
> If you think you might have any emails or even remembrances of such, can you please let me know
>
> For example my emails related to the one which the SSCP has quoting me as referring to the GOF unmentionables
>
> Thank you, david
>
> Sent from my iPhone
> David M Morens
> OD, NIAID, NIH

MORENS_SUBPOENA_005438
MORENS_NIH_013521
REL0000478064

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E]" (b) (6)
Date: August 23, 2023 at 15:18:16 EDT
To: David Morens (b) (6)
Subject: Fwd: Follow-up Action: NARA Allegations of Unauthorized Records Destruction

Sent from my iPhone
David M Morens
OD, NIAID, NIH
Begin forwarded message:

From: "Harper, Jill (NIH/NIAID) [E]" (b) (6) ≥
Date: August 23, 2023 at 14:54:04 EDT
To: "Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E]" (b) (6)
Cc: "Green, Christine (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6) "Gibson, Anthony (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6) "Harper, Jill (NIH/NIAID) [E]" (b) (6)
Subject: Follow-up Action: NARA Allegations of Unauthorized Records Destruction

David,

In follow up to your email below, do you have any email correspondence in your possession that supports the following statement from your July 21, 2023, email below?

> *I have never done nih business on my gmail account. The misunderstanding of the subcommittee comes, I believe, from one facetious joking email I sent to a group of scientists-friends trying to support our colleagues (Daszak, Holmes, Rasmussen, and a few others, and by default Tony) who were being stalked and threatened with death by organized groups of people who believed scientists created the pandemic. The goal of these networking emails was to support these scientists, who are my friends and who were living in literal terror. However, since this wasn't really government business, and contained a lot of dark humor, and I knew that my emails had been and would be foia'd, potentially allowing their private worries to become public, I kept repeatedly trying to get them to stop sending stuff to my govt email.*

If so, please forward that entire string of emails to your NIH account as soon as possible and confirm that you have done so.

Thanks,
Jill

From: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b) (6)
Sent: Friday, July 21, 2023 2:08 PM
To: Harper, Jill (NIH/NIAID) [E] <(b) (6) ≥
Cc: Gibson, Anthony (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6) >; Green, Christine (NIH/OD) [E] < (b) (6)
Subject: RE: Notification and Action: NARA Allegations of Unauthorized Records Destruction

Thanks, Jill, this is helpful.

Just to clarify, I have never done nih business on my gmail account. The misunderstanding of the subcommittee comes, I believe, from one facetious joking email I sent to a group of scientists-friends trying to support our colleagues (Daszak, Holmes, Rasmussen, and a few others, and by default Tony) who were being stalked and threatened with death by organized groups of people who believed scientists created the pandemic. The goal of these networking emails was to support these scientists, who are my friends and who were living in literal terror. However, since this wasn't really government business, and contained a lot of dark humor, and I knew that my emails had been

MORENS_SUBPOENA_005439
MORENS_NIH_013522
REL0000478064

and would be foia'd, potentially allowing their private worries to become public, I kept repeatedly trying to get them to stop sending stuff to my govt email.

I noticed that on my list of 24 people, at least 9 are people with whom I have published scientific papers, 4 of those on COVID issues, so there will be a lot of emails about that, 100% on email.

Regarding the list you sent, I have already made a similar list from a combination of memory and all of the names on the 10 papers ID'd by the subcommittee. Probably 95+ percent of all of my correspondence with them will be in email, not gmail, and what's in gmail will be them sending my stuff and me not replying.

I didn't know about the 7 year thing but I recall that a couple years ago or so David Awwad told me that all my emails lived on the servers forever.

OK, focusing on my gmail now. The only other thing is my govt phone but I doubt there is anything on that. That should be easy to check…

TY,

David

David M. Morens, M.D.
CAPT, United States Public Health Service (ret.)
Senior Advisor to the Director
Office of the Director
National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases
National Institutes of Health
Building 31, Room 7A-03
31 Center Drive, MSC 2520
Bethesda, MD 20892-2520
(b) (6) (assistant: Sherri DePollar)
(b) (6)
(b) (6)

Disclaimer: This message is intended for the exclusive use of the recipient(s) named above. It may contain information that is PROTECTED, PRIVILEGED, and/or CONFIDENTIAL, and it should not be disseminated, distributed, or copied to persons not authorized to receive such information. All sensitive documents must be properly labeled before dissemination via email. If you are not the intended recipient, any dissemination, distribution, or copying is strictly prohibited. If you have received this communication in error, please erase all copies of the message and its attachments and notify us immediately.

From: Harper, Jill (NIH/NIAID) [E] <(b) (6)
Sent: Friday, July 21, 2023 12:55 PM
To: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b) (6)
Cc: (b) (6) H/OD) [E] (b) (6) ; Green, Christine (NIH/OD) [E] <(b) (6) ; Harper, Jill (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b) (6)
Subject: RE: Notification and Action: NARA Allegations of Unauthorized Records Destruction

David, please see responses in yellow below.

In addition, I would suggest looking at the individuals listed below, to identify, who if any, you have corresponded with, in conducting NIH business via your personal accounts.
a. Anthony Fauci

MORENS_SUBPOENA_005440
MORENS_NIH_013523
REL0000478064

b. Francis Collins
c. Lawrence Tabek
d. Hugh Auchincloss
e. Cliff Lane
f. David Morens
g. Ping Chen
h. Ian Watson
i. Andrew Pope
j. Victor Dzau
k. Robert Redfield
l. Michael Lauer - NIH Employee
m. David Christian Hassell
n. Jeremy Farrar
o. Robert Garry
p. Michael Farzan
q. Edward Holmes
r. W. Ian Lipkin
s. Andrew Rambaut
t. Peter Daszak
u. Aleksei Chmura
v. Kevin Olival
w. Christian Drosten
x. Ron Fouchier
y. Marion Koopmans
z. Michael Worobey
aa. Jonathan Pekar
bb. Florence Debarre
cc. Angela Rasmussen
dd. Ralph Baric
ee. James LeDuc
ff. Shi Zhengli

From: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b) (6)
Sent: Friday, July 21, 2023 10:45 AM
To: Harper, Jill (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b) (6)
Cc: Gibson, Anthony (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6) >; Green, Christine (NIH/OD) [E] < (b) (6) >
Subject: Re: Notification and Action: NARA Allegations of Unauthorized Records Destruction

Jill, Mason is setting up my work station now, so i am over in B31 because we dont get a wifi signal over there

i did about an hours worth of hard copy searching earlier including printing out all ten of the documents requested. Some of them i recognize and at least one i probably sent sn emsil about, that was the Jerry Keusch paper, which i though was great and recall congratulating him on it

I also looked at the list of authors on those ten papers and compiled a sublist of all of those i might have corresponded with in the past, so that i can sesrch for emails to or from. The list is quite long but i don't expect to find much except for Peter Daszak and Jerry Keusch, two old friends who i have been regularly in touch with for years

Regarding a list of things i might have deleted, for both my email and gmail there isn't any one thing i remember
deleting, just my daily or frequent getting rid of emails. That would include some but not all of my emsils to and from all the folks named above. Most of my deletions are from inbox and sent mail, once i have read them to make sure i got the info. Emails that i have transferred to a folder , eg, regarding a manuscript, should still be there

MORENS_SUBPOENA_005441
MORENS_NIH_013524
REL0000478064

Policy dictates that emails are retained by CIO/CIT for seven years from the date of deletion; therefore CIT can recover all items deleted from an NIH account.

One further thing that is a bit puzzling. The subcommittee has not asked anything about the published manuscript on the origin of covid 19 that i led, and which was available in spring 2020 and published in July. That was one of the most forceful and reasoned of the early papers that said the virus could only have come from a bat. At least 2-3 of the 9 co authors on that paper are on the list of authors of other papers the subcommittee requests. Should i send the emails with these authors which were about our paper even though they were not requested? Sounds like a semantic question, but the info base for all of us was pretty much the same, and all of the pspers published around that time came to pretty much the same conclusion. I am thinking to err on the side of over rather than under identifying emails and stuff

I agree that over identifying is better – I would include anything COVID related..

Finally, i am still a little unclear, should i be focusing how on finding gmails and sending to email, or the infinitely larger amount of stuff already in email that will take alot of time to identify? d

When you say "stuff already in email", do you mean in your government email? You should be focusing on correspondence in gmails or any other personal email accounts or any other text messaging or social media that were used to conduct and/or communicate NIH business and forwarding that to your NIH account.

Sent from my iPhone
David M Morens
OD, NIAID, NIH

On Jul 21, 2023, at 09:58, Harper, Jill (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b) (6) wrote:

David,

If you forward emails from your gmail to your NIH account, NIH will be able to access them.

For pdfs and word documents, you can email to your government account with an subject line that denotes the contents and how it relates to the request.

As a reminder, you have also been requested to provide a detailed list (to me via email) of any communications that were deleted – see original memo for what to include in that list.

Jill

From: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b) (6)
Sent: Thursday, July 20, 2023 4:14 PM
To: Harper, Jill (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b) (6)
Cc: Gibson, Anthony (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6) >; Green, Christine (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6)
Subject: RE: Notification and Action: NARA Allegations of Unauthorized Records Destruction

OK, thanks, then in that case maybe I will try to come in tomorrow, TY

<image001.gif>

MORENS_SUBPOENA_005442
MORENS_NIH_013525
REL0000478064

David M. Morens, M.D.
CAPT, United States Public Health Service
Senior Advisor to the Director
Office of the Director
National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases
National Institutes of Health
Building 31, Room 7A-03
31 Center Drive, MSC 2520
Bethesda, MD 20892-2520
(b) (6) (assistant: Whitney Robinson)
(b) (6)

Disclaimer: **This message is intended for the exclusive use of the recipient(s) named above. It may contain information that is PROTECTED, PRIVILEGED, and/or CONFIDENTIAL, and it should not be disseminated, distributed, or copied to persons not authorized to receive such information. All sensitive documents must be properly labeled before dissemination via email. If you are not the intended recipient, any dissemination, distribution, or copying is strictly prohibited. If you have received this communication in error, please erase all copies of the message and its attachments and notify us immediately.**



From: Harper, Jill (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b) (6)
Sent: Thursday, July 20, 2023 3:51 PM
To: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b) (6)
Cc: Gibson, Anthony (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6) Green, Christine (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6) ; Harper, Jill (NIH/NIAID) [E] < (b) (6)
Subject: on and Action: NARA Allegations of Unauthorized Records Destruction

David, IT is able to assist you tomorrow (Friday 7/21) if you would like to come in then. Mason Fletcher is your point-of-contact.

I am trying to get clarification about your other questions.

Thanks,
Jill

From: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b) (6)
Sent: Thursday, July 20, 2023 12:50 PM
To: Harper, Jill (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b) (6)
Cc: Gibson, Anthony (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6) >; Green, Christine (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6)
Subject: Re: Notification and Action: NARA Allegations of Unauthorized Records Destruction

Thanks Jill,

i have a few questions.... see below

Sent from my iPhone
David M Morens
OD, NIAID, NIH

> On Jul 20, 2023, at 11:45, Harper, Jill (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b) (6) wrote:
>
> David,
>
> For the memorandum, you should be able to sign digitally with your PIV card using Adobe – I'm sure IT can assist with that.

OK, i will ask IT how to do that

> You may come into the office to go through your files, but please notify me in advance of what days you plan to come in. I know you need to come in to deal with your computer – please let me know what day you plan to do this.

I had hoped to come in yesterday or today, but IT told me on both days that until further notice they cannot help me. And since my computer system in my office is apparently completely dead, I dont want to come in unless i can get something done

All of my hard copy files regarding all things covid are in my office in building 33. By chance, a month or so ago i spent a full day semi-organizing those and they are in maybe 5-6 3 inch binders plus maybe several up to 2 foot high stacks, only loosely organized Most of those are either pdfs of published scientific papers or printouts from Greg's news feeds, but there could be a handful of emails too. So i should be able to go through all of that in 1/2 a day, and am very doubtful there is anything in there of importance

> Electronic versions of files are preferred as much as possible. The memo requests that you forward emails from your gmail to your government email, so no need to print those. Likewise, electronic files that you have can be emailed to your government account. For files that only exist in paper version, the preference would be to scan those and email to your government email.

Jill, a couple of clarifications here. Do you mean that anything i find in my gmail i just forward to my email and then what? NIH sends it all, or goes over it, or I do?

To be on the safe side should i for example forward to my email everything referring to or from/to the authors of the documents noted, which would save time in having to read endless pages of stuff that probably isnt relevant, or look only for specific things requested. For example, there may be emails on which i was copied along with an author on one of those documents, but i didn't do anything about it. In otherwords should i cast a very wide net?

By other electronic files do you mean things like pdfs or word docs?

Regarding things that only exist in paper versions i dont expect to find any or at least very few, but scanning those should be easy, and then email to my nih nih email, right?

TY, david

MORENS_SUBPOENA_005444
MORENS_NIH_013527
REL0000478064

Jill

From: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] <(b) (6)
Sent: Wednesday, July 19, 2023 5:19 PM
To: Harper, Jill (NIH/NIAID) [E] <(b) (6)
Cc: Gibson, Anthony (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6) ; Green, Christine (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6)
Subject: Re: Notification and Action: NARA Allegations of Unauthorized Records Destruction

Jill, i have received this memorandum but as i am at home without a printer, is there a workaround way to sign it?

With respect to the NARA requests, the only way to fully respond is to go through documents which are at work, which isn't possible if i cannot go in to work

As I have said, to the best of my knowledge, i have never in my 25 years at nih generated or worked on a record that would go to NARA, so it would be helpful to get a better idea of what i should be looking for and how can i be sure that the documents i have are or are not nara documents

A couple years ago David Awwad told me that all of our emails whether in our computer files or deleted can be retrieved by IT so is this something they can do? I have no way of retrieving the estimated million or more emails i must have deleted over the years

I have many hardcopy files that i can check but it will take time

Regarding all the 10 listed papers I have no memory of any of them with the possible exception of one called "proximal origins". I got that paper off pub med last week but didn't recognize that i had ever seen it before. If i did, it will be in my hard copy files since i have not pitched any of them. david

Sent from my iPhone
David M Morens
OD, NIAID, NIH

> On Jul 19, 2023, at 16:52, Harper, Jill (NIH/NIAID) [E] <
> (b) (6) wrote:
>
> Dr. Morens,
>
> Please find attached memorandum regarding NARA allegations of unauthorized records destruction. Please review, sign to acknowledge receipt, return the signed memo to me, and take appropriate actions.
>
> Thanks,
>
> Jill R. Harper, Ph.D.
> Deputy Director for Science Management, and Executive Officer
> NIAID/NIH/DHHS
> Bldg. 31, Room 7A 24, MSC 2520
> Bethesda, MD 20892-2520
> Phone: (b) (6)
> (b) (6)
> Pronouns – she, her, hers *(why?)*

MORENS_SUBPOENA_005445
MORENS_NIH_013528
REL0000478064

Date: Mon, 27 May 2024 4:12:22 PM -0400
Sent: Mon, 27 May 2024 4:12:18 PM -0400
Subject: Re: Document summarizing our response to the HHS debarment allegations
From: Keusch, Gerald <(b) (6)
To: Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6)
CC: Roberts, Rich <(b) (6) Peter Daszak <(b) (6) (b) (6)
Jeffrey Sturchio <(b) (6)
Attachments: IMG_6292.jpeg

My sense is McNutt is not saying much about what you say but how you say it. I think it is worthwhile to take the time to reread and edit the document with a PR perspective - same information, direct response, but phrased with a less back in your face tone. That would be just as powerful and a lot more politic - even though none of us want to tone down our disappointment and anger about all of this.

I would really like to hear what Jeff thinks about this.

Jerry

Sent from my iPhone

> On May 27, 2024, at 4:00 PM, Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6) wrote:
>
> She's not a virologist and believes that just because we've not found the exact virus hanging around in bats leaves the door open for lab leak. But that goes against what every virologist says. We have overwhelming evidence for natural origins.
>
> As Michael Hiltzik says
>
> <IMG_6292.jpeg>
>
> **Peter Hotez**, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP
>
> **Texas Children's Hospital**: Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics | Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development | Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development
>
> **Baylor College of Medicine:** Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine | Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology | Health Policy Scholar
>
> **Baylor University**, University Professor
> **Rice University**, Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty
> **Texas A&M University**, Faculty-Senior Fellow, Hagler Inst for Advanced Study & Scowcroft Institute of Intl Affairs
>
> E-mail | Twitter | LinkedIn | Skype: (b) (6)
> Amazon Author Center | Daily Beast Contributor
>
> **Senior Coordinator & Executive Support:** Douglas Soriano
> (b) (6) | Phone: (b) (6) | Fax: 713-798-2299
>
> **Media Inquiries:**

(b) (6)

iPhone

On May 27, 2024, at 1:34 PM, Roberts, Rich <(b) (6) > wrote:

*****CAUTION:*** This email is not from a BCM Source. Only click links or open attachments you know are safe.**

Peter:

I received this feedback from Marcia McNutt.

Rich

Richard J. Roberts
New England Biolabs
240 County Road
Ipswich, MA 01938-2723
USA
Tel: (b) (6)
Fax: (978) 412 9910
email: (b) (6)

Executive Assistant: (b) (6)
Tel: (b) (6)
Fax: (978) 412 9910
email: (b) (6) 6)

From: McNutt, Marcia K. <(b) (6)
Sent: Monday, May 27, 2024 1:01 PM
To: Roberts, Rich <(b) (6)
Subject: Re: Document summarizing our response to the HHS debarment allegations
Importance: High

EXTERNAL SENDER

Thanks for sharing this document. I don't know Peter personally, so don't understand how he wants to present himself and EcoHealth to the politicians. As we all have seen, politicians purposefully come across as combative, like to speak in sound bites, and take much liberty with the facts. As a scientist, my personal style is to stick to the facts, insist that others stick to those facts, and admit when and where science cannot answer questions. The way this statement is written, it tends towards giving the politicians a taste of their own medicine, so to speak, by stating in absolute terms topics that are more nuanced. For example:

"Many of the claims levied against EcoHealth Alliance are built on the false assumption that COVID-19 emerged from the Wuhan Institute of Virology because of a lab leak during research supported by the NIH under a subgrant from EcoHealth Alliance: There is not a scintilla of scientific evidence for this narrative. "

I probably would have stated this differently. The failure to find the SARS-COV2 virus in nature has been the primary support for the lab leak hypothesis. So I think stating that "there is not a

scintilla of scientific evidence" is overstated, and could bring trouble. The epidemiology of the disease does suggest origin at the market, but without the cooperation of the Chinese, we will not solve this problem. I am sure that many interpret the lack of cooperation by the Chinese as "proof" that they engineered the disease, even if by mistake.

The rest of the statement follows in similar vein, by showing anger and frustration. (And believe me, I can completely relate to why Peter is so frustrated!) But emotion tends to detract from the impression that this is a fact-based rebuttal. I guess I would have just made the same points more dispassionately. e.g. Debarment is not an appropriate action in this case based on government regulations. The timing of the request for data and notebooks was too late, and by that time political tensions virtually guaranteed that they would not be forthcoming as distrust was evident on both sides (Chinese and US). etc.

Please note that these comments are just based on my personal experience with Congress. Peter can take or leave.

One strategy I used to use with Congress was to meet privately with the Members prior to my testimony. For those likely to be in opposition to my case, I would explain in great detail to them and in terms they can understand why they should back off or change their minds. For those likely to be sympathetic to my case, I would feed them questions to ask. I remember one case when I was testifying for the USGS budget, and the proposal had been to zero out the Earthquake Research Grants to universities, a program in place for many decades. I had one Member ask me whether these grants had any impact in the past. That gave me the opening to tell the story of a young Stanford grad student from France whose research funding had run out, and he was going to have to return to France. The USGS stepped in, supported the student, and he used the funds to conduct a strong ground motion mapping of the Bay Area to predict what areas were most vulnerable to earthquake shaking and sediment liquification. Three years later, the Loma Prieta earthquake occurred, and basically validated all of the microzonation shaking that the map had predicted. The student was able to stay in the US, finish his degree, obtain US citizenship, and at the time of my testimony was President of Caltech. All of the money for the earthquake research grants was restored by Congress as a result of that testimony, and no funds were taken out elsewhere.

Peter needs an opportunity to talk about all of the good that the EcoHealth Alliance has done, and needs to create an opening to tell that story.

Hope this is helpful. Have a great Memorial Day!

Marcia

NASNASNASNASNASNASNASNASNASNASNASNAS
Dr. Marcia K McNutt
President, National Academy of Sciences
Mailing Address | Physical location:
500 Fifth Street NW | 2101 Constitution Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20001 | Washington, DC 20418
(b) (6) (office) | (b) (6) (cell)
NASNASNASNASNASNASNASNASNASNASNASNAS

CONFIDENTIALITY NOTICE: This e-mail and any attachments are for the exclusive and confidential use of the individual or individuals named above on behalf of the National Academy of Sciences. The information herein is privileged to the Academy. If you are not the intended recipient, any dissemination, retention, or copying of this communication and its attachments is prohibited.

On May 25, 2024, at 1:10 AM, Roberts, Rich <(b) (6) wrote:

Marcia:

Here is a draft of a document that Peter Daszak is preparing in order to answer the questions from the Congressional sub-committee concerning EcoHealth Alliance. Any comments or advice you might have would be welcome.

There is getting to be increasing concern among the colleagues I speak to about the attacks on Science from politicians and many have expressed a willingness to help with a campaign to counter them. Has any progress been made from your end? I would be happy to talk with you or your communications staff about this.

Rich

Richard J. Roberts
New England Biolabs
240 County Road
Ipswich, MA 01938-2723
USA
Tel: (b) (6)
Fax: (978) 412 9910
email: (b) (6)

Executive Assistant: (b) (6)
Tel: (b) (6)
Fax: (978) 412 9910
email: (b) (6)

<Summary of EcoHealth's responses to SSCP and HHS allegations..pdf>

MORENS_NIH_047100
REL0000478071

Date: Sun, 23 Jul 2023 12:57:44 PM -0400
Sent: Sun, 23 Jul 2023 12:57:02 PM -0400
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Fwd: Fauci, Birx, Francis Collins, Baric, Azar, Daszak, Bourla, Bancel, Jha, Njoo, Theresa Tam, Walensky, Doug Ford, Williams, Kieran, Marks, de Villa, Jüni, Hotez, Tedros, CDC, FDA officials, HANG high!
From: David Morens <(b) (6)
To: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] <(b) (6)

David M. Morens, MD
(b) (6)

(b) (6)
(work)
(cell)

IMPORTANT: My gmail frequently sends incoming messages to Trash, which is apparently not correctable. If you don't hear from me in a reasonable time, please try again, call, or use my NIH email address

IMPORTANT: For US Government-related email, please also reply to my NIAID address

---------- Forwarded message ---------
From: David Morens <(b) (6) >
Date: Fri, Jul 21, 2023 at 12:59 PM
Subject: Fwd: Fauci, Birx, Francis Collins, Baric, Azar, Daszak, Bourla, Bancel, Jha, Njoo, Theresa Tam, Walensky, Doug Ford, Williams, Kieran, Marks, de Villa, Jüni, Hotez, Tedros, CDC, FDA officials, HANG high!
To: David Morens <(b) (6)

David M. Morens. MD
(b) (6)

(b) (6)
(b) (6)
(work)
(cell)

IMPORTANT: My gmail frequently sends incoming messages to Trash, which is apparently not correctable. If you don't hear from me in a reasonable time, please try again, call, or use my NIH email address

IMPORTANT: For US Government-related email, please also reply to my NIAID address

---------- Forwarded message ---------
From: Roberts, Rich <(b) (6)
Date: Sat, Dec 31, 2022 at 2:02 PM
Subject: RE: Fauci, Birx, Francis Collins, Baric, Azar, Daszak,

Bourla, Bancel, Jha, Njoo, Theresa Tam, Walensky, Doug Ford, Williams, Kieran, Marks, de Villa, Jüni, Hotez, Tedros, CDC, FDA officials, HANG high!
To: Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6) Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >
Cc: Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) >, David Morens <(b) (6) >, Gerald Keusch <(b) (6) Jeffrey Sturchio <J_Sturchio@msn.com>

Awful – and so disappointing that these people live among us and vote.

Richard J. Roberts

New England Biolabs

240 County Road

Ipswich, MA 01938-2723

USA

Tel: (b) (6)

Fax: (978) 412 9910

email: (b) (6)

Executive Assistant: (b) (6)

Tel: (b) (6)

Fax: (978) 412 9910

email: (b) (6)

From: Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6)
Sent: Saturday, December 31, 2022 1:53 PM
To: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >
Cc: Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) >; David Morens <(b) (6) >; Gerald Keusch <(b) (6) Jeffrey Sturchio <(b) (6) Roberts, Rich <(b) (6)
Subject: Re: Fauci, Birx, Francis Collins, Baric, Azar, Daszak, Bourla, Bancel, Jha, Njoo, Theresa Tam, Walensky, Doug Ford, Williams, Kieran, Marks, de Villa, Jüni, Hotez, Tedros, CDC, FDA officials, HANG

high!

EXTERNAL SENDER

This week I had some of the lead antivaxxers: Robert Malone, Peter Koury, Peter McCullough, and Steve Kirsch all hang up on me with online harassment. Now a new round of death threats. It never ends

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP

Texas Children's Hospital: Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics | Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development | Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

Baylor College of Medicine: Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine | Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology | Health Policy Scholar

Baylor University, University Professor

Rice University, Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty

Texas A&M University, Faculty-Senior Fellow, Hagler Inst for Advanced Study & Scowcroft Institute of Intl Affairs

E-mail | Twitter | LinkedIn | Skype: (b) (6)

Amazon Author Center | Daily Beast Contributor

Senior Coordinator & Executive Support: Douglas Soriano

(b) (6) | Phone: (b) (6) | Fax: 713-798-2299

Media Inquiries:

(b) (6)

(b) (6)

(b) (6)

iPhone

On Dec 31, 2022, at 12:17 PM, Peter Daszak <(b) (6) > wrote:

CAUTION: This email is not from a BCM Source. Only click links or open attachments you know are safe.

Not pleasant reading but thanks for sharing this link. It's a stream-of-consciousness diatribe that makes you think this guy is simply mentally ill, but actually he's a well-known right wing 'influencer', appearing on Steve Bannon's podcast, member of the Brownstone Institute and regular on other outlets. In the end, just probably a sad lonely person looking for outside validation. Still, pretty disturbing to read…

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak

President

MORENS_SUBPOENA_002324
MORENS_NIH_008840
REL0000478075

EcoHealth Alliance

520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200

New York, NY 10018-6507

USA

Tel.: (b) (6)

Website:
https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.ecohealthalliance.org%2F&data=05%7C01%7Cdmorens%40niaid.nih.gov%7Ca1f3ef9f2f24411793da08db8b9dedf3%7C14b77578977342d5850&sdata=ScgqF%2BSQVcjlu%2FWqxZsEq9lGuYcTa5hZSP7o5VIorJQ%3D &reserved=0

Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

From: Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6)
Sent: Tuesday, December 27, 2022 2:16 PM
To: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >; Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) >; David Morens <(b) (6) >; Gerald Keusch <(b) (6) Jeffrey Sturchio <(b) (6)
Rich Roberts <(b) (6)
Subject: Fauci, Birx, Francis Collins, Baric, Azar, Daszak, Bourla, Bancel, Jha, Njoo, Theresa Tam, Walensky, Doug Ford, Williams, Kieran, Marks, de Villa, Jüni, Hotez, Tedros, CDC, FDA officials, HANG high!

https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fpalexander.substack.com%2Fp%2Ffauci-birx-francis-collins-azar-bourla&data=05%7C01%7Cdmorens%40niaid.nih.gov%7Ca1f3ef9f2f24411793da08db8b9dedf3%7C14b77578977342d5850&sdata=CBkTDelXVFgID06qqGXtE%2B%2F4AqW%2FA9725XkO6U3L9%2BA%3D &reserved=0

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP

Texas Children's Hospital: Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics | Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development | Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

Baylor College of Medicine: Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine | Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology | Health Policy Scholar

Baylor University, University Professor

Rice University, Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty

Texas A&M University, Faculty-Senior Fellow, Hagler Inst for Advanced Study & Scowcroft Institute of Intl Affairs

E-mail | Twitter | LinkedIn | Skype: (b) (6)

Amazon Author Center | Daily Beast Contributor

Senior Coordinator & Executive Support: Douglas Soriano

(b) (6) | Phone: (b) (6) | Fax: 713-798-2299

Media Inquiries:

(b) (6)

(b) (6)

(b) (6)

iPhone

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and are confident the content is safe.

Date: Wed, 1 Feb 2023 6:21:35 PM -0500
Sent: Wed, 1 Feb 2023 6:21:20 PM -0500
Subject: Re: Update
From: "Hotez, Peter Jay" <(b) (6)
To: Peter Daszak <(b) (6)
CC: David Morens <(b) (6) Roberts, Rich <(b) (6) Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6) Jeffrey Sturchio <(b) (6) Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) >;
Attachments: image003.jpg; image004.jpg; image005.jpg

Dear all, I spoke with Ann Moscona President-Elect at ASV and she's all in. She also suggested adding Felicia Goodrum (Arizona) and Stacey Schultz-Cherry (St. Judes) both really good on policy issues, she will give them a heads up, thanks! Peter

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP

Texas Children's Hospital: Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics | Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development | Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

Baylor College of Medicine: Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine | Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology | Health Policy Scholar

Baylor University, University Professor
Rice University, Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty
Texas A&M University, Faculty-Senior Fellow, Hagler Inst for Advanced Study & Scowcroft Institute of Intl Affairs

E-mail | Twitter | LinkedIn | Skype: (b) (6)
Amazon Author Center | Daily Beast Contributor

Senior Coordinator & Executive Support: Douglas Soriano
(b) (6) | Phone: (b) (6) | Fax: 713-798-2299

Media Inquiries:
(b) (6)

From: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >
Sent: Wednesday, February 1, 2023 8:14 AM
To: Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6)
Cc: David Morens <(b) (6) Roberts, Rich <(b) (6) Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6) Jeffrey Sturchio <(b) (6) Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6)
Subject: Concept note and Agenda for our discussion today at 1 pm Eastern US time

Dear All,

I'm looking forward to our discussion today at 1pm. Attached is a concept note that Jeff Sturchio drafted to frame some ideas around what we might try to do.

I've also attached a rough agenda for us.

Here are the details of the zoom call, and I look forward to speaking with you all later on:

Join Zoom Meeting

(b) (6)

Meeting ID (b) (6)
Passcode: (b) (6)
One tap mobile
(b) (6) US (New York)
US

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: (b) (6)
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

From: Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6)
Sent: Tuesday, January 31, 2023 3:04 PM
To: Peter Daszak (b) (6) >
Cc: David More (b) (6) >; Roberts, Rich (b) (6) (b) (6) Keusch, Gerald T (b) (6)
Jeffrey Sturchio (b) (6) >; Aleksei Chmura (b) (6)
Subject: Re: Two great articles!

Many thanks Peter! Appreciate the support!

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP

Texas Children's Hospital: Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics | Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development | Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

Baylor College of Medicine: Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine | Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology | Health Policy Scholar

Baylor University, University Professor
Rice University, Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty
Texas A&M University, Faculty-Senior Fellow, Hagler Inst for Advanced Study & Scowcroft Institute of Intl Affairs

E-mail | Twitter | LinkedIn | Skype: (b) (6)

Amazon Author Center | Daily Beast Contributor

Senior Coordinator & Executive Support: Douglas Soriano
Douglas.SorianoOsejo@bcm.edu | Phone: (b) (6) | Fax: 713-798-2299

Media Inquiries:
(b) (6)

iPhone

On Jan 31, 2023, at 1:44 PM, Peter Daszak (b) (6) > wrote:

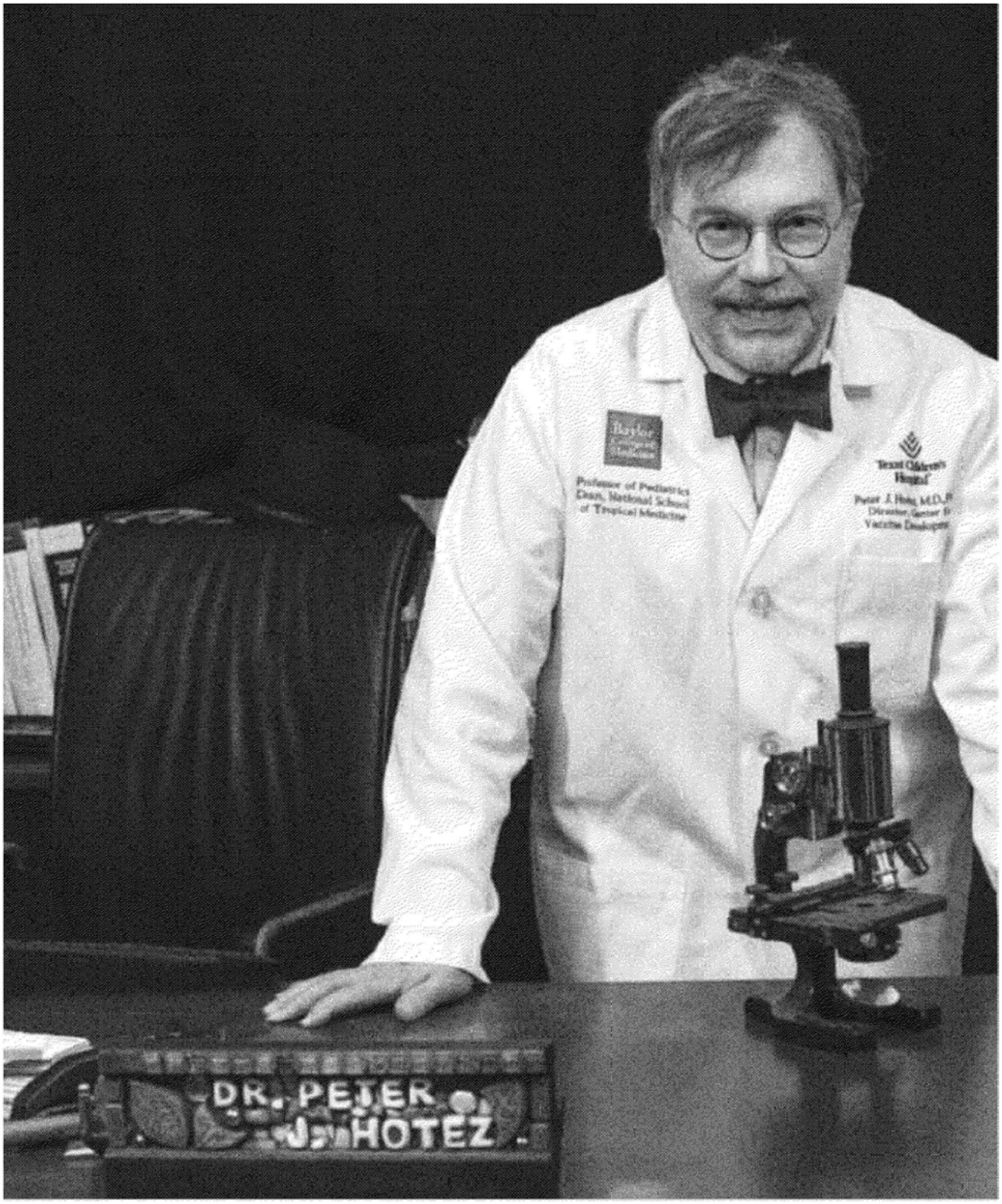
First, want to send my appreciation for your great interview in the Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists yesterday, Peter:

https://thebulletin.org/2023/01/viral-spread-peter-hotez-on-the-increase-of-anti-science-aggression-on-social-media/

Viral spread: Peter Hotez on the increase of anti-science aggression on social media

By Sara Goudarzi | January 30, 2023

MORENS_SUBPOENA_016312
MORENS_NIH_034439
REL0000478079



Peter Hotez (Image courtesy of Agapito Sanchez, Baylor College of Medicine)

Last November, Twitter announced it will no longer enforce "the COVID-19 misleading information policy." The platform also allowed previously banned users to rejoin the site. Since then, anti-vaccination messaging has gained renewed energy, distressing scientists and researchers who have been combatting misinformation and disinformation on social media. According to research, there's a strong relationship between anti-vaccination efforts on social media and vaccine hesitancy, and while millions of people were saved by having taken the COVID-19 vaccines,

MORENS_SUBPOENA_016313
MORENS_NIH_034440
REL0000478079

hundreds of thousands of Americans died after refusing it.

Peter Hotez, a physician-scientist, dean of the National School of Tropical Medicine, and a professor in the departments of Pediatrics and Molecular Virology and Microbiology at Baylor College of Medicine, is no stranger to anti-vaccination attitudes. He has fought against misleading medical information for years. But now, he says, anti-science sentiments have been weaponized by businessmen and politicians seeking profits and power.

In the 1940s and 1950s, the House Un-American Activities Committee (HUAC) investigated and discredited several scientists who worked on the Manhattan Project. Hotez expects congressional committees under Republican control to engage in a similar targeting of scientists in an attempt to accumulate influence and foster a sense of belonging—a signature of authoritarian regimes—among their constituents. In his view, this anti-vaccine, anti-science movement, versions of which are spreading to other countries, could destabilize the global vaccine ecosystem.

I spoke with Hotez about the role of social media in spreading misleading information on vaccines and stoking anti-science aggression in many dimensions. *The resulting discussion has been edited for length and clarity.*

Sara Goudarzi: You've been on Twitter for more than a decade and often use it as a tool to communicate health and science facts, such as the importance of vaccinations. How in your experience has the social media platform changed during this time?

Peter Hotez: Well, it's become a lot more adversarial as the anti-vaccine movement has shifted. The anti-vaccine movement began in earnest around 20 years ago in the United States around false assertions that vaccines cause autism. The way I got involved was because I have a daughter with autism, and I wrote the book *Vaccines Did Not Cause Rachel's Autism: My Journey as a Vaccine Scientist, Pediatrician, and Autism Dad*, and that made me public enemy number one or two with the anti-vaccine activists.

What I would do at that time of social media was use their statements in their attacks against me as a teachable moment, to expose what the anti-vaccine movement was all about and how they were monetizing the internet with books on Amazon and nutritional supplements and the phony autism cures. So, rather than simply block people who were attacking me, I would retweet them with a little description of what they were doing. People found it very interesting because it was teaching them how an anti-science movement works, and they started coming to my Twitter for that purpose.

The game changer was about nine years ago, when [vaccine disinformation] became a political movement around health and medical freedom. You saw a different set of actors come into this, and it became a lot more aggressive; people's political allegiance became tied to not giving their kids vaccinations, and that has just come off the rails with COVID-19. And I'd like to point out that 200,000 Americans now have needlessly lost their lives because they refused the COVID vaccine.

The hardest thing yet is really trying to describe the anti-vaccine ecosystem, because too often it's still couched in the old autism thing that they call infodemic or give it euphemisms like misinformation or disinformation. That is, as though it's some random stuff appearing on social media, when in fact, it's organized, politically motivated, and deliberate. It has a system in place, and what I do now is use that to actually describe who the actors that comprise that ecosystem are—elected leaders in the House Freedom Caucus, certain senators, and local leaders amplified in Fox News with designated contrarians from the far right think tanks.

All our training to be a scientist says you're not supposed to talk about Republicans, Democrats, liberals, or conservatives; you're supposed to be politically neutral. But what do you do when the anti-science, anti-vaccine aggression is predominantly coming along the partisan lines from the far right? How do you articulate that without basically saying, "the reason I'm doing this is to save lives?" It's no longer a theoretical discussion; Americans have lost their lives because they believed the politics, and to be able to articulate that is really threading a needle there.

Goudarzi: With Twitter's moderators practically gone, the platform's announcement that it will no longer enforce measures to combat misleading information regarding COVID-19 and will give amnesty to previously banned users, there seems to be a rise in anti-vaccination sentiment.
Hotez: It's blown up. It's gotten much tougher: Anything I put out there gets immediately pounced on, and I can trace the origins to four or five either elected leaders or these contrarians from far right think tanks and elsewhere who blow dog whistles. They will put out a (typically false or exaggerated) statement against me, and then I'll receive hundreds and hundreds of tweets or emails specifically targeting me. About half of them look like bots because the person sending it is an empty face with a gazillion numbers attached to the Twitter handle. But others are real people tuning into Fox News every night who totally fall into the rabbit hole because they seem to worship these contrarians. The other piece to this is a lot of Nazi imagery and fantasies, a lot of antisemitism, because they know I'm a Jewish scientist. And that's yet another dimension to all of this.
Goudarzi: How do you think this affects patients in healthcare settings? Have you had personal experience with those who decided not to get vaccinated because of information on the internet or social media indicating the shots are dangerous?
Hotez: I've had sort of the opposite experience, where patients were in the rabbit hole, had seen my postings, see me as credible, and because of me are taking the vaccine, which is kind of nice and spurs me on to keep going at this. But more and more I've also had the other extreme as well, which is based on what they see on social media: People will take the time to write me a threatening email or make a call to the lab or to the office. Then I have to bring in law enforcement through the Texas Medical Center Police or the Houston Police Department and the Anti-Defamation League (because they have a list of individuals who are known to make these types of threats). It's taken this very, very dark turn as a consequence.
Goudarzi: Anti-vaccination movements are nothing new and go back to the late 1700s, even before the development of the smallpox vaccine and then the 1800s and again in the 1990s and 2000s. Do you think social media has allowed the latest movement to gain even more steam than previous movements?
Hotez: I wrote an article about the whole history of [anti-vax movements] in *Journal of Clinical Investigation*. I think it really accelerated in the early 2000s with autism, in part aided by social media—it was new then but was starting up. Now, I think social media has really been an enabler. It's not only social media; I think amazon.com was a big contributor. If you search for books on vaccinations, what's out there is a horror show. My books are among the top-rated on vaccines, and they're probably ranked about number 30 or 40, because it's all preceded by the phony-baloney, anti-vaccine COVID conspiracy books. So, it's Amazon and social media. And Fox News is having a huge impact. This has been documented by Media Matters, the watchdog group, as well as this very interesting paper that came out of ETH Zurich, which is like the MIT of Central Europe.

Goudarzi: Do you think Amazon is purposefully placing these books higher up in search results, or are search results just a reflection of how much steam the movement has gained?
Hotez: I don't know. Amazon is probably amoral. I don't think they think about this one way or the other, but whatever sells. So, it's whatever people are buying—that's how they're ranking it.
Goudarzi: Are you seeing a difference in the attitudes towards COVID-19 vaccines versus say the flu or MMR vaccines?
Hotez: Yeah, because remember, MMR came out of autism; that was the [original] assertion that the MMR vaccine causes autism. That was [*The Lancet*] paper from 1998. But then around 2014, 2015 (I like to think because I was helping to take some of the wind out of the sails around autism), you started to see the anti-vaccine movement pivot around this concept of health and medical freedom, that you can't tell us what to do about our kids. And that was the first link to the Republican Tea Party here in Texas. In fact, they started getting PAC [political action committee]

money… It really took off in Texas and Oklahoma and that's what you see came off the rails with COVID-19.

It has been documented now by Charles Gaba, a health analyst whose work has been mentioned in the *New York Times*, National Public Radio, Pew Research Center and Peterson Academic Center, that the lowest vaccination rates were where health freedom propaganda was the strongest, and among those who are in red states like Texas, the redder the county, the lower the vaccination rate, the higher the numbers of deaths. It's a really tight correlation, so much so that David Leonhardt in the *New York Times* has called it red COVID. My forthcoming book, *The Deadly Rise of Antiscience: A Scientist's Warning* and it's full on linked to far-right politics and it's been embraced by the House Freedom Caucus.

After vaccines became widely available, the statements from the 2021 CPAC conference of conservatives in Dallas was first along the lines of: "they're going to vaccinate you, and then they're going to take away your guns and your bibles." It's ridiculous. A quarter of the country accepted it—mostly in Texas and the Southern states, and then [Georgia US Rep.] Marjorie Taylor Greene called people like me "medical brownshirts," using Nazi paramilitary analogy. Then, those in the Senate GOP, such as Senator Johnson from Wisconsin, held anti-vaccine roundtables, amplified by Fox News. Every night, during the last half of 2021, nighttime anchors Tucker Carlson and Laura Ingraham filled their airwaves with very strong anti-vaccine rhetoric, discrediting the effectiveness and safety of vaccines. And then contrarians from the far right think tanks piled on.

As I said, if it were just a theoretical construct, I wouldn't get so exercised, but 40,000 Texans died during the delta wave in the last half of 2021 and early Omicron BA1 wave in 2022 because they refused the COVID vaccine and were victims of this targeted aggression towards them. The number that I put out in the new book is 200,000 Americans across the country. The Kaiser Family Foundation and the health analyst Charles Gaba come up with similar numbers. On that basis, anti-vaccine activism, anti-science aggression, if you look at it as a societal killing force, is killing more Americans than gun violence, terrorism, nuclear proliferation, or cyber-attacks.

Goudarzi: And the interesting thing is that COVID-19 vaccines have been tremendously successful.

Hotez: Alison Galvani at Yale has just done a modeling exercise with the Commonwealth Fund, indicating that COVID vaccines have saved 3.1 million Americans.

Goudarzi: Yet the messaging against these vaccines seems to be just as successful and as you mentioned hundreds of thousands of deaths could have been prevented here in the United States. So, it begs the question, why are we having such an anti-science moment?

Hotez: It's because it's fully ensconced in the political landscape of the country that became part of the far right, and people refused the vaccine out of allegiance. Part of showing your allegiance to the far right is not getting vaccinated. Then, you saw the Proud Boys march in anti-vaccine rallies, and an early arrest in the January 6 insurrection included a prominent anti-vaccine activist.

The question that I get is: "Hey doc, what should we do about this?" And I say I don't know, because this goes outside the health sector. This is a political problem right now. How do you uncouple the anti-science from the politics? It's been really, really challenging, and the Biden administration has not been willing to take this on. Vivek Murthy, who is a very good Surgeon General, issued an advisory in July of 2021 about social media and said we have to work with Meta and Facebook and Twitter to prevent this stuff from going viral. That's fine, but it doesn't get to those who are generating the content. This is where we're starting to see breakdowns, in my view, among our scientific and professional societies, and even the National Academies, because this idea that we have to remain politically neutral is so strong that no one will talk about it the way I'm talking about it with you. You have to be politically neutral; it's silly.

To paraphrase Desmond Tutu and Elie Wiesel, neutrality favors the aggressor.

Goudarzi: What do you think the end goal is for those generating the content and spearheading

these movements? There are certain people who truly believe that vaccines could cause x, whatever x is, but there are others like Gov. DeSantis who himself was vaccinated yet promotes anti-vaccination sentiments.

Hotez: Early on when vaccines first came out, he was actually pro-vaccines. So, what caused the change? When it was pre-health freedom, it was fairly straightforward: It was people monetizing the internet, selling nutritional supplements and books on phony autism cures. When I wrote the book, trying to look at other examples of this, I found what's going on now in Stalin's Russia in the 1930s 1940s. This is part of the signature of an authoritarian regime: to target the science and scientists. When you read Hannah Arendt's *The Origins of Totalitarianism*, you see this is part of the playbook. Even though it's self-defeating, it still fosters allegiance and belonging. I think what happened is with the anti-vaccine groups for whom the wind was let out of their sails around autism, they needed a new thing. They found money and power and relevance by tying themselves to the far right, and the far right created a whole new cadre of people that they wouldn't have otherwise.

Goudarzi: Just add adding to that: Do you think vaccine disinformation is propagated or reinforced purposely by other governments to cause division within the United States, similar to the 2016 election?

Hotez: No question about that, and I think Russia is probably the most egregious [perpetrator], and this has been documented. David Broniatowski, a computer scientist at the George Washington University, has written about this and the Russian bots' roles. In some cases, they're using both anti-vaccine and pro-vaccine rhetoric. They are specifically using this as a wedge issue to divide the country and destabilize our democracy. And it's not only the Russians—the Chinese, North Koreans and Iranians are doing this. But I think Russia is probably the biggest state actor.

What I've recommended to the Biden administration is they create an inter-governmental agency, because the United States Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) doesn't know what to do at this point. Because of the foreign actors involved, you have to bring in Homeland Security, the Commerce Department, the Justice Department and the State Department as well. There are people smart enough who know about these big dangerous societal forces, and we need their advice on what levers we can pull and push. But they haven't wanted to take it on.

Similarly, at the level of the UN agencies, the World Health Organization doesn't know what to do at this point. So, you're starting to see that same US-style anti-vaccine activity moving to Canada, the United Kingdom and Western Europe—and I wrote about this in a paper in *Nature Reviews Immunology*. You're even seeing it now in low- and middle- income countries, including those in Africa. So, it's going to destabilize the global vaccine ecosystem, even around childhood vaccination.

Goudarzi: Scientific debate around new treatment or preventive measure used to happen more or less behind closed doors. But given the nature of a real time pandemic, some of those debates are taking place on social media, and sometimes that leads to the lay audience misunderstanding certain aspects of the discussion and spreading misinformation. How valuable, and how harmful, do you think it is to have scientific debates between researchers on social media?

Hotez: It's often not between researchers. For instance, one of the most common things when they target me on social media is they say I should be in a public debate with the lead anti-vaccine activist. And I say, "No, that's not how science is done. I've written a scientific paper and if somebody has an issue with that, they can either refute it in a scientific journal, or publish their own finding." Of course, they can't get it published because there's no science behind it. So, what they want to do instead is they want a public debate.

And I say, "Look, you can debate 18th-century enlightenment philosophy, but science is not typically something that's debated in that kind of forum; we have a mechanism for doing that through scientific publication and peer review." And they don't want to play that way. They just want to put out their propaganda because that's all they have behind it. An example is ivermectin or

MORENS_SUBPOENA_016317
MORENS_NIH_034444
REL0000478079

hydroxychloroquine, which the scientific community has clearly shown has no effect on COVID-19. Hydroxychloroquine is even harmful. But the problem is the anti-vaccine force has dominated the internet, and they say, "Hey, scientists don't want to debate us, what are they hiding?" And that's, again, how they weaponize communication.

Goudarzi: I was actually thinking of earlier during the pandemic. Because there was so little time, some researchers were putting their papers up on open access preprint servers, which didn't require a peer review, and then others were weighing in on social media platforms. At times, you would see non-scientists take one aspect of that discussion and spread something that wasn't necessarily true.

Hotez: I think with the whole preprint server mechanism, ultimately the benefits outweighed the downside. I can't tell you how many times I had to depend on data from bioRxiv, medRxiv in order to make sense of what was going on. If I had to wait a few weeks for it to air in *New England Journal of Medicine* or *Nature* and *Science*—and by the way, they did a pretty good job too; they were able to turn that around in record time—[it would have been too late.] If you're looking for any silver lining in this pandemic, it's the journal editors, the whole preprint server mechanism, and the willingness of the scientific community to share information. And I think for most of the public understood that they were seeing this play out in real time and that there wasn't always going to be consistency. The problem was those who were who were weaponizing it for their own personal or political gain.

Goudarzi: But you still think the advantages outweighed the disadvantages?

Hotez: I think so. It's hard to imagine how I could've really talked about everything going on knowledgeably on CNN, NBC, or wherever without having access to the information. The preprints were so important.

Goudarzi: Some researchers have either left Twitter or are thinking of leaving. What will this do to scientific discourse? Would it make sense to stay on the platform to counter misinformation and disinformation and increase public awareness, or should researchers seek a more balanced platform?

Hotez: I don't have the answer. I struggle with this every day. I mean, the aggression against me and the threats would continue even if I wasn't on Twitter, because more often than not, it's not against anything that I tweeted. Ninety percent of the time, it's people who see me as a threat to undermine their politics or their business line and are just making up things about me and would still continue even if I wasn't on Twitter. So that's the reason I stay on it, because at least I'm getting out important and timely information. But it is really painful and awful to see what's going on there.

Goudarzi: Is the amount of aggression you face tied to the changing ownership of Twitter and political shifts?

Hotez: The politics around the anti-science, anti-vaccine and phony baloney about COVID origins had started with the pandemic in 2020. But now with all the contrarians back at once it reminds me of the old *Batman* series when they brought back Catwoman, Joker, Penguin, and Riddler all at once to do away with Batman. That seems to be going on, so it's been their superstars who are super energized by being invited back to Twitter, and they are using the platform very aggressively.

Goudarzi: What are some of the lessons we've learned about disinformation and misinformation over the last few years regarding social media that we should consider moving forward?

Hotez: I would say social media is a major weapon of choice for spreading disinformation. But remember, we have to get to those who are generating content. Social media is an important vehicle, but it's not the only one. I think we probably should stop calling it misinformation, disinformation or infodemic. We should call it for what it is, which is anti-science aggression, because it is a killing force. What we realized is that the science aggression is taking lives in the United States on an unprecedented scale.

For that reason, it needs to be addressed, and that's the part the scientific community has not come to terms with. When I call myself a scientist, it's not just co-heading a team of scientists making a

MORENS_SUBPOENA_016318
MORENS_NIH_034445
REL0000478079

COVID vaccine for the world that has reached a 100 million people. That's a very noble activity, but from my perspective, even that's still insufficient. Now being a scientist means, to some extent, being willing to combat the anti-science. It's nothing that any of us signed up for. I never dreamed when I got my MD-PhD in New York in the 1980s that this was something I'd be doing, but this is what's in front of us.
And I don't really feel that the scientific community—the professional societies, scientific bodies, even the academy—fully understand the impact. Hopefully it'll be clear when my book comes out, but it may become even clearer when we see the House GOP hearings. I predict the oversight committee and the judiciary committee or select subcommittees will become an anti-science witch hunt and will target prominent American scientists. And then we'll get a better picture.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: (b) (6)
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

---

From: Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6)@
Sent: Monday, January 30, 2023 6:27 PM
To: David Morens (b) (6) >
Cc: Roberts, Rich (b) (6)) (6) Peter Daszak (b) (6) Keusch, Gerald T <
(b) (6) >; Jeffrey Sturchio (b) (6) ; Aleksei Chmura (b) (6) >
Subject: Re: My latest

Many thanks David! Best Peter

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP

Texas Children's Hospital: Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics | Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development | Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

Baylor College of Medicine: Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine | Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology | Health Policy Scholar

Baylor University, University Professor

Rice University, Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty
Texas A&M University, Faculty-Senior Fellow, Hagler Inst for Advanced Study & Scowcroft Institute of Intl Affairs

E-mail | Twitter | LinkedIn | Skype: (b) (6)

Amazon Author Center | Daily Beast Contributor

Senior Coordinator & Executive Support: Douglas Soriano
(b) (6) | Phone (b) (6) | Fax: 713-798-2299

Media Inquiries:
(b) (6)

iPhone

On Jan 30, 2023, at 5:22 PM, David Morens (b) (6) > wrote:

kudos to you, again! dmm

Sent from my iPhone
David M Morens
OD, NIAID, NIH

On Jan 30, 2023, at 14:37, Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6) > wrote:

https://thebulletin.org/2023/01/viral- spread-peter-hotez-on-the-increase-of-anti-science-aggression-on-social-media/

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP

Texas Children's Hospital: Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics | Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development | Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

Baylor College of Medicine: Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine | Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology | Health Policy Scholar

Baylor University, University Professor
Rice University, Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty
Texas A&M University, Faculty-Senior Fellow, Hagler Inst for Advanced Study & Scowcroft Institute of Intl Affairs

E-mail | Twitter | LinkedIn | Skype: (b) (6)

Amazon Author Center | Daily Beast Contributor

Senior Coordinator & Executive Support: Douglas Soriano
(b) (6) u | Phone: (b) (6) | Fax: 713-798-2299

MORENS_SUBPOENA_016320
MORENS_NIH_034447
REL0000478079

(b) (6)

iPhone

On Jan 27, 2023, at 2:43 PM, Roberts, Rich (b) (6) wrote:

Peter:

No, I didn't come up with the name.

But one I have recently come up with is CheatGPT instead of ChatGPT.

Rich

Richard J. Roberts
New England Biolabs
240 County Road
Ipswich, MA 01938-2723
USA
Tel: (b) (6)
Fax: (978) 412 9910
email: (b) (6)

Executive Assistant: (b) (6)
Tel: (b) (6)
Fax: (978) 412 9910
email: (b) (6)

From: Peter Daszak (b) (6) >
Sent: Friday, January 27, 2023 3:30 PM
To: Roberts, Rich (b) (6) ; Keusch, Gerald T (b) (6) u>; Hotez, Peter Jay < (b) (6)
Cc: David Morens (b) (6) ; Jeffrey Sturchio (b) (6) Aleksei Chmura (b) (6)
Subject: RE: Finally - virologists fight back!

EXTERNAL SENDER

I forgot about that Rich. But I'm assuming it wasn't you that came up with somewhat colonial name!!???

In all seriousness, while it's good for virologists to push back against calls to block scientific research, I don't think a campaign to support gain of function work that's designed to see what would happen if you make a lethal pathogen more transmissible is anything any of us particularly want to get behind right now!

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: (b) (6)
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

---

From: Roberts, Rich (b) (6) ≥
Sent: Friday, January 27, 2023 11:08 AM
To: Peter Daszak (b) (6) >; Keusch, Gerald T (b) (6) Hotez, Peter Jay ≤(b) (6) ≥
Cc: David Morens (b) (6) >; Jeffrey Sturchio (b) (6) ; Aleksei Chmura ≤ (>
Subject: RE: Finally - virologists fight back!

Peter:

In the interests of compete disclosure, I was a member of the "Cambridge Working Group". Our concern was about the deliberate attempts to make the flu virus more infectious. It was the deliberate nature of the experiments that was troubling, not virus research in general.

Rich

Richard J. Roberts
New England Biolabs
240 County Road
Ipswich, MA 01938-2723
USA
Tel: (b) (6)
Fax: (978) 412 9910
email: (b) (6) 6)

Executive Assistant: (b) (6)
Tel: (b) (6)
Fax: (978) 412 9910
email: (b) (6) 6)

From: Peter Daszak ≤(b) (6)
Sent: Friday, January 27, 2023 8:39 AM
To: Keusch, Gerald T (b) (6) Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6) ≥
Cc: David Morens (b) (6) ; Jeffrey Sturchio (b) (6) >; Aleksei Chmura (b) (6) >; Roberts, Rich (b) (6)
Subject: Finally - virologists fight back!
Importance: High

EXTERNAL SENDER

Article in NPR this morning (https://www.npr.org/sections/health-shots/2023/01/27/1151867224/virologists- science-oversight-risky-experiments) – and below, based

MORENS_SUBPOENA_016322
MORENS_NIH_034449
REL0000478079

on a Commentary (attached) in mBio and various ASM journals signed by >150 virologists that fights back against the anti-science, defends virus research and gives a table of positive results from gain of function work.

I'll reach out to Felicia Goodrum (lead author) today to see if they will talk about helping with some sort of coalition. Michael Imperiale was quoted so if any of you know him or Felicia or others who are leading this (e.g. Arturo Casadevall), it would be good to reach out to let them know the urgency.

Some of these people were involved in the coalition (Scientists for Science - http://www.scientistsforscience.org/) to push back against earlier efforts to cancel Gain of function work by the "Cambridge Working Group" (a pretentious name, of course)…

BTW – saw your name on the Scientists for Science website Jerry!

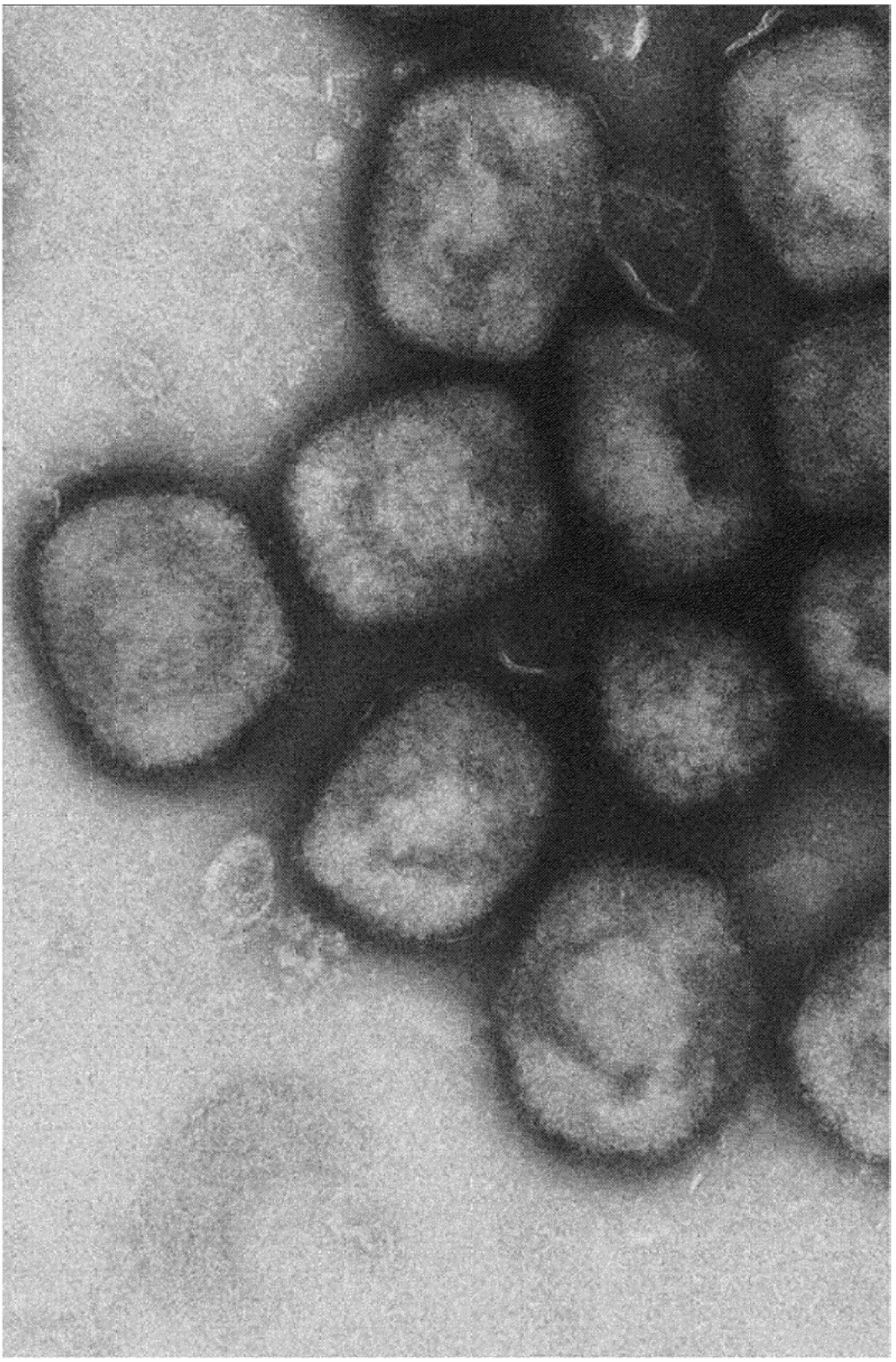
POLICY-ISH

Virologists defend their science as officials eye more oversight of risky experiments



NELL GREENFIELDBOYCE

MORENS_SUBPOENA_016323
MORENS_NIH_034450
REL0000478079



This image shows purified particles of mpox virus, formerly called monkeypox. Viruses like these can be genetically altered in the lab in ways that might make them more dangerous.

NIAID

Over 150 virologists have signed on to a commentary that says all the evidence to date indicates that the coronavirus pandemic started naturally, and it wasn't the result of some kind of lab accident or malicious

MORENS_SUBPOENA_016324
MORENS_NIH_034451
REL0000478079

attack.
They worry that continued speculation about a lab in China is fueling calls for more regulation of experiments with pathogens, and that this will stifle the basic research needed to prepare for future pandemics.

The virologists issued their statement just ahead of a key meeting Friday held by outside advisors to the federal government. That group is set to wrap up a recent review of the existing oversight system for experiments that are controversial because they could create new potential threats.
The advisors' draft recommendations call for expanding a special decision-making process that currently weighs the risks and benefits of experiments that might make "potential pandemic pathogens" more dangerous.
"The government really has a strong interest on behalf of all of us, in the public, in knowing when researchers want to make a virus more lethal or more transmissible, and understanding how that would be done and why that would be done, and whether the benefits are worth it," says Tom Inglesby, director of the Center for Health Security at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health.
Sponsor Message
He thinks if the draft recommendations were adopted by the government, "it would be a very big step forward."

The origins of the pandemic

All of this comes as the lab in China, known as the Wuhan Institute of Virology, is again in the headlines. An internal government watchdog released a report this week criticizing the National Institutes of Health, saying it failed to adequately monitor grant awards given to a nonprofit that had collaborated with scientists at the Wuhan lab.
Felicia Goodrum, a virologist at the University of Arizona, says that open-minded experts have investigated the origins of the pandemic. The available evidence, she says, supports the notion that the virus emerged from nature just like other viruses such as HIV and Ebola did — by jumping from animals into people who had contact with them.
"The evidence that we have to date suggests that SARS-CoV-2 entered the human population by that route, " says Goodrum. "There is no evidence to the contrary or in support of a lab leak, nothing credible."

Basic research on viruses, she says, is what led to the swift development of vaccines and drugs to fight the pandemic.

And yet virologists have watched in dismay as misinformation and conspiracy theories have placed the blame on science.

Sponsor Message
"There's this complete disconnect between reality and what happened," says Michael Imperiale, a virologist at the University of Michigan.
He says that while debates have gone on for years about the wisdom of doing experiments that might make bad viruses even worse, this moment feels different.

"The pandemic," he says, "has really kind of heightened the urgency with which we need to address these issues, just because of all the controversy that's been out there regarding, you know, was this a lab leak or not?"

A bird flu study raises alarm

Unlike, say, nuclear physics research, biology has traditionally had a culture of openness. After the anthrax attacks in 2001, however, biologists began to grapple with the possibility that their published work might serve as recipes for evildoers who wanted to make bioweapons.

And in 2011, there was an outcry after government-funded researchers altered a bird flu virus that can be deadly in people. Their lab work made this virus more contagious in the lab animals that are stand-ins for people.

Critics said they'd created a super flu. Proponents said that viruses sometimes have to be manipulated in the

MORENS_SUBPOENA_016325
MORENS_NIH_034452
REL0000478079

lab to see what they might be capable of; in nature, after all, mutations occur all the time and that is how pandemic strains emerge.

That episode marked the start of a long, heated debate, plus research moratoriums and ultimately the development of new regulations. In 2017, a review system was put into place to weigh the risks and benefits of studies that might make a potential pandemic pathogen even worse. So far just three proposed lines of research, with influenza viruses, have been deemed risky enough to merit that kind of extra scrutiny.

"We are really talking about a small amount of research proposals," says Lyric Jorgenson, the acting associate director for science policy and the acting director of the Office of Science Policy at the NIH.

Sponsor Message

She says just before the pandemic started, officials asked advisors on the National Science Advisory Board for Biosecurity to consider whether the government needed to be more transparent to the public about how it was making decisions about this kind of research. Before that work was done, the pandemic hit and everything was put on hold. Last year, officials asked the group to broaden its work and to evaluate the regulations more comprehensively.

If the draft changes developed by this advisory group are eventually adopted by the government, an extra layer of oversight would apply to any study "reasonably anticipated" to enhance the transmission or virulence of any pathogen in a way that could make it a public health threat. That means more experiments on more viruses would get a closer look.

"What this new recommendation is saying, is that even if you start with a virus that had no potential to cause an epidemic or pandemic, if you are doing research that will change that virus in a way where it could now cause an uncontrollable disease, or a widely spreading disease, that has to be reviewed by this new framework," says Inglesby.

What's more, the advisory group has noted that "increased transparency in the review process is needed to engender public trust in the review and oversight processes."

What's "Reasonably Anticipated"

The American Society for Microbiology has responded positively to the draft recommendations, saying "we urge swift implementation of the recommended changes by the federal agencies engaged in this work." But some virologists think the devil will be in the details if these recommendations turn into policy.

"They keep using this phrase 'reasonably anticipated,'" says Imperiale. "How is that going to be interpreted? Is there going to be clear guidance as to what is meant by that?"

Sponsor Message

Researchers often don't know what will happen when they start an experiment, says Goodrum, especially when the science is cutting-edge.

"That's where the big scientific advancements come from. And so to tie our hands behind our back, to say we can only do the science that we can anticipate, then we're really restricting innovative science," she says.

Ron Fouchier, the virologist at Erasmus University Medical Center in the Netherlands, whose lab did the bird flu experiments over a decade ago, said in an email that he'd hoped the experience of going through a pandemic would simulate more research, not "unnecessarily delay or restrict it."

He said it looked like many infectious disease researchers in the United States "will face substantial delays in their crucial research efforts, if they can continue that research at all."

The U.S. is unusual in that it has a lot of public discussion of these issues and a system to try to manage the risks, says Inglesby.

He thinks that oversight can be made stronger without getting in the way of science.

"I am avidly, absolutely pro-science and pro-research, and in particular pro-infectious disease research," says Inglesby.

But he says there's a very small part of that research "where there is the potential for very high risk if things

MORENS_SUBPOENA_016326
MORENS_NIH_034453
REL0000478079

go wrong, either by accident or on purpose. And so we have to get the balance right, between the risks that could unfold and the potential benefits."

lab leak theory
coronavirus research
pathogens
Facebook
Twitter
Flipboard
Email

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: (b) (6)
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

---

From: Keusch, Gerald T (b) (6)
Sent: Wednesday, January 25, 2023 9:20 PM
To: Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6)
Cc: Peter Daszak (b) (6) >; David Morens (b) (6)
Jeffrey Sturchio (b) (6) ; Aleksei Chmura (b) (6) @
Rich Roberts (b) (6)
Subject: RE: Tweet by MinerFlux on Twitter

For what it's worth I sent a brief note to the two leads for the White House COVID response team, Ashish Jha and Nahid Bhadelia, to say why they needed to agitate at the higher levels to get on to appointing a new NIH Director, preferably from the outside, and ideally a candidate like Harold Varmus who could command respect from both sides of the congressional divide.

I also suggested they consider the point that it would be better if there was a new NIH Director before they appointed somebody to NIAID, and that was OK because Hugh Auchincloss was eminently able to be a respected interim Director, both within the NIH and the outside scientific community. And, that the next NIAID Director should come from outside of the institution.

I don't know what influence they will have, should they choose to act, but they do have access to the higher levels, and that is important.

Jerry

From: Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6)

MORENS_SUBPOENA_016327
MORENS_NIH_034454
REL0000478079

Sent: Wednesday, January 25, 2023 2:38 PM
To: Keusch, Gerald T (b) (6)
Cc: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) g>; David Morens (b) (6) ;
Jeffrey Sturchio (b) (6) Aleksei Chmura (b) (6) ;
Rich Roberts (b) (6) >
Subject: Re: Tweet by Miner Flux on Twitter

I think top priority is the Biden Administration appointing a new NIH Director and someone really good, I don't understand the holdup.

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP

Texas Children's Hospital: Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics | Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development | Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

Baylor College of Medicine: Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine | Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology | Health Policy Scholar

Baylor University, University Professor
Rice University, Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty
Texas A&M University, Faculty-Senior Fellow, Hagler Inst for Advanced Study & Scowcroft Institute of Intl Affairs

E-mail | Twitter | LinkedIn | Skype: (b) (6)

Amazon Author Center | Daily Beast Contributor

Senior Coordinator & Executive Support: Douglas Soriano
(b) (6) | Phone: (b) (6) | Fax: 713-798-2299

Media Inquiries:
(b) (6)

iPhone

On Jan 25, 2023, at 1:34 PM, Keusch, Gerald T (b) (6) > wrote:

Well, if that were to occur there would not only be continued messaging to the public but more push back to the politicians and others spreading misinformation, and I suspect a more focused and strategic scientific plan for the institute. It has been pretty good under Tony, with some gaps that seem glaring to me, but it could also be better. How do we find and support the right outside scientist to take on the challenge?

Jerry

From: Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6) >
Sent: Wednesday, January 25, 2023 2:27 PM

To: Peter Daszak (b) (6)
Cc: David Morens (b) (6); Jeffrey Sturchio <(b) (6)>; Keusch, Gerald T (b) (6); Aleksei Chm (b) (6); Rich Roberts
Subject: Re: Tweet by MinerUFlux on Twitter

I see the far right keeps putting video after video about me terrified I might take over for Tony

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP

Texas Children's Hospital: Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics | Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development | Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

Baylor College of Medicine: Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine | Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology | Health Policy Scholar

Baylor University, University Professor
Rice University, Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty
Texas A&M University, Faculty-Senior Fellow, Hagler Inst for Advanced Study & Scowcroft Institute of Intl Affairs

E-mail | Twitter | LinkedIn | Skype: (b) (6)

Amazon Author Center | Daily Beast Contributor

Senior Coordinator & Executive Support: Douglas Soriano (b) (6) | Phone: (b) (6) | Fax: 713-798-2299

(b) (6)

iPhone

On Jan 25, 2023, at 11:35 AM, Peter Daszak (b) (6) > wrote:

Disapppointed that Hugh isn't a candidate, because short of a stellar scientist from outside (and that isn't looking good), Hugh would be a safe pair of hands for the forseeable future.

I also cannot believe for the life of me that (b) (6) would be rejected from the other position you mentioned. He's a serious scientists, a huge leader in his field, and someone who is balanced and measured in the way he deals with bureaucracy. What a stupid decision and loss to NIAID.

What we need is a leading scientist, who's got a research and public health background, with experience in dealing with difficult political issues and both sides of the political spectrum…er….Peter Hotez!

Seriously, there surely are others out there?

MORENS_SUBPOENA_016329
MORENS_NIH_034456
REL0000478079

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: (b) (6)
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

---

From: David Morens <(b) (6)
Sent: Wednesday, January 25, 2023 11:38 AM
To: Peter Daszak (b) (6) >
Cc: Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6) Jeffrey Sturchio (b) (6)
Aleksei Chmura (b) (6) >; Gerald Keusch (b) (6) u
>; Rich Roberts (b) (6)
Subject: Re: Tweet by MinerFlux on Twitter

Guys, although the director search seems to be proceeding with total secrecy, I learned yesterday that our worst fear has come true: a highly undesirable internal candidate has applied. This person is a middle to upper level physician scientist who is widely disliked as a self-serving narcissist, back stabber, and manipulator. Tthis opinion comes not from me, but from colleagues with much more knowledge of him/her than me. Of course, being an A-hole doesn't necessarily predict a bad leader, but there is widespread worry.

I won't name the candidate but Peter S would know because her/his research at NIAID is in the area of clinical management of rare hereditary pediatric diseases such as Job disease and CGD. Peter H, you could easily ID this person, but i do not want to do so, in part because i have limited personal experience with him/her and am merely relating opinions of colleagues i trust

This individual is in a key management position in which she/he has earned a reputation of cresting an ant-meritocracy: screwing the best scientists while supporting those who suck up. Again this is hearsay, but from people who work under him/her.

If these negative assessments are true, it is still unclear what the implications, if any, would be for EHA, but i would worry that she/he would throw good scientists under the bus to appease politicians downtown

In any case, the best scenario is an open search with many good candidates. I am not sure whether we have that.

Also, my opinion, and that of many others, is that we need someone from the outside, in part because NIAID management and leadership has become inbred, nepotistic, and uninterested in hiring top scientists to fill positions. Moreover, we totally lack

MORENS_SUBPOENA_016330
MORENS_NIH_034457
REL0000478079

vision or any idea about where the science will and should go, and no mechanism to plan for being at/staying on the cutting edge

When i came here in the 1990s, from academia, where i was a 40-something year old full tenured professor in both med and public health school departments, i was told thst because i only had about 160 publications i had no chance of getting automatic tenure or even being put on a tenure track position
That was then.

Of our two most recent hires placed into tenured positions, one had only 10 publications and the other came straight out of a post doc with few publications as well.

Both were in their early 30s and, as far as i can tell, are unlikely to ever do much

At the same time, we had the ability to hire a top scientist from the outside, my good friend the (b) (6) (b) (b) (6) from (b) (6) - Peter H, you may know him- and we was the 100% top choice of the search committee. However leadership below Tony refused to hire him with the excuse that he was overqualified and would make the other scientists look bad

No, i am not joking. This is where we are

I have in my had a small list of about 5-10 qualified folks for NIAID director, and have spoken or written to 4 about it, one being you, Peter H, but all four have expressed no interest. Peter D, you are clearly on that list too, but obvious to all of us is the fact that HHS would never let that happen, sadly, so i never mentioned it. In a better world, you would be at the top of that list in my view

The application deadline of 1/17 has passed, so we may be stuck with a non-ideal list, although no one knows including, i believe, our acting director Hugh, who is not a candidate, orso he told me

Sent from my iPhone
David M Morens
OD, NIAID, NIH

> On Jan 25, 2023, at 10:58, Peter Daszak (b) (6) wrote:
>
> Unfortunate. At this point you should just throw your hat in the ring!
>
> Why not have a confidential chat with Peter Staley and see if they have a pool of candidates yet?
>
> Cheers,
>
> Peter

MORENS_SUBPOENA_016331
MORENS_NIH_034458
REL0000478079

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: (b) (6)
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

From: Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6) >
Sent: Wednesday, January 25, 2023 10:55 AM
To: Peter Daszak (b) (6)
Cc: Jeffrey Sturchio <(b) (6) Aleksei Chmura < (b) (6) ; David Morens (b) (6) ; Gerald Keusch (b) (6) Rich Roberts <(b) (6)
Subject: Re: Tweet by Miner Flux on Twitter

Unfortunately the far right made a new YouTube claiming I'm the successor to Fauci. Which is ridiculous but it has set off a new wave of aggression

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP

Texas Children's Hospital: Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics | Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development | Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

Baylor College of Medicine: Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine | Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology | Health Policy Scholar

Baylor University, University Professor
Rice University, Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty
Texas A&M University, Faculty-Senior Fellow, Hagler Inst for Advanced Study & Scowcroft Institute of Intl Affairs

E-mail | Twitter | LinkedIn | Skype: (b) (6)

Amazon Author Center | Daily Beast Contributor

Senior Coordinator & Executive Support: Douglas Soriano (b) (6) | Phone: (b) (6) | Fax: 713-798-2299

Media Inquiries:
(b) (6)

iPhone

On Jan 25, 2023, at 9:47 AM, Peter Daszak <(b) (6) wrote:

*****CAUTION:*** This email is not from a BCM Source. Only click links or open attachments you know are safe.**

Disgusting. Reported to Twitter safety. They've been surprisingly good over the last few months. When there's a clear violation they've tended to lock the account.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: (b) (6)
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

---

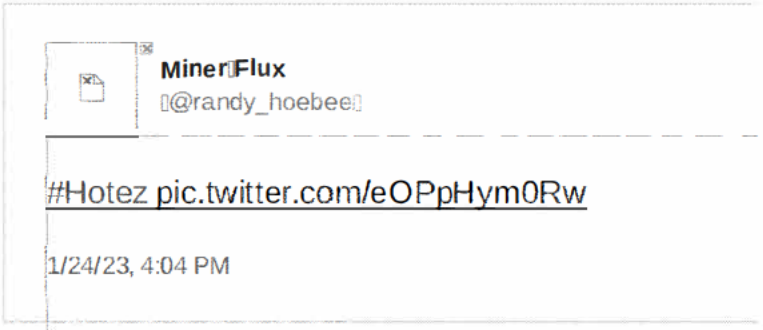
From: Jeffrey Sturchio <(b) (6)
Sent: Tuesday, January 24, 2023 9:08 PM
To: Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6) u>; Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >; Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) >; David Morens <(b) (6) ; Gerald Keusch (b) (6) >; Rich Roberts <(b) (6)
Subject: RE: Tweet by MinerFlux on Twitter

Peter: What an idiot this guy is. You should be heartened by the immediate response he got to this asinine tweet!

As ever,
Jeff

From: Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6)
Sent: Tuesday, January 24, 2023 8:09 PM

To: Peter Daszak (b) (6) >; Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) ; David Morens <(b) (6) Gerald Keusch (b) (6) Jeffrey Sturchio (b) (6) Rich Roberts (b) (6)
Subject: Tweet by MinerFlux on Twitter



Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP

Texas Children's Hospital: Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics | Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development | Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

Baylor College of Medicine: Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine | Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology | Health Policy Scholar

Baylor University, University Professor
Rice University, Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty
Texas A&M University, Faculty-Senior Fellow, Hagler Inst for Advanced Study & Scowcroft Institute of Intl Affairs

E-mail | Twitter | LinkedIn | Skype: (b) (6)

Amazon Author Center | Daily Beast Contributor

Senior Coordinator & Executive Support: Douglas Soriano
(b) (6) | Phone: (b) (6) |
Fax: 713-798-2299

Media Inquiries:
(b) (6)

iPhone

Date: Sun, 23 Jul 2023 12:57:44 PM -0400
Sent: Sun, 23 Jul 2023 12:57:02 PM -0400
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Fwd: Fauci, Birx, Francis Collins, Baric, Azar, Daszak, Bourla, Bancel, Jha, Njoo, Theresa Tam, Walensky, Doug Ford, Williams, Kieran, Marks, de Villa, Jüni, Hotez, Tedros, CDC, FDA officials, HANG high!
From: David Morens <(b) (6)
To: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] <(b) (6)

David M. Morens, MD
(b) (6)

(b) (6)
(b) (6) (work)
(cell)

IMPORTANT: My gmail frequently sends incoming messages to Trash, which is apparently not correctable. If you don't hear from me in a reasonable time, please try again, call, or use my NIH email address

IMPORTANT: For US Government-related email, please also reply to my NIAID address

---------- Forwarded message ---------
From: David Morens <(b) (6) >
Date: Fri, Jul 21, 2023 at 12:59 PM
Subject: Fwd: Fauci, Birx, Francis Collins, Baric, Azar, Daszak, Bourla, Bancel, Jha, Njoo, Theresa Tam, Walensky, Doug Ford, Williams, Kieran, Marks, de Villa, Jüni, Hotez, Tedros, CDC, FDA officials, HANG high!
To: David Morens <(b) (6)

David M. Morens, MD
(b) (6)

(b) (6)
(b) (6) (work)
(cell)

IMPORTANT: My gmail frequently sends incoming messages to Trash, which is apparently not correctable. If you don't hear from me in a reasonable time, please try again, call, or use my NIH email address

IMPORTANT: For US Government-related email, please also reply to my NIAID address

---------- Forwarded message ---------
From: Roberts, Rich <(b) (6)
Date: Sat, Dec 31, 2022 at 2:02 PM
Subject: RE: Fauci, Birx, Francis Collins, Baric, Azar, Daszak,

Bourla, Bancel, Jha, Njoo, Theresa Tam, Walensky, Doug Ford, Williams, Kieran, Marks, de Villa, Jüni, Hotez, Tedros, CDC, FDA officials, HANG high!
To: Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6) Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >
Cc: Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) >, David Morens <(b) (6) >, Gerald Keusch <(b) (6) Jeffrey Sturchio (b) (6)

Awful – and so disappointing that these people live among us and vote.

Richard J. Roberts

New England Biolabs

240 County Road

Ipswich, MA 01938-2723

USA

Tel: (b) (6)

Fax: (978) 412 9910

email: (b) (6)

Executive Assistant: (b) (6)

Tel: (b) (6)

Fax: (978) 412 9910

email: (b) (6)

From: Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6)
Sent: Saturday, December 31, 2022 1:53 PM
To: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >
Cc: Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) >; David Morens <(b) (6) >; Gerald Keusch <(b) (6) Jeffrey Sturchio <(b) (6) Roberts, Rich <(b) (6)
Subject: Re: Fauci, Birx, Francis Collins, Baric, Azar, Daszak, Bourla, Bancel, Jha, Njoo, Theresa Tam, Walensky, Doug Ford, Williams, Kieran, Marks, de Villa, Jüni, Hotez, Tedros, CDC, FDA officials, HANG

high!

EXTERNAL SENDER

This week I had some of the lead antivaxxers: Robert Malone, Peter Koury, Peter McCullough, and Steve Kirsch all hang up on me with online harassment. Now a new round of death threats. It never ends

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP

Texas Children's Hospital: Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics | Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development | Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

Baylor College of Medicine: Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine | Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology | Health Policy Scholar

Baylor University, University Professor

Rice University, Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty

Texas A&M University, Faculty-Senior Fellow, Hagler Inst for Advanced Study & Scowcroft Institute of Intl Affairs

E-mail | Twitter | LinkedIn | Skype: (b) (6)

Amazon Author Center | Daily Beast Contributor

Senior Coordinator & Executive Support: Douglas Soriano

(b) (6) | Phone: (b) (6) | Fax: 713-798-2299

Media Inquiries:

(b) (6)

(b) (6)

(b) (6)

iPhone

On Dec 31, 2022, at 12:17 PM, Peter Daszak <(b) (6) > wrote:

CAUTION: This email is not from a BCM Source. Only click links or open attachments you know are safe.

Not pleasant reading but thanks for sharing this link. It's a stream-of-consciousness diatribe that makes you think this guy is simply mentally ill, but actually he's a well-known right wing 'influencer', appearing on Steve Bannon's podcast, member of the Brownstone Institute and regular on other outlets. In the end, just probably a sad lonely person looking for outside validation. Still, pretty disturbing to read…

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak

President

EcoHealth Alliance

520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200

New York, NY 10018-6507

USA

Tel.: (b) (6)

Website:
https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.ecohealthalliance.org%2F
&data=05%7C01%7Cdmorens%40niaid.nih.gov%7Ca1f3ef9f2f24411793da08db8b9dedf3%7C14b77578977342d5850
&sdata=ScgqF%2BSQVcjlu%2FWqxZsEq9lGuYcTa5hZSP7o5VIorJQ%3D &reserved=0

Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

From: Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6)
Sent: Tuesday, December 27, 2022 2:16 PM
To: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >; Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) >; David Morens <(b) (6) >; Gerald Keusch <(b) (6) Jeffrey Sturchio <(b) (6) Rich Roberts <(b) (6)
Subject: Fauci, Birx, Francis Collins, Baric, Azar, Daszak, Bourla, Bancel, Jha, Njoo, Theresa Tam, Walensky, Doug Ford, Williams, Kieran, Marks, de Villa, Jüni, Hotez, Tedros, CDC, FDA officials, HANG high!

https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fpalexander.substack.com%2Fp%2Ffauci-birx-francis-collins-azar-bourla
&data=05%7C01%7Cdmorens%40niaid.nih.gov%7Ca1f3ef9f2f24411793da08db8b9dedf3%7C14b77578977342d5850
&sdata=CBkTDelXVFgID06qqGXtE%2B%2F4AqW%2FA9725XkO6U3L9%2BA%3D &reserved=0

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP

Texas Children's Hospital: Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics | Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development | Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

Baylor College of Medicine: Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine | Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology | Health Policy Scholar

Baylor University, University Professor

Rice University, Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty

Texas A&M University, Faculty-Senior Fellow, Hagler Inst for Advanced Study & Scowcroft Institute of Intl Affairs

E-mail | Twitter | LinkedIn | Skype: (b) (6)

Amazon Author Center | Daily Beast Contributor

Senior Coordinator & Executive Support: Douglas Soriano

(b) (6) | Phone: (b) (6) | Fax: 713-798-2299

Media Inquiries:

(b) (6)

(b) (6)

(b) (6)

iPhone

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and are confident the content is safe.

Date: Tue, 7 Dec 2021 12:26:56 AM -0500

Sent: Tue, 7 Dec 2021 12:26:54 AM -0500

Subject: RE: Process at NAM for dealing with accusations from Republican members of the House E&C Committee

From: "Keusch, Gerald T" <(b) (6)

To: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >; David Morens <(b) (6) >; Roberts, Rich <(b) (6) Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6)

CC: Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) >; Jeff Sturchio <(b) (6)

I forgot to mention I have a Zoom call with Mark Abdelmalek, a physician and reporter for ABC who does investigative work for potential programming. He is interested in the Task Force story, but there is also the NAM story to present.

We should talk at some point during the day. I talk to him at 5:30.

Jerry

From: Keusch, Gerald T
Sent: Tuesday, December 7, 2021 12:20 AM
To: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) David Morens <(b) (6) Roberts, Rich <(b) (6) Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6)
Cc: Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) Jeff Sturchio <(b) (6)
Subject: RE: Process at NAM for dealing with accusations from Republican members of the House E&C Committee

Hi Peter,
I have written to the list serve of NAM members who signed on to my letter to the NASEM Presidents in 2020 to speak out about political interference in the peer review process at NIH, many of whom also signed the Op-Ed I published with Rick Klausner and Ken Olden in The Hill. I included the republic E+C committee members letter to Victor Dzau, discussed the flaws and the bias, and asked them to write in support of you and EHA.

I am still fighting the battle over the Op-Ed about Collins and NIH.

Jerry

From: Peter Daszak (b) (6) >
Sent: Monday, December 6, 2021 5:23 PM
To: Keusch, Gerald T (b) (6) ; David Morens (b) (6) >; Roberts, Rich <(b) (6) ; Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6)
Cc: Aleksei Chmura (b) (6) ; Jeff Sturchio (b) (6)
Subject: FW: Process at NAM for dealing with accusations from Republican members of the House E&C Committee
Importance: High

Follow the email chain below for the latest from NAM on my 'accusations'.

As well as them refusing to give me a copy of the regulations and procedures, I've just received emails suddenly 'rescheduling' or canceling my NAM and NASEM committee calls this week.

I have zero faith in this process at the moment. Every time I email this person and cc. Aleksei, she responds without the cc. She's told me not to share any of this information, yet won't share any details about the rules and regulations. At the same time my reputation is on the line again, and in the hands of a small number of unknown people who clearly want to keep things quiet so that NAM doesn't come under attack.

MORENS_SUBPOENA_015183
MORENS_NIH_031662
REL0000482087

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: (b) (6)
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

---

From: Peter Daszak (b) (6)
Sent: Monday, December 6, 2021 5:17 PM
To: 'Fuentes-Afflick, Elena' (b) (6)
Cc: 'Aleksei Chmura (b) (6)
Subject: RE: Process at NAM for dealing with accusations from Republican members of the House E&C Committee

Thanks very much for the prompt reply.

I look forward to hearing from you once the Assessment Committee has determined the next steps. I sincerely hope this will not become a full-blown review by the Conduct Review Committee – these accusations are part of a political campaign that is designed to undermine and discredit scientists to push a political agenda.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: (b) (6)
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

MORENS_SUBPOENA_015184
MORENS_NIH_031663
REL0000482087

From: Fuentes-Afflick, Elena (b) (6) >
Sent: Monday, December 6, 2021 4:58 PM
To: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >
Subject: Re: Process at NAM for dealing with accusations from Republican members of the House E&C Committee

Dr. Daszak,

Thank you for the follow-up note.

The process is outlined in an internal document that is not part of the members' materials posted on the website nor available in another location.

I can share with you that the first process is a review by the President, Home Secretary, and Membership Director. Following a preliminary review, the NAM's Assessment Panel is convened to review the materials. The Assessment Panel is charged with reviewing the allegations, determining whether supplemental materials are needed, and making a recommendation whether to convene the Conduct Review Committee.

I am in the midst of scheduling a meeting of the Assessment Panel; we all understand the issue of time-sensitivity. I will do my best to operate in the most expeditious manner possible.

Best,

Elena Fuentes-Afflick

Elena Fuentes-Afflick, MD, MPH

NAM Home Secretary

University of California, San Francisco

From: Peter Daszak (b) (6)
Sent: Monday, December 6, 2021 10:43 AM
To: Fuentes-Afflick, Elena
Cc: Aleksei Chmura
Subject: Process at NAM for dealing with accusations from Republican members of the House E&C Committee

Dear Elena,

Thank you for your email re. confidentiality. Unfortunately, as is typical with these political attacks, the Republican members of the House E&C Committee have not kept this confidential. In fact, they posted the letter in full on their website as soon as they sent it to you. Their goal by making these easily refuted accusations public, like their previous attacks, is to undermine the science on COVID origins, and to smear scientists publicly so as to discredit us.

Again, I am asking again for you to send me the written processes and rules for how accusations of misconduct against members are to be dealt with. It seems unfair that these accusations are now public so colleagues can see them, but as a NAM member I don't have clear guidelines on what I am and am not allowed to do or say, on who exactly will be making a decision on these awful allegations, nor on how long this will hang over me. As I mentioned to you in my last email, I searched long and hard on the website and was unable to find details specific to the process and procedures, even on the NAM member-protected pages.

I understand none of us wants to be in the position of having to deal with this, but I am simply trying to clear my name and reputation as rapidly as possible.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: (b) (6)
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

---

From: Fuentes-Afflick, Elena (b) (6) >
Sent: Thursday, December 2, 2021 1:45 PM
To: Peter Daszak (b) (6)
Subject: Re: follow-up

Peter,

The conduct review process is handled with extreme confidentiality within the NAM and I would ask that you also consider it a highly confidential process, not to be shared with anyone.

MORENS_SUBPOENA_015186
MORENS_NIH_031665
REL0000482087

Elena

Elena Fuentes-Afflick, MD, MPH

NAM Home Secretary

University of California, San Francisco

From: Peter Daszak (b) (6)
Sent: Wednesday, December 1, 2021 3:48 PM
To: Fuentes-Afflick, Elena
Cc: Aleksei Chmura
Subject: RE: follow-up

Thank you for the call today Elena. I've cc'd our Chief-of-Staff, Dr. Aleksei Chmura, who also joined us. I appreciate your explanation and will do my best to adhere to the policies of the NAM as we go through this process.

My only hope is that the review can be as rapid as possible. Our organization has been the focus of a horrific series of political attacks from the hard right wing as part of their political goals regarding Dr. Fauci, NIH and ultimately the Biden administration. These tie up resources and staff answering pages upon pages of false accusations, all carefully worded to give the impression of a thoughtful and sincere inquiry.

Again, I want to reassure you that none of the accusations from Republicans on the House E&C Committee have the slightest bearing in fact. We have acted honorably and with the highest scientific integrity throughout the pandemic, and simply want to be allowed to continue our work without constant, politically-motivated harassment.

sincerely,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: (b) (6)
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

From: Fuentes-Afflick, Elena (b) (6) >
Sent: Wednesday, December 1, 2021 6:25 PM
To: (b) (6) g
Subject: follow-up

Dr. Daszak,

Thank you for speaking with me this afternoon.

In accordance with the NAM's policy related to conduct, I am writing to inform you that we have received written allegations of misconduct. As we undertake our review process, you are not eligible to participate in any NAM and/or NASEM activities for the duration of the review.

Best,
Elena Fuentes-Afflick

Elena Fuentes-Afflick, MD, MPH

NAM Home Secretary

University of California, San Francisco

Disclaimer

The information contained in this communication from the sender is confidential. It is intended solely for use by the recipient and others authorized to receive it. If you are not the recipient, you are hereby notified that any disclosure, copying, distribution or taking action in relation of the contents of this information is strictly prohibited and may be unlawful.

This email has been scanned for viruses and malware, and may have been automatically archived by Mimecast, a leader in email security and cyber resilience. Mimecast integrates email defenses with brand protection, security awareness training, web security, compliance and other essential capabilities. Mimecast helps protect large and small organizations from malicious activity, human error and technology failure; and to lead the movement toward building a more resilient world. To find out more, visit our website.

Disclaimer

The information contained in this communication from the sender is confidential. It is intended solely for use by the recipient and others authorized to receive it. If you are not the recipient, you are hereby notified that any disclosure, copying, distribution or taking action in relation of the contents of this information is strictly prohibited and may be unlawful.

This email has been scanned for viruses and malware, and may have been automatically archived by Mimecast, a leader in email security and cyber resilience. Mimecast integrates email defenses with brand protection, security awareness training, web security, compliance and other essential capabilities. Mimecast helps protect large and small organizations from malicious activity, human error and technology failure; and to lead the movement toward building a more resilient world. To find out more, visit our website.

Disclaimer

The information contained in this communication from the sender is confidential. It is intended solely for use by the recipient and others authorized to receive it. If you are not the recipient, you are hereby notified that any disclosure, copying, distribution or taking action in relation of the contents of this information is strictly prohibited and may be unlawful.

This email has been scanned for viruses and malware, and may have been automatically archived by Mimecast, a leader in email security and cyber resilience. Mimecast integrates email defenses with brand protection, security awareness training, web security, compliance and other essential capabilities. Mimecast helps protect large and small organizations from malicious activity, human error and technology failure; and to lead the movement toward building a more resilient world. To find out more, visit our website.

Date:	Thu, 19 May 2022 5:18:59 PM -0400
Sent:	Thu, 19 May 2022 5:16:25 PM -0400
Subject:	Re: Jeff Sachs causing trouble via a PNAS article
From:	"Hotez, Peter Jay" <(b) (6)
To:	Roberts, Rich <(b) (6) >;
CC:	Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >; David Morens <(b) (6) >; Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6) Jeffrey Sturchio <(b) (6) >; Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) >;
Attachments:	image001.jpg; image002.jpg; image003.jpg; image004.jpg; image005.jpg; image006.jpg; image007.jpg; image008.jpg; image009.jpg; image010.jpg; image011.jpg; image012.jpg; image013.jpg; image001.jpg; image002.jpg; image003.jpg; image004.jpg; image005.jpg; image006.jpg; image007.jpg; image008.jpg; image009.jpg; image010.jpg; image011.jpg; image012.jpg; image013.jpg

Also I've already debunked those arguments to Jeff and yet he couldn't care less, he has an agenda

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP
Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine
Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology
Health Policy Scholar
Baylor College of Medicine

Texas Children's Hospital Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics
Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development

University Professor, Baylor University

Faculty Fellow, Hagler Institute for Advanced Study
Senior Fellow, Scowcroft Institute of International Affairs
Texas A&M University
Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty and Adjunct Professor of Bioengineering, Rice University
Adjunct Professor, University of Texas, School of Public Health

Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

E-mail: (b) (6)
Twitter: @peterhotez
Skype: (b) (6)
Linkedin Peter Hotez

Amazon Author Center: https://www.amazon.com/Peter- J.-Hotez/e/B001HPIC48
Daily Beast Contributor https://www.thedailybeast.com/author/peter- j-hotez
Like us on Facebook https://www.facebook.com/BCMNationalSchoolOfTropicalMedicine/

upport: Douglas Soriano
(b) (6)

Phone: (b) (6)
Fax: 713-798-2299

iPhone

On May 19, 2022, at 3:54 PM, Roberts, Rich <(b) (6) > wrote:

Peter:

As you say more nonsense. My opinion of Sachs is waning rapidly.

Rich

Richard J. Roberts
New England Biolabs
240 County Road
Ipswich, MA 01938-2723
USA
Tel: (b) (6)
Fax: (978) 412 9910
email:(b) (6)

From: Peter Daszak <(b) (6)
Sent: Thursday, May 19, 2022 4:32 PM
To: Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6) David Morens <(b) (6)
Cc: Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6) Jeffrey Sturchio <(b) (6) Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) Roberts, Rich <(b) (6)
Subject: Jeff Sachs causing trouble via a PNAS article
Importance: High

EXTERNAL SENDER

Looks like Sachs has been taken down yet another rabbit hole by a scientist at Columbia (Harrison) who doesn't work in the field, and is just plain wrong. It's the old Furin cleavage site hypothesis again, without any new data or evidence. Of course, that's their point – the lack of evidence means we're all hiding information and need to be hung, drawn and quartered.

They've published an opinion piece in PNAS (attached) and there's this article in 'The Intercept'. Ebright is quoted, of course!

https://theintercept.com/2022/05/19/covid- lab-leak-evidence-jeffrey-sachs/

All this will be put straight into the subpoena letters that we've been told by Democrat staffers to expect to arrive in Jan/Feb 2023 when the Republicans take over the house (their words, not mine).

MORENS_SUBPOENA_010656
MORENS_NIH_021203
REL0000482089

Blue/Bloomberg via Getty Images

JEFFREY SACHS PRESENTS EVIDENCE OF POSSIBLE LAB ORIGIN OF COVID-19

An article in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences calls for an independent investigation of information held by U.S.-based institutions that could shed light on the origins of Covid.



Sharon Lerner
May 19 2022, 4:00 p.m.

IN AN ARTICLE published Thursday, economist Jeffrey Sachs called for an independent investigation of information held by U.S.-based institutions that could shed light on the origins of the Covid-19 pandemic. Writing in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, Sachs and his co-author, Neil Harrison, a Columbia University professor of molecular pharmacology and therapeutics, said that federal agencies and universities possess evidence that has not been adequately reviewed, including virus databases, biological samples, viral sequences, email communications, and laboratory notebooks. Sachs and Harrison also highlighted a tantalizing scientific detail that may be an indication that SARS-CoV-2, the coronavirus that causes Covid-19, originated in a laboratory: a sequence of eight amino acids on a critical part of the virus's spike protein that is identical to an amino acid sequence found in cells that line human airways.

Sachs and Harrison are hardly the first to suggest that SARS-CoV-2 might have been created in a lab. Since its genetic sequence was first published in February 2020, scientists have puzzled over the furin cleavage site, an area on the virus's spike that allows it to be broken apart by a protein on the membrane of human cells and makes the coronavirus particularly dangerous to people. Once split, the virus releases its genetic material into the cell and reproduces. While all viruses work by attaching themselves to cells, breaking apart, and releasing their genetic material, SARS-CoV-2 is the only one of its class, sarbecoviruses, to use this particular mechanism to do so.

MORENS_SUBPOENA_010657
MORENS_NIH_021204
REL0000482089

As with past discussion of a possible lab origin of SARS-CoV-2, this latest theory has already been met with considerable pushback. Even some scientists who are open to the idea that a lab accident could have sparked the pandemic remain unconvinced by the particular trail of evidence laid out by Sachs and Harrison.

The journal article offers a scientific road map for how this unusual sequence of amino acids could have made its way into the furin cleavage site, or FCS, of the virus. Sachs and Harrison acknowledge that the sequence could have arisen naturally. But they also lay out another possibility: that scientists might have purposefully inserted this particular string of amino acids into a bat coronavirus in the course of their work. They focus particularly on scientists who submitted an unfunded grant proposal to a division of the Defense Department called the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency, or DARPA, laying out plans to insert a furin cleavage site into a bat coronavirus.

"We do not know whether the insertion of the FCS was the result of natural evolution — perhaps via a recombination event in an intermediate mammal or a human — or was the result of a deliberate introduction of the FCS into a SARS-like virus as part of a laboratory experiment," Sachs and Harrison write. "We do know that the insertion of such FCS sequences into SARS-like viruses was a specific goal of work proposed by the EHA-WIV-UNC partnership within a 2018 grant proposal ("DEFUSE") that was submitted to the US Defense Advanced Research Projects (DARPA)."

EHA is a reference to EcoHealth Alliance, a nonprofit research group based in New York City that has received more than $118 million in grants and contracts from federal agencies. WIV, or the Wuhan Institute of Virology, is a Chinese research organization that collaborated with EcoHealth Alliance in the past and was listed as a subcontractor on the DARPA grant. UNC is mentioned because Ralph Baric, a molecular biologist at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, was to have conducted part of the work pitched to DARPA. The grant proposal touted Baric's "two-decade track record of reverse engineering [coronavirus] and other virus spike proteins."

The intent of the DARPA proposal was to prevent emerging pathogenic threats, but the work, if conducted, could have created a novel virus capable of infecting humans. "We will introduce appropriate human-specific cleavage sites and evaluate growth potential in [a type of mammalian cell commonly used in microbiology] and [human airway epithelial cell] cultures," the proposal stated.

Several scientists interviewed about the DARPA proposal in September told The Intercept that scientists often begin research before seeking funding and thus that

some of the experiments described in the proposal could have already been completed. But when asked about that possibility in an interview, Peter Daszak, the president of EcoHealth Alliance, rejected it: "The DARPA proposal was not funded. Therefore, the work was not done. Simple."

A Rational Choice

As Sachs and Harrison note, the part of a protein on the cell membrane that shares its amino acid sequence with the bat coronavirus is critical for lung function. Known as an epithelial sodium channel-alpha, or ENaC-alpha, it is found in human airway cells, as well as in human kidneys and colons. Intriguingly, like SARS-CoV-2, ENaC-alpha, which facilitates the absorption of fluid in cells, is also activated by the unusual furin cleavage site. Harrison, a physiologist affiliated with Columbia's Department of Molecular Pharmacology and Therapeutics, studies ion channels, the larger category to which ENaC-alpha belongs.

Other scientists have already pointed out the match between the amino acid series in the furin cleavage site of SARS-CoV-2 and the ENaC-alpha found in human airways. In 2020, a team from the biomedical company Nference suggested that the overlap between the virus and the sequence found in human lungs is part of the reason that Covid-19 is so damaging to the respiratory system. Those scientists described the sequence as having evolved naturally.



The Coronavirus Crisis

Read Our Complete Coverage

Sachs and Harrison, in contrast, suggest that researchers may have inserted the string of amino acids into a bat coronavirus precisely because of its known importance to lung function. "For a research team assessing the pandemic potential of SARS-related coronaviruses, the FCS of human ENaC — an FCS known to be efficiently cleaved by host furin present in the target location (epithelial cells) of an important target organ (lung), of the target organism (human) — might be a rational, if not obvious, choice of FCS to introduce into a virus in order to alter its

infectivity, in line with other work performed previously," they write.

Such a choice, they point out, would have been in keeping with another viral research project on which EcoHealth Alliance, the Wuhan Institute of Virology, and UNC's Baric collaborated: a 2014 grant from the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases that involved increasing the transmissibility and pathogenicity of bat coronaviruses.



Ralph Baric. a researcher at the University of North Carolina's Gillings School of Global Public Health, in Chapel Hill, N.C., on Feb. 14, 2020.

MORENS_SUBPOENA_010660
MORENS_NIH_021207
REL0000482089

Photo: Christopher Janaro/Bloomberg via Getty Images

Growing List of Coincidences

The intriguing theory of viral engineering hinges on two observations: that the amino acid sequences match and that experts in both the ENaC-alpha furin cleavage site and the insertion of genetic sequences into bat coronaviruses happen to work at the same academic institution: the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill.

Baric, whose work aims to prevent and create treatments for viral outbreaks, has previously inserted segments of DNA and RNA into viruses and created an infectious clone of SARS using his own patented "No See'm" method of inserting genetic materials without a trace. He has also collaborated on coronavirus research with scientists from a center for lung studies at UNC-Chapel Hill who are knowledgeable about ENaC-alpha. In one 2016 study, the scientists created a new virus using the spike of a bat coronavirus that had been isolated and characterized by the Wuhan Institute of Virology. The experiment found that the new virus "replicated efficiently" in human airway cells that were cultured in a lab.

In another paper, published a year earlier, Baric, along with the Wuhan Institute of Virology's Shi Zhengli and a lung expert UNC-Chapel Hill's lung institute, described creating a hybrid virus using a SARS-like virus from a bat and a "mouse-adapted" coronavirus. The new virus caused mice to get sicker than those exposed to the original virus. The goal of these experiments was to prepare for the possibility that a virus might jump naturally from animals to humans, as SARS had in 2003. But even before the pandemic, the experiment drew criticism from other scientists, who were concerned because the researchers had created a virus that was able to spread in humans.

Sachs and Harrison note that the scientists who co-authored the DARPA grant proposal would have been aware of research on coronavirus furin cleavage sites, including one 2006 experiment in which a furin cleavage site was inserted into a coronavirus. "The research team would also have some familiarity with the FCS sequence and the FCS-dependent activation mechanism of human ENaC, which was extensively characterized at UNC," they write.

"The list of coincidences is getting verrrrrrrrrry long."

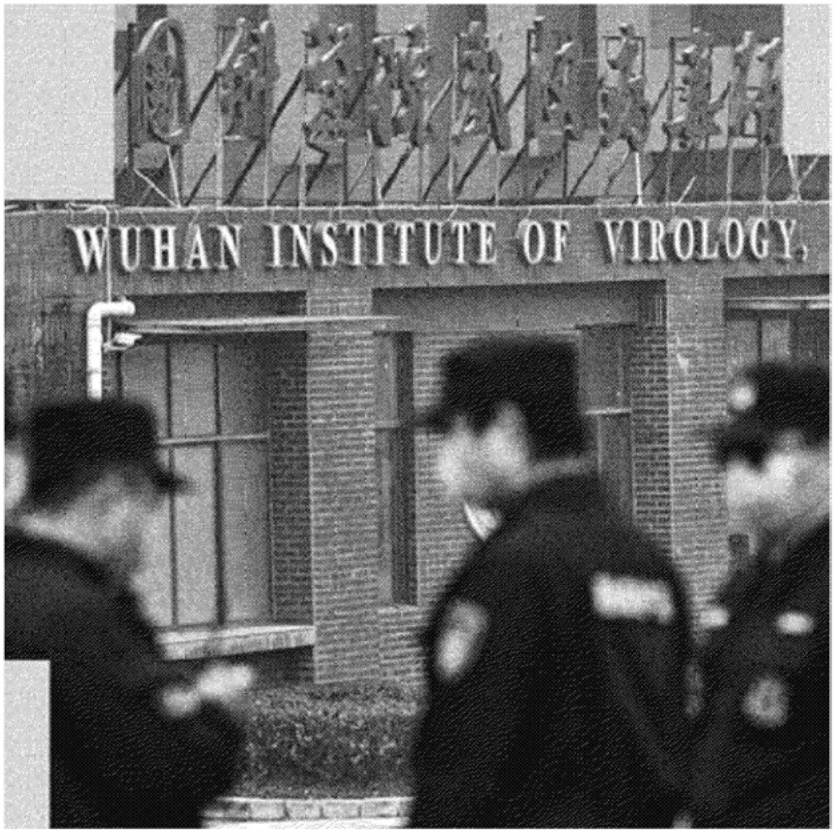
Still, both the overlap in the amino acid sequence and the fact that experts in the furin cleavage site of the ENaC-alpha and insertion of genetic material into bat coronaviruses work at the same university could be coincidental, as Harrison and Sachs acknowledge. Some virologists, though, say that the coincidence strains

MORENS_SUBPOENA_010661
MORENS_NIH_021208
REL0000482089

credulity.

“Could be,” Richard Ebright, a molecular biologist at Rutgers University, wrote in an email to The Intercept when asked about the possibility that these things are both chance occurrences. “But the list of coincidences is getting verrrrrrrrrry long.”

Ebright, a vocal proponent of the lab-leak theory whom Harrison and Sachs thank “for helpful commentary on the manuscript,” spelled out some of the other Covid coincidences that he considers questionable, including its initial outbreak in a city that, well before 2019, had already been pegged as a biosafety risk. Ebright also noted Wuhan’s 1,000-mile distance from the nearest wild bats that carry the type of SARS-related coronaviruses that caused the pandemic. And he pointed to the particular coding of the amino acids in the furin cleavage site of SARS-CoV2.



Related

The Lab-Leak Theory Is Looking Stronger by the Day. Here’s What We Know.

“The sequence encoding the FCS of the pandemic virus contained two consecutive CGG arginine codons,” Ebright explained in his email. (A codon, or a combination of three nucleotides, supplies the genetic code for a single amino acid, though most amino acids can be represented by multiple different codons. Each nucleotide is represented by a letter — for RNA, either A, C, U, or G.) “This codon usage is

MORENS_SUBPOENA_010662
MORENS_NIH_021209
REL0000482089

unusual for a natural bat SARS-related coronaviruses (for which fewer than 1 in 30 arginine codons are CGG) but is optimal for humans (for which most arginine codons are CGG codons)."

Still, Ebright said that at first he didn't see the identical amino acid sequences as particularly suspicious. "I had known for more than a year that there was a perfect match to an eight-amino acid sequence present in human ENaC. What I had not known was that the sequence was known to be a functional furin cleavage site and that it was a sequence extensively studied at UNC," he said. "The crucial point that the ENaC sequence was a known functional site, not just that there happens to be a match to a protein that happens to be in humans. … That suddenly turned it from what I thought to be largely irrelevant to being a logical and obvious choice to proceed."

Ralph Baric and the University of North Carolina did not immediately respond to requests for comment.



The Wuhan Institute of Virology in Wuhan, China, on June 24, 2021.

Photo: Kyodo via AP Images

Name Calling

Other scientists dismiss the idea that the ENaC sequence might have been purposefully inserted into a coronavirus. Scientists who are already convinced that the new coronavirus emerged naturally are unlikely to be persuaded by Sachs and Harrison's article, which appears in the opinion section of the esteemed journal. Over the past year, many scientists involved in the debate over the origins of the pandemic have settled into an increasingly acrimonious, coarse, and unyielding

MORENS_SUBPOENA_010664
MORENS_NIH_021211
REL0000482089

opposition.

Some proponents of the natural origin theory became particularly dismissive of those open to the possibility of a lab leak after the February release of two pre-print studies mapping the early spread of the virus at the Huanan market in Wuhan. Angela Rasmussen, one of a team of virologists who worked on the project, described it on Twitter as "dispositive evidence of a zoonotic origin" that will "drive those with personal interest in the lab leak hypothesis out of their goddam minds." In another tweet, Rasmussen referred to proponents of the lab-leak theory as a "pack of ghouls, who through gullibility, stupidity, & conspiracist thinking have decided this is their thing despite zero expertise."

Although the pre-prints had not been peer-reviewed and may have simply illustrated the spread of the virus rather than its original outbreak, the New York Times ran a front-page story about them that quoted an epidemiologist as saying that the origins debate "has been settled with a very high degree of evidence." The story, which was announced by a push notification from the paper, also noted a lack of direct evidence for a lab leak.

Meanwhile, Kristian Andersen, another co-author of the pre-prints and a virologist at the well-regarded Scripps Research Institute, used the "poop" emoji to criticize a deeply researched article by Katherine Eban about EcoHealth Alliance. On Twitter, Andersen tarred Eban, New York Times columnist Zeynep Tufekci, and others reporting on biosafety issues that could have led to the release of SARS-CoV-2 as "deep in conspiracy theories" and on the other side of "a clear split" from journalists who dismiss the possibility of a lab origin, whom Andersen referred to as "science-based."

Even some scientists who have been vocal about the possibility that the pandemic may have been sparked by research have expressed skepticism about the theory suggested by Harrison and Sachs. "I'm sure that these authors believe in their own hypothesis and arguments, but to me, it's not one that is particularly convincing," said Alina Chan, a scientist who laid out a number of possible routes for how the coronavirus might have emerged through research-related incidents in her recent book "Viral: The Search for the Origin of Covid-19."

"There's no need for them to go hunting inside the human protein catalogue to look for cleavage sites to put into viruses."

While she is open to the possibility that the furin cleavage site might have been purposefully inserted into the coronavirus, Chan said there was no reason to think

that researchers would mine humans for such material. "These scientists literally had access to hundreds of SARS-like viruses and sequences," said Chan, referring to the vast collection of coronaviruses from bats and other animals that researchers amassed at the Wuhan Institute of Virology. "There's no need for them to go hunting inside the human protein catalogue to look for cleavage sites to put into viruses."

Jack Nunberg, a virologist at the University of Montana, was also not immediately persuaded by the theory of engineering suggested by Sachs and Harrison. "It's possible," Nunberg said of the idea that the ENaC segment was inserted into a bat coronavirus as part of research designed to gauge the pandemic potential of a virus. "But I don't find their evidence on ENaC compelling because furin cleavage sites have a lot of common amino acids, and therefore it may just have happened by chance."

Others say that the article adds noteworthy information to the public conversation about the origins of the pandemic. "The defenders of the natural origin indicate that the virus on which this type of experiment could have been done — the backbone — has never been published and that specialists in the furin cleavage sites would have chosen a more commonly used furin cleavage site like RARR rather than PRRAR. The Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences article contradicts this argument and indicates that specialists knew that the RRAR'SVAS site was efficiently cleaved by furin," Etienne Decroly, director of virology research at the Aix-Marseille Université in France, wrote in an email to The Intercept.

Decroly added, "It is impossible to decide on the basis of the information currently available and it is urgent that the WHO Special Advisory Group for the Origins of Novel Pathogens investigate this question."

On the suggestion of an investigation, Nunberg is in agreement. "You can't argue with that," he told The Intercept. "Who's going to argue for burying one's head in the sand?"

For their part, Sachs and Harrison emphasize that they're not saying laboratory manipulation was involved in the emergence of the pandemic virus, only "that it could have been." They also give a nod to other possibilities, including that an airborne virus might have infected a laboratory worker. Rather than argue that any of these conceivable scenarios happened, they present the clues of the matching amino acid sequences to argue for an independent and transparent scientific investigation of the U.S.-based evidence related to the origins of the virus.

Among the institutions that Sachs and Harrison list as possibly having "knowledge of the detailed activities that were underway in Wuhan and in the United States" are

the National Institutes of Health; the Defense Threat Reduction Agency, which has provided grant funding to EcoHealth Alliance; the Department of Homeland Security; DARPA; the U.S. Agency for International Development, which funded the $200 million PREDICT program that catalogued potential pandemic viruses; and the University of California, Davis, which participated in that program.

The authors suggest that EcoHealth Alliance and UNC may have particularly important untapped resources. "The exact details of the fieldwork and laboratory work of the EHA-WIV-UNC partnership, and the engagement of other institutions in the US and China, has not been disclosed for independent analysis," they write. "The precise nature of the experiments that were conducted, including the full array of viruses collected from the field and the subsequent sequencing and manipulation of those viruses, remains unknown."



Peter Daszak, one of the members of the World Health Organization team investigating the origins of the Covid-19, on a balcony at a hotel in Wuhan, China, on Feb. 6, 2021.

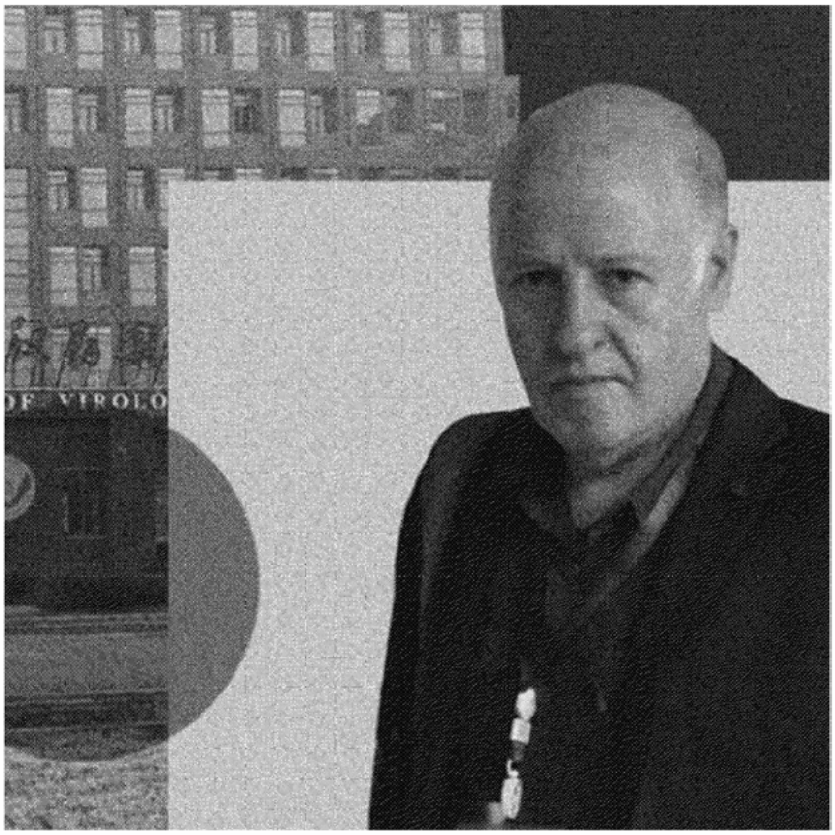
Photo: Hector Retamal/AFP via Getty Images

A Reversal

The publication in the prestigious Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences marks a reversal of sorts for Sachs, the chair of the Lancet Covid-19 Commission who, in November 2020, appointed Daszak, the EcoHealth Alliance president, to lead a task force to investigate the origins of the pandemic. Earlier that year, Daszak had signed on to a public statement published in The Lancet on behalf of scientists

MORENS_SUBPOENA_010668
MORENS_NIH_021215
REL0000482089

who said they "condemn conspiracy theories suggesting that COVID-19 does not have a natural origin."



Related

Peter Daszak Answers Critics and Defends Coronavirus Research

Yet that early certainty about the pandemic's origins — and the sense of shared civic responsibility among members of the Lancet task force — soon disintegrated. In February 2021, emails revealed that Daszak coordinated the public statement in The Lancet tamping down suspicions of a lab leak. And by June 2021, Sachs was expressing his openness to the possibility of a lab origin, writing that NIH-funded research at the Wuhan Institute of Virology "deserves scrutiny under the hypothesis of a laboratory-related release of the virus." Three months later, he disbanded the task force that had been organized to "carefully scrutinize the origin of the SARS-CoV-2 virus" in the hopes of preventing future disease outbreaks, explaining that he had concerns that several members of the commission had conflicts of interest because of their ties to EcoHealth Alliance.

After leading the mainstream scientific inquiry into the origins of the pandemic, Sachs is now skewering it. "A steady trickle of disquieting information has cast a darkening cloud over the agency," he and Harrison write of the NIH, going on to accuse the entire federal government of not doing enough to explore the possible

MORENS_SUBPOENA_010669
MORENS_NIH_021216
REL0000482089

role of its grantees in the emergence of SARS-CoV-2 and investigate "overlooked details" such as the matching amino acid sequences.

Noting that the NIH has insisted that "the pandemic virus could not have resulted from the work sponsored by" the agency, Sachs and Harrison write that "blanket denials from the NIH are no longer good enough."

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: (b) (6)
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

From: Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6) >
Sent: Wednesday, May 11, 2022 8:15 PM
To: David Morens (b) (6) >
Cc: Peter Daszak (b) (6) >; Keusch, Gerald T (b) (6) Jeffrey Sturchio < (b) (6) @ Aleksei Chmura (b) (6) >; Roberts, Rich (b) (6) 6)
Subject: Re: NY Post: NIH director confirms agency hid early COVID genes at request of Chinese scientists

It's all so convoluted I can even understand it. We'll see if they pick Mary Klotman from Duke to be next NIH Director. I know her quite well, her husband is Baylor President and my boss.

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP
Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine
Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology
Health Policy Scholar
Baylor College of Medicine

Texas Children's Hospital Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics
Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development

University Professor, Baylor University

Faculty Fellow, Hagler Institute for Advanced Study
Senior Fellow, Scowcroft Institute of International Affairs
Texas A&M University
Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty and Adjunct Professor of Bioengineering, Rice University
Adjunct Professor, University of Texas, School of Public Health

Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

E-mail: (b) (6)
Twitter: @peterhotez
Skype: (b) (6)
Linkedin Peter Hotez

Amazon Author Center: https://www.amazon.com/Peter- J.-Hotez/e/B001HPIC48
Daily Beast Contributor https://www.thedailybeast.com/author/peter- j-hotez
Like us on Facebook https://www.facebook.com/BCMNationalSchoolOfTropicalMedicine/

(b) (6) upport: Douglas Soriano

(b) (6)
Fax: 713-798-2299

iPhone

On May 11, 2022, at 6:39 PM, David Morens (b) (6) wrote:

*****CAUTION:*** This email is not from a BCM Source. Only click links or open attachments you know are safe.**

Yes, i know. I fail to understand why our nih leaders keep forming circular firing squads. one thing is for sure: in recent times nih has suffered abysmal leadership

It wasn't like that in the Varmus years. He didn't suffer any political fools no matter how high up, and was comfortable giving them all a big middle finger. d

Sent from my iPhone
David M Morens
OD, NIAID, NIH

MORENS_SUBPOENA_010671
MORENS_NIH_021218
REL0000482089

On May 11, 2022, at 18:37, Peter Daszak (b) (6) > wrote:

This is an utterly ridiculous set of BS. Jesse Bloom is the person driving it – he buys into the lab leak theory and found that some folks from WIV uploaded partial genomes early on, then added a bunch of more complete ones, and asked for the partial sequences to be removed. Absolutely normal, but he's trying to turn it into a 'mystery'.

Of course, NIH makes it all worse by not releasing emails, redacting critical parts of them, and failing to explain why they follow the wishes of the submitter re. Genbank. It's perfectly logical really – if NIH now starts releasing sequences you as a submitter asked them to remove for whatever reason, submitters will think twice about using Genbank. We already have China working with its own database and all this BS will make them twice-shy about submitting.

Even worse, Tabak now says that 'don't worry, we still have the data on back up tapes' so everyone now knows that NIH keeps the stuff you thought they agreed to delete, and no doubt has already handed it over to the FBI and the CIA.

It's a conspiracy, wrapped within an enigma, encapsulating a riddle….

PS – heres a cracker of an email from an NIH press office (?) person at O/D ripping into a journalist (Carl Zimmer) who wanted information on the 'missing' china sequences. Now it turns out that US submitters also deleted early COVID genomes…even more reason for the public to not trust scientists…:

MORENS_SUBPOENA_010672
MORENS_NIH_021219
REL0000482089

From: Myles, Renate (NIH/OD) [E]
To: Carl Zimmer; Wojtowicz, Emma (NIH
Cc: Fine, Amanda (NIH/OD) [E]; Virginia
Subject: RE: FW: Query from New York Time:
Date: Wednesday, June 23, 2021 4:49:00 I

Hi Carl:

I saw your story. Just noting that it isn't a my
was withdrawn. Also, it didn't disappear; it v
I know that Dr. Bloom is making the mystery
reporters not hype language.

Also, just to clarify, NLM conducted an analy
packages were withdrawn upon request of t
included one requested by the submitter fro
the U.S. 1

Thanks,
Renate

Cheers,

Peter

MORENS_SUBPOENA_010673
MORENS_NIH_021220
REL0000482089

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: (b) (6)
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

From: David Morens (b) (6)
Sent: Wednesday, May 11, 2022 5:47 PM
To: Peter Daszak (b) (6) Keusch, Gerald T (b) (6) ; Jeffrey Sturchio (b) (6) ; Aleksei Chmura (b) (6) peter hotez < (b) (6) Roberts, Rich (b) (6)
Subject: Fwd: FW: NY Post: NIH director confirms agency hid early COVID genes at request of Chinese scientists

David M. Morens, MD
(b) (6)

(b) (6) (work)
(cell)

IMPORTANT: My gmail frequently sends incoming messages to Trash, which is apparently not correctable. If you don't hear from me in a reasonable time, please try again, call, or use my NIH email address

IMPORTANT: For US Government-related email, please also reply to my NIAID address

---------- Forwarded message ---------
From: **Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E]** (b) (6)
Date: Wed, May 11, 2022 at 4:54 PM
Subject: FW: NY Post: NIH director confirms agency hid early COVID genes at request of Chinese scientists
To: David Morens (b) (6)

From: Folkers, Greg (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b) (6)
Sent: Wednesday, May 11, 2022 4:12 PM
To: NIAID COGCORE <COGCORE@mail.nih.gov>; NIAID OCGR Leg <

MORENS_SUBPOENA_010674
MORENS_NIH_021221
REL0000482089

NIAIDOCGRLeg@mail.nih.gov >; NIAID OD AM <NIAIDODAM@niaid.nih.gov >
Subject: NY Post: NIH director confirms agency hid early COVID genes at request of Chinese scientists

NIH director confirms agency hid early COVID genes at request of Chinese scientists

By
Steven Nelson
May 11, 2022 3:47pm



National Institutes of Health acting director Lawrence Tabak confirmed to lawmakers Wednesday that US health officials concealed early genomic sequences of COVID-19 at the request of Chinese scientists — but insisted the data remains on file.

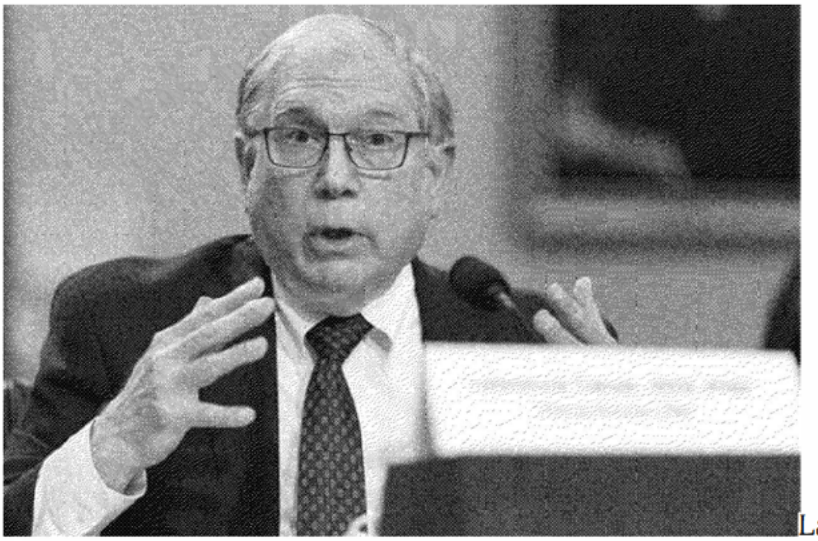
Tabak told a House Appropriations subcommittee that the NIH "eliminated from public view" the data from the pandemic epicenter in Wuhan, China, before adding that researchers can still access it via an archaic "tape drive."

Vanity Fair recently reported that the information was hidden in response to a request from Chinese scientists, despite potentially resolving whether the virus leaked from the Wuhan Institute of Virology or passed naturally from animals to humans.

Rep. Jaime Herrera Beutler (R-Wash.) asked Tabek to explain why US officials would comply with such a request.

"There's no question that the communication that we had about the sequence archive — Sequence Read Archive — could have been improved. I freely admit that," Tabek said. "If I may, the archive never deleted the sequence, it just did not make it available for interrogation."

MORENS_SUBPOENA_010675
MORENS_NIH_021222
REL0000482089


Lawrence Tabak, acting director of the National Institutes of Health, testifies on May 11. Jacquelyn Martin/AP

"So wait, you have the information still?" Beutler followed up.

"We have the information … Anybody who submits to the Sequence Read Archive is allowed to ask for it to be removed," Tabak explained. "And that investigator did do that. But we never erase it."

"So you don't have the information anymore?" Beutler asked.

"We do. We never erase the information. We keep it," Tabak clarified.

"So they were able to withdraw public viewing of it?" the congresswoman followed up.

"That's correct," he said.

"OK, so researchers can apply to the NIH and get the information from you?" Beutler asked.

"In the way that it was originally eliminated from public view, it was withdrawn, and that's the most difficult for people to access," Tabak replied. "The error that was made, and we found this out after a review of all of our processes, was it should have been suppressed. The distinction being that if it's withdrawn, it is kept archivally on a tape drive — old technology, but that's how it's done. But when it is withdrawn, it can still be accessed by accession number, and so researchers are able to access that information."



Security personnel keep watch outside Wuhan Institute of Virology during the visit by the World Health Organization on Feb. 3, 2021. Thomas Peter/REUTERS

"So the information is still there?" Beutler summed up.

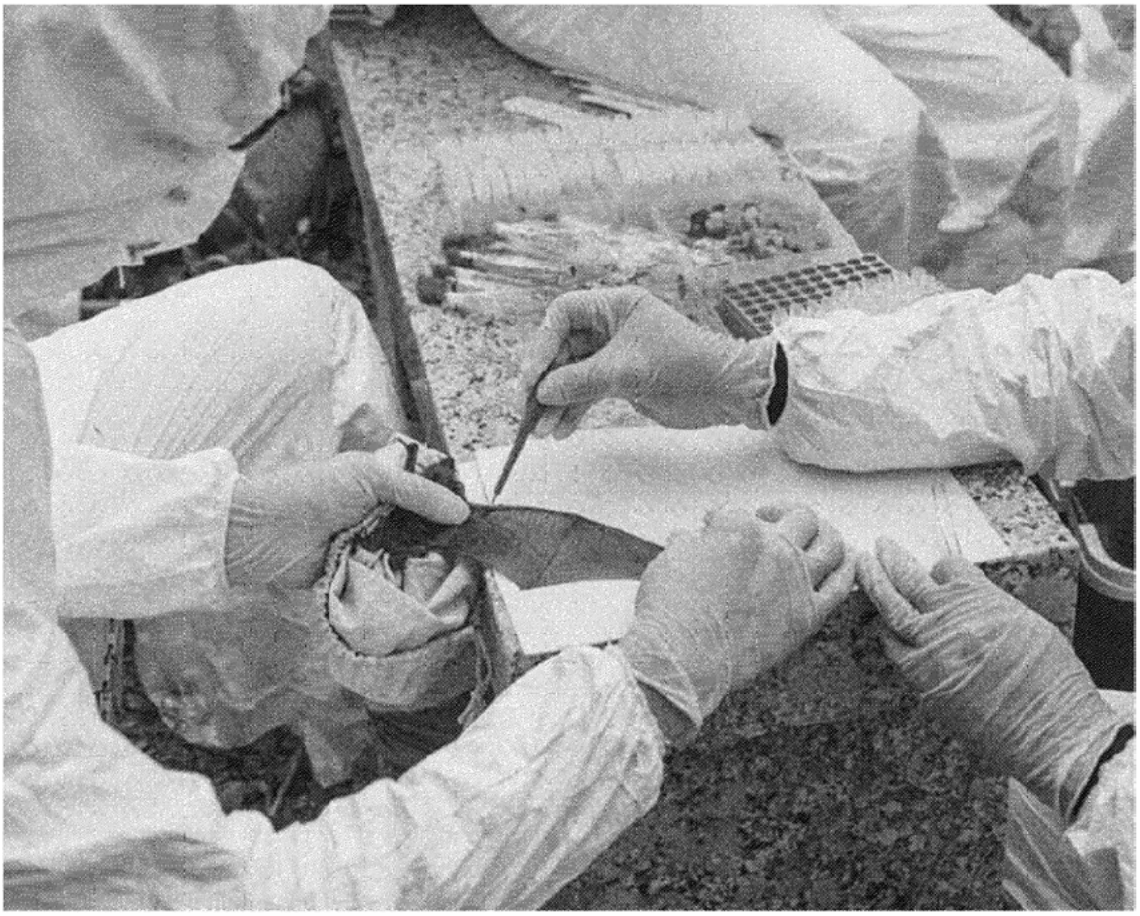
"That's correct. The information was never lost," Tabak repeated.

In a March 31 article, Vanity Fair reported that evolutionary biologist Jesse Bloom discovered last year that early COVID-19 sequences had disappeared from a federally run data repository.

When Bloom raised the issue, he was reportedly ganged up on by a group of researchers assembled by then-NIH Director Francis Collins and infectious disease institute head Dr. Anthony Fauci.

Bloom shared a draft academic paper with Collins and Fauci, who allegedly objected on a June 2021 Zoom video conference to Bloom's description of Chinese scientists "surreptitiously" removing the sequences. Fauci said the word was "loaded" and implied a coverup, the report said.

Evolutionary biologist Kristian Andersen, who was selected to participate on the call by Collins, allegedly told Bloom that the Wuhan team had a right to claw back early pandemic information and that it was unethical for Bloom to question it.

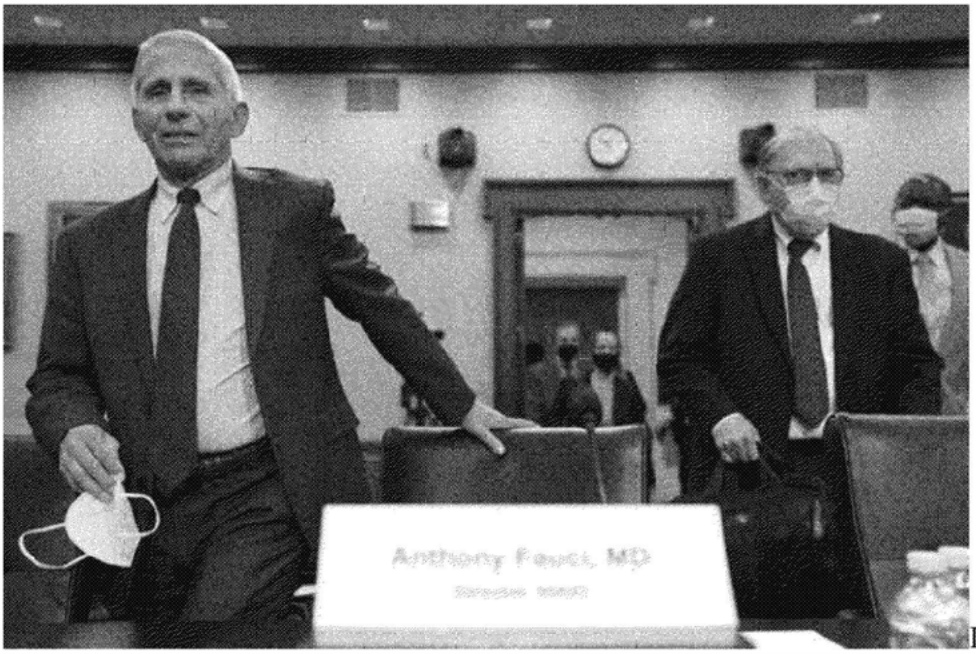


Tabak noted that while the request for information to be removed was honored, it was not erased fully.ECOHEALTH ALLIANCE

Andersen allegedly went so far as to offer to delete Bloom's article from a "preprint" server "in a way that would leave no record that this had been done."

China's government has refused to cooperate with an international investigation of the origins of the pandemic. The COVID-19 virus has killed about 1 million Americans since March 2020 and caused massive social, economic and educational disruptions.

The US intelligence community said in an August report that it's possible the virus leaked from the Wuhan Institute of Virology, calling the theory one of two "plausible" explanations along with natural transmission from animals.



Lawrence Tabak confirmed Wednesday that early genomic sequences of COVID-19 were concealed at the request of Chinese specialists. Jacquelyn Martin/AP

President Biden rarely speaks publicly about wanting China to be transparent about the origins of the pandemic. Former President Donald Trump, by contrast, has demanded that China pay $10 trillion in reparations.

The Biden administration is considering undoing some of Trump's tariffs on Chinese goods "separately" from US pressure for coronavirus transparency, White House press secretary Jen Psaki told The Post on Monday.

Documents published in September by The Intercept revealed that US health officials indirectly funded so-called "gain of function" research at the Wuhan lab — including the modification three bat coronaviruses distinct from COVID-19 and the discovery that they became much more infectious among "humanized" mice when human-type receptors were added to them.

Disclaimer: Any third-party material in this email has been shared for internal use under fair use provisions of U.S. copyright law, without further verification of its accuracy/veracity. It does not necessarily represent my views nor those of NIAID, NIH, HHS, or the U.S. government.

Disclaimer

This communication, together with any attachment, may contain confidential and/or proprietary information (including without limitation copyright material and/or other intellectual property) and is intended only for the person(s) and/or entity(ies) to whom it is addressed. If you are not the intended recipient of this communication, or if you received it in error, you should not disseminate, distribute or copy this communication and you are asked to kindly delete it and promptly notify us. Any copying, use, disclosure or distribution of any part of this communication or taking any action in reliance on the contents of this communication, unless duly authorized by or on behalf of EcoHealth Alliance, is strictly prohibited and may be unlawful.

Disclaimer

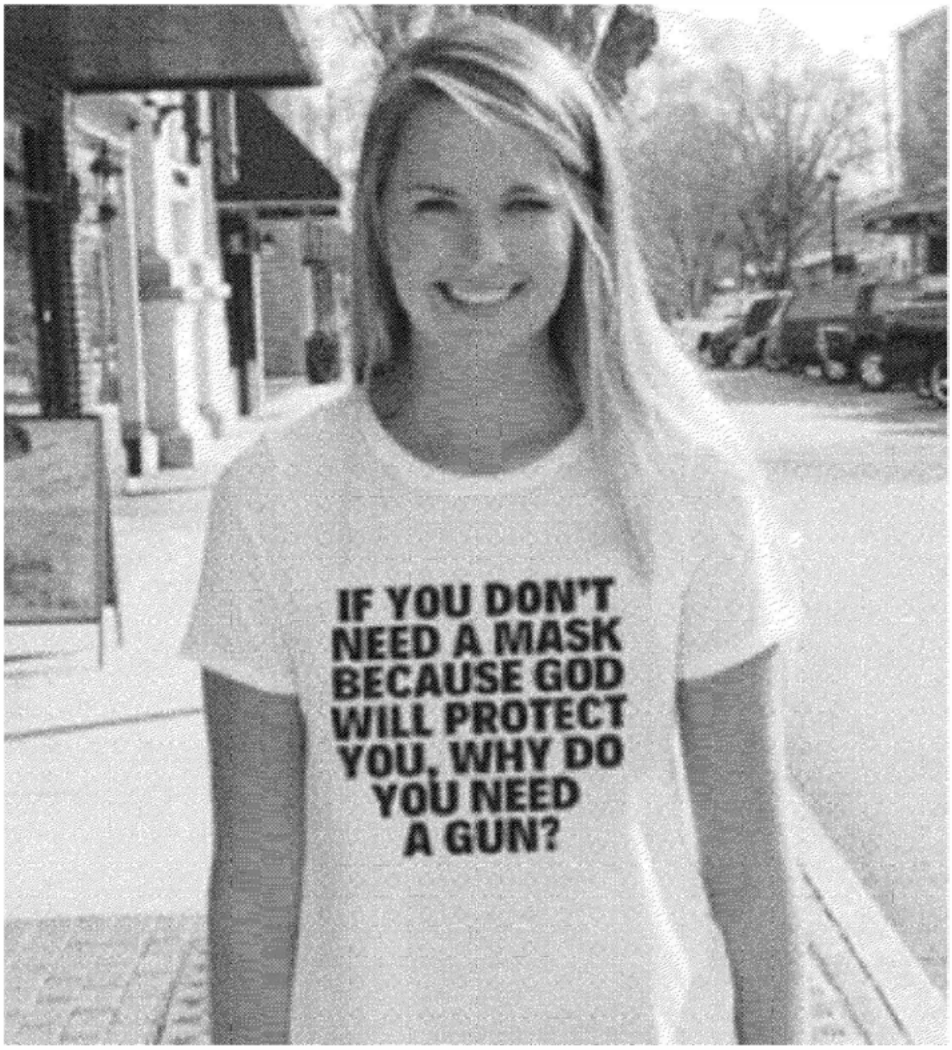
This communication, together with any attachment, may contain confidential and/or proprietary information (including without limitation copyright material and/or other intellectual property) and is intended only for the person(s) and/or entity(ies) to whom it is addressed. If you are not the intended recipient of this communication, or if you received it in error, you should not disseminate, distribute or copy this communication and you are asked to kindly delete it and promptly notify us. Any copying, use, disclosure or distribution of any part of this communication or taking any action in reliance on the contents of this communication, unless duly authorized by or on behalf of

EcoHealth Alliance, is strictly prohibited and may be unlawful.

MORENS_SUBPOENA_010680
MORENS_NIH_021227
REL0000482089

Date:	Wed, 25 Jan 2023 10:59:41 AM -0500
Sent:	Wed, 25 Jan 2023 10:59:36 AM -0500
Subject:	RE: Marjorie Taylor-Greene on the COVID 'investigation'
From:	"Roberts, Rich" <(b) (6)
To:	Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >; Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6) Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) >; David Morens <(b) (6) >; Gerald Keusch <(b) (6) Jeffrey Sturchio <(b) (6)
Attachments:	image001.jpg

I guess God is doing it!



Richard J. Roberts
New England Biolabs
240 County Road
Ipswich, MA 01938-2723
USA
Tel: (b) (6)

Fax: (978) 412 9910
email:(b) (6) 6)

Executive Assistant: (b) (6)
Tel :(b) (6)
Fax: (978) 412 9910
email:(b) (6) 6)

From: Peter Daszak <(b) (6)
Sent: Wednesday, January 25, 2023 10:53 AM
To: Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6) Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) David Morens <(b) (6) Gerald Keusch <(b) (6) Jeffrey Sturchio <(b) (6) Roberts, Rich <(b) (6)
Subject: Marjorie Taylor-Greene on the COVID 'investigation'

EXTERNAL SENDER

I think the news that Marjorie Taylor-Greene will be on the panel 'investigating' the origins of COVID-19 is actually a good thing. It instantly reveals it for what it is – a Republican witch hunt targeting Fauci and Biden by pushing anti-science conspiracy theories.

It's going to be hard to answer questions as a scientist when you have someone who doesn't believe in evolution – just check out her Wikipedia page! https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Marjorie_Taylor_Greene

Evolution

Greene has said that she does not accept the scientific fact of evolution, calling it a "type of so-called science" and saying: "I don't believe in evolution. I believe in God."[265][266]

Er… that could be a problem, considering we're watching these viruses evolve, in real-time, in our own population!

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: (b) (6)
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org

MORENS_SUBPOENA_015242
MORENS_NIH_032064
REL0000482090

Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

---

From: Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6) u>
Sent: Wednesday, January 25, 2023 7:50 AM
To: Peter Daszak (b) (6) >; Aleksei Chmura (b) (6) ; David Morens < (b) (6) >; Gerald Keusch (b) (6) ; Jeffrey Sturchio (b) (6) ; Rich Roberts < (b) (6)
Subject: McCarthy taps GOP members to investigate Covid policies - POLITICO

https://www.politico.com/news/2023/01/24/mccarthy-_gop-covid-panel-mtg-00079351

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP

Texas Children's Hospital: Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics | Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development | Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

Baylor College of Medicine: Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine | Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology | Health Policy Scholar

Baylor University, University Professor
Rice University, Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty
Texas A&M University, Faculty-Senior Fellow, Hagler Inst for Advanced Study & Scowcroft Institute of Intl Affairs

E-mail | Twitter | LinkedIn | Skype: (b) (6)

Amazon Author Center | Daily Beast Contributor

Senior Coordinator & Executive Support: Douglas Soriano
(b) (6) | Phone: (b) (6) | Fax: 713-798-2299

Media Inquiries:
(b) (6)

iPhone

Date: Thu, 16 Sep 2021 2:20:09 PM -0400
Sent: Thu, 16 Sep 2021 2:16:19 PM -0400
Subject: RE: FW: Request for Permission to Conduct CIT Search: Miller #57014
From: Peter Daszak <(b) (6)
To: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] <(b) (6) Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6)
Attachments: image001.gif; image002.jpg; image003.png

Crazy. This guy, though, is probably linked to a right-wing journal – they've done this before just filing FoIAs as individuals.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: (b) (6)
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

From: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b) (6)
Sent: Thursday, September 16, 2021 2:13 PM
To: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >; Keusch, Gerald T (b) (6)
Subject: Fwd: FW: Request for Permission to Conduct CIT Search: Miller #57014

Peter, see below, 30,000 pages of stuff when they did a computer search for the FOIA using Morens and Daszak (together) as the search terms. Wonderful to think some idiot will be wasting all that time for naught....

-------- Forwarded Message --------
Subject: FW: Request for Permission to Conduct CIT Search: Miller #57014
Date: Thu, 16 Sep 2021 18:10:23 +0000
From: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b) (6)
To: David Morens ((b) (6)

MORENS_NIH_043922
REL0000482091

David M. Morens, M.D.
CAPT, United States Public Health Service
Senior Advisor to the Director
Office of the Director
National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases
National Institutes of Health
Building 31, Room 7A-03
31 Center Drive, MSC 2520
Bethesda, MD 20892-2520
(b) (6) (assistants: Kimberly Barasch; Whitney Robinson)
(b) (6)
(b) (6)

Disclaimer: This message is intended for the exclusive use of the recipient(s) named above. It may contain information that is PROTECTED, PRIVILEGED, and/or CONFIDENTIAL, and it should not be disseminated, distributed, or copied to persons not authorized to receive such information. All sensitive documents must be properly labeled before dissemination via email. If you are not the intended recipient, any dissemination, distribution, or copying is strictly prohibited. If you have received this communication in error, please erase all copies of the message and its attachments and notify us immediately.



From: Schofield, Robin (NIH/NIAID) [E] <(b) (6)
Sent: Thursday, September 16, 2021 2:06 PM
To: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b) (6) >
Subject: RE: Request for Permission to Conduct CIT Search: Miller #57014

FYI – this search produced over 30,000 pages so I am going back to the requester to try to narrow it.

Thank you.

Robin

Robin L. Schofield, MPS
Government Information Specialist
Freedom of Information and Privacy Act Branch OM/OD/NHLBI/FOIA Service Center
FOIA Line: 301-496-9737
Fax: 301-402-3604

From: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b) (6)
Sent: Thursday, September 16, 2021 8:15 AM
To: Schofield, Robin (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b) (6)
Cc: Folkers, Greg (NIH/NIAID) [E] <GFOLKERS@niaid.nih.gov>; Harper, Jill (NIH/NIAID) [E] <JHarper@niaid.nih.gov>
Subject: Re: Request for Permission to Conduct CIT Search: Miller #57014

Sorry, yes i do. I have been on leave and just back today. d

Sent from my iPhone
David M Morens
OD, NIAID, NIH

On Sep 16, 2021, at 07:14, Schofield, Robin (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b) (6) > wrote:

Good morning David,

Kindly advise whether you grant permission for the CIT search described below.

Thank you.

Robin

Robin L. Schofield, MPS
Government Information Specialist
Freedom of Information and Privacy Act Branch OM/OD/NHLBI/FOIA Service Center
FOIA Line: (b) (6)
Fax: 301-402-3604

From: Schofield, Robin (NIH/NIAID) [E]
Sent: Monday, September 13, 2021 12:53 PM
To: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b) (6)
Cc: Folkers, Greg (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b) (6) ; Harper, Jill (NIH/NIAID) [E] < (b) (6)
Subject: Request for Permission to Conduct CIT Search: Miller #57014

Good morning David,

Travis Miller (an individual) has submitted a FOIA request for a copy of: "correspondence between David Morens and Peter Daszak from October 1, 2019 through the present. All e-mail correspondence to/from David Morens containing the term "Daszak" from October 1, 2019 through the present. All e-mail correspondence to/from David Morens containing the term "gain of function" from October 1, 2019 through the present."

I am requesting permission to have CIT conduct the following search of your emailboxes:

Emails (to: David Morens and from: (b) (6) OR (from: David Morens to: (b) (6)

Emails to or from David Morens containing the terms Daszak OR "gain of function"

The time period for both searches is October 1, 2019 through September 13, 2021.

Thank you.

Robin

Robin L. Schofield, MPS
Government Information Specialist
Freedom of Information and Privacy Act Branch OM/OD/NHLBI/FOIA Service Center
FOIA Line: (b) (6)
Fax: 301-402-3604

From: NIH FOIA <nihfoia@od.nih.gov>

MORENS_NIH_043924
REL0000482091

Sent: Thursday, September 9, 2021 8:45 AM
To: NHLBI FOIA REQUEST (NIH/NHLBI) <nhlbifoiarequest@nhlbi.nih.gov>
Cc: NIH FOIA <nihfoia@od.nih.gov>; NIAID FOIA Office <NIAIDFOIAOffice@mail.nih.gov>; Manheim, Marianne (NIH/NHLBI) [E] <(b) (6) >
Subject: NIAID for Direct - Miller - FW: New FOIA request received for National Institutes of Health

Good Morning,

Please see the attached/below request for direct response regarding a copy of "correspondence between David Morens and Peter Daszak from October 1, 2019 through the present. All e-mail correspondence to/from David Morens containing the term "Daszak" from October 1, 2019 through the present. All e-mail correspondence to/from David Morens containing the term "gain of function" from October 1, 2019 through the present."

Morens is an NIAID employee.

Thank you.

Roger Bordine
Program Support
Freedom of Information Office
National Institutes of Health
Building 31, Room 5B35
31 Center Drive
Bethesda, MD 20892

Phone: (b) (6)
Fax: 301-402-4541
(b) (6)



From: National.FOIAPortal@usdoj.gov <National.FOIAPortal@usdoj.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, September 8, 2021 5:40 PM
To: NIH FOIA <nihfoia@od.nih.gov>
Subject: New FOIA request received for National Institutes of Health

Hello,

A new FOIA request was submitted to your agency component:

The following list contains the entire submission submitted September 08, 2021 05:40:02pm ET, and is formatted for ease of viewing

---

Contact information

First name	Travis
Last name	Miller
Mailing Address	(b) (6)
City	
State/Province	
Postal Code	

Country	United States
Phone	(b) (6)
Company/Organization	None
Email	(b) (6)

Request

Request ID	255641
Confirmation ID	255116
Request description	All e-mail correspondence between David Morens and Peter Daszak from October 1, 2019 through the present. All e-mail correspondence to/from David Morens containing the term "Daszak" from October 1, 2019 through the present. All e-mail correspondence to/from David Morens containing the term "gain of function" from October 1, 2019 through the present.

Supporting documentation

Fees

Request category ID	other
Fee waiver	no
Willing to pay	100

Expedited processing

Expedited Processing	no

The following table contains the entire submission, and is formatted for ease of copy/pasting into a spreadsheet.

request_id confirmation_id address_city address_country address_line1 address_line2 address_state_province

(b) (6)

MORENS_NIH_043926
REL0000482091

Disclaimer

The information contained in this communication from the sender is confidential. It is intended solely for use by the recipient and others authorized to receive it. If you are not the recipient, you are hereby notified that any disclosure, copying, distribution or taking action in relation of the contents of this information is strictly prohibited and may be unlawful.

This email has been scanned for viruses and malware, and may have been automatically archived by Mimecast, a leader in email security and cyber resilience. Mimecast integrates email defenses with brand protection, security awareness training, web security, compliance and other essential capabilities. Mimecast helps protect large and small organizations from malicious activity, human error and technology failure; and to lead the movement toward building a more resilient world. To find out more, visit our website.

Date: Mon, 18 Jul 2022 11:25:02 AM -0400
Sent: Mon, 18 Jul 2022 11:21:11 AM -0400
Subject: RE: Fauci
From: Peter Daszak <(b) (6)
To: David Morens <(b) (6) Gerald Keusch <(b) (6) Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) peter hotez <(b) (6) Rich Roberts <(b) (6) Jeff Sturchio <(b) (6)

It'll be a sad day from my point of view. There's a good quote at the end:

"I don't think there is anything else that I, Tony Fauci, can do except leave behind an institution where I have picked the best people in the country, if not the world, who will continue my vision," he said.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: +(b) (6)
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

From: David Morens (b) (6)
Sent: Monday, July 18, 2022 10:27 AM
To: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) ; Gerald Keusch <(b) (6) Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) ; peter hotez (b) (6) >; Rich Roberts (b) (6) (b) (6) Jeff Sturchio <
Subject: Fwd: Fauci

Sent from my iPhone
David M Morens
OD, NIAID, NIH
Begin forwarded message:

From: David Morens (b) (6)

Date: July 18, 2022 at 10:24:12 EDT
To: David Morens (b) (6)
Subject: Fwd: Fauci

Sent from my iPhone
David M Morens
OD, NIAID, NIH
Begin forwarded message:

> **From:** "McKay, Betsy" (b) (6)
> **Date:** July 18, 2022 at 10:17:07 EDT
> **To:** David Morens (b) (6)
> **Subject: Fauci**
>
> Hi David - we spoke a couple of weeks ago about Tony Fauci's retirement. Here's a new data point, in Politico today!
>
> https://www.politico.com/news/2022/07/18/anthony-_fauci-interview-covid-00046189
>
> Best,
> Betsy
>
> --
> Betsy McKay
> SENIOR WRITER
>
> M: (b) (6) (Mobile/Whatsapp/Signal/Telegram)
> O: (b) (6)
> E: (b) (6)
> T: @betswrites

Disclaimer

This communication, together with any attachment, may contain confidential and/or proprietary information (including without limitation copyright material and/or other intellectual property) and is intended only for the person(s) and/or entity(ies) to whom it is addressed. If you are not the intended recipient of this communication, or if you received it in error, you should not disseminate, distribute or copy this communication and you are asked to kindly delete it and promptly notify us. Any copying, use, disclosure or distribution of any part of this communication or taking any action in reliance on the contents of this communication, unless duly authorized by or on behalf of EcoHealth Alliance, is strictly prohibited and may be unlawful.

Date: Thu, 9 Feb 2023 5:35:00 PM -0500
Sent: Thu, 9 Feb 2023 5:34:46 PM -0500
Subject: RE: Follow up from our call
From: "Keusch, Gerald T" <(b) (6)
To: Roberts, Rich <(b) (6) >; Jeffrey Sturchio <(b) (6) >; Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6)
CC: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >; David Morens <(b) (6) >; Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) >;
Attachments: image001.jpg; image002.jpg; image003.jpg

I have not been at all successful in my outreach. I sent notes to Stef Bertuzzi at ASM, Mary Woolley at Research! America, and Carlos del Rio who is the foreign secretary for NAM (and the interim Dean at Emory Medical School) last Thursday after our call and I have not heard from any of them. I can get back to this middle of next week and if I haven't heard back by email I will call them directly. I can understand why Carlos might be suddenly overwhelmed with new responsibilities, which was one reason I thought about getting in touch first by email. But I don't think that applies to Stef or Mary.

Jerry

From: Roberts, Rich <(b) (6)
Sent: Thursday, February 9, 2023 5:14 PM
To: Jeffrey Sturchio <(b) (6) Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6)
Cc: Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6) Peter Daszak <(b) (6) David Morens <(b) (6) Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6)
Subject: RE: Follow up from our call

The more the merrier as we say in the UK!

I think our goal should be to really get a lot of support from all segments of society. We definitely should avoid the claim that we are just being elitists.

Rich

Richard J. Roberts
New England Biolabs
240 County Road
Ipswich, MA 01938-2723
USA
Tel: (b) (6)
Fax: (978) 412 9910
email (b) (6) (6)

Executive Assistant: (b) (6)
Tel: (b) (6)
Fax: (978) 412 9910
email (b) (6)) (6)

From: Jeffrey Sturchio (b) (6)
Sent: Thursday, February 9, 2023 4:05 PM
To: Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6) >; Roberts, Rich (b) (6)
Cc: Keusch, Gerald T (b) (6) ; Peter Daszak ; David Morens <
(b) (6) ; Aleksei Chmura (b) (6)
Subject: RE: Follow up from our call

EXTERNAL SENDER

Would engaging with the AAAS Committee on Scientific Freedom and Responsibility be useful? Here's some information on the CSFR from the AAAS website:

Committee on Scientific Freedom and Responsibility

The Committee on Scientific Freedom and Responsibility (CSFR) was established in 1976 by AAAS. The Committee Charter is as follows:

The Council recognizes that the CSFR, as a standing committee of the AAAS, plays a significant as well as potentially controversial role for the Association. The increasing complexity of the interactions among science, technology, and the public interest raise new issues and problems concerning the human rights, freedom of scientific inquiry, and professional responsibilities of scientists and engineers. The Association affirms at the outset that scientific freedom is grounded in basic human rights and implies special responsibilities to extend and disseminate knowledge for the good of humanity.
With these perspectives in mind, and within the resources allocated by the Board of Directors, the Committee on Scientific Freedom and Responsibility is charged with the following duties on behalf of the Association:

- To formulate and recommend principles and procedures to guide the Association in a continuing review of issues that affect scientific freedom and scientific responsibility, and to search for means that will effectively bring these issues to the attention of both scientists and others.
- To monitor whether the actions and policies of the government of the United States, the governments of other nations, and of private organizations circumscribe or restrict the freedom of scientists or their ability to carry out their responsibilities.
- To collect information on restrictions of scientific freedom and of the ability of scientists to carry out their responsibilities, and to make such information available to scientists, scientific societies, and others who may be interested in taking action to counter these restrictions.
- To encourage and assist the AAAS, its affiliates, and other scientific groups to develop statements of principles governing professional conduct, and to establish policies, procedures, and educational activities designed to encourage scientists to accept their professional responsibilities both with regard to safeguarding the integrity of science and with regard to the

application of science in the promotion of human rights and general welfare.

- To encourage and assist the AAAS and its affiliates to develop policies and procedures to protect scientists against infringements of scientific freedom; to collect information about the procedures of affiliated societies for dealing with documented allegations of such infringements; to facilitate communication among the societies with a view to strengthening of these procedures; and, in exceptional circumstances and within the criteria developed by the Committee, to conduct an analytic review of cases where the ramifications are deemed to be especially significant for the scientific community at large.
- To report annually to the Association, through the Council–and, as appropriate, to other scientific and technological communities and to the general public–the activities of the Committee and its general assessment of significant developments during the year that affect scientific freedom and scientific responsibility and that call for examination, discussion and possible action.

As part of the attempt to fulfill its mandate, the CSFR in 1977 established a Science and Human Rights Subcommittee, specifically to address issues of human rights as they occur in relation to all these duties.

Adopted by the Committee for Scientific Freedom and Responsibility February 9, 1996.

Adopted by the AAAS Council on February 16, 1997.

MEMBERS

Ronald Arkin
Georgia Institute of Technology

Angela Bielefeldt
University of Colorado, Boulder

Matthew Brown
University of Texas, Dallas

Deborah Johnson
University of Virginia

Kelly Joyce
Drexel University

Bartha Maria Knoppers
McGill University

MORENS_SUBPOENA_017991
MORENS_NIH_036817
REL0000482095

Alexa Koenig
University of California, Berkeley School of Law

Steven Livingston
George Washington University

Camille Nebeker
University of California, San Diego

Safiya Noble
University of California, Los Angeles

Frank Pasquale
University of Maryland Carey School of Law

Neal Rubin (Chair)
Adler University

Judith Tanur
Stony Brook University

Joseph Watkins
University of Arizona

Committee Staff Officer
Theresa Harris
AAAS

Best regards,
Jeff

From: Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6)
Sent: Thursday, February 9, 2023 3:44 PM
To: Roberts, Rich (b) (6)
Cc: Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6) Peter Daszak (b) (6) >; David Morens < (b) (6) >; Jeffrey Sturchio (b) (6) >; Aleksei Chmura (b) (6)
Subject: Re: Follow up from our call

LeBron was not great on the vaccine issue, he refused to rebuke Kyrie Irving, citing "freedom of choice". We need a strong NIH Director, and more forceful statements from the National Academies. I speak with Holden pretty regularly who gets it and is concerned. When I pick up my Purple Heart AAAS Scientific Freedom Medal on March 5, he'll be there and hopefully we can strategize then. So far only AAAS and to some extent AMA and AAMC seem interested or worried.

MORENS_SUBPOENA_017992
MORENS_NIH_036818
REL0000482095

Many thanks Rich!

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP

Texas Children's Hospital: Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics | Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development | Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

Baylor College of Medicine: Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine | Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology | Health Policy Scholar

Baylor University, University Professor
Rice University, Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty
Texas A&M University, Faculty-Senior Fellow, Hagler Inst for Advanced Study & Scowcroft Institute of Intl Affairs

E-mail | Twitter | LinkedIn | Skype: (b) (6)

Amazon Author Center | Daily Beast Contributor

Senior Coordinator & Executive Support: Douglas Soriano
(b) (6) | Phone: (b) (6) | Fax: 713-798-2299

Media Inquiries:
(b) (6)

iPhone

On Feb 9, 2023, at 2:21 PM, Roberts, Rich (b) (6) (b) (6) wrote:

Hi:

I have spoken with several people about the idea of a campaign to protect science and most seem on board with the idea, but a little short on ways to implement it in a way that might get wide public acceptance.

I spoke with Keith Yamamoto at some length. He is extremely supportive. He did have some insights about the NIH Directorship. He said that Biden had taken over the selection personally and no-one else seemed to be involved. His view and mine is that that means it is dead for now. He had been talking with Harold Varmus and Bob Horvitz, both of whom are very concerned about the Republican attacks on science. I will be talking with both of them tomorrow afternoon.

I spoke with John Deutsch (ex-President of MIT) and he is supportive, but has no clear ideas of how to proceed. He did say that we should talk with Holden Thorp (as we had discussed) and get AAAS involved. I had contacted Holden previously and he and I have a talk scheduled for next week.

Some of the more interesting suggestions that have emerged are that we should try to garner support from individuals and organizations that are not viewed by the general public, or politicians, as belong to the "elite" segment of society. I am thinking that someone like LeBron James could be an excellent spokesperson if we can reach him and his views are pro-science. He seems like a decent person and so maybe he is Pro-science. There are others who fit that category such as other sports stars and even some Hollywood people. I believe George Clooney would be favorable and maybe Harrison Ford, whom I met many years ago.

MORENS_SUBPOENA_017993
MORENS_NIH_036819
REL0000482095

Rich

Richard J. Roberts
New England Biolabs
240 County Road
Ipswich, MA 01938-2723
USA
Tel: (b) (6)
Fax: (978) 412 9910
email: (b) (6)

Executive Assistant: (b) (6)
Tel: (b) (6)
Fax: (978) 412 9910
email: (b) (6)

From: Keusch, Gerald T (b) (6)
Sent: Thursday, February 2, 2023 4:58 PM
To: Peter Daszak (b) (6) ; Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6)
Cc: David Morens <(b) (6) Roberts, Rich (b) (6) Jeffrey Sturchio <(b) (6) >; Aleksei Chmura (b) (6)
Subject: RE: Notes from our call

EXTERNAL SENDER

Just to note I have just sent a note to Carlos del Rio about NAM, to Mary Woolley about Research!America, and Stef Bertuzzi about ASM. I'll let you know if and what I hear back from them and we can proceed from there.
Jerry

From: Peter Daszak (b) (6)
Sent: Wednesday, February 1, 2023 6:26 PM
To: Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6)
Cc: David Morens (b) (6) ; Roberts, Rich (b) (6) (b) (6) Keusch, Gerald T (b) (6) Jeffrey Sturchi (b) (6) Aleksei Chmura (b) (6)
Subject: Notes from our call
Importance: High

Attached are notes and action items (also cc'd below), as well as the concept note which I've expanded with more names of orgs to add:

Towards a Coalition to Protect Pandemic Preparedness Research

Notes from call 2/1/23
Rich Roberts, Peter Hotez, Jerry Keusch, David Morens, Jeff Sturchio, Peter Daszak, Aleksei Chmura

Action items:
Rich will speak with:

Harold Varmus to sound him out re. this issue
Holden Thorpe to find out the best way to engage AAAS (Sudip Parikh CEO)
NAS: Rich will be in DC in March talking with Marcia McNutt, Nobel Foundation &
NAS – will see if Nobel Foundation will endorse this effort if NAS supports it

Jerry Keusch will reach out to:
ASM – Stephano Bertuzzi

David Morens will reach out to Tony Fauci to ask advice on how we should progress

Peter Hotez will talk with:
Head of OSTP (Peter will speak with them in March)
ASV – Anne Moscona (President-Elect)

Peter Daszak will contact as many of the others as possible, writing on behalf of all of us, so as to avoid concerns that people might have re EcoHealth being in the line of fire.

Next steps
each of us will reach out to different contacts
re-convene by conference call in 3 weeks or so (Peter D. will set up), around Feb 22nd.
In-person meeting at EHA NYC afternoon of April 27th.

Summary of discussion:

- What could the goals of the coalition be, and what should they not be
  - Overall goal to have a 'coalition of the willing' form, organized by an independent group (hopefully AAAS, or similar level) to defend pandemic prevention research that is under attack
- How should we reach out to build a coalition?
  - Making contact with key people from each of the above, trying to set up a conference call, convened by a leading independent group (e.g. AAAS) where multiple contacts come together and the discussion is led by the independent group.
- Who should we try to engage: Academies, academic societies, pro-science pressure groups, senior figures in the field, funders, and governmental leaders. Initial list:
  - AAAS
  - AIDS Vaccine Advocacy Coalition
  - American Public Health Association (Georges Benjamin)
  - American Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene (Dan Bausch, Karen Goraleski, Kent Kester)
  - Association of Public & Land-Grant Universities
  - Georgia Global Health Alliance
  - Bay Area Global Health Alliance
  - Consortium of Universities for Global Health
  - COVID Collaborative
  - Global Health Council
  - Global Health Technologies Coalition
  - Infectious Diseases Society of America Carlos del Rio (Jerry will reach out)
  - International AIDS Vaccine Initiative
  - Nobel Laureates Campaigns
  - Pandemic Action Network
  - PATH
  - Research!America – Reach back out – Jerry will
  - Union of Concerned Scientists
  - Washington Global Health Alliance
  - 156 virologists letter
  - NAM
  - NAS
  - NL Campaigns (to be kept informed of progress by Rich)

- CUGH
- The pandemic action coalition
- FASEB
- Global Health technologies coalition
- APLU (KHG has connection)
- Wellcome Trust (Paul Schreier is the interim head).
- Dr. Tony Fauci
- Felicia Goodrum (Arizona) and Stacey Schultz-Cherry (St. Judes)
- OSTP
- ASV – Anne Moscona (President-Elect)

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: (b) (6)
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

From: Hotez, Peter Ja (b) (6)
Sent: Wednesday, February 1, 2023 6:21 PM
To: Peter Daszak (b) (6)
Cc: David More (b) (6) >; Roberts, Rich (b) (6) >; Keusch, Gerald T (b) (6) ; Jeffrey Sturchio (b) (6) ; Aleksei Chmura (b) (6)
Subject: Re: Update

Dear all, I spoke with Ann Moscona President-Elect at ASV and she's all in. She also suggested adding Felicia Goodrum (Arizona) and Stacey Schultz-Cherry (St. Judes) both really good on policy issues, she will give them a heads up, thanks! Peter

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP

MORENS_SUBPOENA_017996
MORENS_NIH_036822
REL0000482095

Texas Children's Hospital : Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics | Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development | Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

Baylor College of Medicine: Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine | Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology | Health Policy Scholar

Baylor University , University Professor

Rice University , Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty

Texas A&M University , Faculty-Senior Fellow, Hagler Inst for Advanced Study & Scowcroft Institute of Intl Affairs

E-mail | Twitter | LinkedIn | Skype: (b) (6)

Amazon Author Center | Daily Beast Contributor

Senior Coordinator & Executive Support: Douglas Soriano

(b) (6) | Phone (b) (6) Fax: 713-798-2299

Media Inquiries:

(b) (6)

From: Peter Daszak (b) (6)
Sent: Wednesday, February 1, 2023 8:14 AM
To: Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6)
Cc: David Moren (b) (6) >; Roberts, Ric (b) (6) (b) (6) Keusch, Gerald T (b) (6) Jeffrey Sturchi (b) (6) ; Aleksei Chmura (b) (6)
Subject: Concept note and Agenda for our discussion today at 1pm Eastern US time

Dear All,

I'm looking forward to our discussion today at 1pm. Attached is a concept note that Jeff Sturchio drafted to frame some ideas around what we might try to do.

I've also attached a rough agenda for us.

Here are the details of the zoom call, and I look forward to speaking with you all later on:

Join Zoom Meeting

(b) (6)

Meeting ID: (b) (6)
Passcode: (b) (6)
One tap mobile
+(b) (6) US (New York)
+ US

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: (b) (6)
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

(b) (6)
From: Hotez, Peter Jay
Sent: Tuesday, J (b) (6)
To: Peter Dasza
Cc: David Morens (b) (6) Roberts, Rich (b) (6) eusch. Gerald T (b) (6)
Jeffrey Sturchio (b) (6) eksei Chmura (b) (6)
Subject: Re: Two great articles!

Many thanks Peter! Appreciate the support!

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP

Texas Children's Hospital: Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics | Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development | Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

Baylor College of Medicine: Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine | Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology | Health Policy Scholar

Baylor University, University Professor

Rice University, Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty

Texas A&M University, Faculty-Senior Fellow, Hagler Inst for Advanced Study & Scowcroft Institute of Intl Affairs

E-mail | Twitter | LinkedIn | Skype: (b) (6)

Amazon Author Center | Daily Beast Contributor

Senior Coordinator & Executive Support: Douglas Soriano

Doug(b) (6) | Phone: (b) (6) | Fax: 713-798-2299

Media Inquiries:

(b) (6)

iPhone

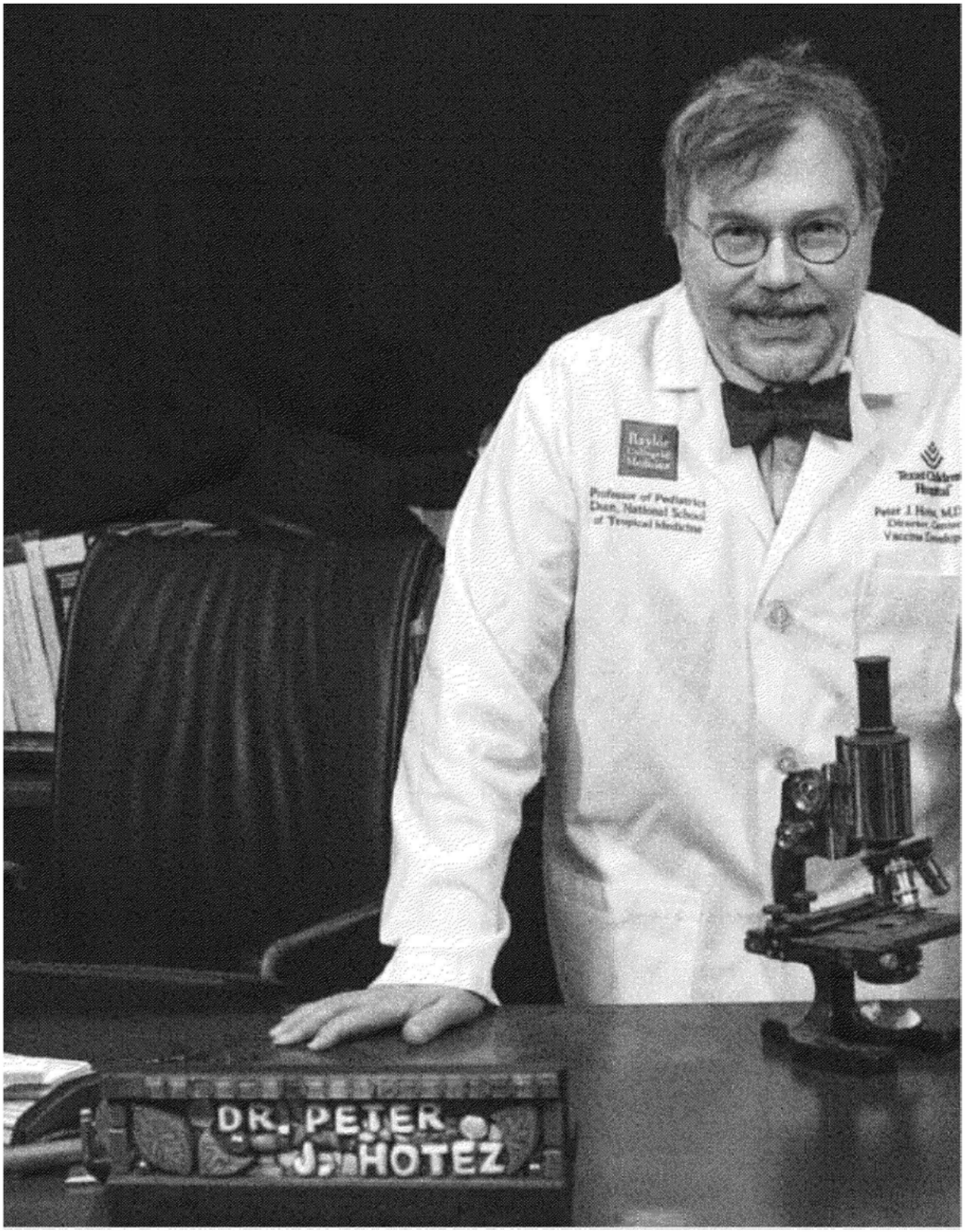
On Jan 31, 2023, at 1:44 PM, Peter Daszak (b) (6) > wrote:

First, want to send my appreciation for your great interview in the Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists yesterday, Peter:

https://thebulletin.org/2023/01/viral- spread-peter-hotez-on-the-increase-of-anti-science-aggression-on-social-media/

Viral spread: Peter Hotez on the increase of anti-science aggression on social media

By Sara Goudarzi | January 30, 2023



Peter Hotez (Image courtesy of Agapito Sanchez, Baylor College of Medicine)

Last November, Twitter announced it will no longer enforce "the COVID-19 misleading information policy." The platform also allowed previously banned users to rejoin the site. Since then, anti-vaccination messaging has gained renewed energy, distressing scientists and researchers who have been combatting misinformation and disinformation on social media. According to research, there's a strong relationship between anti-vaccination efforts on social media and vaccine hesitancy, and while millions of people were saved by having taken the

COVID-19 vaccines, hundreds of thousands of Americans died after refusing it.
Peter Hotez, a physician-scientist, dean of the National School of Tropical Medicine, and a professor in the departments of Pediatrics and Molecular Virology and Microbiology at Baylor College of Medicine, is no stranger to anti-vaccination attitudes. He has fought against misleading medical information for years. But now, he says, anti-science sentiments have been weaponized by businessmen and politicians seeking profits and power.
In the 1940s and 1950s, the House Un-American Activities Committee (HUAC) investigated and discredited several scientists who worked on the Manhattan Project. Hotez expects congressional committees under Republican control to engage in a similar targeting of scientists in an attempt to accumulate influence and foster a sense of belonging—a signature of authoritarian regimes—among their constituents. In his view, this anti-vaccine, anti-science movement, versions of which are spreading to other countries, could destabilize the global vaccine ecosystem.
I spoke with Hotez about the role of social media in spreading misleading information on vaccines and stoking anti-science aggression in many dimensions. *The resulting discussion has been edited for length and clarity.*

Sara Goudarzi: You've been on Twitter for more than a decade and often use it as a tool to communicate health and science facts, such as the importance of vaccinations. How in your experience has the social media platform changed during this time?
Peter Hotez: Well, it's become a lot more adversarial as the anti-vaccine movement has shifted. The anti-vaccine movement began in earnest around 20 years ago in the United States around false assertions that vaccines cause autism. The way I got involved was because I have a daughter with autism, and I wrote the book *Vaccines Did Not Cause Rachel's Autism: My Journey as a Vaccine Scientist, Pediatrician, and Autism Dad,* and that made me public enemy number one or two with the anti-vaccine activists.
What I would do at that time of social media was use their statements in their attacks against me as a teachable moment, to expose what the anti-vaccine movement was all about and how they were monetizing the internet with books on Amazon and nutritional supplements and the phony autism cures. So, rather than simply block people who were attacking me, I would retweet them with a little description of what they were doing. People found it very interesting because it was teaching them how an anti-science movement works, and they started coming to my Twitter for that purpose.
The game changer was about nine years ago, when [vaccine disinformation] became a political movement around health and medical freedom. You saw a different set of actors come into this, and it became a lot more aggressive; people's political allegiance became tied to not giving their kids vaccinations, and that has just come off the rails with COVID-19. And I'd like to point out that 200,000 Americans now have needlessly lost their lives because they refused the COVID vaccine.
The hardest thing yet is really trying to describe the anti-vaccine ecosystem, because too often it's still couched in the old autism thing that they call infodemic or give it euphemisms like misinformation or disinformation. That is, as though it's some random stuff appearing on social media, when in fact, it's organized, politically motivated, and deliberate. It has a system in place, and what I do now is use that to actually describe who the actors that comprise that ecosystem are—elected leaders in the House Freedom Caucus, certain senators, and local leaders amplified in Fox News with designated contrarians from the far right think tanks.
All our training to be a scientist says you're not supposed to talk about Republicans, Democrats, liberals, or conservatives; you're supposed to be politically neutral. But what do you do when the anti-science, anti-vaccine aggression is predominantly coming along the

partisan lines from the far right? How do you articulate that without basically saying, "the reason I'm doing this is to save lives?" It's no longer a theoretical discussion; Americans have lost their lives because they believed the politics, and to be able to articulate that is really threading a needle there.

Goudarzi: With Twitter's moderators practically gone, the platform's announcement that it will no longer enforce measures to combat misleading information regarding COVID-19 and will give amnesty to previously banned users, there seems to be a rise in anti-vaccination sentiment.

Hotez: It's blown up. It's gotten much tougher: Anything I put out there gets immediately pounced on, and I can trace the origins to four or five either elected leaders or these contrarians from far right think tanks and elsewhere who blow dog whistles. They will put out a (typically false or exaggerated) statement against me, and then I'll receive hundreds and hundreds of tweets or emails specifically targeting me. About half of them look like bots because the person sending it is an empty face with a gazillion numbers attached to the Twitter handle. But others are real people tuning into Fox News every night who totally fall into the rabbit hole because they seem to worship these contrarians. The other piece to this is a lot of Nazi imagery and fantasies, a lot of antisemitism, because they know I'm a Jewish scientist. And that's yet another dimension to all of this.

Goudarzi: How do you think this affects patients in healthcare settings? Have you had personal experience with those who decided not to get vaccinated because of information on the internet or social media indicating the shots are dangerous?

Hotez: I've had sort of the opposite experience, where patients were in the rabbit hole, had seen my postings, see me as credible, and because of me are taking the vaccine, which is kind of nice and spurs me on to keep going at this. But more and more I've also had the other extreme as well, which is based on what they see on social media: People will take the time to write me a threatening email or make a call to the lab or to the office. Then I have to bring in law enforcement through the Texas Medical Center Police or the Houston Police Department and the Anti-Defamation League (because they have a list of individuals who are known to make these types of threats). It's taken this very, very dark turn as a consequence.

Goudarzi: Anti-vaccination movements are nothing new and go back to the late 1700s, even before the development of the smallpox vaccine and then the 1800s and again in the 1990s and 2000s. Do you think social media has allowed the latest movement to gain even more steam than previous movements?

Hotez: I wrote an article about the whole history of [anti-vax movements] in *Journal of Clinical Investigation*. I think it really accelerated in the early 2000s with autism, in part aided by social media—it was new then but was starting up. Now, I think social media has really been an enabler. It's not only social media; I think amazon.com was a big contributor. If you search for books on vaccinations, what's out there is a horror show. My books are among the top-rated on vaccines, and they're probably ranked about number 30 or 40, because it's all preceded by the phony-baloney, anti-vaccine COVID conspiracy books. So, it's Amazon and social media. And Fox News is having a huge impact. This has been documented by Media Matters, the watchdog group, as well as this very interesting paper that came out of ETH Zurich, which is like the MIT of Central Europe.

Goudarzi: Do you think Amazon is purposefully placing these books higher up in search results, or are search results just a reflection of how much steam the movement has gained?

Hotez: I don't know. Amazon is probably amoral. I don't think they think about this one way or the other, but whatever sells. So, it's whatever people are buying—that's how they're ranking it.

Goudarzi: Are you seeing a difference in the attitudes towards COVID-19 vaccines versus

say the flu or MMR vaccines?

Hotez: Yeah, because remember, MMR came out of autism; that was the [original] assertion that the MMR vaccine causes autism. That was [*The Lancet*] paper from 1998. But then around 2014, 2015 (I like to think because I was helping to take some of the wind out of the sails around autism), you started to see the anti-vaccine movement pivot around this concept of health and medical freedom, that you can't tell us what to do about our kids. And that was the first link to the Republican Tea Party here in Texas. In fact, they started getting PAC [political action committee] money… It really took off in Texas and Oklahoma and that's what you see came off the rails with COVID-19.

It has been documented now by Charles Gaba, a health analyst whose work has been mentioned in the *New York Times*, National Public Radio, Pew Research Center and Peterson Academic Center, that the lowest vaccination rates were where health freedom propaganda was the strongest, and among those who are in red states like Texas, the redder the county, the lower the vaccination rate, the higher the numbers of deaths. It's a really tight correlation, so much so that David Leonhardt in the *New York Times* has called it red COVID. My forthcoming book, *The Deadly Rise of Antiscience: A Scientist's Warning* and it's full on linked to far-right politics and it's been embraced by the House Freedom Caucus.

After vaccines became widely available, the statements from the 2021 CPAC conference of conservatives in Dallas was first along the lines of: "they're going to vaccinate you, and then they're going to take away your guns and your bibles." It's ridiculous. A quarter of the country accepted it—mostly in Texas and the Southern states, and then [Georgia US Rep.] Marjorie Taylor Greene called people like me "medical brownshirts," using Nazi paramilitary analogy. Then, those in the Senate GOP, such as Senator Johnson from Wisconsin, held anti-vaccine roundtables, amplified by Fox News. Every night, during the last half of 2021, nighttime anchors Tucker Carlson and Laura Ingraham filled their airwaves with very strong anti-vaccine rhetoric, discrediting the effectiveness and safety of vaccines. And then contrarians from the far right think tanks piled on.

As I said, if it were just a theoretical construct, I wouldn't get so exercised, but 40,000 Texans died during the delta wave in the last half of 2021 and early Omicron BA1 wave in 2022 because they refused the COVID vaccine and were victims of this targeted aggression towards them. The number that I put out in the new book is 200,000 Americans across the country. The Kaiser Family Foundation and the health analyst Charles Gaba come up with similar numbers. On that basis, anti-vaccine activism, anti-science aggression, if you look at it as a societal killing force, is killing more Americans than gun violence, terrorism, nuclear proliferation, or cyber-attacks.

Goudarzi: And the interesting thing is that COVID-19 vaccines have been tremendously successful.

Hotez: Alison Galvani at Yale has just done a modeling exercise with the Commonwealth Fund, indicating that COVID vaccines have saved 3.1 million Americans.

Goudarzi: Yet the messaging against these vaccines seems to be just as successful and as you mentioned hundreds of thousands of deaths could have been prevented here in the United States. So, it begs the question, why are we having such an anti-science moment?

Hotez: It's because it's fully ensconced in the political landscape of the country that became part of the far right, and people refused the vaccine out of allegiance. Part of showing your allegiance to the far right is not getting vaccinated. Then, you saw the Proud Boys march in anti-vaccine rallies, and an early arrest in the January 6 insurrection included a prominent anti-vaccine activist.

The question that I get is: "Hey doc, what should we do about this?" And I say I don't know, because this goes outside the health sector. This is a political problem right now. How do you uncouple the anti-science from the politics? It's been really, really challenging, and the Biden

administration has not been willing to take this on. Vivek Murthy, who is a very good Surgeon General, issued an advisory in July of 2021 about social media and said we have to work with Meta and Facebook and Twitter to prevent this stuff from going viral. That's fine, but it doesn't get to those who are generating the content. This is where we're starting to see breakdowns, in my view, among our scientific and professional societies, and even the National Academies, because this idea that we have to remain politically neutral is so strong that no one will talk about it the way I'm talking about it with you. You have to be politically neutral; it's silly.

To paraphrase Desmond Tutu and Elie Wiesel, neutrality favors the aggressor.

Goudarzi: What do you think the end goal is for those generating the content and spearheading these movements? There are certain people who truly believe that vaccines could cause x, whatever x is, but there are others like Gov. DeSantis who himself was vaccinated yet promotes anti-vaccination sentiments.

Hotez: Early on when vaccines first came out, he was actually pro-vaccines. So, what caused the change? When it was pre-health freedom, it was fairly straightforward: It was people monetizing the internet, selling nutritional supplements and books on phony autism cures. When I wrote the book, trying to look at other examples of this, I found what's going on now in Stalin's Russia in the 1930s 1940s. This is part of the signature of an authoritarian regime: to target the science and scientists. When you read Hannah Arendt's *The Origins of Totalitarianism,* you see this is part of the playbook. Even though it's self-defeating, it still fosters allegiance and belonging. I think what happened is with the anti-vaccine groups for whom the wind was let out of their sails around autism, they needed a new thing. They found money and power and relevance by tying themselves to the far right, and the far right created a whole new cadre of people that they wouldn't have otherwise.

Goudarzi: Just add adding to that: Do you think vaccine disinformation is propagated or reinforced purposely by other governments to cause division within the United States, similar to the 2016 election?

Hotez: No question about that, and I think Russia is probably the most egregious [perpetrator], and this has been documented. David Broniatowski, a computer scientist at the George Washington University, has written about this and the Russian bots' roles. In some cases, they're using both anti-vaccine and pro-vaccine rhetoric. They are specifically using this as a wedge issue to divide the country and destabilize our democracy. And it's not only the Russians—the Chinese, North Koreans and Iranians are doing this. But I think Russia is probably the biggest state actor.

What I've recommended to the Biden administration is they create an inter-governmental agency, because the United States Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) doesn't know what to do at this point. Because of the foreign actors involved, you have to bring in Homeland Security, the Commerce Department, the Justice Department and the State Department as well. There are people smart enough who know about these big dangerous societal forces, and we need their advice on what levers we can pull and push. But they haven't wanted to take it on.

Similarly, at the level of the UN agencies, the World Health Organization doesn't know what to do at this point. So, you're starting to see that same US-style anti-vaccine activity moving to Canada, the United Kingdom and Western Europe—and I wrote about this in a paper in *Nature Reviews Immunology*. You're even seeing it now in low- and middle- income countries, including those in Africa. So, it's going to destabilize the global vaccine ecosystem, even around childhood vaccination.

Goudarzi: Scientific debate around new treatment or preventive measure used to happen more or less behind closed doors. But given the nature of a real time pandemic, some of those debates are taking place on social media, and sometimes that leads to the lay audience

misunderstanding certain aspects of the discussion and spreading misinformation. How valuable, and how harmful, do you think it is to have scientific debates between researchers on social media?

Hotez: It's often not between researchers. For instance, one of the most common things when they target me on social media is they say I should be in a public debate with the lead anti-vaccine activist. And I say, "No, that's not how science is done. I've written a scientific paper and if somebody has an issue with that, they can either refute it in a scientific journal, or publish their own finding." Of course, they can't get it published because there's no science behind it. So, what they want to do instead is they want a public debate.

And I say, "Look, you can debate 18th-century enlightenment philosophy, but science is not typically something that's debated in that kind of forum; we have a mechanism for doing that through scientific publication and peer review." And they don't want to play that way. They just want to put out their propaganda because that's all they have behind it. An example is ivermectin or hydroxychloroquine, which the scientific community has clearly shown has no effect on COVID-19. Hydroxychloroquine is even harmful. But the problem is the anti-vaccine force has dominated the internet, and they say, "Hey, scientists don't want to debate us, what are they hiding?"

And that's, again, how they weaponize communication.

Goudarzi: I was actually thinking of earlier during the pandemic. Because there was so little time, some researchers were putting their papers up on open access preprint servers, which didn't require a peer review, and then others were weighing in on social media platforms. At times, you would see non-scientists take one aspect of that discussion and spread something that wasn't necessarily true.

Hotez: I think with the whole preprint server mechanism, ultimately the benefits outweighed the downside. I can't tell you how many times I had to depend on data from bioRxiv, medRxiv in order to make sense of what was going on. If I had to wait a few weeks for it to air in *New England Journal of Medicine* or *Nature* and *Science*—and by the way, they did a pretty good job too; they were able to turn that around in record time—[it would have been too late.] If you're looking for any silver lining in this pandemic, it's the journal editors, the whole preprint server mechanism, and the willingness of the scientific community to share information. And I think for most of the public understood that they were seeing this play out in real time and that there wasn't always going to be consistency. The problem was those who were who were weaponizing it for their own personal or political gain.

Goudarzi: But you still think the advantages outweighed the disadvantages?

Hotez: I think so. It's hard to imagine how I could've really talked about everything going on knowledgeably on CNN, NBC, or wherever without having access to the information. The preprints were so important.

Goudarzi: Some researchers have either left Twitter or are thinking of leaving. What will this do to scientific discourse? Would it make sense to stay on the platform to counter misinformation and disinformation and increase public awareness, or should researchers seek a more balanced platform?

Hotez: I don't have the answer. I struggle with this every day. I mean, the aggression against me and the threats would continue even if I wasn't on Twitter, because more often than not, it's not against anything that I tweeted. Ninety percent of the time, it's people who see me as a threat to undermine their politics or their business line and are just making up things about me and would still continue even if I wasn't on Twitter. So that's the reason I stay on it, because at least I'm getting out important and timely information. But it is really painful and awful to see what's going on there.

Goudarzi: Is the amount of aggression you face tied to the changing ownership of Twitter and political shifts?

Hotez: The politics around the anti-science, anti-vaccine and phony baloney about COVID origins had started with the pandemic in 2020. But now with all the contrarians back at once it reminds me of the old *Batman* series when they brought back Catwoman, Joker, Penguin, and Riddler all at once to do away with Batman. That seems to be going on, so it's been their superstars who are super energized by being invited back to Twitter, and they are using the platform very aggressively.

Goudarzi: What are some of the lessons we've learned about disinformation and misinformation over the last few years regarding social media that we should consider moving forward?

Hotez: I would say social media is a major weapon of choice for spreading disinformation. But remember, we have to get to those who are generating content. Social media is an important vehicle, but it's not the only one. I think we probably should stop calling it misinformation, disinformation or infodemic. We should call it for what it is, which is anti-science aggression, because it is a killing force. What we realized is that the science aggression is taking lives in the United States on an unprecedented scale.

For that reason, it needs to be addressed, and that's the part the scientific community has not come to terms with. When I call myself a scientist, it's not just co-heading a team of scientists making a COVID vaccine for the world that has reached a 100 million people. That's a very noble activity, but from my perspective, even that's still insufficient. Now being a scientist means, to some extent, being willing to combat the anti-science. It's nothing that any of us signed up for. I never dreamed when I got my MD-PhD in New York in the 1980s that this was something I'd be doing, but this is what's in front of us.

And I don't really feel that the scientific community—the professional societies, scientific bodies, even the academy—fully understand the impact. Hopefully it'll be clear when my book comes out, but it may become even clearer when we see the House GOP hearings. I predict the oversight committee and the judiciary committee or select subcommittees will become an anti-science witch hunt and will target prominent American scientists. And then we'll get a better picture.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: (b) (6)
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

From: Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6)
Sent: Monday, January 30, 2023 6:27 PM
To: David Morens (b) (6) >
Cc: Roberts. Rich (b) (6) >; Peter Daszak (b) (6) ; Keusch, Gerald T < (b) (6) ; Jeffrey Sturchio (b) (6) Aleksei Chmura (b) (6)
Subject: latest

Many thanks David! Best Peter

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP

Texas Children's Hospital: Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics | Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development | Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

Baylor College of Medicine: Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine | Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology | Health Policy Scholar

Baylor University, University Professor

Rice University, Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty

Texas A&M University, Faculty-Senior Fellow, Hagler Inst for Advanced Study & Scowcroft Institute of Intl Affairs

E-mail | Twitter | LinkedIn | Skype: (b) (6)

Amazon Author Center | Daily Beast Contributor

Senior Coordinator & Executive Support: Douglas Soriano

(b) (6) | Phone: (b) (6) | Fax: 713-798-2299

Media Inquiries:

(b) (6)

iPhone

On Jan 30, 2023, at 5:22 PM, David Morens (b) (6) wrote:

kudos to you, again! dmm

Sent from my iPhone
David M Morens
OD, NIAID, NIH

On Jan 30, 2023, at 14:37, Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6) wrote:

https://thebulletin.org/2023/01/viral- spread-peter-hotez-on-the-increase-of-anti-science-aggression-on-social-media/

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP

Texas Children's Hospital: Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics | Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development | Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

Baylor College of Medicine: Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine | Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology | Health Policy Scholar

Baylor University, University Professor

Rice University, Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty

Texas A&M University, Faculty-Senior Fellow, Hagler Inst for Advanced Study & Scowcroft Institute of Intl Affairs

E-mail | Twitter | LinkedIn | Skype: (b) (6)

Amazon Author Center | Daily Beast Contributor

Senior Coordinator & Executive Support: Douglas Soriano

(b) (6) | Phone (b) (6) | Fax: 713-798-2299

Media Inquiries:
(b) (6)

iPhone

On Jan 27, 2023, at 2:43 PM, Roberts, Rich (b) (6) wrote:

Peter:

No, I didn't come up with the name.

But one I have recently come up with is CheatGPT instead of ChatGPT.

Rich

Richard J. Roberts
New England Biolabs
240 County Road
Ipswich, MA 01938-2723
USA
Tel: (b) (6)
Fax: (978) 412 9910
email: (b) (6)

Executive Assistant: (b) (6)
Tel: (b) (6)
Fax: (978) 412 9910
email (b) (6) (6)

From: Peter Daszak (b) (6)
Sent: Friday, January 27, 2023 3:30 PM
To: Roberts, Rich (b) (6) Keusch, Gerald T (b) (6) Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6)
Cc: David Morens (b) (6) >: Jeffrey Sturchio (b) (6) Aleksei Chmur (b) (6)
Subject: RE: Finally - virologists fight back!

EXTERNAL SENDER

I forgot about that Rich. But I'm assuming it wasn't you that came up with somewhat colonial name!!???

In all seriousness, while it's good for virologists to push back against calls to block scientific research, I don't think a campaign to support gain of function work that's designed to see what would happen if you make a lethal pathogen more transmissible is anything any of us particularly want to get behind right now!

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: (b) (6)
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

---

From: Roberts, Rich (b) (6) (6)
Sent: Friday, January 27, 2023 11:08 AM
To: Peter Daszak (b) (6) Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6)
Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6) >
Cc: David Morens (b) (6) >; Jeffrey Sturchio (b) (6) >;
Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) >
Subject: RE: Finally - virologists fight back!

Peter:

In the interests of compete disclosure, I was a member of the "Cambridge Working Group". Our concern was about the deliberate attempts to make the flu virus more infectious. It was the deliberate nature of the experiments that was troubling, not virus research in general.

Rich

Richard J. Roberts
New England Biolabs
240 County Road
Ipswich, MA 01938-2723
USA
Tel: (b) (6)
Fax: (978) 412 9910
email: (b) (6)

Executive Assistant: (b) (6)
Tel: (b) (6)
Fax: (978) 412 9910
email: (b) (6)

From: Peter Daszak (b) (6)
Sent: Friday, January 27, 2023 8:39 AM
To: Keusch, Gerald T (b) (6) >; Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6)
Cc: David Moren (b) (6) ; Jeffrey Sturchio (b) (6) ;
Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) ; Roberts, Rich (b) (6) .
Subject: Finally - virologists fight back!

MORENS_SUBPOENA_018010
MORENS_NIH_036836
REL0000482095

Importance: High

EXTERNAL SENDER

Article in NPR this morning (https://www.npr.org/sections/health-shots/2023/01/27/1151867224/virologists- science-oversight-risky-experiments) – and below, based on a Commentary (attached) in mBio and various ASM journals signed by >150 virologists that fights back against the anti-science, defends virus research and gives a table of positive results from gain of function work.

I'll reach out to Felicia Goodrum (lead author) today to see if they will talk about helping with some sort of coalition. Michael Imperiale was quoted so if any of you know him or Felicia or others who are leading this (e.g. Arturo Casadevall), it would be good to reach out to let them know the urgency.

Some of these people were involved in the coalition (Scientists for Science - http://www.scientistsforscience.org/) to push back against earlier efforts to cancel Gain of function work by the "Cambridge Working Group" (a pretentious name, of course)…

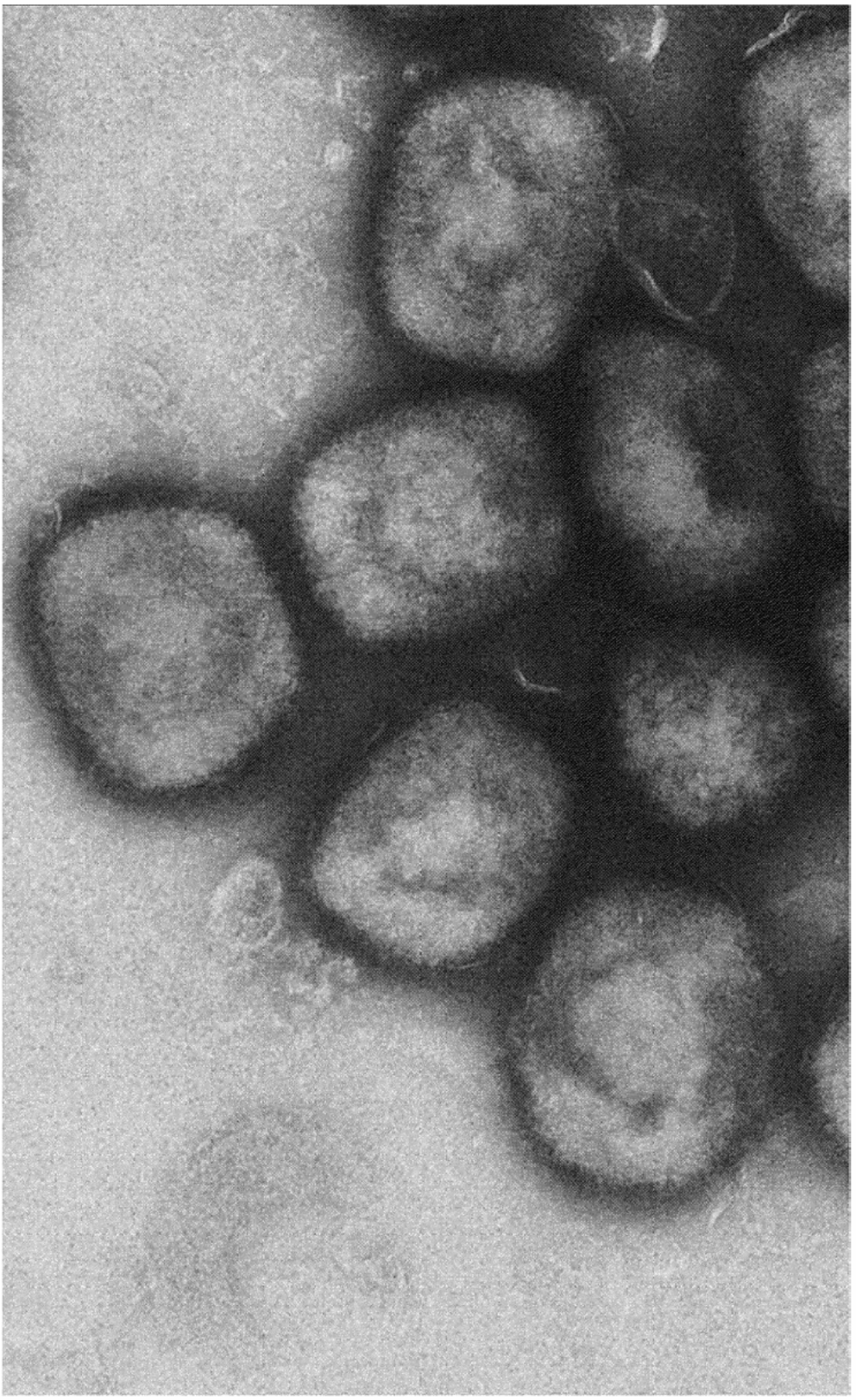
BTW – saw your name on the Scientists for Science website Jerry!

POLICY-ISH

Virologists defend their science as officials eye more oversight of risky experiments



NELL GREENFIELDBOYCE



This image shows purified particles of mpox virus, formerly called monkeypox. Viruses like these can be genetically altered in the lab in ways that might make them more dangerous.

NIAID

Over 150 virologists have signed on to a commentary that says all the evidence to date indicates that the coronavirus pandemic started naturally, and it wasn't the result of some kind of lab accident

or malicious attack.
They worry that continued speculation about a lab in China is fueling calls for more regulation of experiments with pathogens, and that this will stifle the basic research needed to prepare for future pandemics.

The virologists issued their statement just ahead of a key meeting Friday held by outside advisors to the federal government. That group is set to wrap up a recent review of the existing oversight system for experiments that are controversial because they could create new potential threats.
The advisors' draft recommendations call for expanding a special decision-making process that currently weighs the risks and benefits of experiments that might make "potential pandemic pathogens" more dangerous.
"The government really has a strong interest on behalf of all of us, in the public, in knowing when researchers want to make a virus more lethal or more transmissible, and understanding how that would be done and why that would be done, and whether the benefits are worth it," says Tom Inglesby, director of the Center for Health Security at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health.
Sponsor Message
He thinks if the draft recommendations were adopted by the government, "it would be a very big step forward."

The origins of the pandemic

All of this comes as the lab in China, known as the Wuhan Institute of Virology, is again in the headlines. An internal government watchdog released a report this week criticizing the National Institutes of Health, saying it failed to adequately monitor grant awards given to a nonprofit that had collaborated with scientists at the Wuhan lab.
Felicia Goodrum, a virologist at the University of Arizona, says that open-minded experts have investigated the origins of the pandemic. The available evidence, she says, supports the notion that the virus emerged from nature just like other viruses such as HIV and Ebola did — by jumping from animals into people who had contact with them.
"The evidence that we have to date suggests that SARS-CoV-2 entered the human population by that route," says Goodrum. "There is no evidence to the contrary or in support of a lab leak, nothing credible."

Basic research on viruses, she says, is what led to the swift development of vaccines and drugs to fight the pandemic.

And yet virologists have watched in dismay as misinformation and conspiracy theories have placed the blame on science.

Sponsor Message
"There's this complete disconnect between reality and what happened," says Michael Imperiale, a virologist at the University of Michigan.
He says that while debates have gone on for years about the wisdom of doing experiments that might make bad viruses even worse, this moment feels different.

"The pandemic," he says, "has really kind of heightened the urgency with which we need to address these issues, just because of all the controversy that's been out there regarding, you know, was this a lab leak or not?"

A bird flu study raises alarm

Unlike, say, nuclear physics research, biology has traditionally had a culture of openness. After the anthrax attacks in 2001, however, biologists began to grapple with the possibility that their published work might serve as recipes for evildoers who wanted to make bioweapons.

And in 2011, there was an outcry after government-funded researchers altered a bird flu virus that can be deadly in people. Their lab work made this virus more contagious in the lab animals that are stand-ins for people.

Critics said they'd created a super flu. Proponents said that viruses sometimes have to be manipulated in the lab to see what they might be capable of; in nature, after all, mutations occur all the time and that is how pandemic strains emerge.

That episode marked the start of a long, heated debate, plus research moratoriums and ultimately the development of new regulations. In 2017, a review system was put into place to weigh the risks and benefits of studies that might make a potential pandemic pathogen even worse. So far just three proposed lines of research, with influenza viruses, have been deemed risky enough to merit that kind of extra scrutiny.

"We are really talking about a small amount of research proposals," says Lyric Jorgenson, the acting associate director for science policy and the acting director of the Office of Science Policy at the NIH.

Sponsor Message

She says just before the pandemic started, officials asked advisors on the National Science Advisory Board for Biosecurity to consider whether the government needed to be more transparent to the public about how it was making decisions about this kind of research. Before that work was done, the pandemic hit and everything was put on hold. Last year, officials asked the group to broaden its work and to evaluate the regulations more comprehensively.

If the draft changes developed by this advisory group are eventually adopted by the government, an extra layer of oversight would apply to any study "reasonably anticipated" to enhance the transmission or virulence of any pathogen in a way that could make it a public health threat. That means more experiments on more viruses would get a closer look.

"What this new recommendation is saying, is that even if you start with a virus that had no potential to cause an epidemic or pandemic, if you are doing research that will change that virus in a way where it could now cause an uncontrol lable disease, or a widely spreading disease, that has to be reviewed by this new framework," says Inglesby.

What's more, the advisory group has noted that "increased transparency in the review process is needed to engender public trust in the review and oversight processes."

What's "Reasonably Anticipated"

The American Society for Microbiology has responded positively to the draft recommendations, saying "we urge swift implementation of the recommended changes by the federal agencies engaged in this work."

But some virologists think the devil will be in the details if these recommendations turn into policy.

"They keep using this phrase 'reasonably anticipated,'" says Imperiale. "How is that going to be interpreted? Is there going to be clear guidance as to what is meant by that?"

Sponsor Message

Researchers often don't know what will happen when they start an experiment, says Goodrum, especially when the science is cutting-edge.

"That's where the big scientific advancements come from. And so to tie our hands behind our back, to say we can only do the science that we can anticipate, then we're really restricting innovative science," she says.

Ron Fouchier, the virologist at Erasmus University Medical Center in the Netherlands, whose lab did the bird flu experiments over a decade ago, said in an email that he'd hoped the experience of going through a pandemic would simulate more research, not "unnecessarily delay or restrict it." He said it looked like many infectious disease researchers in the United States "will face substantial delays in their crucial research efforts, if they can continue that research at all."

The U.S. is unusual in that it has a lot of public discussion of these issues and a system to try to manage the risks, says Inglesby.

He thinks that oversight can be made stronger without getting in the way of science.

MORENS_SUBPOENA_018014
MORENS_NIH_036840
REL0000482095

"I am avidly, absolutely pro-science and pro-research, and in particular pro-infectious disease research," says Inglesby.

But he says there's a very small part of that research "where there is the potential for very high risk if things go wrong, either by accident or on purpose. And so we have to get the balance right, between the risks that could unfold and the potential benefits."

lab leak theory
coronavirus research
pathogens
Facebook
Twitter
Flipboard
Email

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel. (b) (6)
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

---

From: Keusch, Gerald T (b) (6)
Sent: Wednesday, January 25, 2023 9:20 PM
To: Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6)
Cc: Peter Daszak (b) (6) >; Jeffrey Sturchi (b) (6) >; Rich Roberts (b) (6) Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6)
Subject: Flux on Twitter

For what it's worth I sent a brief note to the two leads for the White House COVID response team, Ashish Jha and Nahid Bhadelia, to say why they needed to agitate at the higher levels to get on to appointing a new NIH Director, preferably from the outside, and ideally a candidate like Harold Varmus who could command respect from both sides of the congressional divide.

I also suggested they consider the point that it would be better if there was a new NIH Director before they appointed somebody to NIAID, and that was OK because Hugh Auchincloss was eminently able to be a respected interim Director, both within the NIH and the outside scientific community. And, that the next NIAID Director should come from outside of the institution.

MORENS_SUBPOENA_018015
MORENS_NIH_036841
REL0000482095

I don't know what influence they will have, should they choose to act, but they do have access to the higher levels, and that is important.

Jerry

From: Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6)
Sent: Wednesday, Janu PM
To: Keusch, Gerald T (b) (6)
Cc: Peter Daszak (b) (6) >; DavidMorens <
(b) (6) ; Jeffrey Sturchio (b) (6) ; Aleksei Chmura <
(b) (6) >; Rich Roberts <(b) (6)
Re: Tweet by Miner Flux on Twitter

I think top priority is the Biden Administration appointing a new NIH Director and someone really good, I don't understand the holdup.

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP

Texas Children's Hospital: Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics | Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development | Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

Baylor College of Medicine: Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine | Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology | Health Policy Scholar

Baylor University, University Professor

Rice University, Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty

Texas A&M University, Faculty-Senior Fellow, Hagler Inst for Advanced Study & Scowcroft Institute of Intl Affairs

E-mail | Twitter | LinkedIn | Skype: (b) (6)

Amazon Author Center | Daily Beast Contributor

Senior Coordinator & Executive Support: Douglas Soriano
(b) (6) Phone: (b) (6) | Fax: 713-798-2299

Media Inquiries:

(b) (6)

iPhone

On Jan 25, 2023, at 1:34 PM, Keusch, Gerald T (b) (6) wrote:

Well, if that were to occur there would not only be continued messaging to the public but more push back to the politicians and others spreading misinformation, and I suspect a more focused and strategic scientific plan for the institute. It has been pretty good under Tony, with some gaps that seem glaring to me, but it could also be better. How do we find and support the right outside scientist to take on the challenge?

Jerry

From: Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6)
Sent: Wednesday, January 25, 2023 2:27 PM
To: Peter Daszak (b) (6)
Cc: David Morens (b) (6) >; Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) Keusch, Gerald T (b) (6) Rich Roberts (b) (6)
Subject: Re: Twe n Twitter

I see the far right keeps putting video after video about me terrified I might take over for Tony

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP

Texas Children's Hospital: Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics | Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development | Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

Baylor College of Medicine: Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine | Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology | Health Policy Scholar

Baylor University, University Professor

Rice University, Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty

Texas A&M University , Faculty-Senior Fellow, Hagler Inst for Advanced Study & Scowcroft Institute of Intl Affairs

E-mail | Twitter | LinkedIn | Skype: (b) (6)

Amazon Author Center | Daily Beast Contributor

Senior Coordinator & Executive Support: Douglas Soriano

(b) (6) Phone: (b) (6) | Fax: 713-798-2299

Media Inquiries:

(b) (6)

iPhone

On Jan 25, 2023, at 11:35 AM, Peter Daszak (b) (6) g > wrote:

Disapppointed that Hugh isn't a candidate, because short of a stellar scientist from outside (and that isn't looking good), Hugh would be a safe pair of hands for the forseeable future.

I also cannot believe for the life of me that (b) (6) would be rejected from the other position you mentioned. He's a serious scientists, a huge leader in his field, and someone who is balanced and measured in the way he deals with bureaucracy. What a stupid decision and loss to NIAID.

What we need is a leading scientist, who's got a research and public health background, with experience in dealing with difficult political issues and both sides of the political spectrum…er….Peter Hotez!

Seriously, there surely are others out there?

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: (b) (6)
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

From: David Morens (b) (6)
Sent: Wednesday, January 25, 2023 11:38 AM
To: Peter Daszak (b) (6)
Cc: Hotez, Peter Jay < (b) (6) ; Jeffrey Sturchio < (b) (6) ; Gerald Keusch < (b) (6) ; Rich Roberts < (b) (6)
Subject: Re: Tweet by Miner Flux on Twitter

Guys, although the director search seems to be proceeding with total secrecy, I learned yesterday that our worst fear has come true: a highly undesirable internal candidate has applied. This person is a middle to upper level physician scientist who is widely disliked as a self-serving narcissist, back stabber, and manipulator. Tthis opinion comes not from me, but from colleagues with much more knowledge of him/her than me. Of course, being an A-hole doesn't necessarily predict a bad leader, but there is widespread worry.

I won't name the candidate but Peter S would know because her/his research at NIAID is in the area of clinical management of rare hereditary pediatric diseases such as Job disease and CGD. Peter H, you could easily ID this person, but i do not want to do so, in part because i have limited personal experience with him/her and am merely relating opinions of colleagues i trust

This individual is in a key management position in which she/he has earned a reputation of cresting an ant-meritocracy: screwing the best scientists while supporting those who suck up. Again this is hearsay, but from people who work under him/her.

If these negative assessments are true, it is still unclear what the implications, if any, would be for EHA, but i would worry that she/he would throw good scientists under the bus to appease politicians downtown

In any case, the best scenario is an open search with many good candidates. I am not sure whether we have that.

Also, my opinion, and that of many others, is that we need someone from the outside, in part because NIAID management and leadership has become inbred, nepotistic, and uninterested in hiring top scientists to fill positions. Moreover, we totally lack vision or any idea about where the science will and should go, and no mechanism to plan for being at/staying on the cutting edge

When i came here in the 1990s, from academia, where i was a 40-something year old full tenured professor in both med and public health school departments, i was told thst because i only had about 160 publications i had no chance of getting automatic tenure or even being put on a tenure track position

That was then.

Of our two most recent hires placed into tenured positions, one had only 10 publications and the other came straight out of a post doc with few publications as well.

Both were in their early 30s and, as far as i can tell, are unlikely to ever do much

At the same time, we had the ability to hire a top scientist from the outside, my good friend the (b) (6) (b) (b) (6) from (b) (6) - Peter H, you may know him- and we was the 100% top choice of the search committee. However leadership below Tony refused to hire him with the excuse that he was overqualified and would make the other scientists look bad

No, i am not joking. This is where we are

I have in my had a small list of about 5-10 qualified folks for NIAID director, and have spoken or written to 4 about it, one being you, Peter H, but all four have expressed no interest. Peter D, you are clearly on that list too, but obvious to all of us is the fact that HHS would never let that happen, sadly, so i never mentioned it. In a better world, you would be at the top of that list in my view

The application deadline of 1/17 has passed, so we may be stuck with a non-ideal list, although no one knows including, i believe, our acting director Hugh, who is not a candidate, or so he told me

Sent from my iPhone
David M Morens
OD, NIAID, NIH

> On Jan 25, 2023, at 10:58, Peter Daszak <
> (b) (6) wrote:
>
> Unfortunate. At this point you should just throw your hat in the ring!
>
> Why not have a confidential chat with Peter Staley and see if they have a pool of candidates yet?
>
> Cheers,
>
> Peter
>
> **Peter Daszak**
> *President*
>
> EcoHealth Alliance
> 520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
> New York, NY 10018-6507

USA

Tel.: +1(b) (6)
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

From: Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6) >
Sent: Wednesday, January 25, 2023 10:55 AM
To: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) g>
Cc: Jeffrey Sturchio (b) (6) >; Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) ; David Morens <(b) (6) >; Gerald Keusch(b) (6) >; Rich Roberts <(b) (6)
Subject: Re: Tweet by MinerFlux on Twitter

Unfortunately the far right made a new YouTube claiming I'm the successor to Fauci. Which is ridiculous but it has set off a new wave of aggression

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP

Texas Children's Hospital: Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics | Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development | Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

Baylor College of Medicine: Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine | Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology | Health Policy Scholar

Baylor University, University Professor

Rice University, Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty

Texas A&M University, Faculty-Senior Fellow, Hagler Inst for Advanced Study & Scowcroft Institute of Intl Affairs

E-mail | Twitter | LinkedIn | Skype: (b) (6)

Amazon Author Center | Daily Beast Contributor

Senior Coordinator & Executive Support: Douglas Soriano

(b) (6) | Phone: (b) (6)

Fax: 713-798-2299

Media Inquiries:

(b) (6)

iPhone

(b) (6) Peter Daszak < > wrote:

*****CAUTION:*** This email is not from a BCM Source. Only click links or open attachments you know are safe.**

Disgusting. Reported to Twitter safety. They've been surprisingly good over the last few months. When there's a clear violation they've tended to lock the account.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: (b) (6)
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

---

From: Jeffrey Sturchio (b) (6)

Sent: Tuesday, January 24, 2023 9:08 PM
To: Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6) Peter Daszak <
(b) (6) >; Aleksei Chmura <
(b) (6) David Morens <
(b) (6) >; Gerald Keusch (b) (6)
Rich Roberts (b) (6) (6)
Subject: RE: Tweet by Miner Flux on Twitter

Peter: What an idiot this guy is. You should be heartened by the immediate response he got to this asinine tweet!

As ever,
Jeff

From: Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6)
Sent: Tuesday, Ja
To: Peter Daszak (b) (6) Aleksei
(b) (6) >; David Morens <
(b) (6) >; Gerald Keusch (b) (6) ;
(b) (6) >; Rich Roberts <
(b) (6)
Subject: Tweet by Miner Flux on Twitter



Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP

Texas Children's Hospital: Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics | Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development | Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

Baylor College of Medicine: Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine | Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology | Health Policy Scholar

Baylor University, University Professor

Rice University, Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty

Texas A&M University, Faculty-Senior Fellow, Hagler Inst for Advanced Study & Scowcroft Institute of Intl Affairs

E-mail | Twitter | LinkedIn | Skype: (b) (6)

Amazon Author Center | Daily Beast Contributor

Senior Coordinator & Executive Support: Douglas Soriano

(b) (6) | Phone (b) (6)

(b) (6) | Fax: 713-798-2299

Media Inquiries:

(b) (6)

iPhone

Date: Mon, 22 Aug 2022 8:57:05 AM -0400
Sent: Mon, 22 Aug 2022 8:56:52 AM -0400
Subject: Angela Rasmussen pretty much sums it up in her Twitter thread
From: "Hotez, Peter Jay" <(b) (6)
To: Peter Daszak <(b) (6)
CC: R (b) (6) (b) (6) Gerald T Keusch <(b) (6) Jeff Sturchio <(b) (6) Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) >;
Attachments: image001.jpg; image001.jpg

https://twitter.com/angie_rasmussen/status/1561695035069870080?s=21&t=PAHTkUvPvV4TIR26yw9vPA

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP

Texas Children's Hospital: Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics | Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development | Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

Baylor College of Medicine: Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine | Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology | Health Policy Scholar

Baylor University, University Professor
Rice University, Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty
Texas A&M University, Faculty-Senior Fellow, Hagler Inst for Advanced Study & Scowcroft Institute of Intl Affairs

E-mail | Twitter | LinkedIn | Skype: (b) (6)
Amazon Author Center | Daily Beast Contributor

Senior Coordinator & Executive Support: Douglas Soriano
(b) (6) | Phone: (b) (6) | Fax: 713-798-2299

Media Inquiries:
(b) (6)

iPhone

On Aug 21, 2022, at 4:47 PM, Peter Daszak <(b) (6) > wrote:

I'm very surprised to see that Jeff Sachs has been interviewed by the well-known anti-vaxxer and conspiracist Robert F. Kennedy Jr. There's a podcast you can listen to here: https://pca.st/f4qhwghp but you have to download an app, then use your email and create a password – I didn't.

RFK Jr's anti-vaccine activities are widely known, and just 2 days ago he was removed from social media platforms for spreading conspiracies. Here's an NY Times story on that:
https://www.nytimes.com/2022/08/18/technology/facebook-instagram-robert-kennedy-jr-misinformation.html

According to lab leak proponents who are reviewing Jeff Sachs' interview, he goes through all the stuff in his PNAS article including the nasty comments about my role in the Lancet Commission. He calls the "Proximal origins" paper in Nature Medicine "ludicrous"; "almost unbelievable what it says"; "frankly, it is garbage"; "there is a narrative: a willful misdirection"; "joke"; "it is absurd".

I guess he's all-in at this point!

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: (b) (6)
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

---

From: Roberts, Rich (b) (6)
Sent: Saturday, August 20, 2022 7:02 PM
To: Peter Daszak (b) (6) >; David Morens (b) (6) ; Gerald T Keusch < (b) (6) Jeff Sturchio (b) (6) ; Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6)
Cc: Aleksei Chmura (b) (6)
Subject: RE: Continued NIH action - already leaked to the press

Peter:

Yet another example of why they should close the major law schools, especially Harvard and Yale, and make the students go to Medical School instead. That tackles two problems, since a significant number of Harvard and Yale graduates go down to Congress where they do yet more harm

Rich

Richard J. Roberts
New England Biolabs
240 County Road
Ipswich, MA 01938-2723
USA
Tel: (b) (6)
Fax: (978) 412 9910
email: (b) (6)

From: Peter Daszak <d(b) (6) >
Sent: Saturday, August 20, 2022 6:55 PM
To: Roberts, Rich (b) (6) >; David Morens <(b) (6) >; Gerald T Keusch (b) (6) ; Jeff Sturchio (b) (6) Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6)
Cc: Aleksei Chmura (b) (6)
Subject: RE: Continued NIH action - already leaked to the press

EXTERNAL SENDER

I love that idea Rich.

Truth is, our lawyers told us early on that the actions NIH took are likely illegal. They've looked at all prior cases of NIH terminated grants, suspending grants and appeals against them. There are precedents for winning these cases, e.g. Planned Parenthood and others. The only catch is that suing NIH would mean litigation that drags on for a few years, discovery actions that would demand all sorts of private correspondence, and ultimately a jury that might by now be contaminated with the lab leak narrative. They advised us that the best option is to push privately for the grant to be renegotiated, which I suppose is where we are now.

All of this is of course exacerbated by the other actions and attacks that add to a general narrative that EcoHealth must have been up to no good – this includes the NAM investigation that we're still waiting to hear about, and the OIG audit. There's also a lawsuit against us that we've tried not to talk publicly about, but it's real and we have to defend against it. A lawyer in Long Island who's sued EHA, myself and even my wife for a huge sum for causing COVID-19 that then infected him etc.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: (b) (6)
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

---

From: Roberts, Rich <r(b) (6)
Sent: Saturday, August 20, 2022 6:33 PM
To: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) David Morens (b) (6) @ >; Gerald T Keusch < (b) (6) ; Jeff Sturchio (b) Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6)
Cc: Aleksei Chmura (b) (6)
Subject: RE: Continued NIH action - already leaked to the press

Peter:

Maybe there's a way to bill NIH for all the extra work they have caused you to undertake. A good lawyer might have a field day.

Rich

Richard J. Roberts
New England Biolabs
240 County Road
Ipswich, MA 01938-2723

MORENS_SUBPOENA_010975
MORENS_NIH_021540
REL0000482101

USA
Tel: (b) (6)
Fax: (978) 412 9910
email: (b) (6)

From: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >
Sent: Saturday, August 20, 2022 1:36 PM
To: Roberts, Rich (b) (6) (6) David Morens (b) (6) Gerald T Keusch (b) (6) Jeff Sturchio (b) >; Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6) >
Cc: Aleksei Chmura (b) (6) >
Subject: RE: Continued NIH action - already leaked to the press
Importance: High

EXTERNAL SENDER

Thanks Rich - I've got to look at the positives in all of this and just carry on fighting, if only for my own health reasons. It's been a really horrible couple of years and I've found that the constant harassment can really get you down – it's been shocking to me how much of struggle this is with many days spent despairing over my own personal future and the future of EcoHealth. It's been tough on my family as well, and the other staff at EHA.

I'm determined not to give up though and will be going through all the options carefully. The other glimmer of hope is that any 'renegotiation' will be with NIAID staff, so I'll reach out to them ASAP. I think that if most of the funding is planned for the US, with just one subcontract to China, for a group that works on epidemiology, that might work. The other strategy would be to see if a shift to another country would work. I'm mindful that NIH (Lauer et al.) would be delighted if we just handed in the towel, and will probably be looking for excuses to consider our alternative plans out of scope.

On this issue of who is 'the pits' and who isn't at NIH, I think the list begins with Francis Collins, who committed the original sin of terminating our grant when he could have simply resisted. Second is his lackey Lauer who took it to another level of bumbling errors, illegal actions, and aggressive brinksmanship, but there are others also. Lawrence Tabak (now acting Director NIH) publicly stated that we were out of compliance and really threw us under the bus, and there are a group of legal advisors and Congressional staffers at the Office of the Director who have actively worked to publicly undermine us, sometimes with clear glee and delight.

For example, in one of the FoIA'd emails that Peter Aldhous at Buzzfeed unearthed, he spotted Michael Lauer sending details of our animal experiment oversight, which they then used to tighten the screw on us very publicly and unfairly. Lauer used the subject Header "A Gift" when he sent this to his legal and Congressional relations colleagues at NIH. That sort of gloating is pretty disgusting, and won't be forgotten by me. Peter Aldhous also dug up clear evidence that NIH requested an OIG audit as part of their efforts to tighten the screws on us, and get them off the hook. We're just negotiating the final results of that audit – a huge timesink that's been going on over a year now, has looked at grants to EHA over the last 8 years, and has only found $77,000 of mis-coded financial errors (including a $19 overpayment to a contractor, with $7 indirect costs; and a single $5 alcoholic beverage at a hotel mistakenly coded to our grant). Great use of taxpayer money and time and the total of these mis-coded finances is less than 1% of the grants they reviewed, and less than 0.01% of our budget over that period. Of course, when the report goes public in a few weeks, it'll be used by Republicans to demand we're de-funded and closed down (again).

Ironically, in the emails (below), Michael Lauer cc's Michelle Bulls, who's listed in his correspondence yesterday as the person we have to write to if we want to appeal their decision. Pretty sure she's not an objective overseer at this point.

Here's the article: https://www.buzzfeednews.com/article/peteraldhous/white- coat-waste-anthony-fauci-nih-ecobealth-alliance-lab

And here's the section (and you can click on the links to see the FoIA'd emails):
A heavily redacted series of emails from May 2021 centers on the July 2016 letter from the NIAID that had given EcoHealth permission to resume the chimera work. Accepting a suggestion made by Daszak himself, it stated that if any of the chimeric viruses showed unexpectedly rapid growth, he would "immediately stop all experiments with these viruses" and provide NIAID officials with information about the unexpected outcomes. Shortly after receiving the letter, Lauer sent it on to a

senior attorney with the Department of Health and Human Services, assigned to the NIH, changing the subject line on the email thread to "Gift."

Daszak's problem was that the NIH determined that an experiment described in annual progress reports for the grant indicated that one of these viruses had made mice engineered to carry the human receptor targeted by SARS-like viruses sicker than expected and showed signs of rapid growth. "EcoHealth failed to report this finding right away," NIH deputy director Tabak later wrote in an October 2021 letter to James Comer, the ranking Republican member on the House of Representatives Committee on Oversight and Reform.

None of this amounts to a smoking gun linking EcoHealth and the Wuhan institute to the origins of COVID, as the viruses involved were very different to SARS-CoV-2. And in a letter to Lauer and Tabak after the latter's communication with Comer, Daszak contested the conclusion that the experiment did show rapid viral growth and argued that EcoHealth had complied with its reporting requirements.

But it gave Lauer evidence that he was looking for. EcoHealth is now under audit from the Office of Inspector General for the Department of Health and Human Services, an independent watchdog that monitors fraud, waste, and other problems, as part of a review of the NIH and "selected grantees" initiated on June 11, 2021. Documents received by BuzzFeed News through its FOIA lawsuit, including a timeline of events put together by Lauer dated June 13, 2021, indicate that the suggestion for an OIG audit of EcoHealth came from the NIH, just days after Lauer sent his "Gift" email.

The NIH declined to discuss Lauer's email and timeline, saying in a statement: "NIH doesn't comment on internal deliberation of grant awards."

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: +(b) (6)
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

---

From: Roberts, Rich (b) (6)
Sent: Saturday, August 20, 2022 12:55 PM
To: Peter Daszak (b) (6) g>; David Morens <(b) (6) Gerald T Keusch <(b) (6) Jeff Sturchio (b) (6) >; Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6) >
Cc: Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) g>
Subject: RE: Continued NIH action - already leaked to the press

Peter:

Glad you could find a glimmer to be hopeful about. Lauer is just the pits!

MORENS_SUBPOENA_010977
MORENS_NIH_021542
REL0000482101

Are there people outside of China you might be able to collaborate with?

Rich

Richard J. Roberts
New England Biolabs
240 County Road
Ipswich, MA 01938-2723
USA
Tel: (b) (6)
Fax: (978) 412 9910
email: (b) (6)

From: Peter Daszak (b) (6)
Sent: Saturday, August 20, 2022 10:27 AM
To: David Morens (b) (6) ; Gerald T Keusch (b) (6) ; Jeff Sturchio (b) (6) >; Roberts, Rich (b) (6) Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6)
Cc: Aleksei Chmura (b) (6) >
Subject: RE: Continued NIH action - already leaked to the press
Importance: High

EXTERNAL SENDER

I found a copy on Twitter of Lauer's letter to Rep Comer yesterday – word doc attached, recreated using screenshot jpegs, so hope it works.

It's good that they're publicly stating we've cooperated with NIH – this is related to their continued series of letters about our other grants – making us jump through all sorts of hoops just to continue our work. At the same time, they're clearly trying to show the aggressive Republicans in Congress that NIH is going to crack down on miscreants such as us. Apparently, for at least the next 3 years we'll have to double up our reporting requirements, have no automatic carry over of unspent funds, and have to conduct 6 monthly onsite assessments of subcontractees. We've not been told all that yet by NIH, but no doubt there'll be another letter from Lauer on its way soon.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: (b) (6)
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

From: Peter Daszak (b) (6) >
Sent: Saturday, August 20, 2022 10:06 AM
To: 'David Morens' (b) (6) >; 'Gerald T Keusch' (b) (6) Jeff Sturchio' <

MORENS_SUBPOENA_010978
MORENS_NIH_021543
REL0000482101

(b) (6) >; 'Roberts, Ric (b) (6) >; 'Hotez, Peter Jay' (b) (6)
Cc: Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6)
Subject: Continued NIH action - already leaked to the press
Importance: High

Here's the latest from NIH – as usual we received a Friday afternoon pdf letter from Michael Lauer that's full of legalistic language (attached). And as also 'usual', Lauer only sent this the same day he informed Republicans on an oversight committee, and either him or the Republicans then instantly made it public. There's already an article in the Washington Examiner about it (below)

They're basically terminating our subcontract to WIV because we were unable to get the lab notebooks they demanded (no surprise there, given the politics). They're also offering us the chance to renegotiate the grant. Sounds great, but by now of course the chances of any institution in China wanting to work with an organization targeted in this way are pretty slim. There's also the buried proviso that we have to arrange for 6-monthly inspections of our subcontractee's labs.

If we don't want to renegotiate, we have to bilaterally terminate.

After 2 and a half years of pressure from NIH, we're now back to where we were in April of 2020, when NIH informed us to suspend all work with WIV, but that we could carry on with the grant. This was then followed a few days later with full termination, then suspension with conditions, then more conditions, now this. Pretty depressing, awful, and utterly unnecessary.

Not sure what we'll do, but my gut feeling is we should continue and try to find a way forwards with other groups in China. It'll be a hard path, considering WIV are the premier bat virus group in China and our preferred partners, and the politics has made all of this completely toxic. But it's the honorable path, as a scientist, and I think we should at least try.

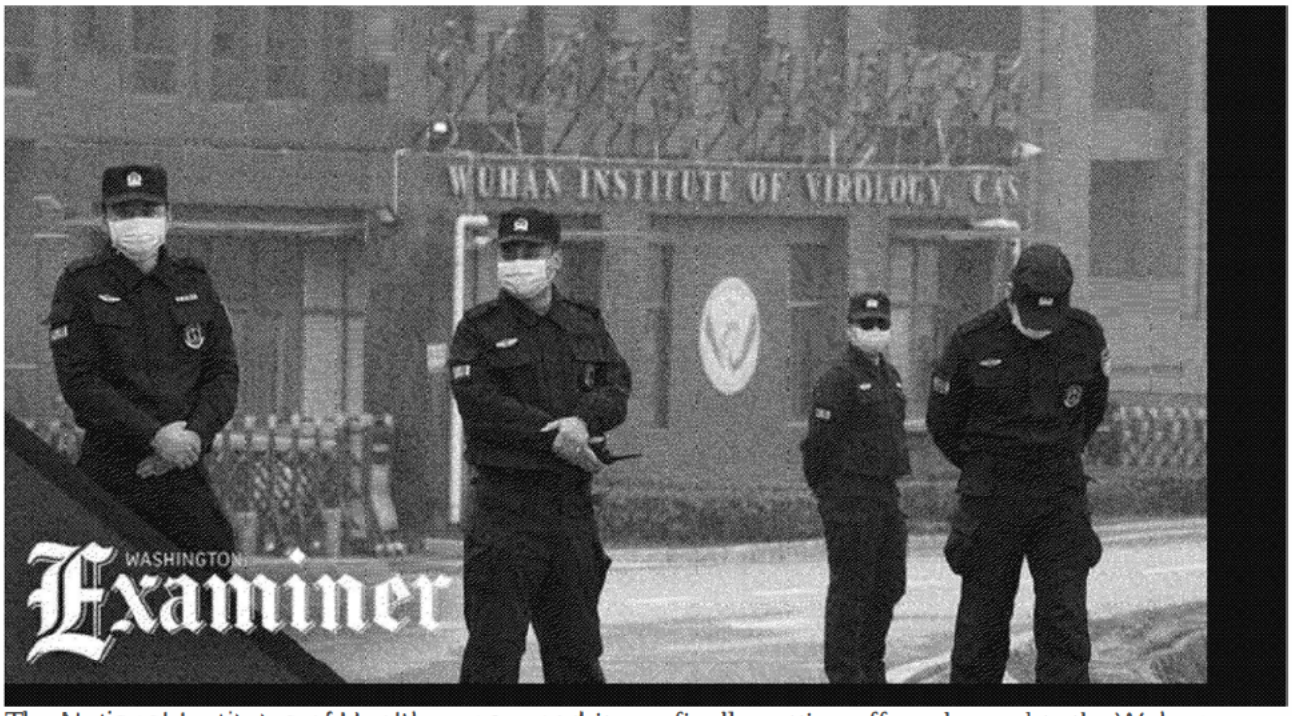
Here's the Washington Examiner article: https://www.washingtonexaminer.com/policy/healthcare/nih- ends-subaward-wuhan-lab-stonewalling

WUHAN LAB

NIH ends subaward to Wuhan lab after continued stonewalling

by Jerry Dunleavy, Justice Department Reporter |
August 19, 2022 08:21 PM

Ad ends in 9s



The National Institutes of Health announced it was finally cutting off a subaward to the Wuhan Institute of Virology after it continued to refuse to hand over key information about the coronavirus research it conducted with U.S. tax dollars.

NIH Deputy Director Michael Lauer made the revelation in a letter Friday to House Oversight Committee Republicans, in which he said the Wuhan lab had refused to turn over lab notebooks and electronic files connected to its research funded through an NIH subaward given to it by the U.S.-based EcoHealth Alliance.

But Lauer indicated the NIH may continue funding EcoHealth's controversial bat coronavirus research despite the group's documented noncompliance issues, its close links to the Wuhan virology institute, and its history of funneling hundreds of thousands of U.S. tax dollars to the Chinese lab.

"NIH … identified one non-compliance under the ... award that cannot be remedied with specific award conditions," Lauer said Friday. "NIH has requested on two occasions that EHA [EcoHealth Alliance] provide NIH the laboratory notebooks and original electronic files from the research conducted at the WIV [Wuhan Institute of Virology]. To date, WIV has not provided these records."

Lauer added: "Today, NIH informed EHA that since WIV is unable to fulfill its duties for the subaward grant under R01AI110964, the WIV subaward is terminated for failure to meet award terms and conditions requiring provision of records to NIH upon request."

FBI INVESTIGATED NIH AWARD TO ECOHEALTH AND WUHAN LAB

The Office of the Director of National Intelligence released an assessment in 2021 stating that one U.S. intelligence agency assessed with "moderate confidence" that COVID-19 most likely emerged from the Chinese government lab in Wuhan, while four U.S. spy agencies and the National Intelligence Council believe with "low confidence" COVID-19 most likely has a natural origin.

The NIH's Lauer also said Friday that the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, which has been led by Dr. Anthony Fauci for decades, "will begin to engage with EHA to renegotiate the specific aims and objectives of the R01 grant without the involvement of WIV … in light of the cooperation from EHA and the substantial subsequent improvements in administrative processes that EHA demonstrated."

Rep. James Comer (R-KY), the ranking member on House Oversight, hammered the NIH over this. "Terminating EcoHealth Alliance's partnership with the Wuhan Lab is the bare minimum," Comer said Friday. "It's unacceptable that the NIH continues to allow EcoHealth Alliance to receive taxpayer dollars even though it is confirmed EcoHealth violated the terms of its grant contract. EcoHealth conducted gain

of function research on bat coronaviruses in Wuhan, knew about the Chinese Communist Party's coverup, and failed to inform the U.S. government."

Comer added: "EcoHealth's dangerous experiments in Wuhan and possible efforts to cover up any evidence may have started the pandemic. EcoHealth should not receive a penny of American taxpayer dollars for their gross mismanagement of Americans' hard-earned money."

The NIH had awarded EcoHealth with a grant dubbed "R01AI110964" years ago, and EcoHealth then doled out three research subawards, including one to the Wuhan lab.

"The research approved under this grant sought to understand how bat coronaviruses evolve naturally in the environment to become more transmissible to the human population," the NIH said Friday in defending the award. "This type of research is a critical part of pandemic preparedness."

The grant to EcoHealth was suspended by the NIH in June 2020 due to "grant administrative non-compliance concerns." EcoHealth was reprimanded by the NIH in October when the agency found that the organization delayed revealing that a U.S.-funded experiment conducted with the Wuhan lab determined that mice with implanted human cells became sicker with an engineered version of bat coronavirus. The NIH found more EcoHealth violations in January.

Republicans say the findings showed EcoHealth was funding risky gain-of-function research in China .

EcoHealth leader Peter Daszak was a longtime collaborator with the Wuhan lab who steered hundreds of thousands of dollars in NIH funding to the Chinese lab and was also a key World Health Organization-China joint study team member in early 2021.

Daszak dismissed the lab leak hypothesis in March 2021 when he admitted he took Wuhan lab workers at their word. Meeting minutes from discussions between lab scientists in Wuhan and the WHO-China COVID-19 origins joint study team reveal lab leak concerns were referred to as "myths" and "conspiracy theories."

An advisory group assembled by the WHO said in June that the lab leak hypothesis needed further study.

The NIH said Friday that the prior problems it had identified with EcoHealth's handling of its coronavirus grant included "inadequate oversight in monitoring the activities of its subawardees, failure to report subawards to the General Services Administration's Federal Subaward Reporting System, and errors in indirect rate charges."

But Lauer nevertheless said EcoHealth might again soon start receiving U.S. tax funding for its bat coronavirus experiments — just without the Wuhan lab's continued involvement.

The NIH had been run until recently by Dr. Francis Collins, while Fauci still leads NIAID.

Scientists consulting with the U.S. government early in the pandemic believed COVID-19 originating from a lab in Wuhan was possible or even likely, but emails show Fauci and Collins worked behind the scenes to shut the hypothesis down.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

(b) (6)
Tel.:
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

From: David Morens (b) (6) >
Sent: Tuesday, August 9, 2022 9:46 AM
To: Peter Daszak <(b) (6)
Cc: (b) (6) >; Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6) >; Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) >; Gerald T Keusch (b) (6) ; Jeff Sturchio (b) (6)
Subject: Re: EcoHealth Alliance paper published tomorrow (Tuesday) showing very high rate of SARS-related CoV spillovers in Southeast Asia

Peter, can i share the proofs with Tony, confidentially of course? If not i will at least give him a heads up if that's ok

Also, correct me if i am wrong, but the 66k number is significantly higher than your previous estimate, right?

d

Sent from my iPhone
David M Morens
OD, NIAID, NIH

On Aug 9, 2022, at 01:12, Peter Daszak <(b) (6) > wrote:

Some good news..

Just letting you all know that our paper in *Nature Communications* will go live tomorrow at 11am: Sánchez *et al.* "*A strategy to assess spillover risk of bat SARS-related coronaviruses in Southeast Asia*". We used distribution data from bats known to host SARSr-CoVs, human population data, and serological testing results to estimate that a median of ~66,000 people are infected by bat-origin SARSr-CoVs in South and Southeast Asia each year. Obviously, this suggests spillovers are a daily occurrence in the region and would make any possibility of a lab leak pale into insignificance, given that 1) only a few dozen people work in labs or in the field on these viruses, 2) they all wear PPE as opposed to villagers hunting bats etc.

Note that the analysis doesn't take into account people working in the wildlife trade because data are so patchy, but we do know that 14 million people worked in the wildlife trade in China alone before the outbreak, so that means human infections are probably even more common.

I've attached the proofs here, and a press release, as well as an editorial I've published in our journal *EcoHealth* published by Springer. We also know that a story will appear in orrow about this. tomorrow about this.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: +(b) (6)
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

---

From: Peter Daszak (b) (6)
Sent: Tuesday, August 9, 2022 12:54 AM
To: 'Roberts, Rich' (b) (6) ; 'Hotez, Peter Jay' (b) (6) >; Aleksei Chmura < (b) (6) 'David Morens' (b) (6) ; 'Gerald T Keusch' (b) (6) (b) (6)
Subject: RE: Reporter request for comment

Bizarre indeed, but this is how they do it– tangential links from you to your former postdoc to Zhengli to me, followed by accusations that you're linked to research which they (wrongly) claim is GoF, all used to try to undermine your appropriate pushback against all these other attacks.

It's exactly what the Union of Concerned Scientists called the 'disinformation playbook' that was used by big tobacco and anti-climate change activists (successfully I might add).
https://www.ucsusa.org/resources/disinformation- playbook

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: (b) (6)
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

---

From: Roberts, Rich (b) (6) 6)
Sent: Monday, August 8, 2022 4:16 PM
To: Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6) Peter Daszak (b) (6) ; Aleksei Chmura < (b) (6) >; David Morens <(b) (6) >; David Morens < (b) (6) @ Gerald T Keusch <(b) (6) @

Subject: RE: Reporter request for comment

Peter:

Maybe you should suggest she talk to your lawyer (at her expense).

Rich

Richard J. Roberts
New England Biolabs
240 County Road
Ipswich, MA 01938-2723
USA
Tel: (b) (6)
Fax: (978) 412 9910
email: (b) (6)

From: Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6)
Sent: Monday, August 8, 2022 4:02 PM
To: Peter Daszak (b) (6) >; Aleksei Chmura (b) (6) David Morens (b) (6) David Morens (b) (6) >; Gerald T Keusch < (b) (6) Roberts, Rich (b) (6) 6)
Subject: Fwd: Reporter request for comment

EXTERNAL SENDER

This is crazy. How would I even do that? I don't work in those areas?

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP
Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine
Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology
Health Policy Scholar
Baylor College of Medicine

Texas Children's Hospital Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics
Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development

University Professor, Baylor University

Faculty Fellow, Hagler Institute for Advanced Study
Senior Fellow, Scowcroft Institute of International Affairs
Texas A&M University
Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty and Adjunct Professor of Bioengineering, Rice University
Adjunct Professor, University of Texas, School of Public Health

Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

E-mail: (b) (6)
Twitter: @peterhotez
Skype: (b) (6)
Linkedin Peter Hotez

Amazon Author Center: https://www.amazon.com/Peter- J.-Hotez/e/B001HPIC48
Daily Beast Contributor https://www.thedailybeast.com/author/peter- j-hotez
Like us on Facebook https://www.facebook.com/BCMNationalSchoolOfTropicalMedicine/

Senior Coordinator / Executive Support: Douglas Soriano
(b) (6)
Phone: (b) (6)
Fax: 713-798-2299

iPhone
Begin forwarded message:

From: Emily Kopp <emily@usrtk.org>
Date: August 8, 2022 at 2:51:45 PM CDT
To: "Hotez, Peter Jay" <(b) (6)
Subject: Re: Reporter request for comment

*****CAUTION:*** This email is not from a BCM Source. Only click links or open attachments you know are safe.**

I'll also report that the paper you cofunded with EcoHealth Alliance dealt with rWIV1-SHC014S, a chimeric virus shown to be very dangerous to mice with human airway cells, which biosafety experts consider to be gain of function, and which is already under GOP congressional investigators' microscope. Were you aware of this? Should you have disclosed this to your followers on Twitter and The Lancet Commission?

Please clarify if this is incorrect.

Thank you,
Emily

On Mon, Aug 8, 2022 at 12:31 PM Emily Kopp <emily@usrtk.org> wrote:

> Putting this back at the top of your inbox. Since you've been tweeting about this issue, do you plan on replying?
>
> On Sun, Aug 7, 2022 at 2:32 PM Emily Kopp <emily@usrtk.org> wrote:
>
> > Dr. Hotez,
> >
> > I received an anonymous tip regarding an apparent conflict of interest relevant to your criticism of the GOP investigation into the possibility that a lab accident sparked the pandemic.
> >
> > The tipster pointed out that your grant to develop a SARS vaccine was in part motivated by the possibility that a lab accident or bioterrorist attack could result in a SARS outbreak.
> >
> > Questions:
> >
> > 1. Could you please clarify why you believe the lab origin theory of SARS-CoV-2 is ridiculous pseudoscience, even though you did research under the presumption that a SARS-like virus escaping

from a laboratory was possible? Taxpayers devoted $1.6 million in funding toward that project - was it under pseudoscientific pretenses?

2. Could you clarify your involvement in this research project underwritten by both your grant and EcoHealth Alliance's controversial "understanding the risk of bat coronavirus emergence" grant? Do you have a personal or professional relationship with Shi Zhengli? What about Peter Daszak? Have you ever funded or co-funded research at the Wuhan Institute of Virology?

Thank you,

--
Emily Kopp
Reporter
U.S. Right to Know
Signal (b) (6)



MORENS_SUBPOENA_010986
MORENS_NIH_021551
REL0000482101

Date: Fri, 26 Apr 2024 6:45:36 AM -0400

Subject: Re: Re: Details and a link to my upcoming Public Hearing

From: (b) (6) <(b) (6)

To: Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6) Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >;

CC: (b) (6) Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6) Jeff Sturchio <(b) (6) Roberts, Rich <(b) (6) (b) (6) Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) (b) (6)

Attachments: image003.jpg; image004.jpg; image005.png; image005.png; image005.png; image005.png; image005.png; image005.png; image003.jpg; image005.png; image005.png; image004.jpg

Dear Peter: this Sunday I'm in DC at NAS on a panel with Tony Fauci, Michael Mann, and Akiko Iwasaki discussing the political attacks on scientists and I plan to comment on these horrific congressional hearings, best Peter

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP

Texas Children's Hospital: Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics | Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development | Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

Baylor College of Medicine: Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine | Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology | Health Policy Scholar

Baylor University, University Professor
Rice University, Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty
Texas A&M University, Faculty-Senior Fellow, Hagler Inst for Advanced Study & Scowcroft Institute of Intl Affairs

E-mail | Twitter | LinkedIn | Skype: (b) (6)
Amazon Author Center | Daily Beast Contributor

Senior Coordinator & Executive Support: Douglas Soriano
(b) (6) | Phone: (b) (6) | Fax: 713-798-2299

Media Inquiries:
(b) (6)
(b) (6)
iPhone

On Apr 25, 2024, at 10:35 PM, Peter Daszak (b) (6) > wrote:

*****CAUTION:*** This email is not from a BCM Source. Only click links or open attachments you know are safe.**

Dear colleagues,

Sadly we're getting close to my upcoming public hearing with the SSCP. There are some details and a link below that you can use to watch it live on the day: https://uspolitics.einnews.com/pr_news/706672646/hearing- advisory-ecohealth-alliance-president-dr-peter-daszak-to-testify-on-may-1

Hearing Advisory: EcoHealth

Alliance President Dr. Peter Daszak to Testify on May 1

WASHINGTON — On May 1, 2024 at 10:00am ET, the Select Subcommittee on the Coronavirus Pandemic will hold a hearing titled, "A Hearing with the President of EcoHealth Alliance, Dr. Peter Daszak." This hearing will examine EcoHealth Alliance's (EcoHealth) use of U.S. taxpayer dollars to fund dangerous gain-of-function research at the Wuhan Institute of Virology as well as hold Dr. Daszak publicly accountable for any and all discrepancies between his closed-door transcribed interview and available evidence. Prior to Dr. Daszak's public testimony, the Select Subcommittee will release the full transcript from Dr. Daszak's transcribed interview and publish a detailed report about EcoHealth's impact on the origins of COVID-19.

Read more about Dr. Daszak's upcoming hearing here.

WHAT: Hearing titled "A Hearing with the President of EcoHealth Alliance, Dr. Peter Daszak"

DATE: Wednesday, May 1, 2024

TIME: 10:00AM ET

LOCATION: 2154 Rayburn House Office Building

WITNESS:

Dr. Peter Daszak

President

EcoHealth Alliance, Inc.

WATCH: The hearing will be open to the public and press and will be livestreamed online at https://oversight.house.gov/hearing/a- hearing-with-the-president-of-ecohealth-alliance-dr-peter-daszak/.

RSVP: Media must be congressionally credentialed and RSVP by Tuesday, May 1 at 5:00 PM ET.

###

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507

MORENS_NIH_044623
REL0000482105

USA

Tel.: +(b) (6)
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

From: (b) (6) <(b) (6) (b) (6)
Sent: Wednesday, April 24, 2024 6:37 PM
To: Peter Daszak (b) (6) >; Keusch, Gerald T (b) (6) ; Jeff Sturchio <(b) (6) ; Roberts, Rich (b) (6) 6) Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6)
Cc: Aleksei Chmura (b) (6)
Subject: Re: Now public that Tony Fauci will testify in front of SSCP on June 3rd

I do not I t have a date yet. My lawyer is ne
motivating with sscp

In the meantime, my law.yers have initiated a professional deep dive into my Gmail and Proton mail,and will turn that over to sscp. This will take some time. I doubt there is anything to find but of course. they will look for crumbs to blow up into mountains. d

Sent from Proton Mail Android

-------- Original Message --------
On 4/24/24 17:33, Peter Daszak wrote:

> I've attached a pdf of the story in the Washington Post (it's behind a paywall) – also here: https://www.washingtonpost.com/health/2024/04/24/fauci- congress-testimony-pandemic/.
>
> David – have your lawyers managed to get a date for you to testify yet?

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507

MORENS_NIH_044624
REL0000482105

USA

Tel.: (b) (6)
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

---

From: Peter Daszak (b) (6)
Sent: Friday, April 19, 2024 9:15 PM
To: (b) (6) <(b) (6) (b) (6) 'Keusch, Gerald T' (b) (6) >; 'Jeff Sturchio' <
j (b) (6) Roberts, Rich' (b) (6) (6) 'Hotez, Peter Jay' (b) (6) '
(b) (6)
Cc: 'Aleksei Chmura' (b) (6) >; 'John Feigelson' (b) (6) >
Subject: RE: Today's news...

By the way – Allegations that me sending information to David Morens is somehow corrupt are outrageous. Tony Fauci was busy working with the White House COVID taskforce at the time, trying to halt the worse pandemic since the 1918 influenza outbreak. I would have happy emailed him directly, but pretty sure he wasn't checking each of his 50,000 emails a day!

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: (b) (6)
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

---

From: Peter Daszak (b) (6) >
Sent: Friday, April 19, 2024 8:10 PM
To: (b) (6) <(b) (6) (b) (6) >; 'Keusch, Gerald T' (b) (6) >; 'Jeff Sturchio' <
(b) (6) ; 'Roberts, Rich' (b) (6) (6) 'Hotez, Peter Jay' (b) (6) ; '
(b) (6)
Aleksei Chmura (b) (6) ·; John Feigelson (b) (6)

Subject: Today's news...

Had a very successful EcoHealth Alliance benefit last night – sorry some of you couldn't be there.

Michael Mann was our main honoree, and he was great! We raised well above our expectation – all critical to keeping us afloat given the increased pressure we're under right now.

Speaking of which – here's the latest attempt from the SSCP to smear David Morens, EcoHealth Alliance and others as being involved in a 'cover up'

https://nypost.com/2024/04/19/us-news/ex-fauci-adviser-shared-confidential-nih-info-with-ecohealth-about-covid-biosafety-levels-docs/

Basically, they've found an email from me to David, Jerry others when the allegations that EcoHealth expts were conducted at an insufficient BSL level first came out. Tony Fauci was interviewed and said that he would look into it. I sent David M. a review I'd done of the BSL rules for Bat CoVs in various countries, which clearly show that we were operating at the correct biosafety levels.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: (b) (6)
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

From: (b) (6) (b) (6)
Sent: Wednesday, April 17, 2024 7:16 AM
To: Peter Daszak (b) (6) Keusch, Gerald T (b) (6) Jeff Sturchio < (b) (6) ; Roberts, Rich (b) (6) ; Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6) ;
Cc: Aleksei Chmura (b) (6)
Subject: Re: Testimony from Science Editor, Holden Thorp in front of the SSCP today

Peter, my thought is that it could have been worse, and he does blame Collins as well.... d

Sent from Proton Mail Android

MORENS_NIH_044626
REL0000482105

-------- Original Message --------
On 4/16/24 20:59, Peter Daszak wrote:

Unpleasant to see him criticize me and EcoHealth today, in a pretty shoddy attempt to curry favor with the SSCP:

https://x.com/COVIDSelect/status/1780332154620092505

Here's the text of the tweet:

Select Subcommittee on the Coronavirus Pandemic

@COVIDSelect

@ScienceMagazine AGREES that EcoHealth Alliance may have misled the U.S. government about its highly controversial DEFUSE proposal — which some believe created a blueprint for COVID-19. WATCH

You can see the video of him criticizing our work here:

https://youtu.be/Oru0-fYGcJU

The relevant section starts at 1hour, 31 minutes and 30 seconds into the video

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: (b) (6)
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

From: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >
Sent: Tuesday, April 16, 2024 3:22 PM
To: (b) (6) <(b) (6) (b) (6) >; 'Keusch, Gerald T' (b) (6) 'Jeff Sturchio' <(b) (6) 'Roberts, Rich' <(b) (6) 'Hotez, Peter Jay' <(b) (6) '(b) (6) <(b) (6)
Cc: Aleksei Chmura (b) (6) >; John Feigelson <(b) (6)
Subject: COVID Select Subcommittee subpoena to David Morens for correspondence etc.
Importance: High

Here is today's subpoena & a cover letter to David Morens from the SSCP for all correspondence with the following people, related to WIV, EcoHealth or COVID origins or "regarding or referencing the following people". He has to produce this by April 30th

No direct demand for public hearing has been made public yet.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: (b) (6)
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

From: (b) (6) <(b) (6)
Sent: Monday, April 15, 2024 8:39 PM
To: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >; Keusch, Gerald T (b) (6) ; Jeff Sturchio <(b) (6) >; Roberts, Rich <(b) (6) ; Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6)
Cc: Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6)
Subject: Re: COVID select subcommittee is now threatening to call David in for a public hearing

Guys,my lawyer called and i am to be subpoenaed to testify in public hearing on camera. They want me b4 Tony but after Peter. The Dems reached out to my lawyer and asked WTF is going on. Not sure why they don't know. d

Sent from Proton Mail Android

-------- Original Message --------
On 4/12/24 16:12, Peter Daszak wrote:

> Here's the COVID committee (SSCP) threatening to call David in for a public hearing based on the emails they claim show that we all used gmail inappropriately (based on a Washington Examiner report today)…
>
> Tweet here: https://x.com/COVIDSelect/status/1778859503796056214
>
> Washington Examiner BS article here: https://www.washingtonexaminer.com/policy/healthcare/2964227/ecohealth- alliance-email-release-confirms-fauci-aide-used-private-account-discuss-covid/
>
> Full text of tweet:
>
> **Post**
>
> See new posts
>
> **Conversation**
>
> Pinned
>
> 
>
> **Select Subcommittee on the Coronavirus Pandemic**
>
> @COVIDSelect
>
> BREAKING
> @EcoHealthNYC President Dr. Peter Daszak CONFIRMS whistleblower allegations that Dr. David Morens — a top advisor to Dr. Fauci — used Gmail to hide COVID-19 information. We are beginning the process to secure Dr. Morens's public testimony.



From washingtonexaminer.com

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200

MORENS_NIH_044630
REL0000482105

New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: (b) (6)
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

From: (b) (6) <(b) (6)
Sent: Friday, April 12, 2024 1:37 PM
To: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >; Keusch, Gerald T (b) (6) ; Jeff (b) (6) Roberts, Rich <(b) (6) (b) (6) Hotez, Peter Jay < (b) (6)
Cc: Aleksei Chmura (b) (6)
Subject: Re: My email to Michael Hiltzik with an EcoHealth Statement and Email release today

Again. this is excellent. We need more of these stand-up-to-bullies fusillades. d

Sent from Proton Mail Android

-------- Original Message --------
On 4/12/24 11:20, Peter Daszak wrote:

> Please read the email I just sent to Michael Hiltzik. It has links to a statement from EcoHealth and the release of the full text (slight redactions) of emails that involve David and Jerry, and were reported in the NY Post and other Right wing outlets yesterday, amplified by Republicans on the COVID Committeee…
>
> Cheers,
>
> Peter
>
> **Peter Daszak**
> *President*
>
> EcoHealth Alliance
> 520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
> New York, NY 10018-6507
> USA
>
> Tel.: (b) (6)
> Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org

MORENS_NIH_044631
REL0000482105

Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

From: Peter Daszak <(b) (6)
Sent: Friday, April 12, 2024 11:19 AM
To: 'Michael Hiltzik' (b) (6)
Cc: 'Aleksei Chmura (b) (6)
Subject: EcoHealth Statement and Email release today has relevance to NIH and Michael Lauer issues
Importance: High

Good to talk with you yesterday Michael. We got more negative press yesterday, this time related to emails that allegedly show coverups and inappropriate behavior among scientists. The Republicans released only the subject line and addresses etc. (https://oversight.house.gov/release/wenstrup- reveals-emails-from-whistleblower-alleging-additional-attempts-by-fauci-advisor-to-subvert-transparency-about-covid-19-origins/), leading to BS stories in the usual right wing press. We released the full text of the emails today:

https://www.ecohealthalliance.org/2024/04/ecohealth- alliance-releases-emails-that-are-the-subject-of-false-allegations-in-the-press

These are all from me to senior NIAID staffmember David Morens and former NIH Center Director Jerry Keusch, trying to make sense of the termination of our grant by Trump, and to find a way to get it reinstated. In the end NIH did reinstate the grant (May 2023). One of the chains shows emails that refer to the pressure from Michael Lauer, and the fact NIH instructed me not to talk with our program officer (Erik Stemmy) and direct all communications to Grants Management (Emily Linde). That was another highly unusual move from NIH and is part of the pattern that I was talking with you about.

Here is that particular set of emails: https://www.ecohealthalliance.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/04/Emails- 01.pdf

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507

USA

Tel.: +(b) (6)
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

From: Michael Hiltzik (b) (6) >
Sent: Tuesday, April 9, 2024 6:01 PM
To: Peter Daszak (b) (6) >
Subject: Re: Call tomorrow?

Absolutely. That time is good..I can call then...

MH

On Tue, Apr 9, 2024 at 2:59 PM Peter Daszak (b) (6) wrote:

> Hi Michael – just following up on this – are you available tomorrow at 5:30pm my time, 2:30pm West Coast time?
>
> I can send a zoom link or call my cellphone 845-641-0899
>
> Cheers,
>
> Peter
>
> **Peter Daszak**
> *President*
>
> EcoHealth Alliance
> 520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
> New York, NY 10018-6507
> USA
>
> Tel.: (b) (6)
> Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
> Twitter: @PeterDaszak
>
> *EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation*

From: Peter Daszak (b) (6)
Sent: Sunday, April 7, 2024 9:34 AM
To: 'Michael Hiltzik' (b) (6)
Cc: 'Aleksei Chmur (b) (6)
>; 'Alison Andre (b) (6)
Subject: RE: Confidential - NIH still hampering EcoHealth's ability to conduct work 4 years since the termination of our grant
Importance: High

I have good answers for you on all of those – it's ugly and political. There are also others who are well-placed who you can talk with.

I can do Wednesday at 5:30pm my time if that works for you (2:30pm West Coast). I have other times as well… cc'ing Alison who will make sure we find a time that works.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: (b) (6)
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

From: Michael Hiltzik (b) (6)
Sent: Saturday, April 6, 2024 6:50 PM
To: Peter Daszak (b) (6)
Subject: Re: Confidential - NIH still hampering EcoHealth's ability to conduct work 4 years since the termination of our grant

Peter,

Let's set up a time to talk next week (Wednesday or later best for me). On first glance, it strikes me that I'm glad I'm not in the grants-application business, because the bureaucratic behavior here seems incomprehensible, at least to a

MORENS_NIH_044634
REL0000482105

layman.

What's the overarching theme in their relations with you? Is it pressure from the lab-leak crowd, the FOIAing from Tobias, which as far as I can tell has yielded nothing of any substance? A spillover from the Trump era?

I read the Science piece, which was thorough in detailing what was done to the Chinese researchers but silent on what provoked it....what was the question I was left with--Why did NIH do all this?

MH

On Sat, Apr 6, 2024 at 12:03 PM Peter Daszak <
(b) (6)
> wrote:

> Hi Michael, I'm just contacting you off the record in case you or others are interested in reporting on what's going on at NIH with respect to EHA's grants. We were trying to deal with this privately, without it becoming public, but we found out last week that some of our recent correspondence with Emily Erbelding asking for her help is in a batch of FoIA's emails that will be released to Jimmy Tobias in the next couple of weeks. Tobias is in the habit of simply dumping these on the internet, so we wanted to get these to a bona fide reporter before that happens.
>
> As you probably know, our organization has been funded by NIAID for around 20 years, conducting successful research on emerging diseases, and working closely with communities, scientists and governments in emerging disease hotspot countries to try to reduce the risk of disease emergence. Prior to the termination of our R01 grant in April 2020 that would have had the Wuhan Institute of Virology as a subrecipient, we had never had any issues with NIH or NIAID, and had been lauded by program officers for our cutting edge research into viral emergence, and the many papers in Science, Nature, NEJM and others based on NIH funding.
>
> After the termination of our grant, the HHS OIG was called in to audit our work and NIH's oversight. They reported back after an 18 month audit with recommendations for both us, and for NIH, most of which were minor and easily addressed. We rapidly complied and NIH's DFAS group confirmed that all audit findings were resolved. However, we continued to receive further actions from the Office of the Director (Michael Lauer, who *Science* wrote about re. NIH's actions on grantees with China connections https://www.science.org/content/article/pall- suspicion-nihs-secretive-china-initiative-destroyed-scores-academic-careers), and the NIH group that manages oversight (OPERA) directly under Michael Lauer. In April 2023, Michelle Bulls from Opera and Emily Linde from NIAID placed 4 Specific Award Conditions (SACs) on our grants. At the time, Michael Lauer had contacted Tufts University who oversaw our IACUC approvals to conduct wildlife sampling because EHA doesn't have an animal facility. This led to Tufts canceling our interinstitutional agreement. The only way for us to proceed was to request an Animal Welfare Assurance from OLAW (based at NIH), but this was denied because of these SACs. One of the SACs stated that all of our subcontracts must be reviewed and revised by NIH reviews.

We worked extremely hard to rapidly respond (often within days) to every single request, despite many of them being contradictory or having no material impact on the contracts. In the original letter NIH set a deadline of September 2023 to resolve the SACs, which due to repeated delays by NIH grants management staff in responding to us, continued further requests and shifting of the goalposts means we still do not have resolution. Furthermore, grants management are now suggesting that we are beyond the period of work and our subcontractees won't be able to be reimbursed. Additionally, during the past 12 months, NIH has only reimbursed EcoHealth for around $50K of the now nearly $2 million we are expecting and have expended.

As you can imagine, this puts us in a very difficult position, with institutions like UNC and Uniformed Services University likely to be outraged that their funding is threatened, and with us unable to do our work fully – work that has been reviewed, scored well, and is critical to pandemic prevention. We've tried every possible avenue to get a fair and reasonable rapid resolution. We've informed Emily Erbelding of these issues (hence the FoIA'd email), and Program staff at NIAID remain supportive of our work, but we still have no resolution. Every time we try to seek a meeting or resolution, we get a hard response from NIH that we're out of compliance and they set further deadlines and further minor issues for us to fix. Right now I believe we're probably in greater compliance with NIH rules and just about any other institution in the US, given the level of scrutiny we've gone through. I've attached some of the many recent letters between NIH OPERA, NIAID Grants managements and EcoHealth Alliance to give you an indication of the levels of detailed work that we've gone through to try and resolve these issues.

We don't know the reasons why this is happening – all our subcontracts prior to April 2023 covered every single requirement in NIH's grants management guidance, subrecipients had to sign that they would adhere to these. The stonewalling, and shifting of goalposts by NIH is linked to emails that they send us stating that we're 'delinquent' or 'out of compliance', or that they're 'concerned' etc. and seem to us designed ready to be FoIA'd (which they are being) or to be used when NIH has to show Congressional Republicans that EcoHealth is being treated in the way they are calling for. Meanwhile, important findings can't be reported, including a novel SARS-CoV-2 related virus able to bind well to human ACE2 that we have found in one of our country sites, but are now unable to publish because our subrecipient is concerned they don't yet have an approved contract. This is hurting our ability to conduct pandemic prevention work, and the US's ability to be informed about public health threats that could emerge and threaten our citizens.

If you want to report on this, I'm happy to talk on-the-record on some issues, and there are others who are aware of these problems that I can put you in touch with, including at NIH and senior people from outside.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: (b) (6)
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

MORENS_NIH_044637
REL0000482105

Date: Thu, 9 Sep 2021 6:41:00 PM -0400
Sent: Thu, 9 Sep 2021 6:40:53 PM -0400
Subject: Re: here's the latest line of attack today...
From: "Rasmussen, Angie" <(b) (6)
To: Peter Daszak <(b) (6)
CC: Garry, Robert F <(b) (6) Kristian G. Andersen <(b) (6) David Morens <(b) (6) Imes <(b) (6) n Gale <(b) (6) Robert Kessler <(b) (6) Stephen Goldstein <(b) (6)

Peter and all,

I am so sorry you are still going through all of this. For what it's worth, I broke my rule of talking to disingenuous journalists and sent Mara Hvistendahl a long email telling her exactly what I think of the "experts" she's talked to and setting the record straight about what these FOIAd reports supposedly show. From what I can see, they show that you were reporting your work appropriately to NIH as required, the work itself was done in appropriate biocontainment, and, importantly, you didn't have SARS-CoV-2 or a progenitor. I also explained that previous work was published with WIV1 chimeras and that this type of study precludes doing more dangerous (and technically very difficult) virus isolation.

She wanted to know whether I agreed with her two sources (likely Alina Chan or Richard Ebright, based on her prior story) that this fits the definition of GoF by NIH and I told her no and explained at length why not and the assertions that it was should disqualify any supposed "expert". Took every opportunity to dunk on their amateurish, disingenuous bullshit, while also emphasizing the importance of this work. Mara wrote back defensively, claiming she's talked to 10 virologists or "people in adjacent fields" for her follow-up. I am not optimistic that the follow-up will be more balanced, but I did try to provide some juicy quotes about how her "experts" actually have no expertise, and emphasized the profound damage these people have done to this essential research. They make all of us less safe.

Hang in there. Ultimately the truth will come out and it's not going to be from the likes of the Daily Caller's inability to interpret virology data or from Jesse Bloom and all the grifters and conspiracy theorists populating the rabbit hole that he's crawled down.

Angela L. Rasmussen, Ph.D.
Research Scientist
Vaccine and Infectious Disease Organization (VIDO)
University of Saskatchewan
Office(b) (6)
She/h
www.vido.org



On Sep 9, 2021, at 3:07 PM, Peter Daszak (b) (6) > wrote:

CAUTION: External to USask. Verify sender and use caution with links and attachments. Forward suspicious emails to phishing@usask.ca

Here's a report in the Daily Caller that goes after the GoF argument that the chimeric bat viruses yielded more virus in

humanized mice than the parental bat virus strain. https://dailycaller.com/2021/09/09/ecohealth- alliance-gain-of-function-higher-viral-load-anthony-fauci/

There's a good response from NIH: 'An NIH spokesperson told the DCNF the agency "never approved any research that would make a coronavirus more dangerous to humans." "The research we supported in China, where coronaviruses are prevalent, sought to understand the behavior of coronaviruses circulating in bats that have the potential to cause widespread disease," the spokesperson said. "The body of science produced by this research demonstrates that the bat coronavirus sequences published from that work NIH supported were not SARS-CoV-2. More importantly, because of similar research to understand coronaviruses, we were able to move swiftly to develop vaccines against SARS-CoV-2 and save lives."'

This story is particularly irritating because if you look at the P3CO rules, it's clear they are meant for pathogens that occur in humans and might be made more dangerous. These were bat viruses that have never been shown to occur in humans. L et's also not forget that the virus with a higher viral load in mice was actually because it had the spike protein of a bat virus being flown around every night by tens of thousands of bats in rural china – not something new created by us to enhance virulence - In fact, the opposite: the fact that we could do this work with a chimera means that we don't have to isolate and culture every single new bat cov we find. It reduces risk!

INVESTIGATIVE GROUP

Fauci-Funded Wuhan Lab Viruses Exhibited Over 10,000 Times Higher Viral Load Than Natural Strain, Documents Show

<image003.jpg>

<image007.jpg>

-
-
-
-

ANDREW KERRINVESTIGATIVE REPORTER

September 09, 20213:25 PM ET

- **U.S. and Chinese researchers funded by the National Institutes of Allergy and Infectious Diseases created viruses in a Wuhan lab that exhibited over 10,000 times higher viral load in humanized mice, records released by the agency show.**
- **Rutgers University professor Richard Ebright said the data was a "bona fide bombshell" that proves the NIAID, under Dr. Anthony Fauci's leadership, violated federal policies, endangered the public and lied to the public.**
- **Fauci testified before the Senate in June that his agency never funded gain-of-function research at the Wuhan Institute of Virology.**

U.S. and Chinese researchers funded by Dr. Anthony Fauci's National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID) created viruses in a Wuhan lab that exhibited over 10,000 times higher viral load in humanized mice than the natural virus they were based on, according to an infectious disease professor citing documents recently released by the agency.

The U.S. nonprofit group EcoHealth Alliance notified the NIAID in two reports that between June 2017 and May 2018 it had created three lab-generated chimeric SARS-related coronaviruses in China that exhibited "significantly higher" viral loads, documents first reported by The Intercept show, but the agency continued to fund the project with taxpayer dollars without flagging it for review by an independent federal committee created in late 2017 to oversee gain-of-function research.

Rutgers University professor Richard Ebright, a vocal opponent of gain-of-function research, said the data was a "bona fide bombshell" that proves the NIAID, under Fauci's leadership, violated federal policies, endangered the public and lied to the public.

"Three EcoHealth/[Wuhan Institute of Virology] lab-generated viruses exhibited >10x to >10,000x higher viral load than the starting bat virus in humanized mice," Ebright tweeted. "One EcoHealth/WIV lab-generated virus exhibited higher

pathogenicity than the starting bat virus in infection studies with humanized mice."
"The results demonstrate–unequivocally–a gain in function," he said.
In comparison, the viral load for people infected with the delta variant is roughly 1,000 times higher than those infected with the original strain of the virus, according to Nature science journal.
Ebright added on Twitter that the gain-of-function research activity that NIAID allowed EcoHealth Alliance to conduct in China could have yielded the virus that causes COVID-19 or a progenitor of that virus.
EcoHealth Alliance first notified the NIAID it created the three lab-generated SARS-related coronaviruses in a progress report detailing its research activities between June 2017 and May 2018.
"Using the reverse genetic methods we previously developed, infectious clones with the WIV1 backbone and the spike protein of SHC014, WIV16 and Rs4231, respectively, were constructed and recombinant viruses were successfully rescued," the group said in its progress report. "2 and 4 days post infection, the viral load in lung tissues of mice challenged with rWIV1-SHC014S, rWIV1-WIV16S and rWIV1-Rs4231S … were significantly higher than that in rWIV1-infected mice."
"These results demonstrate varying pathogenicity of SARSr-CoVs with different spike proteins in humanized mice," the report added.
EcoHealth Alliance included a chart visualizing the increased viral load of their lab-created viruses. The chart is presented in a Log scale, meaning each tick of the chart represents a 100-fold increase in viral load in mice with humanized cells, Ebright explained to the Daily Caller News Foundation.
<image005.jpg>
Charts submitted by EcoHealth Alliance to the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases showing loss of body weight (right) and viral load (left) of mice with humanized cells infected with the natural WIV1 viral strain and three EcoHealth lab-created virus strains. The viral load chart is presented in Log scale, meaning each tick of the graph represents a 100-fold increase in viral load, Rutgers University professor Richard Ebright explained to the DCNF. (Screenshot)
"Each tick in the chart on the right represents an increment of 100x," Ebright told the DCNF. "The day 4 data show greater-than-10,000x higher viral loads for the lab-generated viruses."
The viral load for humanized mice infected with the natural virus caught up with the lab-created strains by the end of the experiment, the chart shows, but Ebright said that viral loads in the early stages of an infection are important figures to consider when assessing a pathogen's transmissibility.
"In terms of assessing potential for transmissibility, the viral load at all time points, particularly at early time points, is relevant. (See Delta variant)," Ebright told the DCNF.
EcoHealth Alliance provided another chart in its progress report showing that humanized mice infected with EcoHealth's lab-created viruses lost more bodyweight than humanized mice infected with the natural WIV1 strain.
EcoHealth Alliance included the same two charts in a 2018 request to the NIAID requesting additional funding for its research in China, the document trove released by The Intercept shows.
Federal funding for gain-of-function experiments that increase the transmissibility or pathogenicity of potential pandemic pathogens was temporarily suspended in 2014 due to widespread scientific concerns it risked leaking supercharged viruses into the human population.
Funding for gain-of-function research was resumed in late 2017, but only for projects that went through the new Potential Pandemic Pathogens Control and Oversight (P3CO) Framework, which includes a review by an HHS review board tasked with critically evaluating whether grants that involve enhancing dangerous pathogens, such as coronaviruses, are worth the risks and that proper safeguards are in place.
The NIAID opted not to flag the EcoHealth Alliance grant for P3CO after determining on its own accord that the project "did not involve the enhancement of the pathogenicity or transmissibility of the viruses studied," a National Institutes of Health spokesperson previously told the DCNF. **(RELATED: US Grant To Wuhan Lab To Enhance Bat-Based Coronaviruses Was Never Scrutinized By HHS Review Board, NIH Says)**
Fauci said during a congressional hearing in May that the NIH and NIAID "categorically has not funded gain-of-function research to be conducted at the Wuhan Institute of Virology," a claim that led Republican Sen. Rand Paul of Kentucky in July to send a criminal referral to the Department of Justice to investigate whether Fauci lied before Congress.
The P3CO framework defines an "enhanced" potential pandemic pathogen as any lab-created virus that exhibits any level of boosted transmissibility and/or virulence. Funding agencies such as the NIAID are required to flag any research grant that is "reasonably anticipated to create, transfer, or use enhanced PPPs" for P3CO review.
Despite this, documents released by The Intercept suggest that the NIAID authorized EcoHealth Alliance to conduct

gain-of-function experiments on bat coronaviruses up to a certain threshold.

The NIAID informed EcoHealth Alliance in a June 2018 award notice that it must notify the agency only if it creates a virus "with enhanced growth by more than [10 times] compared to wild type strains," according to documents released by The Intercept. The NIAID linked to the P3CO review process, which contains no such mention of a 10 times allowance, in the very next sentence, the document shows.
<image006.jpg>
NIAID notice to EcoHealth Alliance in June 2018 saying it must notify the agency only if it produces a lab virus that exhibits more than 10 times enhancement over wild-type strains. (Screenshot)
An NIH spokesperson told the DCNF the agency "never approved any research that would make a coronavirus more dangerous to humans."
"The research we supported in China, where coronaviruses are prevalent, sought to understand the behavior of coronaviruses circulating in bats that have the potential to cause widespread disease," the spokesperson said. "The body of science produced by this research demonstrates that the bat coronavirus sequences published from that work NIH supported were not SARS-CoV-2. More importantly, because of similar research to understand coronaviruses, we were able to move swiftly to develop vaccines against SARS-CoV-2 and save lives."
Content created by The Daily Caller News Foundation is available without charge to any eligible news publisher that can provide a large audience. For licensing opportunities of our original content, please contact licensing@dailycallernewsfoundation.org .

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: (b) (6)
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

From: Peter Daszak (b) (6)
Sent: Wednesday, September 8, 2021 8:29 PM
To: 'Garry, Robert F' (b) (6) >; 'Kristian G. Andersen' (b) (6)
Cc: 'David Morens' (b) (6) >; 'Edward Holmes' (b) (6) ; 'Jason Gale' <j.gale@bloomberg.net>; 'Rasmussen, Angie' (b) (6) ; Robert Kessler <(b) (6) ; 'Stephen Goldstein' (b) (6) >

MORENS_SUBPOENA_022360
MORENS_NIH_043263
REL0000482114

Subject: RE: The Intercept report on coronavirus research at Chinese labs

That's interesting about Jesse Bloom – I wasn't aware of that work and hadn't really heard of him before this year to be honest. I suspect that like many people his view of his own research is that it's highly professionally managed and carefully controlled re. biosafety. He clearly has a different view of the work at WIV & by other leading Chinese scientists and seems suspicious of their motives in many of his public comments. This can't be based on their published work – it's often excellent. It just seems like a difficulty people have teasing apart their viewpoint about the Chinese Govt from their opinion about individual scientists. Anyone who's been on the ground in China rapidly realizes that the two are not the same.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: (b) (6)
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

---

From: Garry, Robert F <(b) (6)
Sent: Wednesday, September 8, 2021 4:12 PM
To: Peter Daszak (b) (6) ; Kristian G. Andersen (b) (6)
Cc: David Morens (b) (6) ard Holmes (b) (6) ; Jason Gale <
j.gale@bloomberg.net >; Rasmussen, Angi (b) (6) >; Robert Kessler <
(b) (6) >; Stephen Goldstein (b) (6) >
Subject: Re: The Intercept report on coronavirus research at Chinese labs

Sorry this is happening. The anti-science attacks are just getting more and more extreme.

Unfortunately, there exists a small vocal group of scientists that see virtually every experiment done by virologists as risky and potentially GoF. Many of those ppl are quoted in the Intercept article.

WRT Jesse Bloom it is rather ironic I must say. One need not look too hard at his influenza virus publications to identify quite a number that could be considered "risky" at least by a Relman/Ebright definition. Selecting drug resistant influenza virus mutants, and creating influenza virus SARS-CoV-2 recombinants to name two. Just saying…

From: Peter Daszak (b) (6) >

MORENS_SUBPOENA_022361
MORENS_NIH_043264
REL0000482114

Date: Wednesday, September 8, 2021 at 2:49 PM
To: Kristian Ander (b) (6) >
Cc: David Morens (b) (6) , Robert Garry <rfgar (b) (6) Edward Holmes <
(b) (6) , Jason Gale <j.gale@bloomberg.net >, "Rasmussen, Angie" <
(b) (6) Robert Kessler (b) (6) , Stephen Goldstein <
(b) (6)

cept report on coronavirus research at Chinese labs

External Sender. Be aware of links, attachments and requests.

Great to see your email Kristian – right on every point. The isolate vs. sequence vs. sample misnomer is something that really has plagued me with this stuff – Zhengli's group repeatedly used 'isolate' for 'sample' on Genbank and I've made that mistake here also.

Re. the MERS work, you're dead right – we proposed it, explained that it would likely need review by the P3CO committee equivalent, and then pushed it to Yr4. In the end we didn't do this work – there was already a ton of other more interesting work directly on SARSr-CoVs to do.

The latest line of attack that will be coming out in a follow-up article in the *Intercept* tonight is that in the Y4 report, we show one of the chimeras having more than a log virus output than the parent strain (WIV-1). The NoA was updated in Y3 to say that if this happened we had to report to NIH and cease expts. Ironically, the way *Intercept* found this out is because they now have a copy of our "report to NIH" in which we show this, but of course that's not going to stop them saying we broke the rules on GoF.

The other line of attack is the one Jesse Bloom's pursuing – that we didn't publish sequence data within 6 months of the "final version being received" as per our proposal. Jesse sneakily suggested this in an email to me last night in which he asked for the sequences so he can do SARS-CoV-2 origin analyses, while at the same time tweeting an accusation that we broke the rules in a chain with Alina Chan and the "Seeker". I'm not sure whether to respond at all, but I might just let him know that all SARSr-CoV sequences we had are already published in our 2020 paper in Nat. Comm. Again – the problem with these accusations is that just being accused of this by the press causes us seven levels of hell, and arguing back is even worse.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: (b) (6)
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

MORENS_SUBPOENA_022362
MORENS_NIH_043265
REL0000482114

From: Kristian G. Andersen (b) (6)
Sent: Tuesday, September 7, 2021 10:30 PM
To: Peter Daszak (b) (6)
Cc: David Morens (b) (6) >; Garry, Robert F <(b) (6) Edward Holmes <(b) (6) >; Jason Gale <j.gale@bloomberg.net>; Rasmussen, Angie <(b) (6) Robert Kessler (b) (6) Stephen Goldstein <

Subject: Re: The Intercept report on coronavirus research at Chinese labs

It's harassment, plain and simple - it has absolutely nothing to do with trying to find the truth of how SARS-CoV-2 emerged in the human population.

The way I see it though, we now have (a) the entire US IC having completed their investigation, (b) unredacted grants and annual reports from EcoHealth, and (c) old theses from the WIV.

This is *exactly* the type of information that Ebright, Metzl, Relman, Bloom, Chan, and the rest of the lot have been requesting. Now this work has been completed, what was unearthed? Nothing. Nada. Zilch. No evidence of the virus (or sequence) at the WIV (or anywhere else) prior to the pandemic. No gain-of-function work (despite what Ebright says). The same cloning system used again and again (WIV1). Vero cells used for virus isolation (SARS-CoV-2 loses the FCS in those cells), and no previously unreported viruses isolated (although I note the repeated use of "isolates" in one of the annual reports to describe 11 samples - I myself have made that mistake before). So again, there's nothing.

This absence of evidence is *in fact* evidence of absence in this particular case - there would have been *some* evidence for SARS-CoV-2 in *some* of these documents had it been at the WIV. Yet, nothing.

As for GOF work, again nothing. I note the mention of work with recombinant MERS in the year 3 report for work proposed in year 4 - depending on the nature of work, that could be considered GOF/DURC. However, when reading the year 4 report, I don't see any of that work mentioned - just work with pseudotyped viruses, which is clearly not GOF (or DURC).

Of course, people will take stuff out of context to make *anything* fit a particular narrative. However, there's an expiration date on bullshit and I suspect we're well past due.

K

On Tue, Sep 7, 2021 at 6:28 PM Peter Daszak (b) (6) wrote:

> Here's one of the "journalists" who got the "Scoop". Basically they just FoIA'd NIH, then sued when NIH refused to release, then dumped the documents online and asked for "people with relevant expertise to get in touch". Cue Drs. Ebright, Relman, Chan, Bloom and others to start their attempt at a character assassination…
>
> **Mara Hvistendahl**
> @MaraHvistendahl
>
> .
> 15h
> NEW: We obtained hundreds of pages from NIH detailing EcoHealth Alliance's work with the Wuhan Institute of Virology. We are publishing them in full. With
> @fastlerner and @theintercept legal team, which filed a FOIA lawsuit for the documents' release

MORENS_SUBPOENA_022363
MORENS_NIH_043266
REL0000482114

<image001.jpg>

New Details Emerge About Coronavirus Research at Chinese Lab
More than 900 pages of materials related to US.-funded coronavirus research in China were released following a FOIA lawsuit by The Intercept.
theintercept.com

<image002.jpg>

Mara Hvistendahl
@MaraHvistendahl

.

15h The full documents are here: "Understanding the Risk of Bat Coronavirus Emergence"
https://documentcloud.org/documents/21055989- understanding-risk-bat-coronavirus-emergence-grant-notice…
"Understanding Risk of Zoonotic Virus Emergence in Emerging Infectious Disease Hotspots of Southeast Asia"
https://documentcloud.org/documents/21055988- risk-zoonotic-virus-hotspots-grant-notice…,
<image002.jpg>

Mara Hvistendahl
@MaraHvistendahl

.

7h
There is a lot here. @fastlerner and I are interested in hearing feedback from people with relevant expertise.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA
(b) (6)
Tel.:
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

MORENS_SUBPOENA_022364
MORENS_NIH_043267
REL0000482114

From: David Morens (b) (6)
Sent: Tuesday, September 7, 2021 9:07 PM
To: Peter Daszak (b) (6)
Cc: (b) (6) ; Kristian G. Andersen (b) (6) Edward Holmes <(b) (6) , Jason Gale <j.gale@bloomberg.net>; (b) (6) Robert Kessler (b) (6)
Subject: Re: The Intercept report on coronavirus research at Chinese labs

Do not rule out suing these assholes for slander. d

Sent from my iPhone
David M Morens
OD, NIAID, NIH

On Sep 7, 2021, at 20:39, Peter Daszak (b) (6) wrote:

To be honest, this whole process is beyond a joke. We're spending a huge amount of staff time dealing with the BS from these FoIA requests even though the grant's been terminated, suspended and funds are still unavailable.

The lab leakers are already stirring up bullshit lines of attack that will bring more negative publicity our way – which is what this is about – a way to line up the GoF attack on Fauci, or the 'risky research' attack on all of us.

Jesse Bloom's now trying to claim we weren't following our proposed rules for data release (not true – all SARSr-CoV RdRp sequences on Genbank in summer 2020, despite the grant being terminated) – he's tagging Alina Chan and 'The Seeker' on Twitter. Ebright's trying to claim we were working on MERS as a 'shadow' line of work. There'll be more to come – just a free-for-all effort to find a few sentences that they can take out of context.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: (b) (6)
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

---

From: Garry, Robert F <(b) (6)
Sent: Tuesday, September 7, 2021 8:08 PM

To: Kristian G. Andersen <(b) (6) >; Edward Holmes (b) (6) >
Cc: Jason Gale <j.gale@bloomberg.net>; (b) (6)
(b) (6)
Re: The Intercept report on coronavirus research at Chinese labs

Totally - that the real story of the FOIAed grants - no SC2 or anything close that could have been converted to it.

Metzl, Chan and others wanted a "forensic investigation.' The grants that they thought would be private and written before the pandemic do not mention a new SARS-like virus. YOu can be sure that a new virus 76% similar to SC1 would have been front and center in the applications and progress reports.

My guess this is part of the info the IC used to conclude no bioweapon, likely no engineering - NO SC2 before the pandemic. This Gof debate now very clearly has nothing to do with the origin of SC2.

From: Kristian G. Andersen (b) (6)
Sent: Tuesday, September 7, 2021 11:56 PM
To: Edward Holmes (b) (6)
Cc: Jason Gale <j.gale@bloomberg.net>; (b) (6)
(b) (6)
(b) (6) Garry, Robert F <

Subject: Re: The Intercept report on coronavirus research at Chinese labs

External Sender. Be aware of links, attachments and requests.

Going through it carefully as we speak (already wasted a few hours) - because that's how idiotic this has become.

Nicely detailed annual reports - makes it easy to show that there's in fact no SARS-CoV-2 in there...

People have lost their minds with this s***.

K

On Tue, Sep 7, 2021 at 4:50 PM Edward Holmes (b) (6) > wrote:

> Yes, just more like evidence that they never had SC2 in the lab.
>
> Professor Edward C. Holmes FAA FRS
> The University of Sydney
>
> > On 8 Sep 2021, at 9:43 am, Jason Gale (BLOOMBERG/ NEWSROOM:) <
> > j.gale@bloomberg.net > wrote:

MORENS_SUBPOENA_022366
MORENS_NIH_043269
REL0000482114

Just FYI
https://theintercept.com/2021/09/06/new- details-emerge-about-coronavirus-research-at-chinese-lab/

Disclaimer

The information contained in this communication from the sender is confidential. It is intended solely for use by the recipient and others authorized to receive it. If you are not the recipient, you are hereby notified that any disclosure, copying, distribution or taking action in relation of the contents of this information is strictly prohibited and may be unlawful.

This email has been scanned for viruses and malware, and may have been automatically archived by Mimecast, a leader in email security and cyber resilience. Mimecast integrates email defenses with brand protection, security awareness training, web security, compliance and other essential capabilities. Mimecast helps protect large and small organizations from malicious activity, human error and technology failure; and to lead the movement toward building a more resilient world. To find out more, visit our website.

Disclaimer

The information contained in this communication from the sender is confidential. It is intended solely for use by the recipient and others authorized to receive it. If you are not the recipient, you are hereby notified that any disclosure, copying, distribution or taking action in relation of the contents of this information is strictly prohibited and may be unlawful.

This email has been scanned for viruses and malware, and may have been automatically archived by Mimecast, a leader in email security and cyber resilience. Mimecast integrates email defenses with brand protection, security awareness training, web security, compliance and other essential capabilities. Mimecast helps protect large and small organizations from malicious activity, human error and technology failure; and to lead the movement toward building a more resilient world. To find out more, visit our website.

Disclaimer

The information contained in this communication from the sender is confidential. It is intended solely for use by the recipient and others authorized to receive it. If you are not the recipient, you are hereby notified that any disclosure, copying, distribution or taking action in relation of the contents of this information is strictly prohibited and may be unlawful.

This email has been scanned for viruses and malware, and may have been automatically archived by Mimecast, a leader in email security and cyber resilience. Mimecast integrates email defenses with brand protection, security awareness training, web security, compliance and other essential capabilities. Mimecast helps protect large and small organizations from malicious activity, human error and technology failure; and to lead the movement toward building a more resilient world. To find out more, visit our website.

Disclaimer

The information contained in this communication from the sender is confidential. It is intended solely for use by the recipient and others authorized to receive it. If you are not the recipient, you are hereby notified that any disclosure, copying, distribution or taking action in relation of the contents of this information is strictly prohibited and may be unlawful.

This email has been scanned for viruses and malware, and may have been automatically archived by Mimecast, a leader in email security and cyber resilience. Mimecast integrates email defenses with brand protection, security awareness training, web security, compliance and other essential capabilities. Mimecast helps protect large and small organizations from malicious activity, human error and technology failure; and to lead the movement toward building a more resilient world. To find out more, visit our website.

Date:	Thu, 8 Jul 2021 12:40:37 PM -0400
Sent:	Thu, 8 Jul 2021 12:40:28 PM -0400
Subject:	FW: Follow up on Lancet Letter of July 5, 2021
From:	"Keusch, Gerald T" <(b) (6)
To:	Peter Daszak <(b) (6) Roberts, Rich <(b) (6) David Morens ((b) (6) <(b) (6)
Attachments:	Lancet letter July 2021 Wash Examiner 7-8-21.docx; CoV-2 origins, Eddie Holmes et al Zenodo preprint July 2021.pdf

The exploitation of the comments from Palese and Roizman, and Billy Karesh's decision to remove his name from the Lancet letter (which he entirely agreed with) prompted me to contact Peter Palese who I have known since I joined Mt. Sinai in July 1970. I am about to write to Roizman, and to Billy, as he didn't help divert attention from EHA by not signing, or even from finger pointed at him (in this case a crooked finger). Maybe they will be willing to come out.

I am trying to be measured in what I say, in case my email to them is leaked somehow.

Jerry

From: Keusch, Gerald T
Sent: Thursday, July 8, 2021 12:36 PM
To: Palese, Peter <(b) (6) >
Subject: Follow up on Lancet Letter of July 5, 2021

Hi Peter,

I have now known you for 50+ years, since I first joined MSSM in July of 1970 or shortly afterwards. I know you to be a careful and creative investigator who has always pursued new knowledge through exceptional research. It is with this background that I feel I can write to you about your quoted comments in rather biased press regarding the pathway CoV-2 took from a bat to people, and your failure to respond to the early correspondence as 24 of the group who signed the Lancet letter of February 19, 2020 worked on the one published in Lancet this week.

It is essential to be clear, objective and transparent about what we know and what valid scientific evidence there is to base our conclusions, until new information becomes available. We are always working on a working assumption, and that is another way of saying the scientific method. I am attaching something I saw in Yahoo News today, disseminating a brief piece in the Washington Examiner (the DC equivalent of the current NY Post) yesterday, which notes that three original signers of the 2020 Lancet letter didn't sign the new one, implying there was some real scientific reason not to. I am also attaching the review just published by Eddie Holmes and a group of highly respected virologists and evolutionary biologists (for your convenience because I would expect you have already seen and read it), which goes further down the path to document the zoonotic pathway most likely CoV-2 has traveled.

I have no idea what your concerns were when you shifted the weight of your opinion of the spillover event to a lab leak. It is now being widely referred to as a way of validating the dominance of that hypothesis. Jeffrey Sachs, Chair of the Lancet COVID Commission has even gone further, while

proclaiming neutrality, to talk about a "research related" spillover, which implies there was laboratory manipulation, experimentation, or poor procedure at the Wuhan Institute of Virology, and so attention is diverted away from actually getting information and the Chinese government remains under attack and recalcitrant.

It wouldn't hurt the pursuit of science to revisit what you said and consider the evidence and the weight of your opinion in the search for the truth of what actually happened to unleash this pandemic. The essence of good science is its self-correcting potential. I don't mean to offend you, I am writing because I think highly of you and respect your science. If there is really something significant and serious behind your quoted comments it remains opaque to me. I always keep in mind a takeoff on the Washington Post's tagline, Science Dies in Darkness, and our job is to shed light.

Jerry

Date: Sat, 1 May 2021 12:55:38 PM -0400
Sent: Sat, 1 May 2021 12:53:24 PM -0400
Subject: RE: Political advice requested!
From: Peter Daszak <(b) (6)
To: David Morens <(b) (6)
CC: Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6) Roberts, Rich <(b) (6) Robert Kessler <(b) (6) Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6)

Interesting metaphor David. Don't know if you're aware, but I'm editor of the journal EcoHealth published by Springer. Like EID, we publish cover art and write an essay on the relevance to health issues. A few years back I found out that Kevin Olival's brother (Kevin's here on staff) is a published poet currently doing a Ph.D in Germany analyzing sonnets. He's currently drafting an epic poem in 3 parts based on the Cassandra mythology, with EcoHealth Alliance and specifically myself, being the Cassandra, who had the gift of prophecy, but was cursed by those prophecies being ignored.

I'm not a great scholar of the Greek tragedies, but I believe there is plenty of room to assign modern day names to the various roles in the myth…

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: +(b) (6)
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

From: David Morens (b) (6) >
Sent: Saturday, May 1, 2021 11:44 AM
To: Peter Daszak (b) (6)
Cc: Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6) ; Roberts, Rich (b) (6) ; Robert Kessler (b) (6) or >; Aleksei Chmura (b) (6) >
Subject: Re: Political advice requested!

Peter, another way to look at this is that since you did no wrong, and in fact did much good, and since nih trashed you without grounds to do so, you actually maintain the high ground, even though it doesn't look that way

It's like the rake who rapes the fair maiden, then criticizes her for not being virtuous. Most people will see through it once it's all out on the table. D

Sent from my iPhone
David M Morens

MORENS_SUBPOENA_014176
MORENS_NIH_026770
REL0000482133

OD, NIAID, NIH

On May 1, 2021, at 10:40, Peter Daszak (b) (6) > wrote:

Thanks david. If you listen to Francis Collins' comment and read the letter he's now responding to (guarantee Micheal Lauer is all over this), they've been asked a series of questions directly about ecohealth alliance and want all our communication with NIH.

Just feels like I'm being set up here as a patsy for the initial illegal action from NIH to cancel the grant. The letters from lauer flat out accuse us of being in breach of federal codes on biosafety monitoring. My lawyers say we are not, but NIH O/D is now the one who gets to talk publicly about it. Very upsetting.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
(Sent from my iPhone)

President
EcoHealth Alliance

460 West 34th Street, New York, NY10001, USA

www.EcoHealthAlliance.org

On May 1, 2021, at 10:26 AM, Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] <(b) (6) > wrote:

Peter, I don't know the legal and political dos and don'ts here, but if the lawyers say you do not have to answer, and you don't have to worry about contempt (since this is just a letter from 3 minority memnbers, and NOT the committee), then I would either not answer at all or, if the lawyers advise, then send them a polite letter saying you cannot answers or the reasons you stated.

They are playing a game with you, trying to put a noose around your neck, and I think it is within your right to resist being hung.

d

On 5/1/2021 9:47 AM, Peter Daszak wrote:

A couple of weeks ago, I received the attached letter from the Republican minority leadership of the House Energy & Commerce Committee (EHA letter re. COVID origins attached).

They're asking my 34 questions that are very detailed, all based on the lab leak conspiracy theory, and requesting answers by May 17th. They also ask to meet with me. I spoke to my lawyers who advised that I don't have to respond.

Their letter follows a letter to Francis Collins in March with similar questions. I've just seen a clip from him testifying last week where he's sucking up to these people explaining that the WHO should mount a more detailed investigation to follow up on questions we weren't able to address (exactly what's in our recommendations actually!). He then says he's preparing a detailed response to their letter to NIH. No doubt some of that response will involve handing over my 10 page response to NIH's demands for reinstatement of my grant (they ask for any response from EHA – their letter to him is attached). Here's the clip: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BcB2W7CtvF0

MORENS_SUBPOENA_014177
MORENS_NIH_026771
REL0000482133

The advice I'm asking is what should I do? To respond to these 34 questions would take days of work. It would take me and other staff off projects we're funded for, and get us defending conspiracy attacks for a project we're not even funded for right now, because of those attacks. My view is I can't win either way – if we don't respond, we'll be accused of hiding information or disrespecting congress. If I do respond, if fuels these conspiracies and gives them a chance to continue attacking us and undermining our work. Note that the minute these letters were sent, they were published on their websites with some innuendo and biased wording to make us look like we're in cahoots with a China-based lab release program. https://republicans-energycommerce.house.gov/news/ec- republican-leaders-request-information-from-u-s-group-affiliated-with-chinese-lab-at-center-of-covid-19-origin-investigation/

If asked about this publicly, one response could be: 1) our funding is cut and we don't have the staff to find answers to 34 detailed questions – it would take days of work; 2) these questions are not designed to find out answers to the origins of COVID, they're focused entirely on a widely debunked conspiracy that the virus originated in a lab – where are the questions on the more likely pathway of emergence from the wildlife trade?; 3) Any information I have about the origins of COVID-19 that has any relevance on further understanding these pathways was shared with the WHO on our mission, and/or is published in scientific papers (over a dozen in top journals from our work in China), or is in the process of being prepared for publication; 4) I have already sent a detailed response to NIH on their demands for similar information, in the hope that they can continue funding our work so we can get on the ground in China again and get to the bottom of the origins of COVID and identify risk of the next emerging pandemic.

I think we have a number of choices:

1. Respond to them in full
2. Set up a meeting to talk with them off the record, maybe to brief them on the origins of COVID work on the WHO committee, and what EHA is doing.
3. Send a letter with the above 4 responses (note – it would be published straight away I expect)
4. Reach out to the Majority on the committee (this is on my To Do list)
5. Do nothing (my current default)

Jerry – I'm around this weekend if you've got time to chat about this?

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: (b) (6)
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

Disclaimer

The information contained in this communication from the sender is confidential. It is intended solely for use by the recipient and others authorized to receive it. If you are not the recipient, you are hereby notified that any disclosure, copying, distribution or taking action in relation of the contents of this

information is strictly prohibited and may be unlawful.

This email has been scanned for viruses and malware, and may have been automatically archived by Mimecast, a leader in email security and cyber resilience. Mimecast integrates email defenses with brand protection, security awareness training, web security, compliance and other essential capabilities. Mimecast helps protect large and small organizations from malicious activity, human error and technology failure; and to lead the movement toward building a more resilient world. To find out more, visit our website.

Disclaimer

The information contained in this communication from the sender is confidential. It is intended solely for use by the recipient and others authorized to receive it. If you are not the recipient, you are hereby notified that any disclosure, copying, distribution or taking action in relation of the contents of this information is strictly prohibited and may be unlawful.

This email has been scanned for viruses and malware, and may have been automatically archived by Mimecast, a leader in email security and cyber resilience. Mimecast integrates email defenses with brand protection, security awareness training, web security, compliance and other essential capabilities. Mimecast helps protect large and small organizations from malicious activity, human error and technology failure; and to lead the movement toward building a more resilient world. To find out more, visit our website.

Disclaimer

The information contained in this communication from the sender is confidential. It is intended solely for use by the recipient and others authorized to receive it. If you are not the recipient, you are hereby notified that any disclosure, copying, distribution or taking action in relation of the contents of this information is strictly prohibited and may be unlawful.

This email has been scanned for viruses and malware, and may have been automatically archived by Mimecast, a leader in email security and cyber resilience. Mimecast integrates email defenses with brand protection, security awareness training, web security, compliance and other essential capabilities. Mimecast helps protect large and small organizations from malicious activity, human error and technology failure; and to lead the movement toward building a more resilient world. To find out more, visit our website.

Date: Tue, 21 May 2024 11:24:33 AM -0400
Subject: Re: RE: Disappointing tweet from Amy⅕ Maxmen re. a disappointing article in Nature.
From: (b) (6) <(b) (6)
To: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >; Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6)
CC: Roberts, Rich <(b) (6) <(b) (6) (b) (6) (b) (6) Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6) Jeff Sturchio <(b) (6) Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) Alison Andre (b) (6)

Just to put this into perspective – EcoHealth was already referred to the DoJ by Comer in 2021. I heard nothing more. At some point the DoJ has to look at the allegation and decide if there's a case, and what the likelihood of a successful prosecution is. For your emails David, I doubt that either would pass muster, under the Biden admin or should there be a different administration next year. These are administrative issues at best, and an out-of-context quote from an email does not make a case.

10/27/21: Rep. Comer and Jordan (R) publicly announce that they have called on Department of Justice to investigate if EcoHealth Alliance violated federal law by committing "major fraud": https://republicans-oversight.house.gov/wp- content/uploads/2021/10/Letter- to-DOJ-re.-EHA.pdf & https://twitter.com/RepJamesComer/status/1453483967705980943

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: (b) (6)
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

From: (b) (6) <(b) (6)
Sent: Tuesday, May 21, 2024 9:33 AM
To: Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6) >
Cc: Roberts, Rich (b) (6) >; Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >; Keusch, Gerald T (b) (6) ; Alison Andre <(b) (6) >; Jeff Sturchio (b) (6) @ Aleksei Chmura < (b) (6) (b) (6)
Subject: Re: Disappointing tweet from Amy⅕ Maxmen re. a disappointing article in Nature.

I hope you are right but they have apparently already decided to refer me to the justice Department for criminal prosecution. d

Sent from Proton Mail Android

-------- Original Message --------
On 5/21/24 08:16, Hotez, Peter Jay wrote:

> I'm guessing the subcommittee will make good on their stated goal from their official Twitter "to sell popcorn". No one has an actual interest in the content of these proceedings. Once they max out on the subcommittee's propaganda content, they will move on to new faux outrages. Good luck this week!
>
> **Peter Hotez**, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP
>
> **Texas Children's Hospital**: Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics | Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development | Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development
>
> **Baylor College of Medicine:** Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine | Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology | Health Policy Scholar
>
> **Baylor University**, University Professor
> **Rice University**, Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty
> **Texas A&M University**, Faculty-Senior Fellow, Hagler Inst for Advanced Study & Scowcroft Institute of Intl Affairs
>
> E-mail | Twitter | LinkedIn | Skype: (b) (6)
>
> Amazon Author Center | Daily Beast Contributor
>
> **Senior Coordinator & Executive Support:** Douglas Soriano
> (b) (6) | Phone: (b) (6) | Fax: 713-798-2299
>
> **Media Inquiries:**
> (b) (6)
>
> iPhone
>
> On May 21, 2024, at 7:10 AM, (b) (6) <(b) (6)> wrote:
>
> Thanks, Rich and friends. You may not realize how helpful even a few kind words can be at a time like this. I have had a 48 year career in govt. without a hint of scandal, so this is all new to me, and I don't have the skills to deal with it. Your support keeps me going. As we say in Hawaii, Mahalo Nui Loa, which translates as "a great big thanks" d
>
> Sent from Proton Mail Android
>
> -------- Original Message --------
> On 5/21/24 06:07, Roberts, Rich wrote:
>
> David:

Awful. Yet another example where 10,000 politicians at the bottom of the sea would be a good start. They simply have no shame and are likely totally corrupt themselves.

I do believe though that if you stick to the truth you will be OK. Let's hope the general public can see how honest the real government workers are as opposed to the politicians who are supposed to be governing, but who prefer to play political games.

Rich

Richard J. Roberts
New England Biolabs
240 County Road
Ipswich, MA 01938-2723
USA
Tel: (b) (6)
Fax: (978) 412 9910
email: (b) (6) (b) (6)

Executive Assistant: (b) (6)
Tel: (b) (6)
Fax: (978) 412 9910
email: (b) (6) (b) (6)

From: (b) (6) <(b) (6) (b) (6) >
Sent: Monday, May 20, 2024 8:12 PM
To: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >; Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6) >; Keusch, Gerald T <k(b) (6) ; Alison Andre <(b) (6) Jeff Sturchio < J (b) (6) @ ; Roberts, Rich (b) (6) (b) (6)
Cc: (b) (6) Aleksei Chmura (b) (6) (b)
Subject: Re: RE: Disappointing tweet from Amy Maxmen re. a disappointing article in Nature.

EXTERNAL SENDER

Spent about 5 hours with my lawyer today in preparation for my Wednesday testimony. Although he expects I will be skewered with false charges and press releases that will distort the truth, he also is optimistic that what I will say mostly exonerates me, not that the committee will admit that. He says that I should be prepared to be hit with criminal charges and firing and possible jail time for using my Gmail for supposed government business. This is what the committee is pushing for and they are pushing for a Justice Department investigation already.

Please come visit me in prison and help me find a job when I get out. At least if that happens I will finally have the ability to speak out and write about what has been going in. I won't mince words. d

Sent from Proton Mail Android

-------- Original Message --------
On 5/20/24 17:57, Peter Daszak wrote:

> I'll do that – good suggestion Peter

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: (b) (6)
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

---

From: Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6) >
Sent: Monday, May 20, 2024 4:22 PM
To: Peter Daszak (b) (6) >; Keusch, Gerald (b) (6) u>; Alison Andre (b) (6) David Morens <(b) (6) (b) (6) ; Jeffrey Sturchio < (b) (6) Keith Martin <(b) (6) Rich Roberts (b) (6)
Cc: Soriano Osejo, Douglas (b) (6) @ Aleksei Chmura < ch(b) (6) Kathy Chase-Gaudreau <(b) (6)
Subject: Re: Disappointing tweet from Amy Maxmen re. a disappointing article in Nature.

You can write to her and cc me (b) (6)

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP

Texas Children's Hospital: Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics | Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development | **Donate** to Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development

Baylor College of Medicine: Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine | Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology | Health Policy Scholar

Baylor University, University Professor

Rice University, Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty

Texas A&M University, Faculty-Senior Fellow, Hagler Inst for Advanced Study & Scowcroft Institute of Intl Affairs

E-mail | Twitter | LinkedIn | Skype: (b) (6)

Amazon Author Center | Daily Beast Contributor

Senior Coordinator & Executive Support: Douglas Soriano

(b) (6) | Phone: (b) (6) | Fax: 713-798-2299

Media Inquiries:

(b) (6)

From: Peter Daszak (b) (6) @
Sent: Monday, May 20, 2024 3:09 PM
To: Keusch, Gerald (b) (6) >; Alison Andre (b) (6) >; Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6) David Morens <(b) (6) (b) (6) ; Jeffrey Sturchio < (b) (6) Keith Martir (b) (6) ; Rich Roberts (b) (6)
Cc: Soriano Osejo, Douglas <(b) (6) @ Aleksei Chmura < (b) (6) ; Kathy Chase-Gaudreau <(b) (6)
Subject: Disappointing tweet from Amy Maxmen re. a disappointing article in Nature.

CAUTION: This email is not from a BCM Source. Only click links or open attachments you know are safe.**

Shame to see Amy Maxmen following the trend of the article in Nature that seems to just parrot what the Democrats on the SSCP said - EcoHealth did something wrong, but they didn't cause COVID-19.

Of course, we were not given a chance to respond to allegations on the day, and now that they've moved forward with a Suspension pending debarment proceedings, we have to respond to the HHS first on a legal matter, then can talk publicly.

Amy's tweet is below, and my response (trying to be as diplomatic as possible).

<image001.jpg>

Amy Maxmen, PhD

@amymaxmen
5h
EcoHealth Alliance didn't comply with NIH granting conditions, eg not sending regular updates on its research. Without repercussions, those rules are meaningless. https://nature.com/articles/d41586- 024-01460-3… The problem is when public/media interprets this to say anything about where Covid began.
<image002.jpg>

US halts funding to controversial virus-hunting group: what researchers think

From nature.com
1.2K

<image003.jpg>

Peter Daszak
@PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance has repeatedly refuted allegations that it "didn't comply" & has yet to respond to the HHS letter. Calling for "repercussions" seems premature until some level of due process has played out. Let's hear the argument against debarment before we all move on.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: (b) (6)
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

From: Peter Daszak (b) (6)

Sent: Monday, May 20, 2024 1:36 PM
To: 'Keusch, Gerald' <(b) (6) Alison Andre (b) (6) @ >; 'Hotez, Peter Jay' <(b) (6) 'David Morens' (b) (6) ; 'Jeffrey Sturchio' < (b) (6) 'Keith Martin' (b) (6) ; 'Rich Roberts' <roberts@(b) (6)
Cc: 'Soriano Osejo, Douglas' (b) (6) ; Aleksei Chmura < (b) (6) 'Kathy Chase-Gaudreau' <(b) (6)
Subject: Testimony by David Morens, Ralph Baric, Peter Daszak

Here are testimonies by David, myself, and Ralph Baric. David had to go through this twice because his first interview was cut short when lawyers for NIH objected to the SSCPs line of questioning.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: +(b) (6)
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

---

From: Keusch, Gerald (b) (6)
Sent: Monday, May 20, 2024 11:49 AM
To: Alison Andre (b) (6) (b) (6) David Morens (b) (6) effrey Sturch (b) (6) ; Keith Martin < (b) (6) ; Rich Roberts (b) (6) 6) (b) (6) ; Aleksei Chmura < (b) (6) Peter Daszak (b) (6) Kathy Chase-Gaudreau (b) (6) >
Subject: RE: Meeting Thursday or Friday this week

Thursday before 1 pm works. Friday is iffy and probably a no for me.

Jerry

From: Alison Andre (b) (6)
Sent: Monday, May 20, 2024 11:14 AM
To: Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6) ; Keusch, Gerald (b) (6) David Morens <
(b) (6) >; Jeffrey Sturchio (b) (6) ; Keith Martin <
Rich Roberts (b) (6)
Cc: Soriano Osejo, Douglas (b) (6) ; Aleksei Chmura <
(b) (6) ; Peter Daszak (b) (6) ; Kathy Chase-
Gaudreau (b) (6) >
Subject: Meeting Thursday or Friday this week

Dear All,

We'd like to schedule another meeting on Thursday May 23 or Friday May 24 this week. Could you please take a moment to indicate your availability below?

https://calendly.com/d/cp3y-mxp-j7h/small-group-meeting

Thank you,
Alison

--

Alison Andre

Executive Assistant to the President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Ave, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018

(b) (6) (direct)
1.212.380.4465 (fax)
www.ecohealthalliance.org

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation.

Date:	Sun, 5 Sep 2021 2:32:54 PM -0400
Subject:	RE: FW: ASF --- foia
From:	Peter Daszak <(b) (6)
To:	Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] <(b) (6) Robert Kessler <(b) (6) >; Keusch, Jerry <(b) (6)
Attachments:	image001.gif; image002.jpg; image003.jpg; image004.jpg; image005.png; image013.png; image021.png; image022.png; image023.png; image024.png; image025.png; image026.png; image027.png; image028.png; image029.png; image030.png; image031.png; image032.png; image033.png; image034.png; image035.png

You're right – at some point this becomes soboring and repetitive that it doesn't get traction, but some of these reporters are really good at making up stories – check out this doozie below…

https://thenationalpulse.com/breaking/daszak-deletes-tweet-from-wuhan-fauci-conerence/

I deleted it after the lab leakers started their craziness because it has Zhengli's email address in it. The fact that I was at the conference is public knowledge and I regularly mention it to reporters – it was December 2019 just before the first cases of COVID were happening.

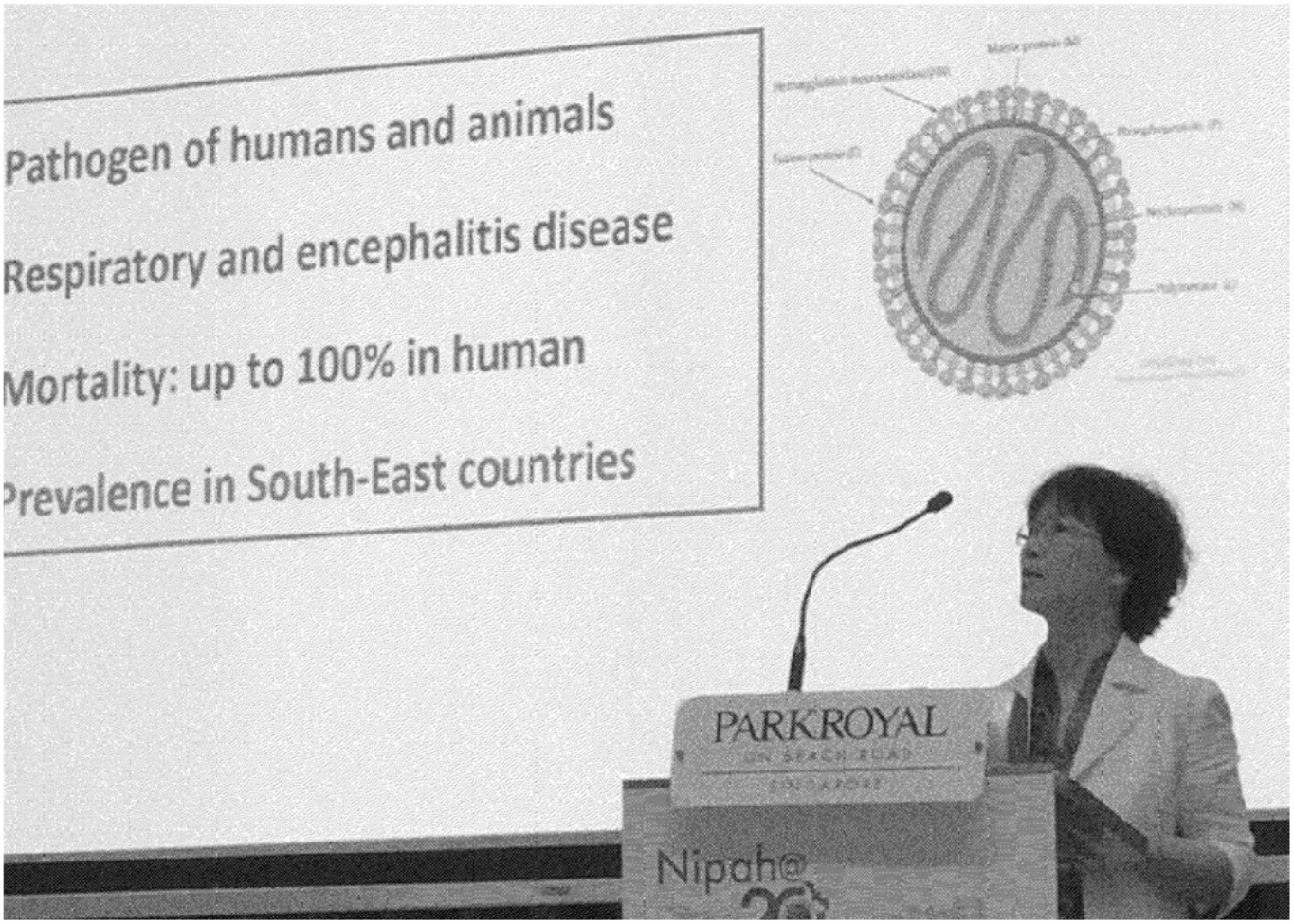
Cheers,

Peter

EcoHealth's Peter Daszak Deletes Tweet Revealing Wuhan Lab Researchers At Fauci-Funded Conference.

AUGUST 28, 2021 NATALIE WINTERS

MORENS_SUBPOENA_013724
MORENS_NIH_025889
REL0000482142



SHARE THIS NEWS

EcoHealth Alliance President Peter Daszak – the disgraced proponent of the COVID-19 "natural origins" theory and longtime collaborator of the Chinese Communist Party – deleted a tweet revealing his attendance at an event sponsored by Anthony Fauci's National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases featuring Wuhan Institute of Virology researchers.

Posted on December 10th, 2019, just weeks before the Chinese government reported its first case of COVID-19, the tweet revealed Daszak's attendance at the Nipah Virus International Conference in Singapore.

"The two-day session was co-hosted by Duke-NUS Medical School (Duke-NUS) and the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations (CEPI). Also listed as organizers are the World Health Organization and the National Institute of Allergy

MORENS_SUBPOENA_013725
MORENS_NIH_025890
REL0000482142

and Infectious Diseases," reports the site Some Bitch Told Me. CEPI was founded with a sizable investment from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.

In the now-deleted tweet, Daszak details how Shi Zhengli, the Wuhan Institute of Virology's "bat lady," calls for "open and transparent international scientific collaboration on pandemic risk pathogens" at her lab's Biosafety Level 4 (BSL-4) facility. He follows up with a slide explaining how "you can train in the BSL-4 lab in Wuhan."

Peter Daszak @PeterDaszak · 10 Dec 2019

Zhengli Shi from the Wuhan Inst of Virology describing open and transparent international scientific collaboration on pandemic risk pathogens like #Nipah at their BSL-4 lab

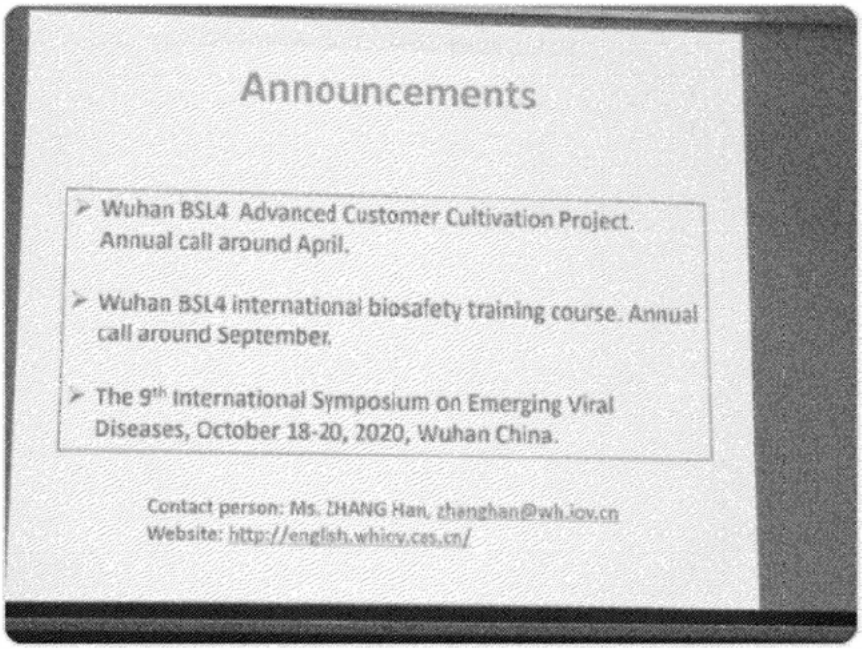


2 7

Peter Daszak
@PeterDaszak

Follow

You can train in the BSL-4 lab in Wuhan - see details below



1:08 AM - 10 Dec 2019

NOW-DELETED TWEET.

Daszak's deletion of the tweet follows The National Pulse unearthing the scientist's extensive conflicts of interest with the Chinese Communist Party and its Wuhan Institute of Virology. These ties ultimately led to his recusal from the *Lancet*

MORENS_SUBPOENA_013727
MORENS_NIH_025892
REL0000482142

COVID-19 commission, where he used his position to discredit the "lab leak" theory and spread disinformation about the origins of the virus.

The unearthed post also follows Fauci, whose NIAID sponsored the event, denying affiliation with the Wuhan lab.

SHARE THIS NEWS

Should Joe Biden Resign? *

- Not Sure
- No
- Yes

Your e-mail is required to confirm your vote. This is to stop spammers. If you use a fake email, your vote won't be counted.

Email *

Submit



Natalie Winters

Natalie Winters is an Investigative Reporter at the National Pulse and contributor to The National Pulse podcast.

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: (b) (6)
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

From: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b) (6) >
Sent: Sunday, September 5, 2021 1:34 PM
To: Peter Daszak (b) (6) >; Robert Kessler (b) (6) g>; Keusch, Jerry < (b) (6)
Subject: Re: FW: ASF--- foia

But I think that's the important thing: since there is nothing to find, there is little they can do with it. Maybe at some point these nutters will move on to another conspiracy.... d

On 9/5/2021 1:19 PM, Peter Daszak wrote:

> Thanks for the heads-up. The 900 pages of grant material I think is the stuff we've been processing through with our lawyers. It includes the full proposal for our grant in China, reports etc. as well as our current U01. It's extremely

upsetting that these will now be dragged through the mud, but the truth is, there's nothing unusual or embarrassing in there – everything is completely normal and above board, and both were highly scored by reviewers.

In my view, this sort of stuff isn't going to get them the same level of interest that it did at the beginning of summer, so hopefully this will be another non-event, but let's see what drama they can dream up from it.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: +(b) (6)
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

From: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] <(b) (6)
Sent: Sunday, September 5, 2021 1:07 PM
To: Peter Daszak (b) (6) >; Robert Kessler (b) (6) >; Keusch, Jerry < (b) (6)
Subject: Fwd: FW: ASF --- foia

Peter, have a stiffdrink before you read. But do not worry, this is thd new normal and there will be no "there" there..... d

-------- Forwarded Message --------
Subject: FW: ASF --- foia
Date: Sun, 5 Sep 2021 16:57:49 +0000
From: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E](<c
To: David Morens (b) (6)

David

David M. Morens, M.D.
CAPT, United States Public Health Service
Senior Advisor to the Director
Office of the Director
National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases
National Institutes of Health

MORENS_SUBPOENA_013729
MORENS_NIH_025894
REL0000482142

Building 31, Room 7A-03
31 Center Drive, MSC 2520
Be 20892-2520
(b) (6) assistant: Whitney Robinson)
(b) (6)

Disclaimer: This message is intended for the exclusive use of the recipient(s) named above. It may contain information that is PROTECTED, PRIVILEGED, and/or CONFIDENTIAL, and it should not be disseminated, distributed, or copied to persons not authorized to receive such information. All sensitive documents must be properly labeled before dissemination via email. If you are not the intended recipient, any dissemination, distribution, or copying is strictly prohibited. If you have received this communication in error, please erase all copies of the message and its attachments and notify us immediately.



From: Folkers, Greg (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b) (6)
Sent: Friday, September 3, 2021 9:29 AM
To: NIAID OD AM <NIAIDODAM@niaid.nih.gov>
Subject: RE: ASF --- foia

Further on FOIA

900 pages of EcoHealth Alliance grant materials are going out (with redactions) today under a lawsuit with First Look Institute (The Intercept). In OD.

ASF — I do not think you need to look at this

Also, as folks may be aware, and apropos of my email late last night, Congress does not have to go through the FOIA. So the tranche from last night was not in the usual NIH FOIA channel.

From: Folkers, Greg (NIH/NIAID) [E]
Sent: Friday, September 3, 2021 12:09 AM
To: NIAIDODAM@niaid.nih.gov <NIAIDODAM@niaid.nih.gov>
Subject: ASF --- foia

We have closely monitored foia document releases with an eye toward items that are new/different/potentially problematic in terms of people using them to cause mischief. Nothing recently has fallen into those categories

NOW -- What is new and will be released soon, perhaps tomorrow

Unredacted emails requested by minority members of House Committee on Oversight and Reform

In OD, please see

HOGR minority requested emails 9/2/2021 9:03 PM

ASF I think it would be helpful for you to eyball **all** the redacted emails now being released in un-redacted form

MORENS_SUBPOENA_013730
MORENS_NIH_025895
REL0000482142

For instance, for this entry, look at at the top one

NIH 2157 - 2161
NIH 2157 - 2161 redacted

We have gone through these, and the ones that might be worth a first look are:

- 2157-2161
- 2314-2324
- #14 and 15

Disclaimer: Any third-party material in this email has been shared for internal use under fair use provisions of U.S. copyright law, without further verification of its accuracy/veracity. It does not necessarily represent my views nor those of NIAID, NIH, HHS, or the U.S. government.

Disclaimer

The information contained in this communication from the sender is confidential. It is intended solely for use by the recipient and others authorized to receive it. If you are not the recipient, you are hereby notified that any disclosure, copying, distribution or taking action in relation of the contents of this information is strictly prohibited and may be unlawful.

This email has been scanned for viruses and malware, and may have been automatically archived by Mimecast, a leader in email security and cyber resilience. Mimecast integrates email defenses with brand protection, security awareness training, web security, compliance and other essential capabilities. Mimecast helps protect large and small organizations from malicious activity, human error and technology failure; and to lead the movement toward building a more resilient world. To find out more, visit our website.

Date: Sun, 7 Aug 2022 3:41:53 PM -0400
Sent: Sun, 7 Aug 2022 3:41:45 PM -0400
Subject: Re: Reporter request for comment
From: "Hotez, Peter Jay" <(b) (6)
To: Roberts, Rich <(b) (6) >;
CC: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >; Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) >; David Morens <(b) (6) >; Gerald T Keusch <(b) (6) Jeffrey Sturchio <(b) (6) >;

Found this

https://www.thedailybeast.com/us- right-to-know-fave-mainstream-media-source-is-funded-by-anti-vaxxers

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP
Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine
Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology
Health Policy Scholar
Baylor College of Medicine

Texas Children's Hospital Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics
Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development

University Professor, Baylor University

Faculty Fellow, Hagler Institute for Advanced Study
Senior Fellow, Scowcroft Institute of International Affairs
Texas A&M University
Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty and Adjunct Professor of Bioengineering, Rice University
Adjunct Professor, University of Texas, School of Public Health

Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

E-mail: (b) (6)
Twitter: @peterhotez
Skype: (b) (6)
Linkedin Peter Hotez

Amazon Author Center: https://www.amazon.com/Peter- J.-Hotez/e/B001HPIC48
Daily Beast Contributor https://www.thedailybeast.com/author/peter- j-hotez
Like us on Facebook https://www.facebook.com/BCMNationalSchoolOfTropicalMedicine/

Senior Coordinator / Executive Support: Douglas Soriano
(b) (6)
Phone: (b)
Fax: 713-798-2299

iPhone

On Aug 7, 2022, at 2:32 PM, Roberts, Rich <(b) (6) > wrote:

Peter:

They're never going to stop.

Rich

Richard J. Roberts
New England Biolabs
240 County Road
Ipswich, MA 01938-2723
USA
Tel (b) (6)
Fax: (978) 412 9910
email (b) (6)

From: Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6)
Sent: Sunday, August 7, 2022 3:15 PM
To: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) David Morens <(b) (6) Gerald T Keusch <(b) (6) Jeffrey Sturchio <(b) (6) Roberts, Rich <(b) (6)
Subject: Fwd: Reporter request for comment

EXTERNAL SENDER

Here's a new one

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP
Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine
Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology
Health Policy Scholar
Baylor College of Medicine

Texas Children's Hospital Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics
Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development

University Professor, Baylor University

Faculty Fellow, Hagler Institute for Advanced Study
Senior Fellow, Scowcroft Institute of International Affairs
Texas A&M University
Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty and Adjunct Professor of Bioengineering, Rice University
Adjunct Professor, University of Texas, School of Public Health

Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

E-mail: (b) (6)
Twitter: @peterhotez
Skype: (b) (6)

MORENS_SUBPOENA_009329
MORENS_NIH_019784
REL0000482143

Linkedin Peter Hotez

Amazon Author Center: https://www.amazon.com/Peter- J.-Hotez/e/B001HPIC48
Daily Beast Contributor https://www.thedailybeast.com/author/peter- j-hotez
Like us on Facebook https://www.facebook.com/BCMNationalSchoolOfTropicalMedicine/

Senior Coordinator / Executive Support: Douglas Soriano
(b) (6)
Phone: (b) (6)
Fax: 71

iPhone
Begin forwarded message:

From: Emily Kopp <emily@usrtk.org>
Date: August 7, 2022
To: "Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6)
Subject: Reporter request for comment

*****CAUTION:*** This email is not from a BCM Source. Only click links or open attachments you know are safe.**

Dr. Hotez,

I received an anonymous tip regarding an apparent conflict of interest relevant to your criticism of the GOP investigation into the possibility that a lab accident sparked the pandemic.

The tipster pointed out that your grant to develop a SARS vaccine was in part motivated by the possibility that a lab accident or bioterrorist attack could result in a SARS outbreak.

Questions:

1. Could you please clarify why you believe the lab origin theory of SARS-CoV-2 is ridiculous pseudoscience, even though you did research under the presumption that a SARS-like virus escaping from a laboratory was possible? Taxpayers devoted $1.6 million in funding toward that project - was it under pseudoscientific pretenses?

2. Could you clarify your involvement in this research project underwritten by both your grant and EcoHealth Alliance's controversial "understanding the risk of bat coronavirus emergence" grant? Do you have a personal or professional relationship with Shi Zhengli? What about Peter Daszak? Have you ever funded or co-funded research at the Wuhan Institute of Virology?

Thank you,

--
Emily Kopp
Reporter
U.S. Right to Know
Signal (b) (6)

MORENS_SUBPOENA_009330
MORENS_NIH_019785
REL0000482143



MORENS_SUBPOENA_009331
MORENS_NIH_019786
REL0000482143

Date: Sun, 6 Jun 2021 11:55:52 PM -0400
Sent: Sun, 6 Jun 2021 11:53:58 PM -0400
Subject: RE: ASF and all this may come up in interviews
From: Peter Daszak <(b) (6)
To: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] <(b) (6) Keusch, Jerry <(b) (6) Rich Roberts <(b) (6) Taubenberger, Jeffery (NIH/NIAID) [E] <(b) (6)
Attachments: image001.gif; image002.jpg; Anthony Fauci_ America's doctor under siege _ Financial Times.pdf

Wonderful that you're able to get information up the chain and I'm really relieved and hope that it will be useful and that this won't be weaponized politically.

The quote came out in the Financial Times on Saturday (attached PDF). The relevant quote is here:

'But he [Fauci] also admits that some of the work undertaken at the Wuhan lab using NIH money could have violated safety standards — even if he says responsibility for that lies with EcoHealth Alliance, the non-governmental group that performed the work. "We will have to go back and look at that," he said of accusations that some of the coronavirus work was undertaken at biosafety level two, roughly equivalent to that in a dentist's office. "But that is something that should have been monitored by EcoHealth Alliance." EcoHealth Alliance said: "As with all research organisations, EcoHealth Alliance must follow the local laws of the countries in which we work."'

Of course, for EHA this is very concerning because even though we've followed the appropriate rules, their complexity means that the public may not understand, and when you add comments like the journalists have above: "work…could have violated safety standards", it's just used to cast doubt and try and besmirch our name as usual.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: (b) (6)
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

From: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b) (6) >
Sent: Saturday, June 5, 2021 11:43 AM
k (b) (6) >; Keusch, Jerry (b) (6)
(b) (6) rt(b) (6) >; Taubenberger, Jeffery (NIH/NIAID) [E] <
(b) (6) >
Subject: FW: ASF and all this may come up in interviews

Peter, the below CONFIDENTIAL email went to Tony and to our OD staff, so that Tony will be prepared to speak to the subject of BSL…

This was what I was typing up when we spoke last night. I am sure he will "get" this and be able to respond to the crazies if necessary….

MORENS_SUBPOENA_014774
MORENS_NIH_030427
REL0000482151

David

David M. Morens, M.D.
CAPT, United States Public Health Service
Senior Advisor to the Director
Office of the Director
National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases
National Institutes of Health
Building 31, Room 7A-03
31 Center Drive, MSC 2520
Bethesda, MD 20892-2520
(b) (6) (assistant: Whitney Robinson)
(b) (6)

Disclaimer: This message is intended for the exclusive use of the recipient(s) named above. It may contain information that is PROTECTED, PRIVILEGED, and/or CONFIDENTIAL, and it should not be disseminated, distributed, or copied to persons not authorized to receive such information. All sensitive documents must be properly labeled before dissemination via email. If you are not the intended recipient, any dissemination, distribution, or copying is strictly prohibited. If you have received this communication in error, please erase all copies of the message and its attachments and notify us immediately.



From: Folkers, Greg (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b) (6) v >
Sent: Friday, June 4, 2021 9:36 PM
To: NIAID OD AM <NIA >; Billet, Courtney (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b) (6) >; Routh, Jennifer (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b) (6) ; Stover, Kathy (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b) (6)
Subject: ASF and all this may come up in interviews

In the recent Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists article, we have this quote

"It is clear that some or all of this work was being performed using a biosafety standard—biosafety level 2, the biosafety level of a standard US dentist's office—that would pose an unacceptably high risk of infection of laboratory staff upon contact with a virus having the transmission properties of SARS-CoV-2…."

My understanding is that human coronaviruses including sarbecoviruses are routinely worked at in BSL-2 around the world as are many other viruses that can cause problems for people. The BSL level designation is decided by each country and is not related to perceived pandemic potential but largely to risk to the BSL workers.

MORENS_SUBPOENA_014775
MORENS_NIH_030428
REL0000482151

For example, BSL-4 designation generally means deadly virus, infectious by aerosol, no vaccine against it, and no treatment for it. So, although rabies is 100% fatal in humans, it can be prevented by a vaccine and prevented by a post exposure serum, and (probably if not totally) not infectious by aerosol, thus it is BSL-2 even though among the deadliest of human viruses. Working with non-human coronaviruses at BSL-2 is widespread since these viruses are not known to infect humans.

David, Alan and others may have additional thoughts.

Attached is a fact sheet that I think comes from Ec~Health

Disclaimer

The information contained in this communication from the sender is confidential. It is intended solely for use by the recipient and others authorized to receive it. If you are not the recipient, you are hereby notified that any disclosure, copying, distribution or taking action in relation of the contents of this information is strictly prohibited and may be unlawful.

This email has been scanned for viruses and malware, and may have been automatically archived by Mimecast, a leader in email security and cyber resilience. Mimecast integrates email defenses with brand protection, security awareness training, web security, compliance and other essential capabilities. Mimecast helps protect large and small organizations from malicious activity, human error and technology failure; and to lead the movement toward building a more resilient world. To find out more, visit our website.

Date: Mon, 8 Mar 2021 10:03:45 AM -0500
Sent: Mon, 8 Mar 2021 10:03:44 AM -0500
Subject: Yet another article
From: Peter Daszak <(b) (6)
To: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] <(b) (6) Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6) Kessler Robert <(b) (6) >;

Josh rogin, who drama-queened up the state dept cables about their Wuhan visit now had a book and he's touting it in an excerpt in politico todsy.

It's one hit piece a day at this point!

https://www.politico.com/news/magazine/2021/03/08/josh-_rogin-chaos-under-heaven-wuhan-lab-book-excerpt-474322

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
(Sent from my iPhone)

President
EcoHealth Alliance

460 West 34th Street, New York, NY 10001, USA

www.EcoHealthAlliance.org

> On Feb 25, 2021, at 6:53 PM, Peter Daszak <(b) (6) > wrote:
>
> Just going through your emails over last few days. It turns out that this is the source of the annoying letter from the Republicans – complete misinterpretation of the facts – WIV is eligible, but no contracts are current or pending. The R wing press and Trumpian republicans then used this to try to attack NIH-WIV-EHA again, no doubt to have another dig at Tony Fauci, and play to their base.
>
> I also saw Pompeo had an Opinion in the WSJ attacking the Wuhan lab again… Tedious…
>
> Cheers,
>
> Peter

MORENS_SUBPOENA_012412
MORENS_NIH_023613
REL0000482153

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: (b) (6)
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

---

From: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] <(b) (6) >
Sent: Monday, February 22, 2021 12:24 PM
To: Peter Daszak ((b) (6)) (6) >; Keusch, Gerald T <
(b) (6)
Subject: FW: NY Post: Wuhan lab at heart of COVID outbreak may get three more years of US funding

<image002.gif>

David M. Morens, M.D.
CAPT, United States Public Health Service
Senior Advisor to the Director
Office of the Director
National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases
National Institutes of Health
Building 31, Room 7A-03
31 Center Drive, MSC 2520
Bethesda, MD 20892-2520
(b) (6) assistant: Whitney Robinson)
(b) (6)

Disclaimer: **This message is intended for the exclusive use of the recipient(s) named above. It may contain information that is PROTECTED, PRIVILEGED, and/or CONFIDENTIAL, and it should not be disseminated, distributed, or copied to persons not authorized to receive such information. All sensitive documents must be properly labeled before dissemination via email. If you are not the intended recipient, any dissemination, distribution, or copying is strictly prohibited. If you have received this communication in error, please erase all copies of the message and its attachments and notify us immediately.**

<image003.jpg>

From: Folkers, Greg (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b) (6) >
Sent: Monday, February 22, 2021 8:34 AM
Subject: NY Post: Wuhan lab at heart of COVID outbreak may get three more years of US funding

Wuhan lab at heart of COVID outbreak may get three more years of US funding

By Post Editorial Board
February 21, 2021 | 5:37pm | Updated

MORENS_SUBPOENA_012413
MORENS_NIH_023614
REL0000482153

Enlarge Image

The Wuhan Institute of Virology in Wuhan, China. Photo by HECTOR RETAMAL/AFP via Getty Images

The Wuhan Institute of Virology remains the most likely source of the coronavirus pandemic, yet it is set to receive US taxpayer dollars for the next three years. Worse, the cash will fund more animal research.

The National Institutes of Health told the Daily Caller that the Wuhan lab has an active Foreign Assurance file that authorizes it for US funding until 2024. When the virus first broke out, the Wuhan Institute had reportedly been testing coronaviruses in bats with $600,000 of US funding routed via the nonprofit EcoHealth Alliance.

The NIH terminated that EcoHealth grant, with the promise to restore it if an independent investigation cleared the Wuhan Institute of involvement in the outbreak. Now a World Health Organization delegation tasked with investigating the lab has preliminarily concluded that a leak was "extremely unlikely," which may let the contract resume. Never mind that the head of the WHO and the US State Department remain unwilling to rule out that possibility.

Here's where it gets really swampy: Not only did the WHO delegation fail to do its own investigation, merely accepting reports from China's government, the WHO team's only American member happens to be the EcoHealth Alliance's president, Peter Daszak — who demands that Washington unequivocally accept the delegation's findings. (This also tells you how pathetic the whole WHO investigation was.)

Anthony Bellotti, who heads nonpartisan watchdog group White Coat Waste Project, called for EcoHealth to be stripped of funding and asked Congress to finally conduct a real investigation into how the pandemic really started.

If this grant goes ahead, you'll know the Biden administration is committed to restoring Washington business-as-usual in all its disgusting ingloriousness.

Filed under Coronavirus , editorial , taxpayers , world health organization , 2/21/21

Disclaimer: Any third-party material in this email has been shared for internal use under fair use provisions of U.S. copyright law, without further verification of its accuracy/veracity. It does not necessarily represent my views nor those of NIAID, NIH, HHS, or the U.S. government.

Date: Wed, 5 Oct 2022 7:12:47 AM -0400
Sent: Wed, 5 Oct 2022 7:12:33 AM -0400
Subject: Re: A barrage of attacks against EHA in last week
From: "Hotez, Peter Jay" <(b) (6)
To: Peter Daszak <(b) (6)
CC: Roberts, Rich <(b) (6) Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6) David Morens <(b) (6) Chmura <(b) (6) Jeff Sturchio <(b) (6)
Attachments: image001.jpg; image001.jpg

Hopefully as these real papers emerge, we can simply state the GOF and lab leak hypotheses are little more than scientific fraud, I'm starting to call it a 21st century version of Piltdown Man.

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP

Texas Children's Hospital: Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics | Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development | Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

Baylor College of Medicine: Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine | Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology | Health Policy Scholar

Baylor University, University Professor
Rice University, Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty
Texas A&M University, Faculty-Senior Fellow, Hagler Inst for Advanced Study & Scowcroft Institute of Intl Affairs

E-mail | Twitter | LinkedIn | Skype: (b) (6)
Amazon Author Center | Daily Beast Contributor

Senior Coordinator & Executive Support: Douglas Soriano
(b) (6) | Phone: (b) (6) | Fax: 713-798-2299

Media Inquiries:
(b) (6)

On Oct 5, 2022, at 12:31 AM, Peter Daszak <(b) (6) > wrote:

I don't know if you're seeing any of the bad press we've been getting in the last few days, but it's been a rollercoaster week for us here.

On the one hand, NIH has finally reversed the suspension of our China R01! We're currently renegotiating the terms, albeit without the capacity to collaborate with the WIV. We also got the notice of award on a new R01 to work in Vietnam, Laos and Myanmar to conduct human sampling in communities and clinics, and sampling of bats to identify the risk factors and degree of bat-CoV spillover in the region. Both are great news for us, but as soon as NIH put this on their public website, the harassment started.

We've now had articles in the Daily Mail, US Right to Know, The Intercept, https://theintercept.com/2022/10/04/ecohealth-alliance-lab-leak-nih-grant/?utm_source=twitter&utm_medium=social

&utm_campaign=theintercept

.. and just now in the Financial Times criticizing the govt for funding us.
https://www.ft.com/content/5504ad3a- eef2-49eb-b8dc-2a417d6f711c

One particularly hurtful quote in the FT is from Andrew Weber, who we previously had as a speaker at one of EcoHealth's Cosmos Club events in DC:
"Andrew Weber, who was assistant secretary of defence in the Obama administration and is now a senior fellow at the Council on Strategic Risks, called the work **'reckless, risky research with virtually no benefit to humanity'".** I get it that he has a political agenda, but surely anyone with half a brain can see that there's a benefit to finding out what viruses are spilling over from wildlife into people, particularly when they belong to the same viral clade as the one that caused SARS and COVID, and are infecting 60,000 people a year in SE Asia. What small minded person would allow politics to cloud their logic so blatantly.

We've also got Sen. Joni Ernst filing a bill to defund EcoHealth of all federal funding, and letters back and forth from the usual suspects (Republican members of Congress and Senators) attacking us with wild accusations of coverups and nefarious behavior.

Add to that a GAO request for a pile of documents (because Republicans asked them), and our first subpoena for documents. These last two mean weeks of work digging through emails, files and records, all for naught…

..and finally a disingenuous letter to NIH and CDC that cites a pile of BS about EcoHealth as an excuse to get CDC and NIH to review biosafety of field programs that work with wildlife – part of a growing anti-science luddism that threatens to close down our work and many others: https://republicans-energycommerce.house.gov/news/ec- republicans-press-nih-and-cdc-over-safetv-gaps-with-virus-hunting-to-prevent-next-pandemic/

Looks like we're in for a rough road ahead…

One silver lining – the Honorable Dr. Fauci defending NIH's decision to fund our new R01 in a podcast:
https://video.twimg.com/ext_tw_video/1577400180067995659/pu/vid/1284x720/KIyqU6NOK7zjvYio.mp4?tag=12

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: (b) (6)
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

From: Roberts, Ric (b) (6)

Sent: Monday, October 3, 2022 6:55 PM
To: Keusch, Gerald T (b) (6) ; Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6) >; Peter Daszak <
(b) (6) >
Cc: David Morens (b) (6) >; Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) >; Jeff Sturchio <
(b) (6)
Subject: RE: Jeff Sachs accuses US of blowing up the Nordstream pipelines last week....

Jerry et al.

I am at a meeting in Japan and have been talking with Joe Stiglitz and his wife (b) (6) who knows Jeff well.(b) (6) e (b) (6) . I will be meeting with them later today and this is one of several items we will discuss.

Rich

Richard J. Roberts
New England Biolabs
240 County Road
Ipswich, MA 01938-2723
USA
Tel: (b) (6)
Fax: (978) 412 9910
email: (b) (6)

From: Keusch, Gerald T (b) (6) >
Sent: Monday, October 3, 2022 6:18 PM
To: Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6) >; Peter Daszak (b) (6)
Cc: David Morens (b) (6) ; Aleksei Chmura (b) (6) >; Roberts, Rich <
(b) (6) Jeff Sturchio <j (b) (6)
Subject: RE: Jeff Sachs accuses US of blowing up the Nordstream pipelines last week....

EXTERNAL SENDER

Just got word this afternoon from PNAS that it will appear as early as next Monday, October 10, and that the embargo ends that afternoon, although it may actually appear in any issue next week. Seems a bit strange to me, but the key is its no longer embargoed and will be in the journal next week.

That's an interesting suggestion Peter to compile a packet of key papers. The two questions are which papers, and what do we do with the packet?
As far as Jeff Sachs is concerned nothing surprises me any more. To his credit, he didn't accuse aliens working for the US Space Force of doing – maybe that's the next interview.

Jerry

From: Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6) >
Sent: Monday, October 3, 2022 3:22 PM
To: Peter Daszak (b) (6)
Cc: David Morens (b) (6) >; Keusch, Gerald T (b) (6) Aleksei Chmura <
(b) (6) @ >; Rich Roberts (b) (6) >; Jeff Sturchio (b) (6)
Subject: Re: Jeff Sachs accuses US of blowing up the Nordstream pipelines last week....

I saw the Garry rebuttal paper in PNAS which I thought was excellent. What about your paper Jerry? Should all these papers be put together in a packet?

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP

Texas Children's Hospital: Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics | Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development | Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

Baylor College of Medicine: Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine | Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology | Health Policy Scholar

Baylor University, University Professor
Rice University, Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty
Texas A&M University, Faculty-Senior Fellow, Hagler Inst for Advanced Study & Scowcroft Institute of Intl Affairs

E-mail | Twitter | LinkedIn | Skype: (b) (6)

Amazon Author Center | Daily Beast Contributor

Senior Coordinator & Executive Support: Douglas Soriano
(b) (6) | Phone: (b) (6) | Fax: 713-798-2299

Media Inquiries:
(b) (6)
(b) (6)

iPhone

On Oct 3, 2022, at 2:15 PM, Peter Daszak (b) (6) > wrote:

*****CAUTION:*** This email is not from a BCM Source. Only click links or open attachments you know are safe.**

Looks like he's deep in conspiracy land on a number of issues:

https://video.twimg.com/ext_tw_video/1576915780515553282/pu/vid/1280x720/0aRcMZC6LHGNHa7-.mp4?tag=12

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

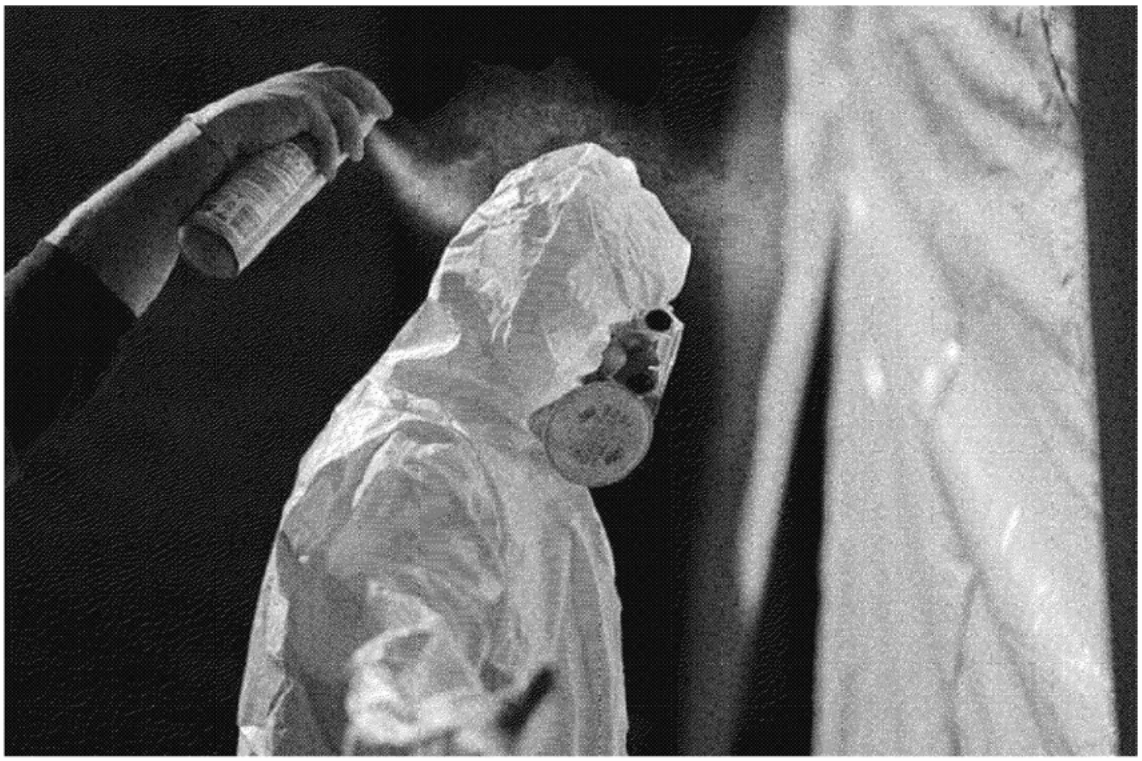
EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: (b) (6)
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

From: David Morens <(b) (6)
Sent: Monday, October 3, 2022 6:43 AM
To: Gerald Keusch (b) (6) >; Peter Daszak (b) (6) Aleksei Chmura < (b) (6) Peter Hotez (b) (6) Rich Roberts (b) (6) Jeff Sturchio (b)
Subject: Fwd: NYT book review: Scientists Knew More About Covid-19 Than We Think. And They Still Do./In "Breathless," David Quammen explores the predictable lead-up to the global Covid pandemic, and the frantic, belated attempts to stop it.

Sent from my iPhone
David M Morens
OD, NIAID, NIH
Begin forwarded message:

> **From:** "Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E]" <(b) (6) >
> **Date:** October 3, 2022 at 06:42:51 EDT
> **To:** David Morens (b) (6) >
> **Subject: Fwd: NYT book review: Scientists Knew More About Covid-19 Than We Think. And They Still Do./In "Breathless," David Quammen explores the predictable lead-up to the global Covid pandemic, and the frantic, belated attempts to stop it.**
>
> Sent from my iPhone
> David M Morens
> OD, NIAID, NIH
> Begin forwarded message:
>
> > **From:** "Folkers, Greg (NIH/NIAID) [E]" (b) (6)
> > **Date:** October 2, 2022 at 22:54:29 EDT
> > **Subject: NYT book review: Scientists Knew More About Covid-19 Than We Think. And They Still Do./In "Breathless," David Quammen explores the predictable lead-up to the global Covid pandemic, and the frantic, belated attempts to stop it.**
> >
> > # Scientists Knew More About Covid-19 Than We Think. And They Still Do.
> >
> > In "Breathless," David Quammen explores the predictable lead-up to the global Covid pandemic, and the frantic, belated attempts to stop it.



New Jersey first responder Robert Sabia being decontaminated after answering a call in March, 2020.Credit...Chang W. Lee/The New York Times

By Michael Sims
Oct. 1, 2022

"Nobody," Donald Trump claimed in a March 2020 address, "had any idea." He was talking about the Covid virus — which had, seemingly overnight, sparked a global pandemic. In his compelling and terrifying new book, "Breathless: The Scientific Race to Defeat a Deadly Virus," the veteran science journalist David Quammen demonstrates just how much was known — and expected — by infectious disease scientists long before patrons of the Huanan Seafood Wholesale Market fell ill in December 2019 with a pneumonia-like virus.

"Soothsayer" isn't on Quammen's extensive résumé, but he was among those who had long predicted this kind of catastrophe. In 2012 he provided a field guide to the future, "Spillover," whose subtitle — "Animal Infections and the Next Human Pandemic" — explains exactly what the scientific community had long been expecting.

"This is a book about the science of SARS-CoV-2," he specifies in his new book. "The medical crisis of Covid-19, the heroism of health care workers and other people performing essential services, the unjustly distributed human suffering, and the egregious political malfeasance that made it all worse — those are topics for other books." Instead, he focuses his informed attention on the unsung heroes who dare to wrestle with viruses, those strange entities he calls "the dark angels of evolution." Human beings are part of a sprawling family of interconnected species who can share illness because they all grew up together. It is our common ancestry and related bodily ecology that makes spillover possible between, say, bats and Earth's (currently) dominant mammal.

Covid is, after all, as natural as a wolf cub or David Attenborough, and its thriller-level rate of evolution is part of its danger. "A virus is a parasite, yes," writes Quammen, "a genetic parasite, to be more precise, using the resources of other organisms to replicate its own genome." He demonstrates the sheer *weirdness* of viruses when he explains how difficult it is to even define them.

Quammen follows the story of Covid from scientists' first awareness of the outbreak in Wuhan through reports of Omicron in late 2021. Alongside the human story, spillover between humans and other animals is a persistent theme. Early in 2020, a dog in Hong Kong tested positive. There were positive cats in Minnesota, two positive hippos in Antwerp, a positive tiger in Knoxville. An outbreak spread through mink farms in the Netherlands. Last year, of the many white-tailed deer sampled in Pennsylvania, 44 percent tested positive. The persistent danger of spillover between

MORENS_SUBPOENA_001700
MORENS_NIH_008041
REL0000482155

species informs arguments over the virtues and the flaws of both approaches to pandemics: "prediction and prevention versus surveillance and response."

"Breathless" is so good that I was slow to realize that it lacks the vivid you-are-there details of "Spillover." That's because he *wasn't* there. In "Breathless," there are no scenes of an intrepid author helping trap macaques at a Sufi shrine or examining a white-footed mouse for Lyme-infested larval ticks. Among its other virtues, "Spillover" was something of a nightmare travel book, but "Breathless" is a different species of tour de force. Quammen's research methods have mutated. "I avoided airports for more than two years after Covid-19 exploded," he says up front, "and I got through the year 2020 on one tank of gas." Yet these barriers didn't prevent him from writing a luminous, passionate account of the defining crisis of our time — and the unprecedented international response to it. While many people were begging for mercy from the motley of gods that they also credit with designing this Eden for viruses, epidemiologists and vaccine scientists all over the world raced to save the lives of people they would never meet.

Citing Faulkner's multiple narrators, Quammen says, "The discernment of truth — let's make that 'truth,' because it's such an imperious and suspect word — comes from listening to many voices." He read a library's worth of books and Zoomed with some 95 sources — epidemiologists, geneticists and public health officials who were closely involved in research and decision-making. He smoothly weaves not only their facts, but their way of speaking, into his story. "Spoken words are data, in nonfiction," he says, "and I share scientists' respect for the sanctity of data." He provides a mini-biography of each interviewee. Backstage outtakes humanize the participants, as when Quammen asks Anthony Fauci whether Brad Pitt or Kate McKinnon did a better job of satirizing him. These glimpses undergird his assertion that science is "a rational process leading toward ever-clearer understanding of the material world, but it's also an activity performed by humans."

Quammen marries an old-fashioned love of colorful language to his passion for detail — an odd coupling that results not just in a lucid book about an important topic, but also in a book that's a pleasure to read. "What nature of bug seethed in this dollop of liquid human distress?" he asks of a private genome-sequencing company in Guangzhou. Sometimes his Chandleresque metaphors distract. (When the rate of infection among the deer spikes, it's "like popcorn in a hot pan.") Usually, however, his imagery vividly reinforces a point. He explains that a laboratory sample from bat feces "is not a virus, just as the text of 'Hamlet, Prince of Denmark' is not a performed play" — that the sample is, instead, "the script of a virus."

Quammen can't resist snarking that Trump, "as you may have heard, is not a scientific sophisticate," but he doesn't waste much time shooting at such an easy target. He describes Elon Musk as an "entrepreneur and spaceman," and Alex Azar, the secretary of health and human services, as "pliable." The "Intelligence Community" is "a bodacious aggregation of intelligences" that includes Space Delta 7 — "within the United States Space Force, whatever that is." Didier Raoult, the French physician who promoted hydroxychloroquine, Quammen terms a "prideful contrarian." Hydroxychloroquine did indeed have a history of prescription for malaria, and, he deduces, presumably, "Trump listened to people who listened to people who listened to Didier Raoult."

While staying on mission, Quammen allows himself room for context. The importance of the February 2020 announcement that scientists had found in pangolins a close match to the virus infecting humans makes more sense — both scientific and narrative — because Quammen begins with a brief survey course on these armored-looking, anteater-like creatures. He smoothly interweaves their evolution, the ecological sin of animal trafficking, the imaginary pharmacological virtues of pangolin scales (which are actually mostly keratin) and the contemporary "vogue in urban China for *ye wei*, or 'wild tastes.'"

"This virus is going to be with us forever," Quammen warns, with a wealth of data and precedent to support him. We haven't eradicated polio or measles. "And those viruses have nowhere to hide except within humans." This one could be cleared from every living human, and still exist in other animals. "Covid-19 won't be our last pandemic of the 21st century. It probably won't be our worst." In our international world, as one scientist tells Quammen, "A disease anywhere is a disease everywhere."

Michael Sims's books include "Adam's Navel" and a companion volume to the National Geographic Channel series "In the Womb: Animals."

BREATHLESS: The Scientific Race to Defeat a Deadly Virus | By David Quammen | 406 pp. | Simon & Schuster | $28.99

MORENS_SUBPOENA_001701
MORENS_NIH_008042
REL0000482155

Disclaimer: Any third-party material in this email has been shared for internal use under fair use provisions of U.S. copyright law, without further verification of its accuracy/veracity. It does not necessarily represent my views nor those of NIAID, NIH, HHS, or the U.S. government.

Date: Sat, 20 May 2023 3:47:15 PM -0400
Sent: Sat, 20 May 2023 3:47:10 PM -0400
Subject: RE: The new NIH Director nomination
From: Jeffrey Sturchio <(b) (6)
To: Roberts, Rich <(b) (6) Peter Daszak <(b) (6) Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6) Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6)
CC: Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6) (b) (6)

Rich: Couldn't agree more that we need a different descriptor than "gain-of-function," particularly since this term has now become so politically loaded. If you and Harold can come up with a better descriptor, an op-ed by the two of you making the case for a different way of understanding this genre of research – with a different term – would be an excellent resource for bringing clarity and rationality to the debates around what is currently known as GOF.

As ever,
Jeff

From: Roberts, Rich <(b) (6)
Sent: Saturday, May 20, 2023 2:13 PM
To: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6) Aleksei Chmura (b) (6)
Cc: Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6) (b) (6) Jeffrey Sturchio <(b) (6)
Subject: FW: The new NIH Director nomination

Peter and Jerry:

Got this from Harold. Have you already delivered this material to NIAID?

I will respond to his GOF comment. It would probably be helpful to get another descriptor.

Rich

Richard J. Roberts
New England Biolabs
240 County Road
Ipswich, MA 01938-2723
USA
Tel: (b) (6)
Fax: (978) 412 9910
email: (b) (6) 6)

Executive Assistant: (b) (6)
Tel: (b) (6)
Fax: (978) 412 9910
email: (b) (6) ;)

From: Harold E. Varmus (b) (6) >
Sent: Saturday, Ma (b) (6)
To: Roberts, Rich
Subject: Re: The n mination

EXTERNAL SENDER

Rich, yes, I know Monica and we have talked several times about the NCI and NIH jobs. But I don't expect to be involved in her preparation for the hearing on her nomination as NIH Director. That is usually organized by the legislative offices in the NIH Office of the Director and by the legislative team at DHHS. I am sure that she will get briefed about the EHA grant and it is likely that NIAID will be asked to provide background material.

The document you sent has a lot of detailed information that she might want to read but it would best be delivered to her via NIAID; in addition, the source of the document (presumably EHA itself) should be apparent. EHA might simply provide that to NIAID's current leadership and I expect that they've done that already.

Best,

HV

PS Can't we find a better, more restricted way to label experiments that enhance pathogenicity or transmissibility of infectious agents than "gain of function"? Even DURC (dual use research of concern) is better than that. I've been doing GoF research for decades, enhancing cell growth by enhancing the function of proto-oncogenes!

From: Roberts, Rich (b) (6)
Date: Saturday, May 20, 2023 at 11:25 AM
To: Harold E. Varmus (b) (6) >
Subject: [EXTERNAL] The new NIH Director nomination

Harold:

You probably know Monica Bertagnolli and I am wondering if you will be contacting her prior to the Senate Hearing?

I ask because in light of the recent events related to EcoHealth Alliance she is likely to be questioned about their funding and the relationship to the COVID lab-leak hypothesis. I had let you know that their grant had been re-instated (2 1/2 years after we asked for it!), but I don't see that will stop some awkward questions for her.

If you do get the chance to chat you might mention some of the possible responses to questions that are covered in the attached.

If you will not be speaking with her, perhaps you could suggest someone else I might contact about this matter.

Hope all is well with you.

Rich

Richard J. Roberts
New England Biolabs
240 County Road
Ipswich, MA 01938-2723
USA
Tel: (b) (6)
Fax: (978) 412 9910
email: (b) (6)

Executive Assistant: (b) (6)
Tel: (b) (6)
Fax: (978) 412 9910
email: (b) (6))

MORENS_SUBPOENA_005084
MORENS_NIH_012970
REL0000482161

Date: Mon, 8 Aug 2022 4:15:59 PM -0400
Sent: Mon, 8 Aug 2022 4:15:54 PM -0400
Subject: RE: Reporter request for comment
From: "Roberts, Rich" <(b) (6)
To: Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6) Peter Daszak (b) (6) >; Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) >; David Morens <(b) (6) >; David Morens (b) (6) ; Gerald T Keusch <(b) (6)

Peter:

Maybe you should suggest she talk to your lawyer (at her expense).

Rich

Richard J. Roberts
New England Biolabs
240 County Road
Ipswich, MA 01938-2723
USA
Tel: (b) (6)
Fax: (978) 412 9910
email: (b) (6)

From: Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6)
Sent: Monday, August 8, 2022 4:02 PM
To: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) David Morens <(b) (6) >; David Morens <(b) (6) Gerald T Keusch <(b) (6) Roberts, Rich <(b) (6)
Subject: Fwd: Reporter request for comment

EXTERNAL SENDER

This is crazy. How would I even do that? I don't work in those areas?

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP
Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine
Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology
Health Policy Scholar
Baylor College of Medicine

Texas Children's Hospital Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics
Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development

University Professor, Baylor University

Faculty Fellow, Hagler Institute for Advanced Study
Senior Fellow, Scowcroft Institute of International Affairs
Texas A&M University
Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty and Adjunct Professor of Bioengineering, Rice University
Adjunct Professor, University of Texas, School of Public Health

Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

E-mail: (b) (6)
Twitter: @peterhotez

Skype: (b) (6)
Linkedin Peter Hotez

Amazon Author Center: https://www.amazon.com/Peter- J.-Hotez/e/B001HPIC48
Daily Beast Contributor https://www.thedailybeast.com/author/peter- j-hotez
Like us on Facebook https://www.facebook.com/BCMNationalSchoolOfTropicalMedicine/

Senior Coordinator / Executive Support: Douglas Soriano
(b) (6)
Phone: (b) (6)
Fax: 713-798-2299

iPhone
Begin forwarded message:

From: Emily Kopp <emily@usrtk.org>
Date: August 8, 2022 at 2:51:45 PM CDT
To: "Hotez, Peter Jay" <(b) (6)
Subject: Re: Reporter request for comment

*****CAUTION:*** This email is not from a BCM Source. Only click links or open attachments you know are safe.**

I'll also report that the paper you cofunded with EcoHealth Alliance dealt with rWIV1-SHC014S, a chimeric virus shown to be very dangerous to mice with human airway cells, which biosafety experts consider to be gain of function, and which is already under GOP congressional investigators' microscope. Were you aware of this? Should you have disclosed this to your followers on Twitter and The Lancet Commission?

Please clarify if this is incorrect.

Thank you,
Emily

On Mon, Aug 8, 2022 at 12:31 PM Emily Kopp <emily@usrtk.org> wrote:

> Putting this back at the top of your inbox. Since you've been tweeting about this issue, do you plan on replying?
>
> On Sun, Aug 7, 2022 at 2:32 PM Emily Kopp <emily@usrtk.org> wrote:
>
> > Dr. Hotez,
> >
> > I received an anonymous tip regarding an apparent conflict of interest relevant to your criticism of the GOP investigation into the possibility that a lab accident sparked the pandemic.
> >
> > The tipster pointed out that your grant to develop a SARS vaccine was in part motivated by the possibility that a lab accident or bioterrorist attack could result in a SARS outbreak.
> >
> > Questions:
> >
> > 1. Could you please clarify why you believe the lab origin theory of SARS-CoV-2 is ridiculous pseudoscience, even

though you did research under the presumption that a SARS-like virus escaping from a laboratory was possible? Taxpayers devoted $1.6 million in funding toward that project - was it under pseudoscientific pretenses?

2. Could you clarify your involvement in this research project underwritten by both your grant and EcoHealth Alliance's controversial "understanding the risk of bat coronavirus emergence" grant? Do you have a personal or professional relationship with Shi Zhengli? What about Peter Daszak? Have you ever funded or co-funded research at the Wuhan Institute of Virology?

Thank you,

--
Emily Kopp
Reporter
U.S. Right to Know
Signal: (b) (6)



MORENS_SUBPOENA_009352
MORENS_NIH_019814
REL0000482162

Date: Sun, 25 Apr 2021 5:02:38 PM -0400
Sent: Sun, 25 Apr 2021 5:02:02 PM -0400
Subject: RE: WHO report - NIH
From: Peter Daszak <(b) (6)
To: Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6) David Morens <(b) (6) Rich Roberts <(b) (6)

Actually, there was no debate with the China side on this. We setup the 4 'pathways' at the beginning of the trip and discussed with. In the last few days, we worked out a grade of probabilities (Marion Koopmans did this), starting with Extremely unlikely to Highly likely. We went through each pathway as a full group – China and WHO, listing the pros and cons in the evidence from the literature and the trip, and then passed our opinion on which grade of probability each one would fit. The lab was unanimously voted 'extremely unlikely' by everyone present – WHO experts & China scientists. I waited until every other person had made their opinion known before making mine known. It's our assessment and we are sticking to it.

I'm sure if the lowest category had been 'highly unlikely', the lab leak pathway would have been deemed 'highly unlikely'. Do you really think any of the media, conspiracy, attack pieces would have been any different? – I don't. The anti-China forces were out to undermine this work from the day it was announced (summer 2020). The minute the names of the intl. experts were released, the personal attacks against me increased ten-fold.

This is why it's ironic that Tony Fauci or others at NIH somehow expect me or EcoHealth to magically stay out of the press – I was dragged into the press largely because the NIH canceled our grant then leaked the info to Politico, and this was magnified months later by Tedros' comments about the WHO mission being flawed, largely because of the pressure he was getting from the USA delegation to WHO once Biden took over.

My latest response to NIH is now with Michael Lauer, who just let me know "We will review and let you know what additional information we need." Frankly, they've already got way more than my lawyers advised, and it just continues to feel like a politically convenient scapegoating exercise. My worry is that no one in NIH or Fed Govt will want to reinstate a grant with this level of negative press, especially because it targets the agency that should reinstate it. That is extremely unfair, McCarthyesque and frankly depressing. I've had a year of public attacks and shaming – just look at this website: https://peterdaszak.com/ - scroll down a bit to see my father accused of Nazi war crimes, among many other horrors. All of this has been empowered by the NIH's actions, not the least by Michael Lauer specifically citing conspiracies in his 10 demands. The online conspiracists regularly champion NIH's actions and Tedros' comments.

I can see the slow-walk coming now from Lauer, followed by the request for more information, followed by further threats that I'm not in compliance…

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: (b) (6)
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

---

From: Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6)
Sent: Sunday, April 25, 2021 3:07 PM
To: Peter Daszak (b) (6) ; David Morens (b) (6) ; Rich Roberts <
(b) (6)
Subject: WHO report

I decided a rainy Sunday was a good opportunity to curl up with the 120 page WHO report. The source of the pushback is obvious to me on page 9 (it's slow reading) where is says the lab incident scenario was deemed **extremely** unlikely rather than just unlikely. I suspect that word was one the WHO team argued extensively about with the Chinese.

Jerry

Sent from my iPhone

Disclaimer

The information contained in this communication from the sender is confidential. It is intended solely for use by the recipient and others authorized to receive it. If you are not the recipient, you are hereby notified that any disclosure, copying, distribution or taking action in relation of the contents of this information is strictly prohibited and may be unlawful.

This email has been scanned for viruses and malware, and may have been automatically archived by Mimecast, a leader in email security and cyber resilience. Mimecast integrates email defenses with brand protection, security awareness training, web security, compliance and other essential capabilities. Mimecast helps protect large and small organizations from malicious activity, human error and technology failure; and to lead the movement toward building a more resilient world. To find out more, visit our website.

Date: Thu, 9 Feb 2023 5:14:29 PM -0500
Sent: Thu, 9 Feb 2023 5:13:36 PM -0500
Subject: RE: Follow up from our call
From: "Roberts, Rich" <(b) (6)
To: Jeffrey Sturchio <(b) (6) Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6)
CC: Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6) Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >; David Morens <(b) (6) Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) >;
Attachments: image001.jpg; image002.jpg; image003.jpg

The more the merrier as we say in the UK!

I think our goal should be to really get a lot of support from all segments of society. We definitely should avoid the claim that we are just being elitists.

Rich

Richard J. Roberts
New England Biolabs
240 County Road
Ipswich, MA 01938-2723
USA
Tel: (b) (6)
Fax: (978) 412 9910
email (b) (6)

Executive Assistant: (b) (6)
Tel: (b) (6)
Fax: (978) 412 9910
email: (b) (6)

From: Jeffrey Sturchio <(b) (6)
Sent: Thursday, February 9, 2023 4:05 PM
To: Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6) Roberts, Rich <(b) (6)
Cc: Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6) Peter Daszak <(b) (6) David Morens <(b) (6) Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6)
Subject: RE: Follow up from our call

EXTERNAL SENDER

Would engaging with the AAAS Committee on Scientific Freedom and Responsibility be useful? Here's some information on the CSFR from the AAAS website:

Committee on Scientific Freedom and Responsibility

The Committee on Scientific Freedom and Responsibility (CSFR) was established in 1976 by AAAS. The Committee Charter is as follows:

The Council recognizes that the CSFR, as a standing committee of the AAAS,

plays a significant as well as potentially controversial role for the Association. The increasing complexity of the interactions among science, technology, and the public interest raise new issues and problems concerning the human rights, freedom of scientific inquiry, and professional responsibilities of scientists and engineers. The Association affirms at the outset that scientific freedom is grounded in basic human rights and implies special responsibilities to extend and disseminate knowledge for the good of humanity.

With these perspectives in mind, and within the resources allocated by the Board of Directors, the Committee on Scientific Freedom and Responsibility is charged with the following duties on behalf of the Association:

- To formulate and recommend principles and procedures to guide the Association in a continuing review of issues that affect scientific freedom and scientific responsibility, and to search for means that will effectively bring these issues to the attention of both scientists and others.
- To monitor whether the actions and policies of the government of the United States, the governments of other nations, and of private organizations circumscribe or restrict the freedom of scientists or their ability to carry out their responsibilities.
- To collect information on restrictions of scientific freedom and of the ability of scientists to carry out their responsibilities, and to make such information available to scientists, scientific societies, and others who may be interested in taking action to counter these restrictions.
- To encourage and assist the AAAS, its affiliates, and other scientific groups to develop statements of principles governing professional conduct, and to establish policies, procedures, and educational activities designed to encourage scientists to accept their professional responsibilities both with regard to safeguarding the integrity of science and with regard to the application of science in the promotion of human rights and general welfare.
- To encourage and assist the AAAS and its affiliates to develop policies and procedures to protect scientists against infringements of scientific freedom; to collect information about the procedures of affiliated societies for dealing with documented allegations of such infringements; to facilitate communication among the societies with a view to strengthening of these procedures; and, in exceptional circumstances and within the criteria developed by the Committee, to conduct an analytic review of cases where the ramifications are deemed to be especially significant for the scientific community at large.
- To report annually to the Association, through the Council–and, as appropriate, to other scientific and technological communities and to the general public–the activities of the Committee and its general assessment of significant developments during the year that affect scientific freedom and scientific responsibility and that call for examination, discussion and possible action.

MORENS_SUBPOENA_017945
MORENS_NIH_036766
REL0000482175

As part of the attempt to fulfill its mandate, the CSFR in 1977 established a Science and Human Rights Subcommittee, specifically to address issues of human rights as they occur in relation to all these duties.

Adopted by the Committee for Scientific Freedom and Responsibility February 9, 1996.

Adopted by the AAAS Council on February 16, 1997.

MEMBERS

Ronald Arkin
Georgia Institute of Technology

Angela Bielefeldt
University of Colorado, Boulder

Matthew Brown
University of Texas, Dallas

Deborah Johnson
University of Virginia

Kelly Joyce
Drexel University

Bartha Maria Knoppers
McGill University

Alexa Koenig
University of California, Berkeley School of Law

Steven Livingston
George Washington University

Camille Nebeker
University of California, San Diego

Safiya Noble
University of California, Los Angeles

Frank Pasquale
University of Maryland Carey School of Law

Neal Rubin (Chair)

MORENS_SUBPOENA_017946
MORENS_NIH_036767
REL0000482175

Adler University

Judith Tanur
Stony Brook University

Joseph Watkins
University of Arizona

Committee Staff Officer
Theresa Harris
AAAS

Best regards,
Jeff

From: Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6)
Sent: Thursday, February 9, 2023 3:44 PM
To: Roberts, Ric (b) (6)
Cc: (b) (6) >; Peter Daszak (b) (6) David Morens < (b) (6) >; Jeffrey Sturchio (b) (6) Aleksei Chmura (b) (6)
Subject: Re: Follow up from our call

LeBron was not great on the vaccine issue, he refused to rebuke Kyrie Irving, citing "freedom of choice". We need a strong NIH Director, and more forceful statements from the National Academies. I speak with Holden pretty regularly who gets it and is concerned. When I pick up my Purple Heart AAAS Scientific Freedom Medal on March 5, he'll be there and hopefully we can strategize then. So far only AAAS and to some extent AMA and AAMC seem interested or worried.

Many thanks Rich!

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP

Texas Children's Hospital: Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics | Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development | Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

Baylor College of Medicine: Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine | Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology | Health Policy Scholar

Baylor University, University Professor
Rice University, Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty
Texas A&M University, Faculty-Senior Fellow, Hagler Inst for Advanced Study & Scowcroft Institute of Intl Affairs

E-mail | Twitter | LinkedIn | Skype: (b) (6)

MORENS_SUBPOENA_017947
MORENS_NIH_036768
REL0000482175

Amazon Author Center | Daily Beast Contributor

Senior Coordinator & Executive Support: Douglas Soriano
(b) (6) | Phone: (b) (6) | Fax: 713-798-2299

Media Inquiries:
(b) (6)

On Feb 9, 2023, at 2:21 PM, Roberts, Rich (b) (6) wrote:

Hi:

I have spoken with several people about the idea of a campaign to protect science and most seem on board with the idea, but a little short on ways to implement it in a way that might get wide public acceptance.

I spoke with Keith Yamamoto at some length. He is extremely supportive. He did have some insights about the NIH Directorship. He said that Biden had taken over the selection personally and no-one else seemed to be involved. His view and mine is that that means it is dead for now. He had been talking with Harold Varmus and Bob Horvitz, both of whom are very concerned about the Republican attacks on science. I will be talking with both of them tomorrow afternoon.

I spoke with John Deutsch (ex-President of MIT) and he is supportive, but has no clear ideas of how to proceed. He did say that we should talk with Holden Thorp (as we had discussed) and get AAAS involved. I had contacted Holden previously and he and I have a talk scheduled for next week.

Some of the more interesting suggestions that have emerged are that we should try to garner support from individuals and organizations that are not viewed by the general public, or politicians, as belong to the "elite" segment of society. I am thinking that someone like LeBron James could be an excellent spokesperson if we can reach him and his views are pro-science. He seems like a decent person and so maybe he is Pro-science. There are others who fit that category such as other sports stars and even some Hollywood people. I believe George Clooney would be favorable and maybe Harrison Ford, whom I met many years ago.

Rich

Richard J. Roberts
New England Biolabs
240 County Road
Ipswich, MA 01938-2723
USA
Tel: (b) (6)
Fax: (978) 412 9910
email: (b) (6)

Executive Assistant: (b) (6)
Tel: (b) (6)
Fax: (978) 412 9910
email: (b) (6)

From: Keusch, Gerald T (b) (6)

Sent: Thursday, February 2, 2023 4:58 PM
To: Peter Daszak (b) (6) ; Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6)
Cc: David Moren (b) (6) >; Roberts, Rich (b) (6) ; Jeffrey Sturchio <
(b) (6) >; Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6)
Subject: RE: Notes from our call

EXTERNAL SENDER

Just to note I have just sent a note to Carlos del Rio about NAM, to Mary Woolley about Research!America, and Stef Bertuzzi about ASM. I'll let you know if and what I hear back from them and we can proceed from there.
Jerry

(b) (6)
From: Peter Daszak
Sent: Wednesday, February 1, 2023 6:26 PM
To: Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6)
Cc: David Morens (b) (6) ; Roberts, Rich (b) (6) (6) Keusch, Gerald T (b) (6)
Jeffrey Sturchio (b) (6) ; Aleksei Chmura (b) (6)
Subject: Notes from our call
Importance: High

Attached are notes and action items (also cc'd below), as well as the concept note which I've expanded with more names of orgs to add:

Towards a Coalition to Protect Pandemic Preparedness Research

Notes from call 2/1/23
Rich Roberts, Peter Hotez, Jerry Keusch, David Morens, Jeff Sturchio, Peter Daszak, Aleksei Chmura

Action items

Rich will speak with:
- Harold Varmus to sound him out re. this issue
- Holden Thorpe to find out the best way to engage AAAS (Sudip Parikh CEO)
- NAS: Rich will be in DC in March talking with Marcia McNutt, Nobel Foundation &
- NAS – will see if Nobel Foundation will endorse this effort if NAS supports it

Jerry Keusch will reach out to:
- ASM – Stephano Bertuzzi

David Morens will reach out to Tony Fauci to ask advice on how we should progress
Peter Hotez will talk with:
- Head of OSTP (Peter will speak with them in March)
- ASV – Anne Moscona (President-Elect)

Peter Daszak will contact as many of the others as possible, writing on behalf of all of us, so as to avoid concerns that people might have re EcoHealth being in the line of fire.

Next steps

- each of us will reach out to different contacts
- re-convene by conference call in 3 weeks or so (Peter D. will set up), around Feb 22nd.
- In-person meeting at EHA NYC afternoon of April 27th.

Summary of discussion:

- What could the goals of the coalition be, and what should they not be

MORENS_SUBPOENA_017949
MORENS_NIH_036770
REL0000482175

- Overall goal to have a 'coalition of the willing' form, organized by an independent group (hopefully AAAS, or similar level) to defend pandemic prevention research that is under attack

- How should we reach out to build a coalition?
  - Making contact with key people from each of the above, trying to set up a conference call, convened by a leading independent group (e.g. AAAS) where multiple contacts come together and the discussion is led by the independent group.

- Who should we try to engage: Academies, academic societies, pro-science pressure groups, senior figures in the field, funders, and governmental leaders. Initial list:
  - AAAS
  - AIDS Vaccine Advocacy Coalition
  - American Public Health Association (Georges Benjamin)
  - American Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene (Dan Bausch, Karen Goraleski, Kent Kester)
  - Association of Public & Land-Grant Universities
  - Georgia Global Health Alliance
  - Bay Area Global Health Alliance
  - Consortium of Universities for Global Health
  - COVID Collaborative
  - Global Health Council
  - Global Health Technologies Coalition
  - Infectious Diseases Society of America Carlos del Rio (Jerry will reach out)
  - International AIDS Vaccine Initiative
  - Nobel Laureates Campaigns
  - Pandemic Action Network
  - PATH
  - Research!America – Reach back out – Jerry will
  - Union of Concerned Scientists
  - Washington Global Health Alliance
  - 156 virologists letter
  - NAM
  - NAS
  - NL Campaigns (to be kept informed of progress by Rich)
  - CUGH
  - The pandemic action coalition
  - FASEB
  - Global Health technologies coalition
  - APLU (KHG has connection)
  - Wellcome Trust (Paul Schreier is the interim head).
  - Dr. Tony Fauci
  - Felicia Goodrum (Arizona) and Stacey Schultz-Cherry (St. Judes)
  - OSTP
  - ASV – Anne Moscona (President-Elect)

Cheers,

Peter

MORENS_SUBPOENA_017950
MORENS_NIH_036771
REL0000482175

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA
Tel.: (b) (6)
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

From: Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6)
Sent: Wednesday, February 1, 2023 6:21
To: Peter Dasza (b) (6)
Cc: David Moren (b) (6) ; Roberts, Rich (b) (6) 6) Keusch, Gerald T (b) (6)
Jeffrey Sturchio (b) (6) >; Aleksei Chmura (b) (6)
Subject: Re: Update

Dear all, I spoke with Ann Moscona President-Elect at ASV and she's all in. She also suggested adding Felicia Goodrum (Arizona) and Stacey Schultz-Cherry (St. Judes) both really good on policy issues, she will give them a heads up, thanks! Peter

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP

Texas Children's Hospital: Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics | Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development | Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

Baylor College of Medicine: Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine | Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology | Health Policy Scholar

Baylor University, University Professor

Rice University, Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty

Texas A&M University, Faculty-Senior Fellow, Hagler Inst for Advanced Study & Scowcroft Institute of Intl Affairs

E-mail | Twitter | LinkedIn | Skype: (b) (6)

Amazon Author Center | Daily Beast Contributor

Senior Coordinator & Executive Support: Douglas Soriano
(b) (6) | Phone: (b) (6) | Fax: 713-798-2299

Media Inquiries:
(b) (6)

From: Peter Daszak (b) (6)
Sent: Wednesday, February 1, 2023 8:14 AM
To: Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6)
Cc: David Morens (b) (6) >; Roberts, Rich (b) (6) >; Keusch, Gerald T (b) (6) ; Jeffrey Sturchio (b) (6) Aleksei Chmura (b) (6)
Subject: Concept note and Agenda for our discussion today

Dear All,

I'm looking forward to our discussion today at 1pm. Attached is a concept note that Jeff Sturchio drafted to frame some ideas around what we might try to do.

I've also attached a rough agenda for us.

Here are the details of the zoom call, and I look forward to speaking with you all later on:

(b) (6)

Meeting ID: (b) (6)
Passcode: (b) (6)
One tap mobile
(b) (6) US (New York)
US

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

MORENS_SUBPOENA_017952
MORENS_NIH_036773
REL0000482175

(b) (6)
Tel.:
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

From: Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6)
Sent: Tuesday, January 31, 2023 3:04 PM
To: Peter Daszak (b) (6)
Cc: David Morens (b) (6) Roberts, Rich (b) (6) Keusch, Gerald T (b) (6)
Jeffrey Sturchio (b) (6) Aleksei Chmura (b) (6)
Subject: Re: Two great articles!

Many thanks Peter! Appreciate the support!

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP

Texas Children's Hospital: Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics | Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development | Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

Baylor College of Medicine: Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine | Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology | Health Policy Scholar

Baylor University, University Professor

Rice University, Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty

Texas A&M University, Faculty-Senior Fellow, Hagler Inst for Advanced Study & Scowcroft Institute of Intl Affairs

E-mail | Twitter | LinkedIn | Skype: (b) (6)

Amazon Author Center | Daily Beast Contributor

Senior Coordinator & Executive Support: Douglas Soriano
(b) (6) | Phone: (b) (6) Fax: 713-798-2299

Media Inquiries:
(b) (6) (b) (6)

(b) (6)

(b) (6)

iPhone

On Jan 31, 2023, at 1:44 PM, Peter Daszak (b) (6) > wrote:

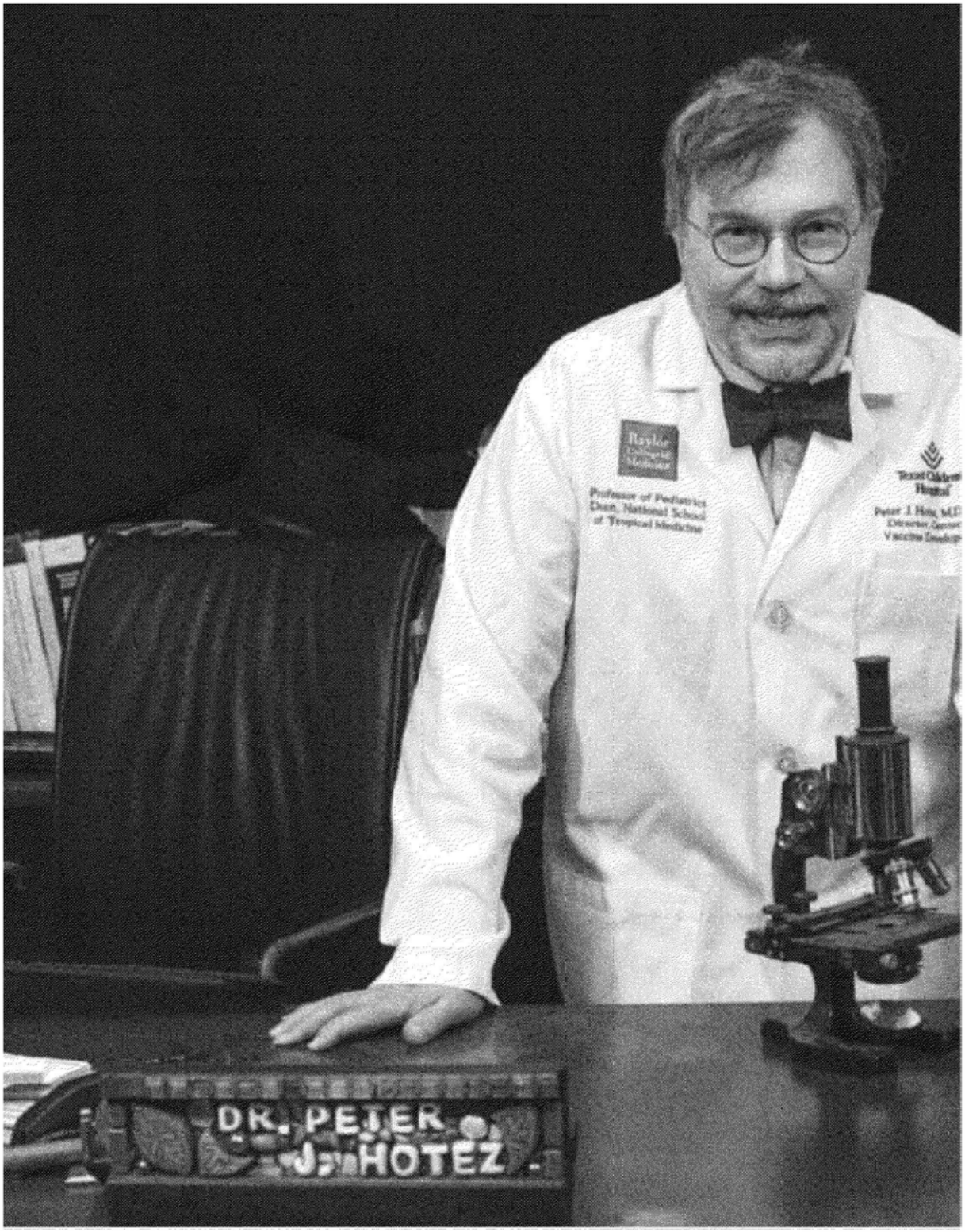
First, want to send my appreciation for your great interview in the Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists yesterday, Peter:

https://thebulletin.org/2023/01/viral- spread-peter-hotez-on-the-increase-of-anti-science-aggression-on-social-media/

Viral spread: Peter Hotez on the increase of anti-science aggression on social media

By Sara Goudarzi | January 30, 2023

MORENS_SUBPOENA_017954
MORENS_NIH_036775
REL0000482175



Peter Hotez (Image courtesy of Agapito Sanchez, Baylor College of Medicine)

Last November, Twitter announced it will no longer enforce "the COVID-19 misleading information policy." The platform also allowed previously banned users to rejoin the site. Since then, anti-vaccination messaging has gained renewed energy, distressing scientists and researchers who have been combatting misinformation and disinformation on social media. According to research, there's a strong relationship between anti-vaccination efforts on social media and vaccine hesitancy, and while millions of people were saved by having taken the

MORENS_SUBPOENA_017955
MORENS_NIH_036776
REL0000482175

COVID-19 vaccines, hundreds of thousands of Americans died after refusing it.
Peter Hotez, a physician-scientist, dean of the National School of Tropical Medicine, and a professor in the departments of Pediatrics and Molecular Virology and Microbiology at Baylor College of Medicine, is no stranger to anti-vaccination attitudes. He has fought against misleading medical information for years. But now, he says, anti-science sentiments have been weaponized by businessmen and politicians seeking profits and power.
In the 1940s and 1950s, the House Un-American Activities Committee (HUAC) investigated and discredited several scientists who worked on the Manhattan Project. Hotez expects congressional committees under Republican control to engage in a similar targeting of scientists in an attempt to accumulate influence and foster a sense of belonging—a signature of authoritarian regimes—among their constituents. In his view, this anti-vaccine, anti-science movement, versions of which are spreading to other countries, could destabilize the global vaccine ecosystem.
I spoke with Hotez about the role of social media in spreading misleading information on vaccines and stoking anti-science aggression in many dimensions. *The resulting discussion has been edited for length and clarity.*

Sara Goudarzi: You've been on Twitter for more than a decade and often use it as a tool to communicate health and science facts, such as the importance of vaccinations. How in your experience has the social media platform changed during this time?
Peter Hotez: Well, it's become a lot more adversarial as the anti-vaccine movement has shifted. The anti-vaccine movement began in earnest around 20 years ago in the United States around false assertions that vaccines cause autism. The way I got involved was because I have a daughter with autism, and I wrote the book *Vaccines Did Not Cause Rachel's Autism: My Journey as a Vaccine Scientist, Pediatrician, and Autism Dad*, and that made me public enemy number one or two with the anti-vaccine activists.
What I would do at that time of social media was use their statements in their attacks against me as a teachable moment, to expose what the anti-vaccine movement was all about and how they were monetizing the internet with books on Amazon and nutritional supplements and the phony autism cures. So, rather than simply block people who were attacking me, I would retweet them with a little description of what they were doing. People found it very interesting because it was teaching them how an anti-science movement works, and they started coming to my Twitter for that purpose.
The game changer was about nine years ago, when [vaccine disinformation] became a political movement around health and medical freedom. You saw a different set of actors come into this, and it became a lot more aggressive; people's political allegiance became tied to not giving their kids vaccinations, and that has just come off the rails with COVID-19. And I'd like to point out that 200,000 Americans now have needlessly lost their lives because they refused the COVID vaccine.
The hardest thing yet is really trying to describe the anti-vaccine ecosystem, because too often it's still couched in the old autism thing that they call infodemic or give it euphemisms like misinformation or disinformation. That is, as though it's some random stuff appearing on social media, when in fact, it's organized, politically motivated, and deliberate. It has a system in place, and what I do now is use that to actually describe who the actors that comprise that ecosystem are—elected leaders in the House Freedom Caucus, certain senators, and local leaders amplified in Fox News with designated contrarians from the far right think tanks.
All our training to be a scientist says you're not supposed to talk about Republicans, Democrats, liberals, or conservatives; you're supposed to be politically neutral. But what do you do when the anti-science, anti-vaccine aggression is predominantly coming along the

partisan lines from the far right? How do you articulate that without basically saying, "the reason I'm doing this is to save lives?" It's no longer a theoretical discussion; Americans have lost their lives because they believed the politics, and to be able to articulate that is really threading a needle there.

Goudarzi: With Twitter's moderators practically gone, the platform's announcement that it will no longer enforce measures to combat misleading information regarding COVID-19 and will give amnesty to previously banned users, there seems to be a rise in anti-vaccination sentiment.

Hotez: It's blown up. It's gotten much tougher: Anything I put out there gets immediately pounced on, and I can trace the origins to four or five either elected leaders or these contrarians from far right think tanks and elsewhere who blow dog whistles. They will put out a (typically false or exaggerated) statement against me, and then I'll receive hundreds and hundreds of tweets or emails specifically targeting me. About half of them look like bots because the person sending it is an empty face with a gazillion numbers attached to the Twitter handle. But others are real people tuning into Fox News every night who totally fall into the rabbit hole because they seem to worship these contrarians. The other piece to this is a lot of Nazi imagery and fantasies, a lot of antisemitism, because they know I'm a Jewish scientist. And that's yet another dimension to all of this.

Goudarzi: How do you think this affects patients in healthcare settings? Have you had personal experience with those who decided not to get vaccinated because of information on the internet or social media indicating the shots are dangerous?

Hotez: I've had sort of the opposite experience, where patients were in the rabbit hole, had seen my postings, see me as credible, and because of me are taking the vaccine, which is kind of nice and spurs me on to keep going at this. But more and more I've also had the other extreme as well, which is based on what they see on social media: People will take the time to write me a threatening email or make a call to the lab or to the office. Then I have to bring in law enforcement through the Texas Medical Center Police or the Houston Police Department and the Anti-Defamation League (because they have a list of individuals who are known to make these types of threats). It's taken this very, very dark turn as a consequence.

Goudarzi: Anti-vaccination movements are nothing new and go back to the late 1700s, even before the development of the smallpox vaccine and then the 1800s and again in the 1990s and 2000s. Do you think social media has allowed the latest movement to gain even more steam than previous movements?

Hotez: I wrote an article about the whole history of [anti-vax movements] in *Journal of Clinical Investigation*. I think it really accelerated in the early 2000s with autism, in part aided by social media—it was new then but was starting up. Now, I think social media has really been an enabler. It's not only social media; I think amazon.com was a big contributor. If you search for books on vaccinations, what's out there is a horror show. My books are among the top-rated on vaccines, and they're probably ranked about number 30 or 40, because it's all preceded by the phony-baloney, anti-vaccine COVID conspiracy books. So, it's Amazon and social media. And Fox News is having a huge impact. This has been documented by Media Matters, the watchdog group, as well as this very interesting paper that came out of ETH Zurich, which is like the MIT of Central Europe.

Goudarzi: Do you think Amazon is purposefully placing these books higher up in search results, or are search results just a reflection of how much steam the movement has gained?

Hotez: I don't know. Amazon is probably amoral. I don't think they think about this one way or the other, but whatever sells. So, it's whatever people are buying—that's how they're ranking it.

Goudarzi: Are you seeing a difference in the attitudes towards COVID-19 vaccines versus

say the flu or MMR vaccines?

Hotez: Yeah, because remember, MMR came out of autism; that was the [original] assertion that the MMR vaccine causes autism. That was [*The Lancet*] paper from 1998. But then around 2014, 2015 (I like to think because I was helping to take some of the wind out of the sails around autism), you started to see the anti-vaccine movement pivot around this concept of health and medical freedom, that you can't tell us what to do about our kids. And that was the first link to the Republican Tea Party here in Texas. In fact, they started getting PAC [political action committee] money… It really took off in Texas and Oklahoma and that's what you see came off the rails with COVID-19.

It has been documented now by Charles Gaba, a health analyst whose work has been mentioned in the *New York Times*, National Public Radio, Pew Research Center and Peterson Academic Center, that the lowest vaccination rates were where health freedom propaganda was the strongest, and among those who are in red states like Texas, the redder the county, the lower the vaccination rate, the higher the numbers of deaths. It's a really tight correlation, so much so that David Leonhardt in the *New York Times* has called it red COVID. My forthcoming book, *The Deadly Rise of Antiscience: A Scientist's Warning* and it's full on linked to far-right politics and it's been embraced by the House Freedom Caucus.

After vaccines became widely available, the statements from the 2021 CPAC conference of conservatives in Dallas was first along the lines of: "they're going to vaccinate you, and then they're going to take away your guns and your bibles." It's ridiculous. A quarter of the country accepted it—mostly in Texas and the Southern states, and then [Georgia US Rep.] Marjorie Taylor Greene called people like me "medical brownshirts," using Nazi paramilitary analogy. Then, those in the Senate GOP, such as Senator Johnson from Wisconsin, held anti-vaccine roundtables, amplified by Fox News. Every night, during the last half of 2021, nighttime anchors Tucker Carlson and Laura Ingraham filled their airwaves with very strong anti-vaccine rhetoric, discrediting the effectiveness and safety of vaccines. And then contrarians from the far right think tanks piled on.

As I said, if it were just a theoretical construct, I wouldn't get so exercised, but 40,000 Texans died during the delta wave in the last half of 2021 and early Omicron BA1 wave in 2022 because they refused the COVID vaccine and were victims of this targeted aggression towards them. The number that I put out in the new book is 200,000 Americans across the country. The Kaiser Family Foundation and the health analyst Charles Gaba come up with similar numbers. On that basis, anti-vaccine activism, anti-science aggression, if you look at it as a societal killing force, is killing more Americans than gun violence, terrorism, nuclear proliferation, or cyber-attacks.

Goudarzi: And the interesting thing is that COVID-19 vaccines have been tremendously successful.

Hotez: Alison Galvani at Yale has just done a modeling exercise with the Commonwealth Fund, indicating that COVID vaccines have saved 3.1 million Americans.

Goudarzi: Yet the messaging against these vaccines seems to be just as successful and as you mentioned hundreds of thousands of deaths could have been prevented here in the United States. So, it begs the question, why are we having such an anti-science moment?

Hotez: It's because it's fully ensconced in the political landscape of the country that became part of the far right, and people refused the vaccine out of allegiance. Part of showing your allegiance to the far right is not getting vaccinated. Then, you saw the Proud Boys march in anti-vaccine rallies, and an early arrest in the January 6 insurrection included a prominent anti-vaccine activist.

The question that I get is: "Hey doc, what should we do about this?" And I say I don't know, because this goes outside the health sector. This is a political problem right now. How do you uncouple the anti-science from the politics? It's been really, really challenging, and the Biden

MORENS_SUBPOENA_017958
MORENS_NIH_036779
REL0000482175

administration has not been willing to take this on. Vivek Murthy, who is a very good Surgeon General, issued an advisory in July of 2021 about social media and said we have to work with Meta and Facebook and Twitter to prevent this stuff from going viral. That's fine, but it doesn't get to those who are generating the content. This is where we're starting to see breakdowns, in my view, among our scientific and professional societies, and even the National Academies, because this idea that we have to remain politically neutral is so strong that no one will talk about it the way I'm talking about it with you. You have to be politically neutral; it's silly.

To paraphrase Desmond Tutu and Elie Wiesel, neutrality favors the aggressor.

Goudarzi: What do you think the end goal is for those generating the content and spearheading these movements? There are certain people who truly believe that vaccines could cause x, whatever x is, but there are others like Gov. DeSantis who himself was vaccinated yet promotes anti-vaccination sentiments.

Hotez: Early on when vaccines first came out, he was actually pro-vaccines. So, what caused the change? When it was pre-health freedom, it was fairly straightforward: It was people monetizing the internet, selling nutritional supplements and books on phony autism cures. When I wrote the book, trying to look at other examples of this, I found what's going on now in Stalin's Russia in the 1930s 1940s. This is part of the signature of an authoritarian regime: to target the science and scientists. When you read Hannah Arendt's *The Origins of Totalitarianism,* you see this is part of the playbook. Even though it's self-defeating, it still fosters allegiance and belonging. I think what happened is with the anti-vaccine groups for whom the wind was let out of their sails around autism, they needed a new thing. They found money and power and relevance by tying themselves to the far right, and the far right created a whole new cadre of people that they wouldn't have otherwise.

Goudarzi: Just add adding to that: Do you think vaccine disinformation is propagated or reinforced purposely by other governments to cause division within the United States, similar to the 2016 election?

Hotez: No question about that, and I think Russia is probably the most egregious [perpetrator], and this has been documented. David Broniatowski, a computer scientist at the George Washington University, has written about this and the Russian bots' roles. In some cases, they're using both anti-vaccine and pro-vaccine rhetoric. They are specifically using this as a wedge issue to divide the country and destabilize our democracy. And it's not only the Russians—the Chinese, North Koreans and Iranians are doing this. But I think Russia is probably the biggest state actor.

What I've recommended to the Biden administration is they create an inter-governmental agency, because the United States Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) doesn't know what to do at this point. Because of the foreign actors involved, you have to bring in Homeland Security, the Commerce Department, the Justice Department and the State Department as well. There are people smart enough who know about these big dangerous societal forces, and we need their advice on what levers we can pull and push. But they haven't wanted to take it on.

Similarly, at the level of the UN agencies, the World Health Organization doesn't know what to do at this point. So, you're starting to see that same US-style anti-vaccine activity moving to Canada, the United Kingdom and Western Europe—and I wrote about this in a paper in *Nature Reviews Immunology*. You're even seeing it now in low- and middle- income countries, including those in Africa. So, it's going to destabilize the global vaccine ecosystem, even around childhood vaccination.

Goudarzi: Scientific debate around new treatment or preventive measure used to happen more or less behind closed doors. But given the nature of a real time pandemic, some of those debates are taking place on social media, and sometimes that leads to the lay audience

misunderstanding certain aspects of the discussion and spreading misinformation. How valuable, and how harmful, do you think it is to have scientific debates between researchers on social media?

Hotez: It's often not between researchers. For instance, one of the most common things when they target me on social media is they say I should be in a public debate with the lead anti-vaccine activist. And I say, "No, that's not how science is done. I've written a scientific paper and if somebody has an issue with that, they can either refute it in a scientific journal, or publish their own finding." Of course, they can't get it published because there's no science behind it. So, what they want to do instead is they want a public debate.

And I say, "Look, you can debate 18th-century enlightenment philosophy, but science is not typically something that's debated in that kind of forum; we have a mechanism for doing that through scientific publication and peer review." And they don't want to play that way. They just want to put out their propaganda because that's all they have behind it. An example is ivermectin or hydroxychloroquine, which the scientific community has clearly shown has no effect on COVID-19. Hydroxychloroquine is even harmful. But the problem is the anti-vaccine force has dominated the internet, and they say, "Hey, scientists don't want to debate us, what are they hiding?"

And that's, again, how they weaponize communication.

Goudarzi: I was actually thinking of earlier during the pandemic. Because there was so little time, some researchers were putting their papers up on open access preprint servers, which didn't require a peer review, and then others were weighing in on social media platforms. At times, you would see non-scientists take one aspect of that discussion and spread something that wasn't necessarily true.

Hotez: I think with the whole preprint server mechanism, ultimately the benefits outweighed the downside. I can't tell you how many times I had to depend on data from bioRxiv, medRxiv in order to make sense of what was going on. If I had to wait a few weeks for it to air in *New England Journal of Medicine* or *Nature* and *Science*—and by the way, they did a pretty good job too; they were able to turn that around in record time—[it would have been too late.] If you're looking for any silver lining in this pandemic, it's the journal editors, the whole preprint server mechanism, and the willingness of the scientific community to share information. And I think for most of the public understood that they were seeing this play out in real time and that there wasn't always going to be consistency. The problem was those who were who were weaponizing it for their own personal or political gain.

Goudarzi: But you still think the advantages outweighed the disadvantages?

Hotez: I think so. It's hard to imagine how I could've really talked about everything going on knowledgeably on CNN, NBC, or wherever without having access to the information. The preprints were so important.

Goudarzi: Some researchers have either left Twitter or are thinking of leaving. What will this do to scientific discourse? Would it make sense to stay on the platform to counter misinformation and disinformation and increase public awareness, or should researchers seek a more balanced platform?

Hotez: I don't have the answer. I struggle with this every day. I mean, the aggression against me and the threats would continue even if I wasn't on Twitter, because more often than not, it's not against anything that I tweeted. Ninety percent of the time, it's people who see me as a threat to undermine their politics or their business line and are just making up things about me and would still continue even if I wasn't on Twitter. So that's the reason I stay on it, because at least I'm getting out important and timely information. But it is really painful and awful to see what's going on there.

Goudarzi: Is the amount of aggression you face tied to the changing ownership of Twitter and political shifts?

Hotez: The politics around the anti-science, anti-vaccine and phony baloney about COVID origins had started with the pandemic in 2020. But now with all the contrarians back at once it reminds me of the old *Batman* series when they brought back Catwoman, Joker, Penguin, and Riddler all at once to do away with Batman. That seems to be going on, so it's been their superstars who are super energized by being invited back to Twitter, and they are using the platform very aggressively.

Goudarzi: What are some of the lessons we've learned about disinformation and misinformation over the last few years regarding social media that we should consider moving forward?

Hotez: I would say social media is a major weapon of choice for spreading disinformation. But remember, we have to get to those who are generating content. Social media is an important vehicle, but it's not the only one. I think we probably should stop calling it misinformation, disinformation or infodemic. We should call it for what it is, which is anti-science aggression, because it is a killing force. What we realized is that the science aggression is taking lives in the United States on an unprecedented scale.

For that reason, it needs to be addressed, and that's the part the scientific community has not come to terms with. When I call myself a scientist, it's not just co-heading a team of scientists making a COVID vaccine for the world that has reached a 100 million people. That's a very noble activity, but from my perspective, even that's still insufficient. Now being a scientist means, to some extent, being willing to combat the anti-science. It's nothing that any of us signed up for. I never dreamed when I got my MD-PhD in New York in the 1980s that this was something I'd be doing, but this is what's in front of us.

And I don't really feel that the scientific community—the professional societies, scientific bodies, even the academy—fully understand the impact. Hopefully it'll be clear when my book comes out, but it may become even clearer when we see the House GOP hearings. I predict the oversight committee and the judiciary committee or select subcommittees will become an anti-science witch hunt and will target prominent American scientists. And then we'll get a better picture.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: (b) (6)
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

MORENS_SUBPOENA_017961
MORENS_NIH_036782
REL0000482175

From: Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6) ≥
Sent: Monday, January 30, 2023 6:27 PM
To: David Morens <(b) (6) ≥
Cc: Roberts, Rich (b) (6) ; Peter Daszak <(b) (6) ; Keusch, Gerald T < (b) (6) Jeffrey Sturchio (b) (6) Aleksei Chmura (b) (6)
Subject: Re: My latest

Many thanks David! Best Peter

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP

Texas Children's Hospital: Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics | Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development | Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

Baylor College of Medicine: Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine | Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology | Health Policy Scholar

Baylor University, University Professor

Rice University, Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty

Texas A&M University, Faculty-Senior Fellow, Hagler Inst for Advanced Study & Scowcroft Institute of Intl Affairs

E-mail | Twitter | LinkedIn | Skype: (b) (6)

Amazon Author Center | Daily Beast Contributor

Senior Coordinator & Executive Support: Douglas Soriano

(b) (6) | Phone: (b) (6) | Fax: 713-798-2299

Media Inquiries:

(b) (6)

MORENS_SUBPOENA_017962
MORENS_NIH_036783
REL0000482175

iPhone

On Jan 30, 2023, at 5:22 PM, David Morens (b) (6) > wrote:

kudos to you, again! dmm

Sent from my iPhone
David M Morens
OD, NIAID, NIH

On Jan 30, 2023, at 14:37, Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6) wrote:

https://thebulletin.org/2023/01/viral- spread-peter-hotez-on-the-increase-of-anti-science-aggression-on-social-media/

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP

Texas Children's Hospital: Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics | Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development | Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

Baylor College of Medicine: Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine | Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology | Health Policy Scholar

Baylor University, University Professor

Rice University, Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty

Texas A&M University, Faculty-Senior Fellow, Hagler Inst for Advanced Study & Scowcroft Institute of Intl Affairs

E-mail | Twitter | LinkedIn | Skype: (b) (6)

Amazon Author Center | Daily Beast Contributor

Senior Coordinator & Executive Support: Douglas Soriano
(b) (6) | Phone: (b) (6) | Fax: 713-798-2299

MORENS_SUBPOENA_017963
MORENS_NIH_036784
REL0000482175

Media Inquiries:

(b) (6)

iPhone

On Jan 27, 2023, at 2:43 PM, Roberts, Rich (b) (6) wrote:

Peter:

No, I didn't come up with the name.

But one I have recently come up with is CheatGPT instead of ChatGPT.

Rich

Richard J. Roberts
New England Biolabs
240 County Road
Ipswich, MA 01938-2723
USA
Tel: (b) (6)
Fax: (978) 412 9910
email: (b) (6)

Executive Assistant: (b) (6)
Tel: (b) (6)
Fax: (978) 412 9910
email (b) (6)

From: Peter Daszak (b) (6)
Sent: Friday, January 27, 2023 3:30 PM
To: Roberts, Rich (b) (6) Keusch, Gerald T (b) (6) otez, Peter Jay (b) (6)
Cc: David Moren (b) (6) Jeffrey Sturchio (b) (6)
Aleksei Chmur (b) (6)
Subject: RE: Finally - virologists fight back!

EXTERNAL SENDER

I forgot about that Rich. But I'm assuming it wasn't you that came up with somewhat colonial name!!???

In all seriousness, while it's good for virologists to push back against calls to block scientific research, I don't think a campaign to support gain of function work that's designed to see what would happen if you make a lethal pathogen more transmissible is anything any of us particularly want to get behind right now!

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: (b) (6)
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

---

From: Roberts, Rich (b) (6) (6)
Sent: Friday, January 27, 2023 11:08 AM
To: Peter Daszak (b) (6) Keusch, Gerald T (b) (6) >; Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6)
Cc: David Morens (b) (6) >; Jeffrey Sturchio <(b) (6) >; Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) >
Subject: RE: Finally - virologists fight back!

Peter:

In the interests of compete disclosure, I was a member of the "Cambridge Working Group". Our concern was about the deliberate attempts to make the flu virus more infectious. It was the deliberate nature of the experiments that was troubling, not virus research in general.

Rich

Richard J. Roberts
New England Biolabs
240 County Road
Ipswich, MA 01938-2723
USA
Tel: (b) (6)
Fax: (978) 412 9910
email: (b) (6)

Executive Assistant: (b) (6)
Tel: (b) (6)
Fax: (978) 412 9910
email (b) (6)

From: Peter Daszak (b) (6)
Sent: Friday, January 27, 2023 8:39 AM
To: Keusch, Geral (b) (6) otez, Peter Jay (b) (6)
Cc: David Morens (b) (6) ; Jeffrey Sturchio (b) (6) (b) (6) Aleksei Chmura (b) (6) ; Roberts, Rich
Subject: Finally - virologists fight back!

MORENS_SUBPOENA_017965
MORENS_NIH_036786
REL0000482175

Importance: High

EXTERNAL SENDER

Article in NPR this morning (https://www.npr.org/sections/health-shots/2023/01/27/1151867224/virologists- science-oversight-risky-experiments) – and below, based on a Commentary (attached) in mBio and various ASM journals signed by >150 virologists that fights back against the anti-science, defends virus research and gives a table of positive results from gain of function work.

I'll reach out to Felicia Goodrum (lead author) today to see if they will talk about helping with some sort of coalition. Michael Imperiale was quoted so if any of you know him or Felicia or others who are leading this (e.g. Arturo Casadevall), it would be good to reach out to let them know the urgency.

Some of these people were involved in the coalition (Scientists for Science - http://www.scientistsforscience.org/) to push back against earlier efforts to cancel Gain of function work by the "Cambridge Working Group" (a pretentious name, of course)…

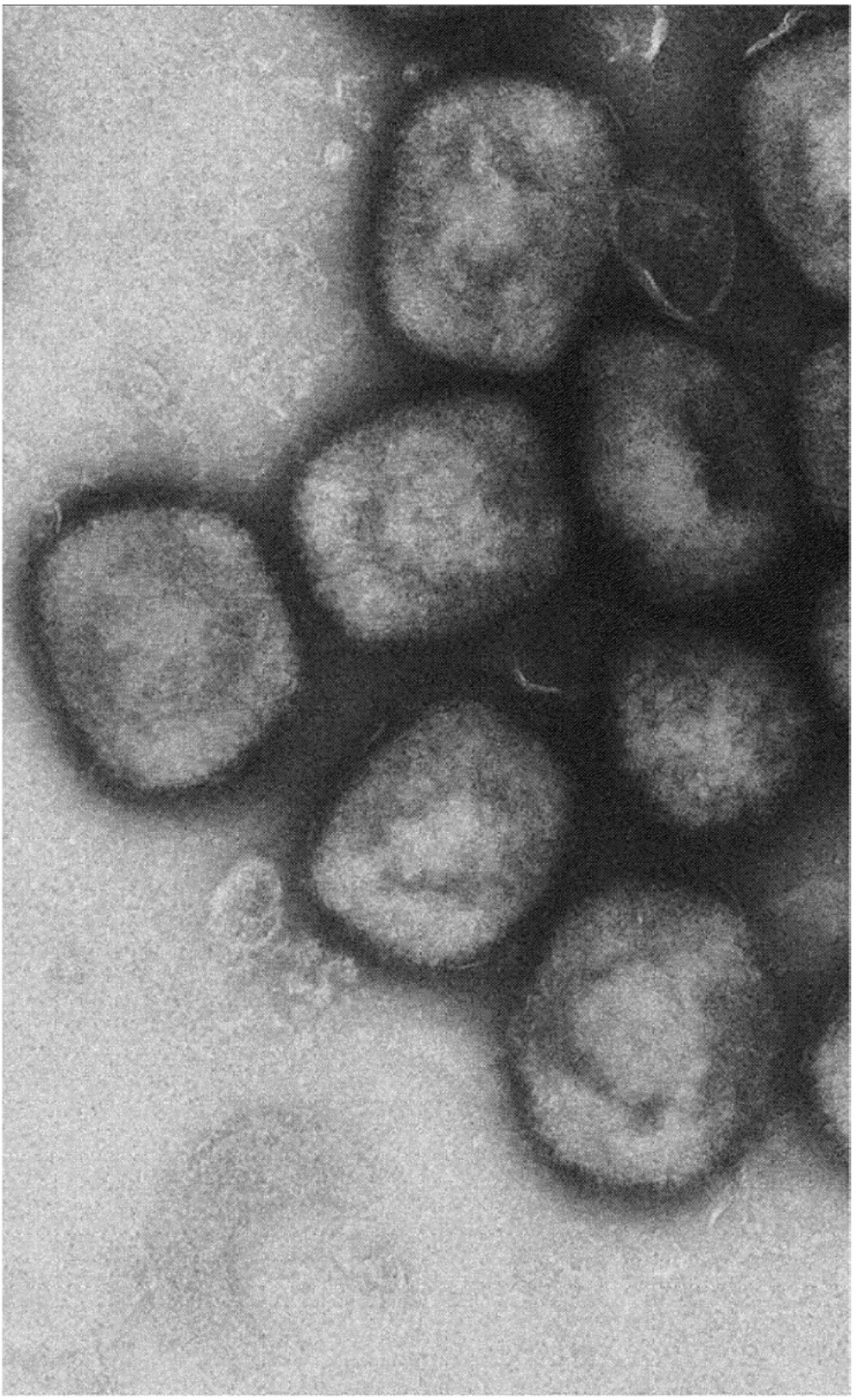
BTW – saw your name on the Scientists for Science website Jerry!

POLICY-ISH

Virologists defend their science as officials eye more oversight of risky experiments



NELL GREENFIELDBOYCE



This image shows purified particles of mpox virus, formerly called monkeypox. Viruses like these can be genetically altered in the lab in ways that might make them more dangerous.

NIAID

Over 150 virologists have signed on to a commentary that says all the evidence to date indicates that the coronavirus pandemic started naturally, and it wasn't the result of some kind of lab accident

MORENS_SUBPOENA_017967
MORENS_NIH_036788
REL0000482175

or malicious attack.
They worry that continued speculation about a lab in China is fueling calls for more regulation of experiments with pathogens, and that this will stifle the basic research needed to prepare for future pandemics.

The virologists issued their statement just ahead of a key meeting Friday held by outside advisors to the federal government. That group is set to wrap up a recent review of the existing oversight system for experiments that are controversial because they could create new potential threats.
The advisors' draft recommendations call for expanding a special decision-making process that currently weighs the risks and benefits of experiments that might make "potential pandemic pathogens" more dangerous.
"The government really has a strong interest on behalf of all of us, in the public, in knowing when researchers want to make a virus more lethal or more transmissible, and understanding how that would be done and why that would be done, and whether the benefits are worth it," says Tom Inglesby, director of the Center for Health Security at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health.
Sponsor Message
He thinks if the draft recommendations were adopted by the government, "it would be a very big step forward."

The origins of the pandemic

All of this comes as the lab in China, known as the Wuhan Institute of Virology, is again in the headlines. An internal government watchdog released a report this week criticizing the National Institutes of Health, saying it failed to adequately monitor grant awards given to a nonprofit that had collaborated with scientists at the Wuhan lab.
Felicia Goodrum, a virologist at the University of Arizona, says that open-minded experts have investigated the origins of the pandemic. The available evidence, she says, supports the notion that the virus emerged from nature just like other viruses such as HIV and Ebola did — by jumping from animals into people who had contact with them.
"The evidence that we have to date suggests that SARS-CoV-2 entered the human population by that route," says Goodrum. "There is no evidence to the contrary or in support of a lab leak, nothing credible."

Basic research on viruses, she says, is what led to the swift development of vaccines and drugs to fight the pandemic.

And yet virologists have watched in dismay as misinformation and conspiracy theories have placed the blame on science.

Sponsor Message
"There's this complete disconnect between reality and what happened," says Michael Imperiale, a virologist at the University of Michigan.
He says that while debates have gone on for years about the wisdom of doing experiments that might make bad viruses even worse, this moment feels different.

"The pandemic," he says, "has really kind of heightened the urgency with which we need to address these issues, just because of all the controversy that's been out there regarding, you know, was this a lab leak or not?"

A bird flu study raises alarm

Unlike, say, nuclear physics research, biology has traditionally had a culture of openness. After the anthrax attacks in 2001, however, biologists began to grapple with the possibility that their published work might serve as recipes for evildoers who wanted to make bioweapons.

And in 2011, there was an outcry after government-funded researchers altered a bird flu virus that can be deadly in people. Their lab work made this virus more contagious in the lab animals that are stand-ins for people.

MORENS_SUBPOENA_017968
MORENS_NIH_036789
REL0000482175

Critics said they'd created a super flu. Proponents said that viruses sometimes have to be manipulated in the lab to see what they might be capable of; in nature, after all, mutations occur all the time and that is how pandemic strains emerge.

That episode marked the start of a long, heated debate, plus research moratoriums and ultimately the development of new regulations. In 2017, a review system was put into place to weigh the risks and benefits of studies that might make a potential pandemic pathogen even worse. So far just three proposed lines of research, with influenza viruses, have been deemed risky enough to merit that kind of extra scrutiny.

"We are really talking about a small amount of research proposals," says Lyric Jorgenson, the acting associate director for science policy and the acting director of the Office of Science Policy at the NIH.

Sponsor Message

She says just before the pandemic started, officials asked advisors on the National Science Advisory Board for Biosecurity to consider whether the government needed to be more transparent to the public about how it was making decisions about this kind of research. Before that work was done, the pandemic hit and everything was put on hold. Last year, officials asked the group to broaden its work and to evaluate the regulations more comprehensively.

If the draft changes developed by this advisory group are eventually adopted by the government, an extra layer of oversight would apply to any study "reasonably anticipated" to enhance the transmission or virulence of any pathogen in a way that could make it a public health threat. That means more experiments on more viruses would get a closer look.

"What this new recommendation is saying, is that even if you start with a virus that had no potential to cause an epidemic or pandemic, if you are doing research that will change that virus in a way where it could now cause an uncontrol lable disease, or a widely spreading disease, that has to be reviewed by this new framework," says Inglesby.

What's more, the advisory group has noted that "increased transparency in the review process is needed to engender public trust in the review and oversight processes."

What's "Reasonably Anticipated"

The American Society for Microbiology has responded positively to the draft recommendations, saying "we urge swift implementation of the recommended changes by the federal agencies engaged in this work."

But some virologists think the devil will be in the details if these recommendations turn into policy.

"They keep using this phrase 'reasonably anticipated,'" says Imperiale. "How is that going to be interpreted? Is there going to be clear guidance as to what is meant by that?"

Sponsor Message

Researchers often don't know what will happen when they start an experiment, says Goodrum, especially when the science is cutting-edge.

"That's where the big scientific advancements come from. And so to tie our hands behind our back, to say we can only do the science that we can anticipate, then we're really restricting innovative science," she says.

Ron Fouchier, the virologist at Erasmus University Medical Center in the Netherlands, whose lab did the bird flu experiments over a decade ago, said in an email that he'd hoped the experience of going through a pandemic would simulate more research, not "unnecessarily delay or restrict it." He said it looked like many infectious disease researchers in the United States "will face substantial delays in their crucial research efforts, if they can continue that research at all."

The U.S. is unusual in that it has a lot of public discussion of these issues and a system to try to manage the risks, says Inglesby.

He thinks that oversight can be made stronger without getting in the way of science.

MORENS_SUBPOENA_017969
MORENS_NIH_036790
REL0000482175

"I am avidly, absolutely pro-science and pro-research, and in particular pro-infectious disease research," says Inglesby.

But he says there's a very small part of that research "where there is the potential for very high risk if things go wrong, either by accident or on purpose. And so we have to get the balance right, between the risks that could unfold and the potential benefits."

lab leak theory
coronavirus research
pathogens
Facebook
Twitter
Flipboard
Email

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: (b) (6)
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

---

From: Keusch, Gerald T (b) (6)
Sent: Wednesday, January 25, 2023 9:20 PM
To: Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6)
Cc: Peter Daszak (b) (6) >; David Morens < (b) (6) ; Sturchio (b) (6) ; Aleksei Chmura < (b) (6) ; Rich Roberts (b) (6) (6)
Subject: RE: Tweet by Miner Flux on Twitter

For what it's worth I sent a brief note to the two leads for the White House COVID response team, Ashish Jha and Nahid Bhadelia, to say why they needed to agitate at the higher levels to get on to appointing a new NIH Director, preferably from the outside, and ideally a candidate like Harold Varmus who could command respect from both sides of the congressional divide.

I also suggested they consider the point that it would be better if there was a new NIH Director before they appointed somebody to NIAID, and that was OK because Hugh Auchincloss was eminently able to be a respected interim Director, both within the NIH and the outside scientific community. And, that the next NIAID Director should come from outside of the institution.

MORENS_SUBPOENA_017970
MORENS_NIH_036791
REL0000482175

I don't know what influence they will have, should they choose to act, but they do have access to the higher levels, and that is important.

Jerry

From: Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6)
Sent: Wednesday, Jan (b) (6) PM
To: Keusch, Gera (b) (6)
Cc: Peter Daszak (b) (6) >; DavidMorens <
(b) (6) >; Jeffrey Sturchio (b) (6) Aleksei Chmura <
(b) (6) >; Rich Roberts <(b) (6)
Subject: Re: Tweet by Miner Flux on Twitter

I think top priority is the Biden Administration appointing a new NIH Director and someone really good, I don't understand the holdup.

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP

Texas Children's Hospital: Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics | Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development | Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

Baylor College of Medicine: Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine | Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology | Health Policy Scholar

Baylor University, University Professor

Rice University, Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty

Texas A&M University, Faculty-Senior Fellow, Hagler Inst for Advanced Study & Scowcroft Institute of Intl Affairs

E-mail | Twitter | LinkedIn | Skype: (b) (6)

Amazon Author Center | Daily Beast Contributor

Senior Coordinator & Executive Support: Douglas Soriano

(b) (6) | Phone (b) (6) | Fax: 713-798-2299

Media Inquiries:

(b) (6)

iPhone

On Jan 25, 2023, at 1:34 PM, Keusch, Gerald T (b) (6) wrote:

Well, if that were to occur there would not only be continued messaging to the public but more push back to the politicians and others spreading misinformation, and I suspect a more focused and strategic scientific plan for the institute. It has been pretty good under Tony, with some gaps that seem glaring to me, but it could also be better. How do we find and support the right outside scientist to take on the challenge?

Jerry

From: Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6)
Sent: Wednesday,
To: Peter Daszak (b) (6)
Cc: (b) (6) ; Jeffrey Sturchio <
(b) (6) hmura (b) (6)
Keusch, Gerald T (b) (6) ; Rich Roberts (b) (6) (6)
Subject: Re: Tweet by MinerFlux on Twitter

I see the far right keeps putting video after video about me terrified I might take over for Tony

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP

Texas Children's Hospital: Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics | Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development | Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

Baylor College of Medicine: Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine | Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology | Health Policy Scholar

Baylor University, University Professor

Rice University, Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty

Texas A&M University , Faculty-Senior Fellow, Hagler Inst for Advanced Study & Scowcroft Institute of Intl Affairs

E-mail | Twitter | LinkedIn | Skype: (b) (6)

Amazon Author Center | Daily Beast Contributor

Senior Coordinator & Executive Support: Douglas Soriano

(b) (6) | Phone: (b) (6) | Fax: 713-798-2299

Media Inquiries:

(b) (6)

iPhone

On Jan 25, 2023, at 11:35 AM, Peter Daszak <(b) (6) wrote:

Disapppointed that Hugh isn't a candidate, because short of a stellar scientist from outside (and that isn't looking good), Hugh would be a safe pair of hands for the forseeable future.

I also cannot believe for the life of me that (b) (6) would be rejected from the other position you mentioned. He's a serious scientists, a huge leader in his field, and someone who is balanced and measured in the way he deals with bureaucracy. What a stupid decision and loss to NIAID.

What we need is a leading scientist, who's got a research and public health background, with experience in dealing with difficult political issues and both sides of the political spectrum…er….Peter Hotez!

Seriously, there surely are others out there?

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: +(b) (6)
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

From: David Morens (b) (6)
Sent: Wednesday, January 25, 2023 11:38 AM
To: Peter Daszak (b) (6); (b) (6) Jeffrey Sturchio <(b) (6)>; Aleksei Chmura (b) (6); Gerald Keusch (b) (6); Rich Roberts <(b) (6)>
Subject: Re: Tweet by Miner Flux on Twitter

Guys, although the director search seems to be proceeding with total secrecy, I learned yesterday that our worst fear has come true: a highly undesirable internal candidate has applied. This person is a middle to upper level physician scientist who is widely disliked as a self-serving narcissist, back stabber, and manipulator. Tthis opinion comes not from me, but from colleagues with much more knowledge of him/her than me. Of course, being an A-hole doesn't necessarily predict a bad leader, but there is widespread worry.

I won't name the candidate but Peter S would know because her/his research at NIAID is in the area of clinical management of rare hereditary pediatric diseases such as Job disease and CGD. Peter H, you could easily ID this person, but i do not want to do so, in part because i have limited personal experience with him/her and am merely relating opinions of colleagues i trust

This individual is in a key management position in which she/he has earned a reputation of cresting an ant-meritocracy: screwing the best scientists while supporting those who suck up. Again this is hearsay, but from people who work under him/her.

If these negative assessments are true, it is still unclear what the implications, if any, would be for EHA, but i would worry that she/he would throw good scientists under the bus to appease politicians downtown

In any case, the best scenario is an open search with many good candidates. I am not sure whether we have that.

Also, my opinion, and that of many others, is that we need someone from the outside, in part because NIAID management and leadership has become inbred, nepotistic, and uninterested in hiring top scientists to fill positions. Moreover, we totally lack vision or any idea about where the science will and should go, and no mechanism to plan for being at/staying on the cutting edge

When i came here in the 1990s, from academia, where i was a 40-something year old full tenured professor in both med and public health school departments, i was told thst because i only had about 160 publications i had no chance of getting automatic tenure or even being put on a tenure track position

That was then.

Of our two most recent hires placed into tenured positions, one had only 10 publications and the other came straight out of a post doc with few publications as well.

Both were in their early 30s and, as far as i can tell, are unlikely to ever do much

At the same time, we had the ability to hire a top scientist from the outside, my good friend the (b) (6) (b) (6) from (b) (6) - Peter H, you may know him- and we was the 100% top choice of the search committee. However leadership below Tony refused to hire him with the excuse that he was overqualified and would make the other scientists look bad

No, i am not joking. This is where we are

I have in my had a small list of about 5-10 qualified folks for NIAID director, and have spoken or written to 4 about it, one being you, Peter H, but all four have expressed no interest. Peter D, you are clearly on that list too, but obvious to all of us is the fact that HHS would never let that happen, sadly, so i never mentioned it. In a better world, you would be at the top of that list in my view

The application deadline of 1/17 has passed, so we may be stuck with a non-ideal list, although no one knows including, i believe, our acting director Hugh, who is not a candidate, or so he told me

Sent from my iPhone
David M Morens
OD, NIAID, NIH

On Jan 25, 2023, at 10:58, Peter Daszak <
(b) (6) wrote:

Unfortunate. At this point you should just throw your hat in the ring!

Why not have a confidential chat with Peter Staley and see if they have a pool of candidates yet?

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507

USA

Tel.: (b) (6)

.org

Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

From: Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6)
Sent: Wednesday, January 25, 2023 10:55 AM
To: Peter Daszak <(b) (6)
(b) (6)
(b) (6) >; David Morens <
(b) (6) Gerald Keusch <(b) (6) Rich Roberts (b) (6) >
Subject: Re: Tweet by MinerTFlux on Twitter

Unfortunately the far right made a new YouTube claiming I'm the successor to Fauci. Which is ridiculous but it has set off a new wave of aggression

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP

Texas Children's Hospital: Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics | Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development | Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

Baylor College of Medicine: Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine | Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology | Health Policy Scholar

Baylor University, University Professor

Rice University, Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty

Texas A&M University, Faculty-Senior Fellow, Hagler Inst for Advanced Study & Scowcroft Institute of Intl Affairs

E-mail | Twitter | LinkedIn | Skype: (b) (6)

Amazon Author Center | Daily Beast Contributor

Senior Coordinator & Executive Support: Douglas Soriano

(b) (6) | Phone: (b) (6)

Fax: 713-798-2299

Media Inquiries:

(b) (6)

iPhone

On Jan 25, 2023, at 9:47 AM, Peter Daszak < (b) (6) > wrote:

*****CAUTION:*** This email is not from a BCM Source. Only click links or open attachments you know are safe.**

Disgusting. Reported to Twitter safety. They've been surprisingly good over the last few months. When there's a clear violation they've tended to lock the account.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: (b) (6)
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

From: Jeffrey Sturchio (b) (6) >

Sent: Tuesday, January 24, 2023 9:08 PM
To: Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6) Peter Daszak <
(b) (6) >; Aleksei Chmura <
(b) (6) David Morens <
(b) (6) >; Gerald Keusch <(>;
Rich Roberts (b) (6) (6)
Subject: RE: Tweet by Miner Flux on Twitter

Peter: What an idiot this guy is. You should be heartened by the immediate response he got to this asinine tweet!

As ever,
Jeff

From: Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6) >
Sent: Tuesday, January 24, 2023 8:09 PM
To: Peter Daszak(b) (6) Aleksei
Chmura <(b) (6) >; David Morens <
(b) (6) ; Gerald Keusch (b) (6)
Jeffrey Sturchio (b) (6) >; Rich Roberts <
(b) (6))
Subject: Tweet by Miner Flux on Twitter

Miner Flux
@randy_hoebee

#Hotez pic.twitter.com/eOPpHym0Rw

1/24/23, 4:04 PM

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP

Texas Children's Hospital: Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics | Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development | Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

Baylor College of Medicine: Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine | Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology | Health Policy Scholar

Baylor University, University Professor

Rice University, Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty

Texas A&M University, Faculty-Senior Fellow, Hagler Inst for Advanced Study & Scowcroft Institute of Intl Affairs

E-mail | Twitter | LinkedIn | Skype: (b) (6)

Amazon Author Center | Daily Beast Contributor

Senior Coordinator & Executive Support: Douglas Soriano

(b) (6) | Phone: (b) (6)
(b) (6) | Fax: 713-798-2299

Media Inquiries:
(b) (6)

iPhone

Date: Tue, 13 Apr 2021 11:22:11 AM -0400
Sent: Tue, 13 Apr 2021 11:22:09 AM -0400
Subject: RE: Sanjay Gupta and the Origins of CoV-2 story
From: "Keusch, Gerald T" <(b) (6)
To: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) David Morens ((b) (6) <(b) (6)

I was to quick to think I had figured out a direct route. I received an autoreply providing a phone number for neurosurgery questions and an email for somebody at CNN. While I think Gupta might have a brain lesion I chose to forward my email to the CNN person with the request that they bring my message to his attention. I am not confident they will.

Jerry

From: Keusch, Gerald T
Sent: Tuesday, April 13, 2021 11:18 AM
To: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) David Morens ((b) (6) <(b) (6)
Subject: FYI: Sanjay Gupta and the Origins of CoV-2 story

Thanks for the report David. My immediate reaction was to try to get to Gupta and then I realized I might find his contact information on the Emory faculty directory. My message to him is below.

Jerry

From: Keusch, Gerald T
Sent: Tuesday, April 13, 2021 11:15 AM
To: (b) (6)
Subject: Origins of CoV-2

Dear Dr. Gupta,

You totally missed the point with your comments about the origins of CoV-2. Whether or not the virus was even in the Wuhan Institute of Virology or there was an accidental release, CoV-2 originated as a spillover from bats and ultimately to humans. To prevent or mitigate the response to the next spillover we need to know as much about this true origin story as possible. By buying in to the acrimonious stories about the lab origin you, and others like Dr. Redfield, make it increasingly difficult if not impossible for anybody or any organization to gain the cooperation of the Chinese government. Unwittingly you have played the wrong card – a joker and it's not funny because it has major consequences for the world. Instead of allowing WHO to pursue further work with China, including the bat origins and the lab release story you, Redfield and the real conspiracy believers have done immeasurable harm.

Think about it – you are an intelligent individual – and do better to clarify and not further muddy the sewage left over from the behavior of the U.S. government toward China about the pandemic throughout 2020. I urge you to use your credibility as a physician and reporter positively and productively.
Sincerely,

MORENS_SUBPOENA_013752
MORENS_NIH_025934
REL0000482177

Gerald T. Keusch, M.D.
Professor of Medicine and International Health
Boston University School of Medicine
Associate Director, National Emerging Infectious Diseases Laboratories
620 Albany Street
Boston, MA 02118

MORENS_SUBPOENA_013753
MORENS_NIH_025935
REL0000482177

Date:	Fri, 13 Mar 2020 8:39:02 PM -0400
Sent:	Fri, 13 Mar 2020 8:39:01 PM -0400
Subject:	Re: New ms
From:	Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b) (6)
To:	Peter Daszak (b) (6)
CC:	Alison Andre (b) (6) (b) (6) Taubenberge (b) (6)
Attachments:	Figure 2 to show David Morens.docx; ATT00001.htm

Excellent! I see another paper in your graph and text alone. Did jeff not send u the draft yet? If not I will re-tweak him. D

Sent from my iPhone
David M Morens
OD, NIAID, NIH

On Mar 13, 2020, at 19:43, Peter Daszak (b) (6) wrote:

I'm onboard, of course! Agree that consensus is critical right now.

I'll also play more of a role this time round. Please email when you need me to draft, and cc Alison Andre, who'll make sure I deliver on time!

I'm cc'ing Jeff to show the interesting figure (Fig 2 in the doc above) that we wrote into a grant application for CoVs a few months before the outbreak. It shows multiple emergence events of novel Nidovirales (CoVs belong to that group) over the last few centuries, most of which originated in animals, many of which involved both wildlife and livestock, and some of which became endemic in people. Of course the question mark has now been filled - it's COVID-19 SARS-CoV-2!

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
460 West 34th Street
New York, NY 10001
USA

Tel.: (b) (6)
Webs halliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

-----Original Message----- (b) (6)
From: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E]
Sent: Friday, Mar (b) (6)
To: Peter Daszak
Subject: New ms

Peter, Jeff and I are playing with a ms on the history of pandemics that you might be interested in joining as coauthor. Not hectoring you but we believe that "consensus docs" will have more throw weight. Howard Markel is also theoretically involved but is sitting Shiva because of his mom's passing. Others might be drawn in. If you are interested/willing Jeff will send, as his computer is smarter than my phone. David.

Sent from my iPhone
David M Morens
●D, NIAID, NIH

MORENS_SUBPOENA_011624
MORENS_NIH_022560
REL0000482183

Date: Fri, 21 Jul 2023 1:43:22 PM -0400
Sent: Fri, 21 Jul 2023 1:42:40 PM -0400
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Fwd: Zoom with Bill Novelli
From: David Morens <(b) (6)
To: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] <(b) (6)

David M. Morens, MD
(b) (6)

(b) (6)
(b) (6) (work)
(cell)

IMPORTANT: My gmail frequently sends incoming messages to Trash, which is apparently not correctable. If you don't hear from me in a reasonable time, please try again, call, or use my NIH email address

IMPORTANT: For US Government-related email, please also reply to my NIAID address

---------- Forwarded message ---------
From: Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6)
Date: Sat, Jun 3, 2023 at 7:53 PM
Subject: Re: Zoom with Bill Novelli
To: Roberts, Rich <(b) (6)
Cc: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >, Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6) David Morens <(b) (6) <(b) (6) Jeffrey Sturchio <(b) (6) Soriano Osejo, Douglas <(b) (6) >

I've spoken to him but happy to talk to him again

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP

Texas Children's Hospital: Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics | Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development | Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

Baylor College of Medicine: Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine | Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology | Health Policy Scholar

Baylor University, University Professor

Rice University, Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty

Texas A&M University, Faculty-Senior Fellow, Hagler Inst for Advanced Study & Scowcroft Institute of Intl Affairs

E-mail | Twitter | LinkedIn | Skype: (b) (6)

Amazon Author Center | Daily Beast Contributor

Senior Coordinator & Executive Support: Douglas Soriano

(b) (6) | Phone: (b) (6) | Fax: 713-798-2299

Media Inquiries:

(b) (6)

(b) (6)

(b) (6)

iPhone

On Jun 3, 2023, at 3:47 PM, Roberts, Rich <(b) (6) > wrote:

Hi:

Bill Novelli has set up a zoom call for June 20th at 10:30 am. If any of you would like to join please let me know.

Rich

Richard J. Roberts
New England Biolabs
240 County Road
Ipswich, MA 01938-2723
USA
Tel: (b) (6)
Fax: (978) 412 9910
email: (b) (6)

Executive Assistant: (b) (6)
Tel: (b) (6)
Fax: (978) 412 9910
email: (b) (6)
CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and are confident the content is safe.

Date: Sun, 30 May 2021 7:31:14 PM -0400
Sent: Sun, 30 May 2021 7:27:26 PM -0400
Subject: RE: Wpost: U.S. health secretary calls for follow-up investigation into pandemic's origins
From: Peter Daszak <(b) (6)
To: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] <(b) (6) Gerald Keusch <(b) (6) Rich Roberts <(b) (6)
Attachments: image003.jpg; Nature Protect scientific collaboration from geopolitics. May 2021.pdf

Thanks David. I understand, and we need him at the helm. I'm hoping that Biden's 90 day intel deep 'dive' will help cool things down.

In the meantime, I'm increasingly worried that EcoHealth Alliance might get thrown under the bus for political expedience. There are amendments to bills that could rapidly and easily crush scientific collaboration with China, or even defund EcoHealth completely.

I would like, if possible to talk next week sometime and start trying to get the Biotech and virology community mobilized so they can start defending against bills that could have a major impact on lab research, collaboration with China, and international collaboration.

I know others are beginning to wake up to the possibility that this could be one of the endgames some on the right are aiming for – see the article in Nature this week: https://www.nature.com/articles/d41586- 021-01386-0 (also attached).

I'd like to reach out to the societies that spoke out when our grant was canceled and see what can be done to mobilize politically to defend science, and at the same time, hopefully, us here in the middle.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: +(b) (6)
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

From: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b) (6)
Sent: Tuesday, May 25, 2021 2:14 PM

To: Peter Daszak (b) (6) ; Gerald Keusch (b) (6) ; Rich Roberts (b) (6)
Subject: Re: Wpost: U.S. health secretary calls for follow-up investigation into pandemic's origins

Peter, I have learned fom internal sources that for entirely political reasons Tony is being asked by very high levels to stay neutral about the origin. Not sure why he is going along however.... d

On 5/25/2021 10:57 AM, Peter Daszak wrote:

> This is exactly the politics I was talking about. I'm part of weekly meetings with the WHO COVID-19 origins mission as we develop Phase 2 plans, and we're tracking the politics closely. Right now the US response is pretty mild. I've seen a copy of the HHS letter and it's just more of the same sort of comments below. What we're worried about on the origins group is that if the lab leak rhetoric pushes too strongly, China will just close the door on Phase 2 of the work. Right now, the only possible way forward to actually get into China and do more work on COVID origins is via this WHO team, so it would be disaster if this hype messes it up.
>
> Cheers,
>
> Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: +(b) (6)
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

From: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b) (6)
Sent: Tuesday, Ma
To: Peter Daszak (b) (6) ; Gerald Keusch (b) (6) ich Roberts < (b) (6)
st: U.S. health secretary calls for follow-up investigation into pandemic's origins

Everybody's getting into the act, it seems..... d
Sent from my iPhone
David M Morens
OD, NIAID, NIH
Begin forwarded message:

MORENS_SUBPOENA_015862
MORENS_NIH_033600
REL0000482186

From: "Folkers, Greg (NIH/NIAID) [E]" (b) (6)
Date: May 25, 2021 at 07:27:31 EDT
Subject: Wpost: U.S. health secretary calls for follow-up investigation into pandemic's origins

U.S. health secretary calls for follow-up investigation into pandemic's origins

Latest: Analysis: Timeline for how the Wuhan lab-leak theory suddenly became credible



Health and Human Services Secretary Xavier Becerra speaks at a convention center in Long Beach, Calif., on May 13. (Patrick T. Fallon/AFP/Getty Images)

By Katerina Ang and Erin Cunningham

May 25, 2021 at 6:51 a.m. EDT

The United States called Tuesday for the swift launch of a follow-up investigation into the origins of the coronavirus, amid growing concerns over China's lack of transparency about the early days of the outbreak.

Health and Human Services Secretary Xavier Becerra, speaking in a video message, urged an annual ministerial meeting of the World Health Organization to establish a second stage of the investigation that took place in the Chinese city of Wuhan earlier this year.

"Phase 2 of the covid origins study must be launched with terms of reference that are transparent, science-based, and give international experts the independence to fully assess the source of the virus and the early days of the outbreak," Becerra said, according to Reuters. WHO head Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus is among those who have voiced frustration with the level of access Chinese authorities gave for the investigation this year.

The secretary did not mention China directly. But his remarks follow a report Sunday in the Wall Street Journal quoting U.S. officials as saying that several Chinese researchers at the Wuhan

MORENS_SUBPOENA_015863
MORENS_NIH_033601
REL0000482186

Institute of Virology sought hospital care in November 2019, a month before the first confirmed coronavirus case in China.

Disclaimer

The information contained in this communication from the sender is confidential. It is intended solely for use by the recipient and others authorized to receive it. If you are not the recipient, you are hereby notified that any disclosure, copying, distribution or taking action in relation of the contents of this information is strictly prohibited and may be unlawful.

This email has been scanned for viruses and malware, and may have been automatically archived by Mimecast, a leader in email security and cyber resilience. Mimecast integrates email defenses with brand protection, security awareness training, web security, compliance and other essential capabilities. Mimecast helps protect large and small organizations from malicious activity, human error and technology failure; and to lead the movement toward building a more resilient world. To find out more, visit our website.

Disclaimer

The information contained in this communication from the sender is confidential. It is intended solely for use by the recipient and others authorized to receive it. If you are not the recipient, you are hereby notified that any disclosure, copying, distribution or taking action in relation of the contents of this information is strictly prohibited and may be unlawful.

This email has been scanned for viruses and malware, and may have been automatically archived by Mimecast, a leader in email security and cyber resilience. Mimecast integrates email defenses with brand protection, security awareness training, web security, compliance and other essential capabilities. Mimecast helps protect large and small organizations from malicious activity, human error and technology failure; and to lead the movement toward building a more resilient world. To find out more, visit our website.

Date: Tue, 30 Mar 2021 10:14:18 PM -0400
Sent: Tue, 30 Mar 2021 10:14:15 PM -0400
Subject: RE: Matt Fenton
From: "Keusch, Gerald T" <(b) (6)
To: David Morens <(b) (6)
CC: Peter Daszak <(b) (6)

I suggest you let him know I am Assoc Director of the NEIDL, I have been working with you and Peter to address the unacceptable interference of politics into the peer review system, and I am interested in meeting him. What I don't know is if he is here in person or virtually. I suspect NIH travel is still precluded by the outbreak, so an introduction would be by email with a CC to me, which then allows Matt and me to figure out how to connect.
Sound reasonable for you?

Jerry

From: David Morens <(b) (6)
Sent: Tuesday, March 30, 2021 9:34 PM
To: Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6)
Cc: Peter Daszak <(b) (6)
Subject: Re: Matt Fenton

How shall i do that? I could email him and say i think you will be there, hope you can connect? Or what do you propose? D

Sent from my iPhone
David M Morens
OD, NIAID, NIH

On Mar 30, 2021, at 18:47, Keusch, Gerald T (b) (6) > wrote:

He is speaking at BU tomorrow – I'm assuming it's all virtual – but I was also hoping I might at least get a cyber chance to meet him. I'm not sure how to accomplish that but I have asked Ron Corley, who is the host, to figure it out. If you can introduce me to Fenton that could also allow us to find a time to talk about how to work interactively to pressure OD/OER on the EHA grant.

AND USE YOUR G-MAIL ACCOUNT.

Gerald T. Keusch, M.D.
Professor of Medicine and International Health
Boston University School of Medicine
Associate Director, National Emerging Infectious Diseases Laboratories
620 Albany Street
Boston, MA 02118

Date: Fri, 5 Apr 2024 9:15:05 AM -0400
Sent: Fri, 5 Apr 2024 9:12:16 AM -0400
Subject: Democcrats on SSCP criticizing EcocHealth Alliance yesterday - looks like we're being thrown under the bus again.
From: Peter Daszak <(b) (6)
To: Roberts, Rich <(b) (6) David Morens <(b) (6) Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6) peter hotez <(b) (6) Jeffrey Sturchio <(b) (6) Keith Martin <(b) (6)
CC: Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6)

Checkout this quote from Democrat staffers, in an interview with Fox News: https://www.foxnews.com/politics/covid- origins-ecohealth-alliance-president-testify-publicly-congress-next-month

This was our experience in my on-the-record testimony, the Democrat chief staffer came after me repeatedly trying to make the case that we weren't forthcoming in our responses to NIH. Very upsetting and concerning…

A spokesperson for Democrats on the COVID subcommittee told Fox News Digital that throughout the Congress, they have "underscored the importance of pursuing and prioritizing forward-looking reforms that enhance biosafety standards in the United States and around the globe so that we can reduce the threat of future outbreaks and prevent future pandemics."

"In the Select Subcommittee's probe of federally funded research, testimony and documents reviewed by Select Subcommittee Democrats raise serious concerns that EcoHealth Alliance disregarded federal reporting requirements that ensure grantees are accountable to the American people," the spokesperson told Fox News Digital. "We look forward to Dr. Daszak's testimony before the Select Subcommittee on this matter next month."

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507

USA

Tel.: +1-212-380-4474
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

---

From: Roberts, Rich (b) (6))
Sent: Wednesday, April 3, 2024 3:18 PM
To: David Morens (b) (6) Peter Daszak (b) (6) Keusch, Gerald T < (b) (6) p (b) (6) ; Jeffrey Sturchi (b) (6)
Subject: RE: Wenstrup Invites Top Scientific Journals to Testify o elationship with Federal Government

Unbelievable! We are being surrounded by morons.

Richard J. Roberts
New England Biolabs
240 County Road
Ipswich, MA 01938-2723
USA
Tel:(b) (6)
Fax: (978) 412 9910
emai (b) (6) (6)

Executive Assistant: (b) (6)
Tel (b) (6)
Fax: (978) 412 9910
email (b) (6)

From: David Morens (b) (6)
Sent: Wednesday, April 3, 2024 3:04 PM
To: Peter Daszak (b) (6) >; Keusch, Gerald T (b) (6) ; peter hotez (b) (6) Roberts, Rich (b) (6) >; Jeffrey Sturchio (b) (6)
Subject: Fwd: Wenstrup Invites Top Scientific Journals to Testify on Possible Inappropriate Relationship with Federal Government

EXTERNAL SENDER

From the cell phone of David Morens

---------- Forwarded message ---------
From: **Folkers, Greg (NIH/NIAID) [C]** (b) (6)
Date: Wed, Apr 3, 2024, 14:25
Subject: Wenstrup Invites Top Scientific Journals to Testify on Possible Inappropriate Relationship with Federal Government
To:

Press Release **Published:** Apr 2, 2024

Wenstrup Invites Top Scientific Journals to Testify on Possible Inappropriate Relationship with Federal Government

WASHINGTON — Today, Select Subcommittee on the Coronavirus Pandemic Chairman Brad Wenstrup (R-Ohio) invited the respective Editors-in-Chief of *Science*, *Nature*, and *The Lancet* to testify before the Select Subcommittee on Tuesday, April 16, 2024. The hearing seeks to examine any potential inappropriate influence exerted by the federal government over research publications related to COVID-19 and ensure that the federal government is not granted undue access to the scientific review process during a future health crisis.

Science, *Nature*, and *The Lancet* serve as critical information hubs for top scientific research across the world and individually publish articles that are cited millions of times each year. After the publication of the highly controversial, "The Proximal Origin of SARS-CoV-2" ("Proximal Origin") paper — which wrongly downplayed and vilified the lab leak hypothesis during the early days of the COVID-19 pandemic — concerns arose regarding the suppression of scientific discourse by federal health officials in the United States. The Select Subcommittee has obtained evidence that indicates *Science*, *Nature*, and *The Lancet* were in communication with federal government officials, including Dr. Anthony Fauci and Dr. Francis Collins.

"Millions of people worldwide relied on Science, Nature, and The Lancet to provide scientifically accurate and impartial research during the COVID-19 pandemic. However, documents show that the federal government may have censored and manipulated the sacred scientific review processes at these journals to progress their preferred narrative about the origins of COVID-19. Should these world-renowned scientific journals have done more to protect scientific discourse and ensure the peer review process was completed without outside influence? The Select Subcommittee expects the invited Editors-in-Chief to attend this hearing and address concerns that their research was inappropriately influenced by a political agenda," **said Chairman Wenstrup.**

Read the letters to Science, Nature, and The Lancet below:

- Editor-in-Chief of *Science*, Dr. Holden Thorp
- Editor-in-Chief of *Nature*, Dr. Magdelena Skipper
- Editor-in-Chief of *The Lancet*, Dr. Richard Horton

Disclaimer: Any third-party material in this email has been shared for internal use under fair use provisions of U.S. copyright law, without further verification of its accuracy/veracity. It does not necessarily represent my views nor those of NIAID, NIH, HHS, or the U.S. government.

Date: Mon, 22 Aug 2022 11:34:38 AM -0400
Sent: Mon, 22 Aug 2022 11:33:21 AM -0400
Subject: RE: A new 'low' for Jeff Sachs
From: Peter Daszak <(b) (6)
To: Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6)
CC: Roberts, Rich <(b) (6) David Morens <(b) (6) Gerald T Keusch <(b) (6) Jeff Sturchio <(b) (6) Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) >;
Attachments: image001.jpg; image002.jpg; image003.jpg

Peter, I read the twitter thread from Angela Rasmussen (below). I believe she's correct in saying (as others are now also saying) that this should disqualify a person from leading a Lancet Commission into COVID-19, since part of its stated goals (in letters published in the Lancet) are to counter the anti-science and anti-vaccine narratives, promote equitable distribution and uptake of vaccines etc.

Obviously, I can't take any part in this, but I would hope that some of the Commissioners would think about writing to Richard Horton to at least inform him that the leader of his COVID Commission is now co-promoting with a blatant anti-vaccine advocate…

Thread

See new Tweets

Conversation



Dr. Angela Rasmussen

@angie_rasmussen

1

2h

Quoth Sachs: "There was a recipe. There was a desire. There was a large scientific program. There was a technical capability. And one day, there was a FCS that has never been seen before in a sarbecovirus. . . And everything from NIH is don't look over there, look at the market."

2

2

37



Dr. Angela Rasmussen

@angie_rasmussen

1

MORENS_SUBPOENA_011034
MORENS_NIH_021779
REL0000482199

2h

What is motivating Fauci to be the puppet master pulling the strings on this global furin cleavage site cloning-based conspiracy? Sachs asserts it's because he is in charge of "biodefense." Then REK adds that the CIA makes offensive bioweapons in violation of the 1972 BWC.

1

2

40



Dr. Angela Rasmussen

@angie_rasmussen

2h

So let's get this straight: Fauci is the GoF-father ordering NIAID grantees to cook up SARSr-CoV bioweapons in violation of international law using insertional mutagenesis to sprinkle in his favorite bioweapon ingredient: suboptimal polybasic cleavage sites at the S1/S2 junction.

1

6

45



Dr. Angela Rasmussen

@angie_rasmussen

2h

Fauci is doing this for the CIA in collaboration with the Chinese government so Big Pharma can achieve world domination through vaccines for the bespoke FCS-bearing bioweapons being released by a cabal of evil governments & funding agencies.

1

3

45



Dr. Angela Rasmussen

@angie_rasmussen

MORENS_SUBPOENA_011035
MORENS_NIH_021780
REL0000482199

2h

And all virologists are lying, sociopathic nihilists well-versed in "deceit and deception", so devoted to our pathogenic god-

distracting the public from the furin cleavage sites we will attack them with.

1

5

46



Dr. Angela Rasmussen

@angie_rasmussen

2h

It ends with a pitch for RFK Jr's latest book, an execrable piece of noxious trash that is currently Amazon's "#1 Best Seller in Immunology". This book uses baseless conspiracy theories to discourage vaccination. This book can literally kill people who take it seriously.

MORENS_SUBPOENA_011036
MORENS_NIH_021781
REL0000482199

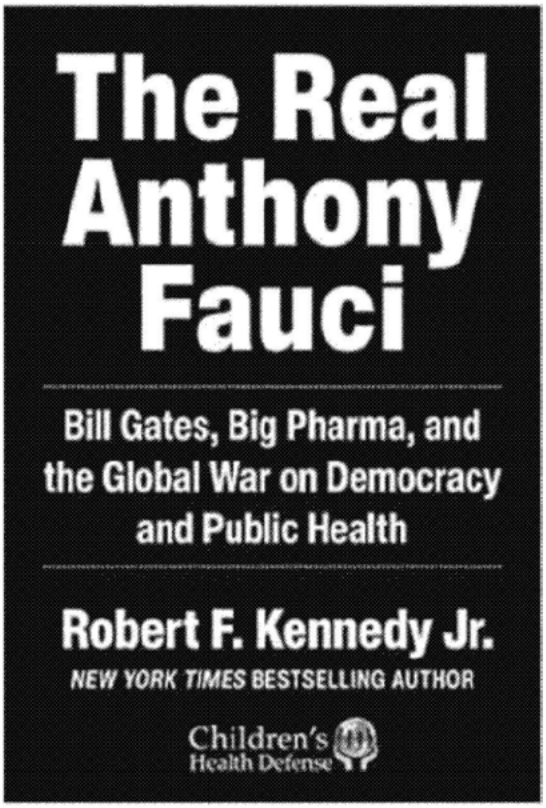
Robert F. Kennedy Jr.

The Real Anthony Fauci: Bill Gates, Big Pharma, and the Global War on Democracy and Public Health

★★★★★ (17,652)

#1 Best Seller in Immunology

Part of: Children's Health Defense (25 books)



3
5
57



Dr. Angela Rasmussen

@angie_rasmussen

MORENS_SUBPOENA_011037
MORENS_NIH_021782
REL0000482199

2h

If this sounds fucking crazy, it's because it IS absolutely, totally, spectacularly fucking crazy. Now normally I try to ignore RFK. He's likely done more damage to public health than any other anti-vaxxer & profited handsomely from it.

1

11

79



Dr. Angela Rasmussen

@angie_rasmussen

2h

But Jeff Sachs is in charge of a commission tasked with investigating & analyzing all aspects of the pandemic, from origins to vaccines. Though the Lancet Commission has no policy making power, it's still very influential.

2

8

56



Dr. Angela Rasmussen

@angie_rasmussen

2h

And if spreading lies and conspiracy theories about the pandemic's origin wasn't already disqualifying for Sachs to lead it, attempting to wield influence via the platform of an anti-vaxxer whose entire career is devoted to harming public health absolutely should be.

2

13

76



Dr. Angela Rasmussen

MORENS_SUBPOENA_011038
MORENS_NIH_021783
REL0000482199

@angie_rasmussen

2h

These aren't just Sachs' opinions. These conspiracy theories are insidious propaganda that will enrich people like RFK at the expense of public health. This is profoundly harmful. It will cost lives. Jeffrey Sachs needs to be removed as Lancet Commission Chair.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: (b) (6)
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

---

From: Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6) >
Sent: Sunday, August 21, 2022 10:35 PM
To: Peter Daszak (b) (6)
Cc: Roberts, Rich <(b) (6) David Morens <(b) (6) Gerald T Keusch (b) (6) ; Jeff Sturchio (b) >; Aleksei Chmura (b) (6)
Subject: Re: A new 'low' for Jeff Sachs

I couldn't bring myself to listen but Angie R did, apparently Jeff said disgraceful and untrue things about me, about us, beyond awful

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP

Texas Children's Hospital: Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics | Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development | Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

Baylor College of Medicine: Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine | Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology | Health Policy Scholar

Baylor University, University Professor
Rice University, Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty
Texas A&M University, Faculty-Senior Fellow, Hagler Inst for Advanced Study & Scowcroft Institute of Intl Affairs

E-mail | Twitter | LinkedIn | Skype: (b) (6)

MORENS_SUBPOENA_011039
MORENS_NIH_021784
REL0000482199

Amazon Author Center | Daily Beast Contributor

Senior Coordinator & Executive Support: Douglas Soriano
(b) (6) | Phone: (b) (6) | Fax: 713-798-2299

Media Inquiries:
(b) (6)

iPhone

On Aug 21, 2022, at 4:47 PM, Peter Daszak (b) (6) > wrote:

I'm very surprised to see that Jeff Sachs has been interviewed by the well-known anti-vaxxer and conspiracist Robert F. Kennedy Jr. There's a podcast you can listen to here: https://pca.st/f4qhwghp but you have to download an app, then use your email and create a password – I didn't.

RFK Jr's anti-vaccine activities are widely known, and just 2 days ago he was removed from social media platforms for spreading conspiracies. Here's an NY Times story on that:
https://www.nytimes.com/2022/08/18/technology/facebook-_instagram-robert-kennedy-jr-misinformation.html

According to lab leak proponents who are reviewing Jeff Sachs' interview, he goes through all the stuff in his PNAS article including the nasty comments about my role in the Lancet Commission. He calls the "Proximal origins" paper in Nature Medicine "ludicrous"; "almost unbelievable what it says"; "frankly, it is garbage"; "there is a narrative: a willful misdirection"; "joke"; "it is absurd".

I guess he's all-in at this point!

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: (b) (6)
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

---

From: Roberts, Rich (b) (6)) (6)
Sent: Saturday, August 20, 2022 7:02 PM
To: Peter Daszak (b) (6) vid Morens (b) (6) Gerald T Keusch < (b) (6) Jeff Sturchio (b) (6) ; Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6)
Cc: Aleksei Chmura (b) (6)

Subject: RE: Continued NIH action - already leaked to the press

Peter:

Yet another example of why they should close the major law schools, especially Harvard and Yale, and make the students go to Medical School instead. That tackles two problems, since a significant number of Harvard and Yale graduates go down to Congress where they do yet more harm

Rich

Richard J. Roberts
New England Biolabs
240 County Road
Ipswich, MA 01938-2723
USA
Tel: (b) (6)
Fax: (978) 412 9910
email: (b) (6)

From: Peter Daszak (b) (6)
Sent: Saturday, August 20, 2022 6:55 PM
To: Roberts, (b) (6) >; David Morens (b) (6) Gerald T Keusch <(b) (6)
Jeff Sturchio (b) (6) <(b) (6)
Cc: Aleksei C
Subject: RE: Continued NIH action - already leaked to the press

EXTERNAL SENDER

I love that idea Rich.

Truth is, our lawyers told us early on that the actions NIH took are likely illegal. They've looked at all prior cases of NIH terminated grants, suspending grants and appeals against them. There are precedents for winning these cases, e.g. Planned Parenthood and others. The only catch is that suing NIH would mean litigation that drags on for a few years, discovery actions that would demand all sorts of private correspondence, and ultimately a jury that might by now be contaminated with the lab leak narrative. They advised us that the best option is to push privately for the grant to be renegotiated, which I suppose is where we are now.

All of this is of course exacerbated by the other actions and attacks that add to a general narrative that EcoHealth must have been up to no good – this includes the NAM investigation that we're still waiting to hear about, and the OIG audit. There's also a lawsuit against us that we've tried not to talk publicly about, but it's real and we have to defend against it. A lawyer in Long Island who's sued EHA, myself and even my wife for a huge sum for causing COVID-19 that then infected him etc.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance

MORENS_SUBPOENA_011041
MORENS_NIH_021786
REL0000482199

520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: (b) (6)
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

---

From: Roberts, Rich (b) (6)
Sent: Saturday, August 20, 2022 6:33 PM
To: Peter Daszak (b) (6); David Morens (b) (6); Gerald T Keusch <(b) (6); Jeff Sturchio (b) (6); Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6)
Cc: Aleksei Chmura (b) (6)
Subject: RE: Continued NIH action - already leaked to the press

Peter:

Maybe there's a way to bill NIH for all the extra work they have caused you to undertake. A good lawyer might have a field day.

Rich

Richard J. Roberts
New England Biolabs
240 County Road
Ipswich, MA 01938-2723
USA
Tel: (b) (6)
Fax: (978) 412 9910
email: (b) (6)

From: Peter Daszak (b) (6)
Sent: Saturday, A PM
To: Roberts, Rich (b) (6); David Morens (b) (6); Gerald T Keusch <(b) (6); Jeff Sturchio (b) (6); Hotez, Peter Jay
Cc: Aleksei Chmura (b) (6)
Subject: RE: Continued NIH action - already leaked to the press
Importance: High

EXTERNAL SENDER

Thanks Rich - I've got to look at the positives in all of this and just carry on fighting, if only for my own health reasons. It's been a really horrible couple of years and I've found that the constant harassment can really get you down – it's been shocking to me how much of struggle this is with many days spent despairing over my own personal future and the future of EcoHealth. It's been tough on my family as well, and the other staff at EHA.

I'm determined not to give up though and will be going through all the options carefully. The other glimmer of hope is that any 'renegotiation' will be with NIAID staff, so I'll reach out to them ASAP. I think that if most of the funding is planned for the US, with just one subcontract to China, for a group that works on epidemiology, that might work. The other strategy would be to see if a shift to another country would work. I'm mindful that NIH (Lauer et al.) would be delighted if we just handed in the towel, and will probably be looking for excuses to consider our alternative plans out of scope.

On this issue of who is 'the pits' and who isn't at NIH, I think the list begins with Francis Collins, who committed the original sin of terminating our grant when he could have simply resisted. Second is his lackey Lauer who took it to another level of bumbling errors, illegal actions, and aggressive brinksmanship, but there are others also. Lawrence Tabak (now

MORENS_SUBPOENA_011042
MORENS_NIH_021787
REL0000482199

acting Director NIH) publicly stated that we were out of compliance and really threw us under the bus, and there are a group of legal advisors and Congressional staffers at the Office of the Director who have actively worked to publicly undermine us, sometimes with clear glee and delight.

For example, in one of the FoIA'd emails that Peter Aldhous at Buzzfeed unearthed, he spotted Michael Lauer sending details of our animal experiment oversight, which they then used to tighten the screw on us very publicly and unfairly. Lauer used the subject Header "A Gift" when he sent this to his legal and Congressional relations colleagues at NIH. That sort of gloating is pretty disgusting, and won't be forgotten by me. Peter Aldhous also dug up clear evidence that NIH requested an OIG audit as part of their efforts to tighten the screws on us, and get them off the hook. We're just negotiating the final results of that audit – a huge timesink that's been going on over a year now, has looked at grants to EHA over the last 8 years, and has only found $77,000 of mis-coded financial errors (including a $19 overpayment to a contractor, with $7 indirect costs; and a single $5 alcoholic beverage at a hotel mistakenly coded to our grant). Great use of taxpayer money and time and the total of these mis-coded finances is less than 1% of the grants they reviewed, and less than 0.01% of our budget over that period. Of course, when the report goes public in a few weeks, it'll be used by Republicans to demand we're de-funded and closed down (again).

Ironically, in the emails (below), Michael Lauer cc's Michelle Bulls, who's listed in his correspondence yesterday as the person we have to write to if we want to appeal their decision. Pretty sure she's not an objective overseer at this point.

Here's the article: https://www.buzzfeednews.com/article/peteraldhous/white- coat-waste-anthony-fauci-nih-ecohealth-alliance-lab

And here's the section (and you can click on the links to see the FoIA'd emails):

A heavily redacted series of emails from May 2021 centers on the July 2016 letter from the NIAID that had given EcoHealth permission to resume the chimera work. Accepting a suggestion made by Daszak himself, it stated that if any of the chimeric viruses showed unexpectedly rapid growth, he would "immediately stop all experiments with these viruses" and provide NIAID officials with information about the unexpected outcomes. Shortly after receiving the letter, Lauer sent it on to a senior attorney with the Department of Health and Human Services, assigned to the NIH, changing the subject line on the email thread to "Gift."

Daszak's problem was that the NIH determined that an experiment described in annual progress reports for the grant indicated that one of these viruses had made mice engineered to carry the human receptor targeted by SARS-like viruses sicker than expected and showed signs of rapid growth. "EcoHealth failed to report this finding right away," NIH deputy director Tabak later wrote in an October 2021 letter to James Comer, the ranking Republican member on the House of Representatives Committee on Oversight and Reform.

None of this amounts to a smoking gun linking EcoHealth and the Wuhan institute to the origins of COVID, as the viruses involved were very different to SARS-CoV-2. And in a letter to Lauer and Tabak after the latter's communication with Comer, Daszak contested the conclusion that the experiment did show rapid viral growth and argued that EcoHealth had complied with its reporting requirements.

But it gave Lauer evidence that he was looking for. EcoHealth is now under audit from the Office of Inspector General for the Department of Health and Human Services, an independent watchdog that monitors fraud, waste, and other problems, as part of a review of the NIH and "selected grantees" initiated on June 11, 2021. Documents received by BuzzFeed News through its FOIA lawsuit, including a timeline of events put together by Lauer dated June 13, 2021, indicate that the suggestion for an OIG audit of EcoHealth came from the NIH, just days after Lauer sent his "Gift" email.

The NIH declined to discuss Lauer's email and timeline, saying in a statement: "NIH doesn't comment on internal deliberation of grant awards."

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: (b) (6)
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

---

From: Roberts, Rich (b) (6) @)
Sent: Saturday, August 20, 2022 12:55 PM
To: Peter Daszak (b) (6) David Morens (b) (6) >; Gerald T Keusch < (b) (6) ; Jeff Sturchio (b) (6) ; Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6)
Cc: Aleksei Chmura (b) (6)
Subject: RE: Continued NIH action - already leaked to the press

Peter:

Glad you could find a glimmer to be hopeful about. Lauer is just the pits!

Are there people outside of China you might be able to collaborate with?

Rich

Richard J. Roberts
New England Biolabs
240 County Road
Ipswich, MA 01938-2723
USA
Tel: (b) (6)
Fax: (978) 412 9910
email: (b) (6))

From: Peter Daszak (b) (6)
Sent: Saturday, August 20, 2022 10:27 AM
To: David Morens (b) (6) ; Gerald T Keusch (b) (6) ; Jeff Sturchio (b) (6) >; Roberts, Rich (b) (6) (b) (6)
Cc: Aleksei Chmura (b) (6)
Subject: RE: Continued NIH action - already leaked to the press
Importance: High

EXTERNAL SENDER

I found a copy on Twitter of Lauer's letter to Rep Comer yesterday – word doc attached, recreated using screenshot jpegs, so hope it works.

It's good that they're publicly stating we've cooperated with NIH – this is related to their continued series of letters about our other grants – making us jump through all sorts of hoops just to continue our work. At the same time, they're clearly

MORENS_SUBPOENA_011044
MORENS_NIH_021789
REL0000482199

trying to show the aggressive Republicans in Congress that NIH is going to crack down on miscreants such as us. Apparently, for at least the next 3 years we'll have to double up our reporting requirements, have no automatic carry over of unspent funds, and have to conduct 6 monthly onsite assessments of subcontractees. We've not been told all that yet by NIH, but no doubt there'll be another letter from Lauer on its way soon.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: (b) (6)
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

---

From: Peter Daszak (b) (6)
Sent: Saturday, August 20, 2022 10:06 AM
To: 'David Morens' <(b) (6) >; 'Gerald T Keusch' (b) (6) 'Jeff Sturchio' < (b) (6) >; 'Roberts, Rich' (b) (6)) 'Hotez, Peter Jay' (b) (6)
Cc: Aleksei Chmura (b) (6)
Subject: Continued N press
Importance: High

Here's the latest from NIH – as usual we received a Friday afternoon pdf letter from Michael Lauer that's full of legalistic language (attached). And as also 'usual', Lauer only sent this the same day he informed Republicans on an oversight committee, and either him or the Republicans then instantly made it public. There's already an article in the Washington Examiner about it (below)

They're basically terminating our subcontract to WIV because we were unable to get the lab notebooks they demanded (no surprise there, given the politics). They're also offering us the chance to renegotiate the grant. Sounds great, but by now of course the chances of any institution in China wanting to work with an organization targeted in this way are pretty slim. There's also the buried proviso that we have to arrange for 6-monthly inspections of our subcontractee's labs.

If we don't want to renegotiate, we have to bilaterally terminate.

After 2 and a half years of pressure from NIH, we're now back to where we were in April of 2020, when NIH informed us to suspend all work with WIV, but that we could carry on with the grant. This was then followed a few days later with full termination, then suspension with conditions, then more conditions, now this. Pretty depressing, awful, and utterly unnecessary.

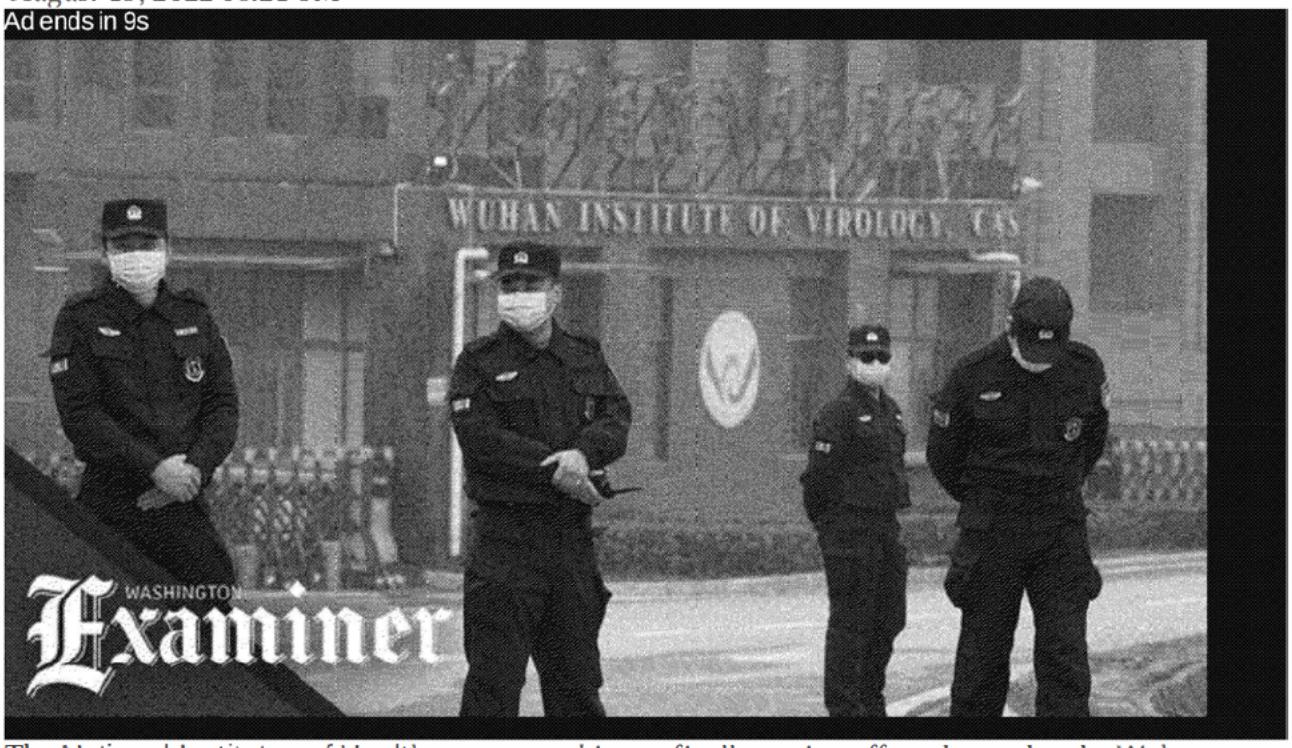
Not sure what we'll do, but my gut feeling is we should continue and try to find a way forwards with other groups in China. It'll be a hard path, considering WIV are the premier bat virus group in China and our preferred partners, and the politics has made all of this completely toxic. But it's the honorable path, as a scientist, and I think we should at least try.

Here's the Washington Examiner article: https://www.washingtonexaminer.com/policy/healthcare/nih- ends-subaward-wuhan-lab-stonewalling

WUHAN LAB

NIH ends subaward to Wuhan lab after continued stonewalling

by Jerry Dunleavy, Justice Department Reporter |
August 19, 2022 08:21 PM



The National Institutes of Health announced it was finally cutting off a subaward to the Wuhan Institute of Virology after it continued to refuse to hand over key information about the coronavirus research it conducted with U.S. tax dollars.

NIH Deputy Director Michael Lauer made the revelation in a letter Friday to House Oversight Committee Republicans, in which he said the Wuhan lab had refused to turn over lab notebooks and electronic files connected to its research funded through an NIH subaward given to it by the U.S.-based EcoHealth Alliance.

But Lauer indicated the NIH may continue funding EcoHealth's controversial bat coronavirus research despite the group's documented noncompliance issues, its close links to the Wuhan virology institute, and its history of funneling hundreds of thousands of U.S. tax dollars to the Chinese lab.

"NIH … identified one non-compliance under the ... award that cannot be remedied with specific award conditions," Lauer said Friday. "NIH has requested on two occasions that EHA [EcoHealth Alliance] provide NIH the laboratory notebooks and original electronic files from the research conducted at the WIV [Wuhan Institute of Virology]. To date, WIV has not provided these records."

Lauer added: "Today, NIH informed EHA that since WIV is unable to fulfill its duties for the subaward grant under R01AI110964, the WIV subaward is terminated for failure to meet award terms and conditions requiring provision of records to NIH upon request."

FBI INVESTIGATED NIH AWARD TO ECOHEALTH AND WUHAN LAB

The Office of the Director of National Intelligence released an assessment in 2021 stating that one U.S. intelligence agency assessed with "moderate confidence" that COVID-19 most likely emerged from the Chinese government lab in Wuhan, while four U.S. spy agencies and the National Intelligence Council believe with "low confidence" COVID-19 most likely has a natural origin.

MORENS_SUBPOENA_011046
MORENS_NIH_021791
REL0000482199

The NIH's Lauer also said Friday that the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, which has been led by Dr. Anthony Fauci for decades, "will begin to engage with EHA to renegotiate the specific aims and objectives of the R01 grant without the involvement of WIV … in light of the cooperation from EHA and the substantial subsequent improvements in administrative processes that EHA demonstrated."

Rep. James Comer (R-KY), the ranking member on House Oversight, hammered the NIH over this. "Terminating EcoHealth Alliance's partnership with the Wuhan Lab is the bare minimum," Comer said Friday. "It's unacceptable that the NIH continues to allow EcoHealth Alliance to receive taxpayer dollars even though it is confirmed EcoHealth violated the terms of its grant contract. EcoHealth conducted gain of function research on bat coronaviruses in Wuhan, knew about the Chinese Communist Party's coverup, and failed to inform the U.S. government."

Comer added: "EcoHealth's dangerous experiments in Wuhan and possible efforts to cover up any evidence may have started the pandemic. EcoHealth should not receive a penny of American taxpayer dollars for their gross mismanagement of Americans' hard-earned money."

The NIH had awarded EcoHealth with a grant dubbed "R01AI110964" years ago, and EcoHealth then doled out three research subawards, including one to the Wuhan lab.

"The research approved under this grant sought to understand how bat coronaviruses evolve naturally in the environment to become more transmissible to the human population," the NIH said Friday in defending the award. "This type of research is a critical part of pandemic preparedness."

The grant to EcoHealth was suspended by the NIH in June 2020 due to "grant administrative non-compliance concerns." EcoHealth was reprimanded by the NIH in October when the agency found that the organization delayed revealing that a U.S.-funded experiment conducted with the Wuhan lab determined that mice with implanted human cells became sicker with an engineered version of bat coronavirus. The NIH found more EcoHealth violations in January.

Republicans say the findings showed EcoHealth was funding risky gain-of-function research in China .

EcoHealth leader Peter Daszak was a longtime collaborator with the Wuhan lab who steered hundreds of thousands of dollars in NIH funding to the Chinese lab and was also a key World Health Organization-China joint study team member in early 2021.

Daszak dismissed the lab leak hypothesis in March 2021 when he admitted he took Wuhan lab workers at their word. Meeting minutes from discussions between lab scientists in Wuhan and the WHO-China COVID-19 origins joint study team reveal lab leak concerns were referred to as "myths" and "conspiracy theories."

An advisory group assembled by the WHO said in June that the lab leak hypothesis needed further study.

The NIH said Friday that the prior problems it had identified with EcoHealth's handling of its coronavirus grant included "inadequate oversight in monitoring the activities of its subawardees, failure to report subawards to the General Services Administration's Federal Subaward Reporting System, and errors in indirect rate charges."

But Lauer nevertheless said EcoHealth might again soon start receiving U.S. tax funding for its bat coronavirus experiments — just without the Wuhan lab's continued involvement.

The NIH had been run until recently by Dr. Francis Collins, while Fauci still leads NIAID.

Scientists consulting with the U.S. government early in the pandemic believed COVID-19 originating from a lab in Wuhan was possible or even likely, but emails show Fauci and Collins worked behind the scenes to shut the hypothesis down.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: (b) (6)
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

---

From: David Morens (b) (6)
Sent: Tuesday, August 9, 2022 9:46 AM
To: Peter Daszak <(b) (6)
(b) (6) (b) (6) Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6) Aleksei Chmura <
(b) (6) >; Gerald T Keusch (b) (6) ; Jeff Sturchio (b) (6)
Subject: Re: EcoHealth Alliance paper published tomorrow (Tuesday) showing very high rate of SARS-related CoV spillovers in Southeast Asia

Peter, can i share the proofs with Tony, confidentially of course? If not i will at least give him a heads up if that's ok

Also, correct me if i am wrong, but the 66k number is significantly higher than your previous estimate, right?

d

Sent from my iPhone
David M Morens
OD, NIAID, NIH

> On Aug 9, 2022, at 01:12, Peter Daszak (b) (6) > wrote:
>
> Some good news..
>
> Just letting you all know that our paper in *Nature Communications* will go live tomorrow at 11am: Sánchez *et al.* "*A strategy to assess spillover risk of bat SARS-related coronaviruses in Southeast Asia*". We used distribution data from bats known to host SARSr-CoVs, human population data, and serological testing results to estimate that a median of ~66,000 people are infected by bat-origin SARSr-CoVs in South and Southeast Asia each year. Obviously, this suggests spillovers are a daily occurrence in the region and would make any possibility of a lab leak pale into insignificance, given that 1) only a few dozen people work in labs or in the field on these viruses, 2) they all wear PPE as opposed to villagers hunting bats etc.
>
> Note that the analysis doesn't take into account people working in the wildlife trade because data are so patchy, but we do know that 14 million people worked in the wildlife trade in China alone before the outbreak, so that means human infections are probably even more common.
>
> I've attached the proofs here, and a press release, as well as an editorial I've published in our journal *EcoHealth* published by Springer. We also know that a story will appear in orrow about this. tomorrow about this.
>
> Cheers,

MORENS_SUBPOENA_011048
MORENS_NIH_021793
REL0000482199

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: +(b) (6)
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

---

From: Peter Daszak (b) (6)
Sent: Tuesday, August 9, 2022 12:54 AM
To: 'Roberts, Rich' (b) (6) 'Hotez, Peter Jay' (b) (6) ; Aleksei Chmura < (b) (6) >; 'David Morens' (b) (6) ; 'Gerald T Keusch' (b) (6) >; Jeff Sturchi (b) (6) >
Subject: RE: Reporter request for comment

Bizarre indeed, but this is how they do it – tangential links from you to your former postdoc to Zhengli to me, followed by accusations that you're linked to research which they (wrongly) claim is GoF, all used to try to undermine your appropriate pushback against all these other attacks.

It's exactly what the Union of Concerned Scientists called the 'disinformation playbook' that was used by big tobacco and anti-climate change activists (successfully I might add).
https://www.ucsusa.org/resources/disinformation- playbook

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: (b) (6)
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

MORENS_SUBPOENA_011049
MORENS_NIH_021794
REL0000482199

From: Roberts, Rich (b) (6)
Sent: Monday, August 8, 2022 4:16 PM
To: Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6) ; Peter Daszak (b) (6) ; Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) ; David Morens (b) (6) ; David Morens <(b) (6) ; Gerald T Keusch (b) (6)
Subject: RE: Reporter request for comment

Peter:

Maybe you should suggest she talk to your lawyer (at her expense).

Rich

Richard J. Roberts
New England Biolabs
240 County Road
Ipswich, MA 01938-2723
USA
Tel: (b) (6)
Fax: (978) 412 9910
email: (b) (6)

From: Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6) >
Sent: Monday, August 8, 2022 4:02 PM
To: Peter Daszak (b) (6) >; Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) ; David Morens (b) (6) >; David Morens <(b) (6) Gerald T Keusch <(b) (6) ; Roberts, Rich (b) (6) >
Subject: Fwd: Reporter request for comment

EXTERNAL SENDER

This is crazy. How would I even do that? I don't work in those areas?

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP
Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine
Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology
Health Policy Scholar
Baylor College of Medicine

Texas Children's Hospital Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics
Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development

University Professor, Baylor University

Faculty Fellow, Hagler Institute for Advanced Study
Senior Fellow, Scowcroft Institute of International Affairs
Texas A&M University
Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty and Adjunct Professor of Bioengineering, Rice University
Adjunct Professor, University of Texas, School of Public Health

MORENS_SUBPOENA_011050
MORENS_NIH_021795
REL0000482199

Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

E-mail (b) (6)
Twitter: @peterhotez
Skype: (b) (6)
Linkedin Peter Hotez

Amazon Author Center: https://www.amazon.com/Peter- J.-Hotez/e/B001HPIC48
Daily Beast Contributor https://www.thedailybeast.com/author/peter- j-hotez
Like us on Facebook https://www.facebook.com/BCMNationalSchoolOfTropicalMedicine/

Senior Coordinator / Executive Support: Douglas Soriano
(b) (6)
Phone: (b) (6)
Fax: 713-798-2299

iPhone
Begin forwarded message:

From: Emily Kopp (b) (6)
Date: August 8, 2022 at 2:51:45 PM CDT
To: "Hotez, Peter Jay" (b) (6)
Subject: Re: Reporter request for comment

*****CAUTION:*** This email is not from a BCM Source. Only click links or open attachments you know are safe.**

I'll also report that the paper you cofunded with EcoHealth Alliance dealt with rWIV1-SHC014S, a chimeric virus shown to be very dangerous to mice with human airway cells, which biosafety experts consider to be gain of function, and which is already under GOP congressional investigators' microscope. Were you aware of this? Should you have disclosed this to your followers on Twitter and The Lancet Commission?

Please clarify if this is incorrect.

Thank you,
Emily

On Mon, Aug 8, 2022 at 12:31 PM Emily Kopp (b) (6) wrote:

> Putting this back at the top of your inbox. Since you've been tweeting about this issue, do you plan on replying?
>
> On Sun, Aug 7, 2022 at 2:32 PM Emily Kopp (b) (6) wrote:
>
> > Dr. Hotez,

MORENS_SUBPOENA_011051
MORENS_NIH_021796
REL0000482199

I received an anonymous tip regarding an apparent conflict of interest relevant to your criticism of the GOP investigation into the possibility that a lab accident sparked the pandemic.

The tipster pointed out that your grant to develop a SARS vaccine was in part motivated by the possibility that a lab accident or bioterrorist attack could result in a SARS outbreak.

Questions:

1. Could you please clarify why you believe the lab origin theory of SARS-CoV-2 is ridiculous pseudoscience, even though you did research under the presumption that a SARS-like virus escaping from a laboratory was possible? Taxpayers devoted $1.6 million in funding toward that project - was it under pseudoscientific pretenses?

2. Could you clarify your involvement in this research project underwritten by both your grant and EcoHealth Alliance's controversial "understanding the risk of bat coronavirus emergence" grant? Do you have a personal or professional relationship with Shi Zhengli? What about Peter Daszak? Have you ever funded or co-funded research at the Wuhan Institute of Virology?

Thank you,

--
Emily Kopp
Reporter
U.S. Right to Know
Signal (b
)



MORENS_SUBPOENA_011052
MORENS_NIH_021797
REL0000482199

Date: Wed, 20 Mar 2024 1:06:50 PM -0400
Sent: Wed, 20 Mar 2024 1:06:08 PM -0400
Subject: RE: Rand Paul at Senate Homeland Security and Govt Affairs Committee Hearing on FoIAs today
From: Peter Daszak <(b) (6)
To: Roberts, Rich <(b) (6) Jeffrey Sturchio <(b) (6) Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6) Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6)
CC: (b) (6) <(b) (6) Keith Martin <(b) (6)

In fact, David, Gary Ruskin reads out your email re. FoIA/Gmail in his opening comments (around 27min 30sec mark).

Luckily the Republicans are pursuing a "Biden Impeachment" hearing today as well, so that's soaking up all the news…

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: (b) (6)
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

From: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) @ >
Sent: Wednesday, March 20, 2024 12:57 PM
To: 'Roberts, Rich' <(b) (6) 'Jeffrey Sturchio' <(b) (6) 'Hotez, Peter Jay' <(b) (6) Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) ; 'Keusch, Gerald T' (b) (6)
Cc: (b) (6) (b) (6) >; 'Keith Martin' <(b) (6)
Subject: Rand Paul at Senate Homeland Security and Govt Affairs Committee Hearing on FoIAs today

There's a hearing today on "Govt. Records", but it's basically about FoIA, COVID origins and Fauci. Rand Paul's the ranking member driving this, but for some reason the Dems are letting him get his way. There are two witnesses, and one of them is Gary Ruskin from US Right to Know, who focused his opening remarks on COVID origins.

David – I expect you to be mentioned, as I do EcoHealth and myself.

Here's the video if you can stomach it… https://www.hsgac.senate.gov/hearings/reforming- federal-records-management-to-

MORENS_SUBPOENA_000068
MORENS_NIH_000096
REL0000482200

improve-transparency-and-accountability/

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: (b) (6)
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

---

From: Roberts, Rich <(b) (6) (b) (6)
Sent: Wednesday, March 20, 2024 11:29 AM
To: Jeffrey Sturchio (b) (6) >; Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6) , Peter Daszak <(b) (6) Aleksei Chmura (b) (6) >; Keusch, Gerald T (b) (6)
Cc: (b) (6) (b) (6) ; Keith Martin
Subject: FW: Your article about the Covid-19 lab leak theory

FYI

Richard J. Roberts
New England Biolabs
240 County Road
Ipswich, MA 01938-2723
USA
Tel (b) (6)
Fax: (978) 412 9910
email: (b) (6)

Executive Assistant: (b) (6)
Tel: (b) (6)
Fax: (978) 412 9910
email (b) (6)

From: Hiltzik, Michael <michael.hiltzik@latimes.com>

MORENS_SUBPOENA_000069
MORENS_NIH_000097
REL0000482200

Sent: Wednesday, March 20, 2024 11:21 AM
To: Roberts, Rich <(b) (6)
Subject: Re: Your article about the Covid-19 lab leak theory

EXTERNAL SENDER

Rich,

Thanks for the good word. I think I wrote about Sachs at some point in the past, but his aggressive ignorance on this topic continues to amaze, so maybe I should revisit the subject...

MH

Michael Hiltzik
Business Columnist
Los Angeles Times

Michael.hiltzik@latimes.com
@hiltzikm
(b) (6)

Author: "Iron Empires: Railroads, Robber Barons, and the Making of Modern America"
Coming Soon: "Golden State," my new history of California

On Wed, Mar 20, 2024 at 8:01 AM Roberts, Rich (b) (6) > wrote:

> Dear Mr. Hiltzik:
>
> Your article in today's LA Times is extremely thoughtful and absolutely on target. You are to be commended for saying it as it is. You might also have included Jeff Sachs, who is equally to blame for promoting a theory about the lab leak that has zero credible evidence.
>
> Thanks for your efforts!
>
> Rich Roberts
>
> Sir Richard J. Roberts Ph.D. F.R.S.
> 1993 Nobel Laureate in Physiology or Medicine
> Chief Scientific Officer
> New England Biolabs
> 240 County Road
> Ipswich, MA 01938-2723 USA
>
> Tel: (b) (6)
> Fax: (978) 412 9910
> emai (b) (6)
>
> Executive Assistant: (b) (6)
> Tel: (b) (6)
> Fax: (978) 412 9910
> email: (b) (6) (b) (6)

MORENS_SUBPOENA_000070
MORENS_NIH_000098
REL0000482200

Date: Tue, 20 Jul 2021 2:01:06 PM -0400
Sent: Tue, 20 Jul 2021 2:00:54 PM -0400
Subject: Two good articles on COVID origins
From: Peter Daszak <(b) (6)
To: Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6)
CC: David Morens <(b) (6) Roberts, Rich <(b) (6) Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6) Robert Kessler <(b) (6)

A balanced review from Snopes:

https://www.snopes.com/news/2021/07/16/lab- leak-evidence/

and an NPR piece on Michael Worobey who signed that Science letter calling for more work on the lab leak, but now having seen further data on the geography of early cases, and on live mammals for sale in markets in Wuhan, believes the animal origin is far more likely than a lab leak.

https://www.npr.org/sections/goatsandsoda/2021/07/19/1016005828/new- data-leads-to-rethinking-once-more-where-the-pandemic-actually-began

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: +(b) (6)
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

---

From: Peter Daszak (b) (6)
Sent: Tuesday, July 20, 2021 12:30 PM
To: 'Hotez, Peter Jay' (b) (6)
Cc: 'David Morens' < ; 'Roberts, Rich' (b) (6) (b) (6) 'Keusch, Gerald T' (b) (6)
Robert Kessler (b) (6)
Subject: Tony Fauci's testimony today
Importance: High

I'm delighted to see Tony Fauci fighting to let everyone understand clear line between what is gain-of-function (work EcoHealth does NOT do), and what is not Gain of function (work EcoHealth did do with Wuhan).

It's a shame it will generate publicity, but he did this so well today that I'm hoping it might help get rid of the willful misinformation the Republicans are engaging in…

Here's a news piece on it https://thehill.com/policy/healthcare/563874- fauci-paul-doesnt-know-what-hes-talking-about-and-i-want-to-say-that , and there's some pretty exciting video to watch. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pFoaBV_cTek

Well done David on your briefing and practice runs!

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: +(b) (6)
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

---

From: Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6)
Sent: Thursday, July 15, 2021 1:56 PM
To: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) (b b) (6))
Cc: David Morens (b) (6) >; Roberts, Rich (b) (6) >; Keusch, Gerald T (b) (6) @
Subject: My AMA podcast on the origins of COVID19

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=q4NkcU7JK14 &feature=youtu.be

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP

Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine
Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology

Health Policy Scholar
Baylor College of Medicine

Texas Children's Chair of Tropical Pediatrics
Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development
University Professor
Department of Biology, Baylor University

Faculty Fellow, Hagler Institute for Advanced Study
Senior Fellow, Scowcroft Institute of International Affairs
Texas A&M University
Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty and Adjunct Professor of Bioengineering, Rice University

MORENS_SUBPOENA_020948
MORENS_NIH_041714
REL0000482202

Adjunct Professor, University of Texas, School of Public Health

Founding Editor-in-Chief, PLoS Neglected Tropical Diseases
E-mail: (b) (6) u
Twitter: @peterhotez
Skype: (b) (6)
Linkedin Peter Hotez
Amazon Author Center: https://www.amazon.com/Peter- J.-Hotez/e/B001HPIC48
Like us on Facebook https://www.facebook.com/BCMNationalSchoolOfTropicalMedicine/

Executive Assistant: Douglas Soriano
(b) (6)

Phone: (b) (6)

Sent from my iPhone

On Jul 15, 2021, at 12:43 PM, Peter Daszak (b) (6) wrote:

*****CAUTION:*** This email is not from a BCM Source. Only click links or open attachments you know are safe.**

David – please pass this information on to Tony and Clifford if you possibly can,

The WHO DG, Dr. Tedros set up a 6am Monday morning meeting with the current WHO Origins team – the international experts who went to Wuhan to work with our China counterparts on COVID origins. He announced they'd be disbanding the team, setting up a separate structure and moving to a system whereby a new team will be formed to do Phase 2 of the work in China. The stated goal is to follow member state's wishes and improve transparency in the way the origins team is selected. Sadly it will reduce transparency because there will now be a 'behind closed doors' decision from the member states on who of the nominees are put forward to WHO, then another 'behind closed doors' decision from WHO on who is selected, with, we've been told, the DG of WHO having final say.

From my point of view it's a real problem because given the political pressure from the Right wing, it might prevent my future involvement in this work. This means my 17 years + of collaboration with the very people in China who we need to work with, will not be part of Phase 2 work – including designing the animal testing protocols that are my key expertise. Disbanding the current team will also significantly delay the work and this threatens to undermine our capacity to do the trace-back, as antibodies wane among wildlife farmers in rural China who we've proposed should be interviewed and tested in Phase 2, for example. The current team has a good working relationship with the China side and has made significant progress over the last few months, meeting weekly as an international expert group and working with our Chinese counterparts to update the WHO report, include new data and get phase 2 Terms of Reference thrashed out. We'd reached the beginnings of consensus on this.

It will also be seen as an implicitly political move on behalf of WHO, and one that projects a perception of undermining the hard work we did to produce buckets of new data in the WHO report. The rest of the team are very angry about the way we've been repeatedly undermined by politics, and we're working on a communications strategy right now.

David, I'm not sure who is the US representative for WHO Covid origins negotiations. It was publicly announced that Tony would represent the US at WHO, but it may be a State Dept or other HHS person. I think it's important that Tony and

perhaps Clifford know what's happening.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA
Tel.: (b) (6)
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

---

From: BOEHME, Catharina Cora (b) (6)
Sent: Wednesday, July 14, 2021 4:35 PM
To: Владимир Дедков (b) (6) >; Leendertz, Fabian (b) (6) <(b) (6) ; LeendertzF (b) (6) ; Keith Hamilto (b) (6) ; John Watson (b) (6) DEBBICHE, Hassene <(b) (6) Thea Kølsen Fischer <(b) (6) Nguyen, Hung (ILRI) (b) (6) Primaë (b) (6) >; SHEATH, Danny (b) (6) >; STREIJFFERT, Carlos Johan (b) (6) ; DRURY, Patrick Anthony (b) (6) >; Ken Maeda (b) (6) >; M.P.G. Koopmans (b) (6) <(b) (6) >; Hayman, David (b) (6) >; IVANOVIC, Dragana <(b) (6) asher Abu Baker Abd Farag (b) (6) >; Dominic Dwyer <d (b) (6) >
Cc: RYAN, Michael J (b) (6) >; Dr VAN KERKHOVE, Maria (b) (6) >; BEN EMBAREK, Peter Karim (b) (6)
Subject: Circular Letter to Member States - Origins of SARS-CoV-2

Dear all,

It was a pleasure to meet you on Monday. Please find attached for your information and on behalf of the DG our communication to member states, shared with them as a circular letter this evening. Please don't hesitate to reach out to us for follow up discussions.
Please keep this confidential during the next days. We will have a member state briefing and discussion on this subject on Friday.

With my best regards,
Catharina

P.S. I hope I have the correct list of emails addresses.

Disclaimer

The information contained in this communication from the sender is confidential. It is intended solely for use by the recipient and others authorized to receive it. If you are

not the recipient, you are hereby notified that any disclosure, copying, distribution or taking action in relation of the contents of this information is strictly prohibited and may be unlawful.

This email has been scanned for viruses and malware, and may have been automatically archived by Mimecast, a leader in email security and cyber resilience. Mimecast integrates email defenses with brand protection, security awareness training, web security, compliance and other essential capabilities. Mimecast helps protect large and small organizations from malicious activity, human error and technology failure; and to lead the movement toward building a more resilient world. To find out more, visit our website.

<C.L.28.2021 (Origins of SARS-CoV-2).pdf>

Disclaimer

The information contained in this communication from the sender is confidential. It is intended solely for use by the recipient and others authorized to receive it. If you are not the recipient, you are hereby notified that any disclosure, copying, distribution or taking action in relation of the contents of this information is strictly prohibited and may be unlawful.

This email has been scanned for viruses and malware, and may have been automatically archived by Mimecast, a leader in email security and cyber resilience. Mimecast integrates email defenses with brand protection, security awareness training, web security, compliance and other essential capabilities. Mimecast helps protect large and small organizations from malicious activity, human error and technology failure; and to lead the movement toward building a more resilient world. To find out more, visit our website.

Date: Wed, 21 Apr 2021 12:36:13 PM -0400

Subject: Re: Telegraph: Wuhan officials identified Huanan market as a pandemic risk at least five years before Covid emerged

From: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] <(b) (6) >

To: Roberts, Rich <(b) (6)

CC: Daszak Peter <(b) (6) >; Keusch Gerald <(b) (6) Kessler Robert (b) (6) >; Chmura Aleksei <(b) (6) >; Taubenberger, Jeffery (NIH/NIAID) [E] <(b) (6) >;

Attachments: image001.jpg; image002.jpg; image003.jpg; image001.jpg; image002.jpg; image003.jpg

Yes, amen..... and as i have been saying to Peter, the more that scientists hide from the wrath of these people, the more we encourage them. These guys play hardball, so my question to leaders like you is what can we scientists do, within the context of our commitment to evidence, objectivity, and fairness, and our unwillingness to fight dirty, as we stand up for the truth and call their bluffs?

I don't know. I just don't know, but feel we can be doing more, not only personally but through different scientific organizations, especially if working together in common. That did not happen much 10 years ago with the H5N1 gain of function debacle. At the time, so many scientists said, this is terrible, we have to do something.... But not me, i don't want to get death threats, or lose my grants, or be harassed by politicians or reporters, or get into contentious stressful arguments or be attacked in editorials.....

Tony played it very cool and appeared to be uninvolved, but in fact did much behind the scenes to put the fire out. It took several years, and was draining to all of us. d

Sent from my iPhone
David M Morens
OD, NIAID, NIH

On Apr 21, 2021, at 10:21, Roberts, Rich <(b) (6) > wrote:

David:

He really hits the nail on the head when he said that the more politics is involved the less likely there will ever be an answer from science.

Rich

Richard J. Roberts
New England Biolabs
240 County Road
Ipswich, MA 01938-2723
USA
Tel: (b) (6)
Fax: (9
email: (b) (6)

From: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] <(b) (6)
Sent: Wednesday, A
To: Daszak Peter <(b) (6) Keusch Gerald <(b) (6) Roberts, Rich <(b) (6) obert <(b) (6) Chmura Aleksei <(b) (6) >

MORENS_SUBPOENA_019819
MORENS_NIH_039554
REL0000482213

Cc: Taubenberger, Jeffery (NIH/NIAID) [E] <(b) (6) >
Subject: Fwd: Telegraph: Wuhan officials identified Huanan market as a pandemic risk at least five years before Covid emerged

EXTERNAL SENDER

This is interesting because like you, Peter, Eddie and his family have been under frightening death threats. when i approached him last summer about signing on as a co author he declined out of fear, but did help behind the scenes. he must be rethinking what role he should play. he also has the qualification of not being an American and is perhaps our leading viral phylogeneticists, who has trained some of the other leading phylogeneticists. d

Sent from my iPad
David M. Morens, M.D.

Begin forwarded message:

(b) (6)

From: "Folkers, Greg (NIH/NIAID) [E]"
Date: April 19, 2021 at 8:28:05 PM EDT
Subject: Telegraph: Wuhan officials identified Huanan market as a pandemic risk at least five years before Covid emerged

Wuhan officials identified Huanan market as a pandemic risk at least five years before Covid emerged

Experts say market was either the site of an initial 'spillover' of Covid, or 'amplified' early circulation through a super-spreading event

By Sarah Newey, Global Health Security Correspondent 18 April 2021 • 5:00pm



Members of the Wuhan Hygiene Emergency Response Team leaving the closed Huanan Seafood Wholesale Market in mid-January 2020 Credit: NOEL CELIS/AFP via Getty Images

Health experts in Wuhan knew the wet market at the centre of the coronavirus outbreak was a pandemic risk at least five years before Covid-19 emerged, a British scientist has revealed.

In 2014 Dr Eddie Holmes, an evolutionary biologist and virologist, was taken to the Huanan seafood market by members of the Wuhan Centre for Disease Control, who used it as an example of the type of place where a virus could "spillover" from animals to humans.

MORENS_SUBPOENA_019820
MORENS_NIH_039555
REL0000482213

Dr Holmes, who now works at the University of Sydney, said the visit was part of a wider project to hunt for new pathogens with pandemic potential in China.

"The Wuhan CDC took us there, and here's the key bit, because the discussion was: 'where could a disease emerge?' Well, here's the place – that's why I went," Dr Holmes told *The Telegraph* in an interview.

"I've been to a few of these markets, but this was a big one – it felt like a disease incubator, exactly the sort of place you would expect a disease to emerge".



Live animals held in Wuhan's Huanan market in October 2014, taken by Dr Eddie Holmes during a visit to the site
Credit: Eddie Holmes

Dr Holmes, who took pictures at the time, remembers the now shuttered market as a sprawling network of narrow covered streets in the heart of Wuhan. It was late afternoon and not particularly crowded, but there were "crates of wildlife stacked on top of each other", including fish, snakes, rodents and racoon dogs – a fox-like animal known to be susceptible to Covid-19.

Many of the creatures were alive, added Dr Holmes, who remembers seeing one bludgeoned in front of him.

"An animal had got out or something, and somebody was clubbing it," he said, mimicking the hand actions over Zoom. "I think it was a racoon dog, though I couldn't quite see. It was pretty confronting."

Dr Holmes added that he is unsure whether the Wuhan CDC ramped up disease surveillance or introduced new safety measures in the years preceding the pandemic, and the China CDC has not responded to *The Telegraph*.

The Huanan market gained global notoriety when the first cases of Covid-19 (initially reported as a "mystery pneumonia" on December 31, 2019) were found in people who worked and shopped there.

Of the initial 41 people hospitalised with pneumonia who were officially identified as having Covid, two-thirds were exposed to the market, which was closed and sealed off by the Wuhan authorities on January 1, 2020.

MORENS_SUBPOENA_019821
MORENS_NIH_039556
REL0000482213



Inside Huanan food market in October 2014. Dr Eddie Holmes described the site as dirty, not particularly crowded, but with areas full of wild animals in crates Credit: Eddie Holmes

Experts believe the site played a significant role in the initial circulation of Covid-19, either as the site of the initial "spillover" event where an animal virus jumps to humans, or as an "amplifier" of the early epidemic.

A report from the World Health Organization (WHO) on the origins of Sars-CoV-2 provided crucial details. Though it said "no firm conclusion" could be drawn on the precise role of Huanan market, it found the virus most likely jumped from bats to humans via an as-yet-unknown animal.

The wildlife trade in general, and wet markets in particular, have long been linked to the emergence of new pathogens. There is evidence Sars jumped to humans at markets in Guangdong, China in 2002 and data points to similarly a significant role in 2019.

In early 2020 Chinese researchers collected close to 1,000 samples from Huanan market – swabbing everything from rubbish bins, doors and stalls to stray cats and mice – and found widespread contamination "compatible with introduction of the virus through infected people, infected animals or contaminated products".

Meanwhile, of the first 168 Covid-19 cases, roughly a third had a connection to Huanan market. Genome sequences from some of those in this group found eight of the earliest samples were identical, confirming there was an outbreak there.

Yet the first person with a known link to Huanan market became ill on December 12, four days after the first known case. This suggests Covid-19 may have been spreading under the radar in several parts of Wuhan simultaneously before Huanan market amplified circulation.

The joint WHO-China team also found no evidence that live wildlife was still sold at the market – though noted that both Dr Holmes' pictures and "unverified photographs and videos in media reports" suggest otherwise – and none of 457 animal samples taken from the market between January and March 2020 tested positive for Sars-Cov-2.

The report added: "The manager informed the teams the market was cleaned twice a day, morning and evening. Pests and rats are sought out and killed; holes were closed. Rigorous cleaning was done once or twice a week. Even though there are rooms above some stalls, vendors were not allowed to live in the market."

But Dr Holmes and others, including members of the WHO team, believe more samples need to be taken to "follow the animals", and caution that finding wildlife involved in the early transmission chain is like finding a needle in a haystack.

MORENS_SUBPOENA_019822
MORENS_NIH_039557
REL0000482213

It is also possible that the virus was introduced to the market by an already infected person involved in earlier stages of the wildlife trade.

Live wild animals in crates stacked ontop of each other, taken in October 2014 during Dr Eddie Holmes' trip to the market Credit: Eddie Holmes

"We know how easily Sars-Cov-2 spread from minks to mink farmers in Europe," said Dr Dale Fisher, an expert in infectious diseases and chair of the Global Outbreak Alert and Response Network. "So it's likely this could happen on a farm, and the farmer was the index case who then took it to the market, where there was a super-spreading event.

"But evidence points towards wildlife. And whether it's been plague on rats, or Ebola on bats and primates, or Sars-1 on civet cats and bats, camels for Mers – historically these outbreaks all had species jumps and then amplification events," he told the *Telegraph*.

It is estimated that birds and mammals harbour roughly 700,000 viruses with the potential to jump to people, while 70 per cent of new emerging infectious diseases come from wild animals. Places where numerous species mix in close quarters with humans, with few biosecurity measures in place, are high risk.

Just this week, the WHO issued new guidance urging countries to crack down on wet markets and suspend the sale of captured live wild animals as an "emergency measure" to protect public health.

"In my mind, the wildlife trade is the most likely source of it. The role of that market is still uncertain, but there was clearly a lot of transmission and to me it smells like there's a strong link – we need to follow it through," Dr Holmes said.

"My concern is that the finger pointing has got so bad, will that happen? I think China just doesn't want it to be China… so then the question is, are we actually going to see all the data? I honestly don't know. But the more the politics gets into it, the less likely we will."

Disclaimer: Any third-party material in this email has been shared for internal use under fair use provisions of U.S. copyright law, without further verification of its accuracy/veracity. It does not necessarily represent my views nor those of NIAID, NIH, HHS, or the U.S. government.

Date: Fri, 21 Jul 2023 1:44:30 PM -0400
Sent: Fri, 21 Jul 2023 1:43:43 PM -0400
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Fwd: US Needs To Act Against 'Anti-science Aggression' To Protect Medicine And Scientists - Health Policy Watch
From: David Morens <(b) (6)
To: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] <(b) (6)

David M. Morens, MD
(b) (6)

(b) (6)
(b) (6) work)
cell)

IMPORTANT: My gmail frequently sends incoming messages to Trash, which is apparently not correctable. If you don't hear from me in a reasonable time, please try again, call, or use my NIH email address

IMPORTANT: For US Government-related email, please also reply to my NIAID address

---------- Forwarded message ---------
From: Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6)
Date: Wed, May 3, 2023 at 12:55 PM
Subject: US Needs To Act Against 'Anti-science Aggression' To Protect Medicine And Scientists - Health Policy Watch
To: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >, Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) >, David Morens <(b) (6) >, Gerald Keusch <(b) (6) Jeffrey Sturchio <(b) (6)
Rich Roberts <(b) (6)

https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fhealthpolicy- watch.news%2Fus-needs-act-against-anti-science-aggression%2F&data=05%7C01%7Cdmorens%40niaid.nih.gov%7C02cc47c6165141fe45e608db8a1222a0%7C14b77578977342d585&sdata=nCUFzkW0dfQpnlDtB%2FBOnMVeK1gA8VZ2H%2FeHAtRdyWU%3D &reserved=0

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP

Texas Children's Hospital: Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics | Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development | Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

Baylor College of Medicine: Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine | Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology &

Microbiology | Health Policy Scholar

Baylor University, University Professor

Rice University, Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty

Texas A&M University, Faculty-Senior Fellow, Hagler Inst for Advanced Study & Scowcroft Institute of Intl Affairs

E-mail | Twitter | LinkedIn | Skype: (b) (6)

Amazon Author Center | Daily Beast Contributor

Senior Coordinator & Executive Support: Douglas Soriano

(b) (6) | Phone: (b) (6) | Fax: 713-798-2299

Media Inquiries:

(b) (6)

(b) (6)

(b) (6)

iPhone

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and are confident the content is safe.

Date:	Mon, 1 Aug 2022 1:47:40 PM -0400
Sent:	Mon, 1 Aug 2022 1:47:20 PM -0400
Subject:	Re: Upcoming hearing from a Senate Subcommittee on gain of function research
From:	"Hotez, Peter Jay" <(b) (6)
To:	Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6)
CC:	Peter Daszak <(b) (6) Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] <(b) (6) David Morens <(b) (6) Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) Roberts, Rich <(b) (6) Jeff Sturchio <(b) (6)
Attachments:	image001.gif; image002.jpg; image001.gif; image002.jpg

I'm surprised Research America is not on this helping? Or Victor Dzau?

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP
Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine
Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology
Health Policy Scholar
Baylor College of Medicine

Texas Children's Hospital Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics
Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development

University Professor, Baylor University

Faculty Fellow, Hagler Institute for Advanced Study
Senior Fellow, Scowcroft Institute of International Affairs
Texas A&M University
Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty and Adjunct Professor of Bioengineering, Rice University
Adjunct Professor, University of Texas, School of Public Health

Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

E-mail:(b) (6)
Twitter: @peterhotez
Skype: (b) (6)
Linkedin Peter Hotez

Amazon Author Center: https://www.amazon.com/Peter- J.-Hotez/e/B001HPIC48
Daily Beast Contributor https://www.thedailybeast.com/author/peter- j-hotez
Like us on Facebook https://www.facebook.com/BCMNationalSchoolOfTropicalMedicine/

Senior Coordinator / Executive Support: Douglas Soriano
(b) (6)
Phone: (b) (6)
Fax: 713-798-2299

iPhone

On Aug 1, 2022, at 12:40 PM, Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6) wrote:

Yes. This is set up to disparage Tony Fauci and further the impact of disinformation in the Congress. We need to be getting out the people to contact their Senators and Congressmen and Women whether or not they are on any relevant committees.

Jerry

Sent from my iPhone

On Aug 1, 2022, at 12:17 PM, Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6) wrote:

Ok

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP
Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine
Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology
Health Policy Scholar
Baylor College of Medicine

Texas Children's Hospital Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics
Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development

University Professor, Baylor University

Faculty Fellow, Hagler Institute for Advanced Study
Senior Fellow, Scowcroft Institute of International Affairs
Texas A&M University
Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty and Adjunct Professor of Bioengineering, Rice University
Adjunct Professor, University of Texas, School of Public Health

Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

E-mail (b) (6)
Twitter: @peterhotez
Skype: (b) (6)
Linkedin Peter Hotez

Amazon Author Center: https://www.amazon.com/Peter- J.-Hotez/e/B001HPIC48
Daily Beast Contributor https://www.thedailybeast.com/author/peter- j-hotez
Like us on Facebook https://www.facebook.com/BCMNationalSchoolOfTropicalMedicine/

Senior Coordinator / Executive Support: Douglas Soriano
(b) (6)

MORENS_SUBPOENA_008509
MORENS_NIH_018525
REL0000482228

Phone: (b) (6)
Fax: 713-798-2299

iPhone

On Aug 1, 2022, at 11:14 AM, Peter Daszak <(b) (6) > wrote:

Re. commenting on this – I think you should wait to see if it gets any publicity first, otherwise you might inadvertently amplify their impact..

Re. November – I worry that our lives will be made miserable by constant harassment from what could be Republican-led Congressional committees. If this HSGAC group is any indication, they expect us to just dump all of our emails for the last dozen years or more so that they can go through them and find sentences that support their narrative when quoted out of context. It's not just utterly disingenuous, it's also dangerous because it drives the public hate campaigns and efforts to attack us in many other ways.

We've managed to avoid a couple of serious efforts to defund us so far, and are only working with this committee to try and avoid even more pressure, but we know they're talking to many other groups to build their 'case'. On our last call, they asked us for not only any emails to govt agencies, but emails between staff members. I pointed out that it's against our org's policy to snoop on staff conversations, and they smugly told us we should get used to requests for documents because we'll "soon be doing a lot more of them".

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: (b) (6)
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

MORENS_SUBPOENA_008510
MORENS_NIH_018526
REL0000482228

From: Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6)
Sent: Monday, August 1, 2022 11:47 AM
To: PeterDaszak <(b) (6) @ g>
Cc: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b) (6) >; David Morens <d(b) (6) >; Keusch, Gerald T (b) (6) Aleksei Chmura (b) (6) >; Roberts, Rich (b) (6)
Subject: Re: Upcoming hearing from a Senate Subcommittee on gain of function research

Should I publicize this with my usual commentary?

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP
Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine
Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology
Health Policy Scholar
Baylor College of Medicine

Texas Children's Hospital Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics
Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development

University Professor, Baylor University

Faculty Fellow, Hagler Institute for Advanced Study
Senior Fellow, Scowcroft Institute of International Affairs
Texas A&M University
Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty and Adjunct Professor of Bioengineering, Rice University
Adjunct Professor, University of Texas, School of Public Health

Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

E-mail: (b) (6)
Twitter: @peterhotez
Skype: (b) (6)
Linkedin Peter Hotez

Amazon Author Center: https://www.amazon.com/Peter- J.-Hotez/e/B001HPIC48
Daily Beast Contributor https://www.thedailybeast.com/author/peter- j-hotez
Like us on Facebook https://www.facebook.com/BCMNationalSchoolOfTropicalMedicine/

pport: Douglas Soriano
(b) (6)
Phone: (b) (6)
Fax: 713-798-2299

iPhone

MORENS_SUBPOENA_008511
MORENS_NIH_018527
REL0000482228

On Aug 1, 2022, at 10:20 AM, Peter Daszak (b) (6) @ > wrote:

Dear all (David – I didn't cc Jeff Taubenberger because you've all been using his NIH address which would be subject to Congressional requests and to FolA),

I just spotted this upcoming HSGAC Subcommittee on Emerging Threats and Spending Oversight hearing on Wednesday, on one of the lab leaker's social media feeds.

https://www.hsgac.senate.gov/subcommittees/etso/hearings/revisiting-_gain-of-function-research-what-the-pandemic-taught-us-and-where-do-we-go-from-here

The three speakers are all non-virologists, and have been attacking all research that tries to get to the bottom of COVID origins, unless it's pushing a China lab leak agenda.

- Richard Ebright has been attacking EcoHealth's work ever since the pandemic as part of his long term criticism of recombinant virus technology. He was part of the Cambridge Group that ended up pausing recombinant viral research in the past, and is extremely vocal (and quite offensively) about our work, which he uses to try to leverage attacks against Dr. Fauci, NIAID, NIH in general.
- Stephen Quay is pretty much on the edge of being a quack at this point having made many public statements about HIV inserts in the virus etc.
- Kevin Esvelt is calling for research identifying viruses in wildlife as a way to get ahead of pandemics to be closed down, following his criticisms of CRISPR etc.

It looks like this is another effort by Rand Paul to drum up some public interest from his base, perhaps?

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: (b) (6)
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

---

From: Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6) >
Sent: Tuesday, July 26, 2022 11:51 AM
To: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b) (6)
Cc: David Morens (b) (6) Peter Daszak (b) (6) >; Keusch, Gerald T (b) (6) ; Aleksei Chmura (b) (6) @ Roberts, Rich <(b) (6) >; Taubenberger, Jeffery (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b) (6) >
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] Re:

MORENS_SUBPOENA_008512
MORENS_NIH_018528
REL0000482228

Oh ok

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP
Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine
Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology
Health Policy Scholar
Baylor College of Medicine

Texas Children's Hospital Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics
Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development

University Professor, Baylor University

Faculty Fellow, Hagler Institute for Advanced Study
Senior Fellow, Scowcroft Institute of International Affairs
Texas A&M University
Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty and Adjunct Professor of Bioengineering, Rice University
Adjunct Professor, University of Texas, School of Public Health

Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

E-mail: (b) (6) @
Twitter: @peterhotez
Skype: (b) (6)
Linkedin Peter Hotez

Amazon Author Center: https://www.amazon.com/Peter- J.-Hotez/e/B001HPIC48
Daily Beast Contributor https://www.thedailybeast.com/author/peter- j-hotez
Like us on Facebook
https://www.facebook.com/BCMNationalSchoolOfTropicalMedicine/

Senior Coordinator / Executive Support: Douglas Soriano
(b) (6) @
Phone: (b) (6)
Fax: 713-798-2299

iPhone

MORENS_SUBPOENA_008513
MORENS_NIH_018529
REL0000482228

On Jul 26, 2022, at 11:22 AM, Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b) (6) wrote:

Peter, I do not have a link. These pdfs came directly from the journal.

David

David M. Morens, M.D.
Senior Advisor to the Director
Office of the Director
National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases
National Institutes of Health
Building 31, Room 7A-03
31 Center Drive, MSC 2520
Bethesda, MD 20892-2520
(b) (6) (assistants: Kimberly Barasch; Whitney Robinson)
(b) (6)
(b) (6)

Disclaimer: This message is intended for the exclusive use of the recipient(s) named above. It may contain information that is PROTECTED, PRIVILEGED, and/or CONFIDENTIAL, and it should not be disseminated, distributed, or copied to persons not authorized to receive such information. All sensitive documents must be properly labeled before dissemination via email. If you are not the intended recipient, any dissemination, distribution, or copying is strictly prohibited. If you have received this communication in error, please erase all copies of the message and its attachments and notify us immediately.



From: Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6) >
Sent: Monday, July 25, 2022 5:20 PM
To: David Morens (b) (6)
Cc: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b) (6) >; Peter Daszak < (b) (6) ; Keusch, Gerald T (b) (6) >; Aleksei Chmura < ; Roberts, Rich <(b) (6) >; Taubenberger, Jeffery (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b) (6)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Re:

Do you have the link so i can put it out on social media? I had trouble finding it

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP
Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine
Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology
Health Policy Scholar
Baylor College of Medicine

Texas Children's Hospital Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics
Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development

University Professor, Baylor University

Faculty Fellow, Hagler Institute for Advanced Study
Senior Fellow, Scowcroft Institute of International Affairs
Texas A&M University
Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty and Adjunct Professor of Bioengineering, Rice University
Adjunct Professor, University of Texas, School of Public Health

Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

E-mail: (b) (6)
Twitter: @peterhotez
Skype: (b) (6)
Linkedin Peter Hotez

Amazon Author Center: https://www.amazon.com/Peter-J.-Hotez/e/B001HPIC48
Daily Beast Contributor https://www.thedailybeast.com/author/peter-j-hotez
Like us on Facebook
https://www.facebook.com/BCMNationalSchoolOfTropicalMedicine/

Senior Coordinator / Executive Support: Douglas Soriano
(b) (6)
Phone: (b) (6)
Fax: 713-798-2299



iPhone

On Jul 25, 2022, at 5:07 PM, David Morens (b) (6) > wrote:

CAUTION: This email is not from a BCM Source. Only click links or open attachments you know are safe.

Attempt no. 2, per Rich, the two attachments fell off..... dmm

David M. Morens, MD
(b) (6)

(b) (6) (work)
(cell)

IMPORTANT: My gmail frequently sends incoming messages to Trash, which is apparently not correctable. If you don't hear from me in a reasonable time, please try again, call, or use my NIH email address

IMPORTANT: For US Government-related email, please also reply to my NIAID address

On Mon, Jul 25, 2022 at 3:11 PM David Morens (b) (6)
<mailto (b) (6) > wrote:
probably u have all seen these but just in case....d
David M. Morens, MD
(b) (6)

(b) (6) <mailto: (b) (6)
(b) (6) (work)
(cell)

IMPORTANT: My gmail frequently sends incoming messages to Trash, which is apparently not correctable. If you don't hear from me in a reasonable time, please try again, call, or use my NIH email address

IMPORTANT: For US Government-related email, please also reply to my NIAID address

On Mon, Jul 25, 2022 at 3:08 PM Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] <
(b) (6) mailto: (b) (6) > wrote:

[cid:18236c3bfd54cdccc1]
David M. Morens, M.D.
Senior Advisor to the Director
Office of the Director
National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases
National Institutes of Health
Building 31, Room 7A-03
31 Center Drive, MSC 2520
Bethesda, MD 20892-2520
(b) (6) (assistants: Kimberly Barasch; Whitney Robinson)
•(b) (6)
•(mailto(b) (6) >
b

Disclaimer: This message is intended for the exclusive use of the recipient(s) named above. It may contain information that is PROTECTED, PRIVILEGED, and/or CONFIDENTIAL, and it should not be disseminated, distributed, or copied to persons not authorized to receive such information. All sensitive documents must be properly labeled before dissemination via email. If you are not the intended recipient,

any dissemination, distribution, or copying is strictly prohibited. If you have received this communication in error, please erase all copies of the message and its attachments and notify us immediately.

[DMM Portrait B 12 29 15 P0923]

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and are confident the content is safe.

MORENS_SUBPOENA_008517
MORENS_NIH_018533
REL0000482228

Date: Thu, 22 Apr 2021 8:44:19 PM -0400
Sent: Thu, 22 Apr 2021 8:43:16 PM -0400
Subject: RE: Zoom meeting with Tony tomorrow
From: Peter Daszak <(b) (6)
To: Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6) David Morens <(b) (6)

Great to read this chain. I also spoke with Rich Roberts and will be sending a 2 pager with all the NIH/EHA letters and responses in a timeline, and links to all the political action going on.

I agree with your assessments (both of you) – this is a threat to science, and it's not going away – it's now become more centralized with Biden maintaining a tough-on-China stance, and there are loud people on the left (e.g. Jamie Metzl) and within science (Relman, Lipsitch, Ebright) who are feeding political action and the call for commissions. Note that only yesterday there were two actions of note – the bill on China interference was pass in Senate Committee (Foreign Affairs), with Michael Lauer testifying, and the bill from the nutter Right re. declassifying intelligence on Wuhan.

We need to continue this multi-pronged effort to defend science, even though, as Tony suggested, Harold also, and my Board Chair, I will continue to try to avoid any publicity on this issue at all…

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: (b) (6)
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

From: Keusch, Gerald T (b) (6) >
Sent: Thursday, April 22, 2021 5:47 PM
To: David Morens <(b) (6)
Cc: Peter Daszak (b) (6) >
Subject: RE: Zoom meeting with Tony tomorrow

Even more than I could have hoped for. That's great to hear.

Jerry

From: David Morens (b) (6) >
Sent: Thursday, April 22, 2021 4:52 PM
To: Keusch, Gerald T (b) (6)

MORENS_SUBPOENA_019462
MORENS_NIH_039033
REL0000482247

Cc: Peter Daszak (b) (6)
Subject: Re: Zoom meeting with Tony tomorrow

Great news, and i think you are probably exactly tight about Tony. Just a bit ago, I got a call from Rich saying he had just talked to Harold, who went into a bit of a tirade about Francis, I omit the colorful language here, and said he, Harold, would call Tony next week

Rich also said he would be advising Peter to stay away from the press, as that may be fanning the flames with the nutters. D

Sent from my iPhone
David M Morens
OD, NIAID, NIH

On Apr 22, 2021, at 16:40, Keusch, Gerald T (b) (6) > wrote:

Thanks for doing this David. I suspect that deep down Tony is not naïve, but that he likes to keep a calm and in control public persona.

The optimal way to reach him will be through Harold Varmus, and its good Rich agreed to be in touch with him. I'm purposely not including Rich on this note because I don't want to be seen as pressuring him further. I think he will follow up, he has as good a connection to Harold as I do, and if necessary I will follow up. Harold has consistently stayed in the background when I have asked him about doing certain things or writing certain commentaries etc. but he has not been reluctant to speak rather frankly about Francis and the Lauer affair when he believed it was necessary or he was directly approached by the reporters at Science, for example. I did try to get Jon Cohen and Meredith Wadman moving on a new article but as you know they both declined at this point because it was not news. I think that was a cop out decision, and depending on what Rich has to day I might just copy Harold on that and see if he is willing to contact them because they will most likely have a different response to him than to me.
We just have to stay on this, not panic, and not waiver from the ultimate goal. Timing is always critical. So is the messenger. Lander may be the right person, and Harold has indicated to me that he has been in contact with Eric on this issue.

Jerry

From: David Morens <(b) (6) >
Sent: Thursday, April 22, 2021 3:24 PM
To: Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6)
Cc: Roberts, Rich (b) (6) (6) Peter Daszak (b) (6) Robert Kessler <
(b) (6) >; Aleksei Chmura (b) (6)
Subject: Re: Zoom meeting with Tony tomorrow

Sent from my iPhone
David M Morens
OD, NIAID, NIH

On Apr 22, 2021, at 15:06, David Morens (b) (6) > wrote:

MORENS_SUBPOENA_019463
MORENS_NIH_039034
REL0000482247

Hi Jerry and colleagues, just spent 40 minutes on Zoom with Tony and one of two possibilities: either we are all unnecessarily alarmed, or else he is not taking the threats seriously

He said repeatedly, in a low key jocular way, that no one could mess with him or niaid since we haven't done anything wrong, apparently not counting as "messing with us" the fact that we had an important research project terminated in an unprecedented manner for political reasons.

He also repeated alot of macho comments about how there is always a guy with an AR-15 right outside his door (true, and sometimes two other armed secret service guys) and everywhere he goes outside the office he has at least two bodyguards, also true...9

I hope he is right that the wackos won't gain any further traction, but i am not so sure. For one thing, there was huge collateral damage a few years back with the H5N1 gain of function mess. It is true that neither Tony nor other NIH staff got into any trouble, but thousands of professional hours were wasted over several years time and, far more importantly, the research moratorium, which went in for years, caused labs across the country to close, or move into other areas, caused lab people on grants to lose their jobs, and grad students to lose their dissertation work and postdocs to lose their projects. It was a mess that ought not to be forgotten

If i had to bet, i would guess that beneath Tony's macho I-am-not-worried reaction he really is concerned. And whatever the case he should be very concerned about what happened to Peter, to our research portfolio in an extremely important area, and to scientific independence

He did not know about either the Miller Commission or the letter from Rep Rogers which i emailed to him on gmail later

I also commented that Lauer's letters to you Peter, and the Rogers letter to you, had alot of overlap and seemed to reflect input of at least one scientist, whether or not one of our grantees. In other words, i feel that regarding those letters someone or someones are working in cahoots with the politicians who wish to do harm to NIH He didn't seem particularly troubled by that.

In the end he said thanks for filling me in and asked me to call him on his private cell phone (which is what i normally do anyway) if i hear anything that might be important

So, i am not sure where things stand. I absolutely DO feel that it would be a good thing if one of you luminaries were to approach him and try to make sure he understood what is going on out there, and perhaps discuss what the larger community of scientists can do to lock arms in unity and push back. David

Sent from my iPhone
David M Morens
OD, NIAID, NIH

> On Apr 21, 2021, at 16:24, David Morens (b) (6) wrote:
>
> Thanks, Jerry, i will let you know how it goes, although he may not indicate to me his next steps. The way it works with us is that he tries to never ask me things directly, like ask for my advice on what to do, but rather does alot of homework ahead of time, figures out what i am likely to say, then HE tells ME what he thinks so that i can confirm it. Yes, we all have our peculiarities, but as long as the machine runs smoothly its ok
>
> I DO know that he has great respect for Harold, and i think also admires Harold's charge-ahead no-BS style, which is the opposite of Tony's extreme caution. So i have little doubt that he would welcome that kind of help. D
>
> Sent from my iPhone
> David M Morens
> OD, NIAID, NIH
>
> > On Apr 21, 2021, at 16:09, Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6) > wrote:

MORENS_SUBPOENA_019464
MORENS_NIH_039035
REL0000482247

David,
Thanks for the note, and I recognize what you say is what I know about Tony. He is a remarkable person, but like all of us he isn't perfect. I think your strategy to lay out the issues and let him run with it to decide what can be effectively addressed and with what strategy.

Rich's suggestion to talk to Harold is on track, and it would be great Rich if you were to do that. I know that they have a very close and positive history of working together, that Harold is very strategic in his thinking, he prefers to work in the background (something I have confirmed multiple times this past year as I have asked for his advice on things I could take on), and that he will be really frank in talking to Rich. Harold has very recently told me that he has worked closely with Rich on a number of issues related to the concerns we all have.

Let us know how the chat goes tomorrow. I think you have the right perspective heading in to it, and lots of good information at your fingertips.
Jerry

From: Roberts, Rich (b) (6) @
Sent: Wednesday, April 21, 2021 3:33 PM
To: David Morens (b) (6) Keusch, Gerald T (b) (6)
Cc: Peter Daszak (b) (6) >; Robert Kessler <
(b) (6) Aleksei Chmura (b) (6) @
Subject: RE: Zoom meeting with Tony tomorrow

Hi:

If I am to do something I would talk to Harold first. I'll see what he has to say as a possible path forward.

Rich

Richard J. Roberts
New England Biolabs
240 County Road
Ipswich, MA 01938-2723
USA
Tel: (b) (6)
Fax: (978) 412 9910
email: (b) (6)

From: David Morens <(b) (6)
Sent: Wednesday, April 21, 2021 3:30 PM
To: Keusch, Gerald T (b) (6)
Cc: Peter Daszak (b) (6) ; Roberts, Rich (b) (6) Robert Kessler (b) (6) ; Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6)
Subject: Re: Zoom meeting with Tony tomorrow

EXTERNAL SENDER

Jerry, The way it works with Tony, at least at my level, is you can't suggest he do anything. If you

MORENS_SUBPOENA_019465
MORENS_NIH_039036
REL0000482247

do, he won't do it on principle. The trick is to make him think of doing something himself, and then he will ask you to help him do it

My strategy tomorrow is to tell him that alarming things are at work, to the point that many scientists (our grantees and others) have become increasingly worried and are looking for the way forward. In that context i will share with him verbally Peter's information, and offer to get to him any of the materials he wants to see, or connect him directly with Peter, who he very much respects

I have not heard that he has engaged Harold, or the National Academies, or the professional societies, although i might not know if he did. He is very much a loner about things like this. He prides himself on being like teflon, but I am worried that he may not be as invulnerable as he may think

Our Chief of Staff, Greg Folkers (who has Masters degrees in both journalism and PH), is among the only folks here, partly excepting Cliff Lane, in whom Tony confides when the subject is difficult or personal, only rarely to me.... and Greg told me today that he thinks Tony is getting worried that the brown stuff is about to hit the fan, and that he may have become a major target

There is very little i can do to help because i am a mere scientist, not a NL, or member of the NAM, or head of a prestigious society (the only kinds of people Tony will usually engage with, as he is very proud).

So if he doesn't become more proactive, what remains is for scientists and science orgs at the very highest level to come together forcefully to push back against the craziness

Who would be willing to approach him directly and "talk turkey"? Harold? Rich? You? Victor? A couple of you?

Sent from my iPhone
David M Morens
OD, NIAID, NIH

On Apr 21, 2021, at 15:01, Keusch, Gerald T (b) (6) wrote:

Tony will be well aware of this kind of push back. That's not the issue for you tomorrow. Its really how to get the scientific societies engaged once again in the campaign for clarity and resolution of the breech in integrity and the grants management beginning a year ago.

Maybe there would be a moment to suggest that he talk to Harold Varmus about strategy?

Jerry

From: David Morens (b) (6)
Sent: Wednesday, April 21, 2021 2:57 PM
To: Keusch, Gerald T (b) (6)
Cc: Peter Daszak (b) (6) Rich Roberts (b) (6)
Robert Kessle (b) (6) ; Aleksei Chmur
(b) (6)
Subject: ony tomorrow

Jerry, i am traveling without much news access, but this is really depressing. My concern has grown to alarm and i am afraid to think what comes next

MORENS_SUBPOENA_019466
MORENS_NIH_039037
REL0000482247

We seem to have arrived at that Orwellian point where all investigations of important matters have to exclude participation of the subject experts, since being a subject expert is disqualifying on the grounds that all expertise is inherently biasing.

Before George Orwell, we had Lewis Carroll telling us this. We are in grave danger of going down-the-rabbit-hole-with-Alice.....
D
Sent from my iPhone
David M Morens
OD, NIAID, NIH

On Apr 21, 2021, at 14:36, Keusch, Gerald T (b) (6) > wrote:

The COVID Commission Planning Group includes people like Mike Osterholm. I don't put him into the category of Lipsitch, but am I missing something here? He was one of the people on the Biden COVID task force I talked to in December-January about the shattered integrity at the level of NIH/OD. He didn't say much to me, and I didn't take that as a signal that he was on the darker side of the divide.

I saw the results of a focus group of Trump supporters reported on today:
https://www.washingtonpost.com/health/2021/04/20/vaccine-hesitant-republicans/ A bit of text in this report is about Tony.

"Every participant said they preferred hearing from politicians over the medical expert, who has been pilloried by conservative media for months over his coronavirus warnings. The data have shown that unfortunately Dr. Fauci has been politicized, and we need different messengers, because even the right messages coming from the wrong messengers aren't always helpful," Castrucci said, noting his foundation's polling [de Beaumont Foundation] found Americans trust their personal doctors more than the government's top infectious-disease doctor".

This is the fundamental problem we have, as the politicians will only use this as an echo chamber to amplify their support from their public supporters and constituents. It does point back to the scientific societies which have weighed in previously, but no more impact than we have had as individuals. It doesn't stop this approach, its just that we need some deus ex machina to help us. Is that going to be Eric Lander? What's happening with his approval? I haven't heard much of late.

Jerry

MORENS_SUBPOENA_019467
MORENS_NIH_039038
REL0000482247

From: Peter Daszak (b) (6) g >
Sent: Wednesday, April 21, 2021 12:41 PM
To: David Morens (b) (6) Keus (b) (6)
Rich Roberts (b) (6) r < (b) (6)
Aleksei Chmura (b) (6) >
Subject: RE: Zoom meeting with Tony tomorrow
Importance: High

Thanks for the email David - comments below. Also please see the attached word doc with links to some of the political actions that I'm concerned about. Tell Tony that this is very early days, with most of these coming from the Right, and many that can be headed off at the pass by positive outreach to Democrats, which I believe people will be doing.

I've also put in a link to the new "Covid Commission Planning Group (Covid CPG)" that has no official role from USG, but boldly states as its core mission "to prepare the way for a National Covid Commission". Members include David Relman & Marc Lipsitch and I have heard from many on the conspiracy theory chatter networks online that this will focus partly on advocating for reduction in biosafety labs, viral work in wildlife, and gain-of-function.

Please feel free to share any docs that I've sent to you, with Tony. Hopefully you can do that in a way that avoids FoIA, and if not possible, just show him stuff on screen share on Zoom.

Please also see comments below...

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: (b) (6)
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

-----Original Message-----
From: David Moren (b) (6)
Sent: Wednesday, April 21, 2021 10:56 AM

To: Peter Daszak (b) (6) Gerald Keusch (b) (6) Rich Roberts (b) (6)) (6) Robert Kessler (b) (6) ; Aleksei Chmura

Subject: Zoom meeting with Tony tomorrow

Peter, i am on leave in Florida for my granddaughters graduation from Florida State

Tomorrow at 130 i will be having a zoom call with Tony to tip him off on some of the info you sent in your recent email

I want to be sure about what info or docs you would or would not want me to share
[Peter Daszak:] Any and all

Other than what i see on tv, the jousting with Rand Paul and Jim Jordan, for example, i do not know how much of this Tony is aware of. To my knowledge he doesn't share it with anyone up here

I think issues he will be most concerned about are not your grant, although i add i am sure he would do anything he could to restore the funds and get the hellhounds of your back, but rather 1) the possibility that people like Rep Rodgers and her committee are about to turn up the heat and put Tony, personally, in their crosshairs, and 2) the possibility the NIH funded scientists or other esteemed scientists, are in cahoots with politicians wanting to attack him or niaid
[Peter Daszak:] agreed

As background, we all went through the original version of this crap about 10 years ago with the original GOF attacks surrounding H5N1. As Tony's scientific advisor, i spent much of the year, along with Jeff T, helping brief him and get him up to speed, which he did. At the time, David Relman, who had been one of Tony's favorites, was leading the charge, and we all wondered why a young guy with so much promise would choose demagoguery over science. Lipsitch was only a minor player at that time, but relished his attack role and seem to become more alarmist as time went on. Now these guys are in the NAM. How did that happen???? Ebright has always been a crackpot, in the mold of Peter Duseberg, remember him?, and no one took him seriously except some of the press who didn't know any better
[Peter Daszak:] I had the unfortunate issue of voting on Marc Lipsitch's membership of NAM. He's an accomplished scientist. He's also very opinionated, arrogant and pushy on whatever issue he believes in. I voted on his science acumen.

I was unclear from your email on a couple points you might clarify. Obviously the Rodgers letter asking you to produce all those dox not only overlaps with the Lauer letter to you, but could not have been written without the help of a virologist.
[Peter Daszak:] I have it on good authority (Ebright's Twitter account) that he was involved. They are also getting pressured from Jamie Metzl who's working with the internet conspiracy networks actively to promote their "Research"

Actually, given that there are a few points in the letter that someone knowledgable about coronavirus virology would have corrected, my suspicion is that the letter was put together with the help of a legitimate scientist who needs to do more homework on coronaviruses.
[Peter Daszak:] you're right..! Metzl isn't a virologist, neither's Ebright.

MORENS_SUBPOENA_019469
MORENS_NIH_039040
REL0000482247

The internet 'researchers' are led by a banker and some junior scientists, many from human genetics, mol boil world.

Do you agree, and do you think that person was Ebright? Do you think Relman, Lipsitch, Imperiale, or other current or former grantees might have been involved?

I am not sure we ever funded Ebright, but we did fund the others. I would like to think that Relman et all are only mouthing off to the press, but do you think there is more to it than that, eg, that any of them are working with the politicians?
[Peter Daszak:] David Relman is talking with reporters a lot about this, including casting aspersions on my motives for speaking out about this virus emerging via wildlife-to-human spillover (he's quoted as saying my motives are to protect the research I've been doing and reputations of our collaborators). Ebright is very actively (and obnoxiously) critical on social media calling me a 'Grifter' on a weekly basis and promoting unsubstantiated arguments for a lab leak. I had to look up what 'grifter' meant at first...

Your earlier comments about this proposed investigative committee, and the possible role of these folks in it, are alarming. Can you be more specific about where this stands and what is being done to forward it and to squelch it?
[Peter Daszak:] Nothing's being done to squelch it, and neither should it be - there will be other committees that also pop up. My concern is their bold claim that they're laying the groundwork for a 9/11 type commission (and have a 9/11 commission person involved). It may be that just by saying that a lot, and having well known people involved, they end up forming one. They're clearly politically connected and are advocating for this politically. Jerry and I also proposed this in our paper published in Health Affairs, but we assumed this would be led by NAM or some other well-respected institution.

When i speak with Tony i do not want to step into the politics of all this, as that's not my job and he wouldn't want me to. If he needs further info it might be best to connect you two, in an off the record manner. Would that be OK? We are getting FOIA'd non stop, so it's most important that Tony not have anything on the record that could come back to bite
[Peter Daszak:] Totally agree. Tell him I'm happy to speak with him at any time and will do so in a way that's not FoIA-ble. One thing I could do is either on a zoom call or by sending you a document, is lay out responses to the Mendendez questions so that the arguments are known and well-supported. For example, everyone's saying that this is a 'gain-of-function' issue, but actually that's not the case - we worked on bat viruses, not human pathogens. The expts produced loss of function, not gain of function, all appropriate conditions and approvals were demonstrably checked and correctly answered.

Finally, i didn't read all of the Menendez bill-in-committee, which is longer than Les misérables, but what's the gist? Do you think that in their zeal to take a hard stance against the PRC, these Democrats are purposely, or accidentally, getting sucked into the evil-WIV scenario? Is there real danger here?
[Peter Daszak:] The Menendez bill is the only one that stands a chance so far of becoming law because it's bipartisan. The WIV, gain-of-function stuff is thrown in as a very small part of it. The draft wording only calls for a report from NIH after 180 days on these issues, and they are easily addressed. However, if it does pass and the anti-China mood hardens in the

US, it may end up with calls to testify and the Republicans may use that to undermine NIH, and in particular Tony, given the rabid GoF myth they've been building.

Anything you think might be helpful, I'd appreciate

TY, david

Sent from my iPhone
David M Morens
OD, NIAID, NIH

Disclaimer

The information contained in this communication from the sender is confidential. It is intended solely for use by the recipient and others authorized to receive it. If you are not the recipient, you are hereby notified that any disclosure, copying, distribution or taking action in relation of the contents of this information is strictly prohibited and may be unlawful.

This email has been scanned for viruses and malware, and may have been automatically archived by Mimecast, a leader in email security and cyber resilience. Mimecast integrates email defenses with brand protection, security awareness training, web security, compliance and other essential capabilities. Mimecast helps protect large and small organizations from malicious activity, human error and technology failure; and to lead the movement toward building a more resilient world. To find out more, visit our website.

Disclaimer

The information contained in this communication from the sender is confidential. It is intended solely for use by the recipient and others authorized to receive it. If you are not the recipient, you are hereby notified that any disclosure, copying, distribution or taking action in relation of the contents of this information is strictly prohibited and may be unlawful.

This email has been scanned for viruses and malware, and may have been automatically archived by Mimecast, a leader in email security and cyber resilience. Mimecast integrates email defenses with brand protection, security awareness training, web security, compliance and other essential capabilities. Mimecast helps protect large and small organizations from malicious activity, human error and technology failure; and to lead the movement toward building a more resilient world. To find out more, visit our website.

Date: Wed, 1 May 2024 9:00:56 PM -0400
Sent: Wed, 1 May 2024 9:00:29 PM -0400
Subject: Re: NYT: Republicans Step Up Attacks on Scientist at Heart of Lab Leak Theory
From: Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6)
To: Peter Daszak <(b) (6)
CC: David Morens <(b) (6) Jeffrey Sturchio <(b) (6) Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6) Roberts, Rich <(b) (6) Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6)

But the right wing says the same about me, Joe Biden, AOC, these are political attacks: no one serious pays any attention to them. Michael Hiltzik should also have a positive article about tomorrow

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP

Texas Children's Hospital: Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics | Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development | Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

Baylor College of Medicine: Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine | Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology | Health Policy Scholar

Baylor University, University Professor
Rice University, Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty
Texas A&M University, Faculty-Senior Fellow, Hagler Inst for Advanced Study & Scowcroft Institute of Intl Affairs

E-mail | Twitter | LinkedIn | Skype: (b) (6)
Amazon Author Center | Daily Beast Contributor

Senior Coordinator & Executive Support: Douglas Soriano
(b) (6) | Phone: (b) (6) | Fax: 713-798-2299

Media Inquiries:
(b) (6)
(b) (6)
iPhone

On May 1, 2024, at 7:18 PM, Peter Daszak <(b) (6) > wrote:

*****CAUTION:*** This email is not from a BCM Source. Only click links or open attachments you know are safe.**

This is probably the only good report in the press so far – all the rest is right wing animus about how EcoHealth should be debarred, and I should be referred for criminal investigation.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: (b) (6)
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

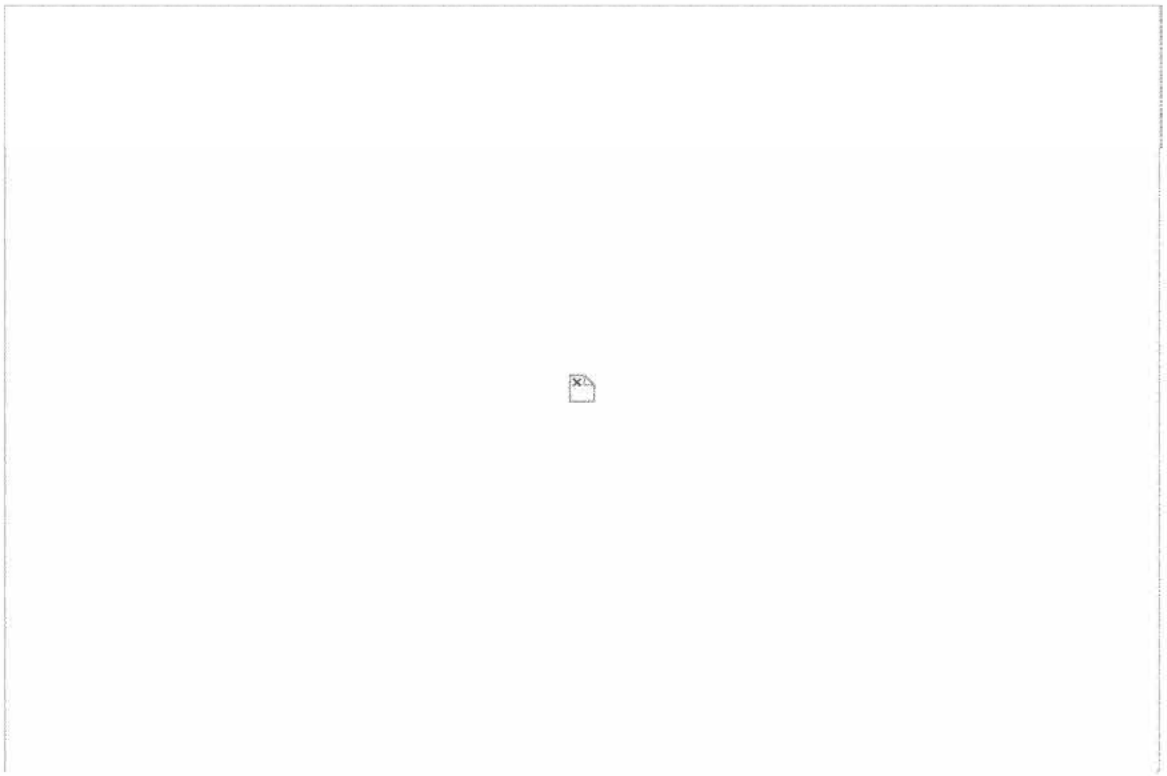
From: David Morens (b) (6)
Sent: Wednesday, May 1, 2024 7:49 PM
To: Peter Daszak (b) (6) ; Jeffrey Sturchio (b) (6) ; Keusch, Gerald T < (b) (6) ; Roberts, Rich (b) (6) peter hotez (b) (6) Aleksei Chmura < (b) (6) (b) (6)
Subject: Fwd: NYT: Republicans Step Up Attacks on Scientist at Heart of Lab Leak Theory

From the cell phone of David Morens

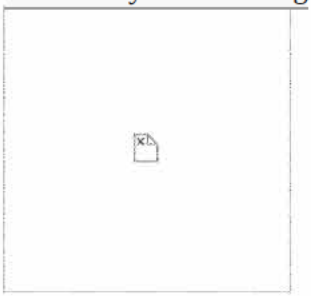
---------- Forwarded message ---------
From: **Folkers, Greg (NIH/NIAID) [C]** (b) (6)
Date: Wed, May 1, 2024, 19:36
Subject: NYT: Republicans Step Up Attacks on Scientist at Heart of Lab Leak Theory
To:

Republicans Step Up Attacks on Scientist at Heart of Lab Leak Theory

A heated hearing produced no new evidence that Peter Daszak or his nonprofit, EcoHealth Alliance, were implicated in the Covid outbreak.



Peter Daszak, president of EcoHealth Alliance, testifying during a hearing on Capitol Hill on Wednesday.Credit...Ting Shen for The New York Times



By Benjamin Mueller
May 1, 2024, 6:54 p.m. ET

House Republicans demanded on Wednesday that the president of a virus-hunting nonprofit group be criminally investigated and barred from federal research funds, a sharp escalation in their campaign against scientists in the United States who Republicans have suggested either had links to the origin of the Covid-19 pandemic or obscured its true beginnings.

During a heated three-hour hearing of the Select Subcommittee on the Coronavirus Pandemic, Republican lawmakers at times raised their voices at the nonprofit's leader, Peter Daszak, and said that they believed that he would fare poorly as a defendant in criminal court.

The nonprofit, EcoHealth Alliance, which receives federal funding to study global threats from wild animal viruses, has faced suspicion over a proposal that it made in 2018 to team up with Chinese scientists on novel coronavirus experiments that Republicans believe could have led to the pandemic, despite that project's never receiving funding.

But in a report and in extensive questioning on Wednesday, the Republicans offered no new information suggesting that EcoHealth Alliance or Dr. Daszak were involved in the coronavirus outbreak. And they did not produce any evidence pointing directly to a coronavirus leak from a lab in China, with or without EcoHealth's involvement, a hitch in their yearslong effort to implicate Chinese and American scientists in the beginnings of the pandemic.

Democrats on the subcommittee seized on the dearth of new evidence, even as they echoed Republican concerns that Dr. Daszak had not been forthcoming about his collaborations with Chinese scientists.

MORENS_NIH_051351
REL000482254

The subcommittee, which is led by Republicans, has reviewed nearly a half-million pages of documents and conducted over 100 hours of private interviews in the course of investigating the origin of Covid, Representative Raul Ruiz of California, the panel's top Democrat, said on Wednesday.

But, Mr. Ruiz said, the subcommittee has found "no evidence" linking the pandemic to EcoHealth's research. And he added that the investigation had not "meaningfully advanced our understanding of the pandemic's origins." Rather, he said, the subcommittee's work now "appeared to be an effort to weaponize concerns about a lab-related origin to fuel sentiment against our nation's scientists and public health officials for partisan gain."

Republicans, for their part, pledged that their investigation would continue. They have called Dr. Anthony S. Fauci, the former director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, to testify next month. A Republican member of the subcommittee pushed in January for Dr. Fauci to be jailed.

"I support work that will make the world safer," the chairman of the subcommittee, Representative Brad Wenstrup of Ohio, a Republican, said as he opened the hearing on Wednesday. "Our concern is that this research and research similar does the opposite," he said, referring to EcoHealth's collaborations with Chinese scientists. "It puts the world at the risk of a pandemic."

Republicans and Democrats alike hammered Dr. Daszak on Wednesday for what they described as a long list of misrepresentations and evasions. They suggested, among other things, that he was being untruthful about why he had been late to submit a required report to health officials before the pandemic and that he had cast research proposals in ways that helped his chances of receiving funding but misled reviewers. Dr. Daszak strongly denied those charges.

Much of the suspicion centered on an EcoHealth request made in 2018 for Defense Department funding to collect and experiment on coronaviruses with novel traits that would make them highly transmissible in humans.

EcoHealth's proposed partners included the Wuhan Institute of Virology, a premier site for coronavirus research in China. That institute's presence in the city where the Covid outbreak began was at the heart of theories that the virus had first infected people as a result of research activities.

Republicans said that notes on a draft of the proposal from 2018 suggested Dr. Daszak was trying to mislead American officials about the extent of Chinese involvement in the project. Dr. Daszak denied that, saying that he had sought — and received — approval from American defense officials for Chinese scientists to participate. Dr. Daszak said the research had never been carried out.

"It's utterly irrelevant to the origins of Covid," Dr. Daszak said of the proposal. He acknowledged that Wuhan scientists could have been conducting research independently that he was not aware of.

The Wuhan institute's biosafety practices have intensified concerns about the possibility of a lab leak. On Wednesday, Republicans doubled down on worries about its lab's protocols, citing private emails and comments in a closed-door congressional interview by Ralph Baric, a virologist at the University of North Carolina who has collaborated with EcoHealth and the Wuhan institute.

In an email to Dr. Daszak in 2021, Dr. Baric said the Wuhan institute had failed to conduct virus experiments under appropriately safe conditions, and called the idea that they were taking proper precautions a "load of BS." Still, Dr. Baric told Dr. Daszak in a separate email that year that the coronavirus had most likely jumped from animals to people outside of a lab. He cited the absence of any evidence that the Wuhan institute possessed a virus related closely enough to the one that caused the pandemic.

There remains no evidence that the Wuhan institute stored any virus that could have become the coronavirus and caused Covid, with or without scientific tinkering, researchers have said.

Scientists who specialize in tracing outbreaks have published analyses of early cases and viral genomes that they say point to the pandemic's starting at an illegal wild-animal market in Wuhan. The presence of the coronavirus in samples from the market containing genetic material linked to raccoon dogs, they have said, is consistent with that scenario.

Dr. Daszak cited animal-borne disease threats on Wednesday in defending projects by EcoHealth, which works with collaborators around the world to identify and study dangerous viruses circulating in nature.

In April 2020, as EcoHealth came under attack from President Donald J. Trump, the group had a grant terminated by the National Institutes of Health. The grant was reinstated last year, but it does not provide

MORENS_NIH_051352
REL0000482254

funding for any research in China. The Biden administration has also taken steps to impose a 10-year ban on funding for the Wuhan Institute of Virology.

Republicans on Wednesday cited concerns about EcoHealth's compliance with grant reporting requirements in arguing that EcoHealth, too, should be barred from receiving federal funds. The N.I.H. faulted the group in 2021 for failing to promptly report findings from studies on how well bat coronaviruses grow in mice. An internal federal watchdog agency chided the N.I.H. last year for failing to demand a progress report from EcoHealth that was two years late.

In an interview after the hearing, Mr. Wenstrup, the Republican subcommittee chair, said that oversight by health agencies was too weak. He called for the creation of criminal penalties for violating health agency protocols — "anything from a misdemeanor to a felony," he said — as a way of better policing certain scientific research.

Disclaimer: Any third-party material in this email has been shared for internal use under fair use provisions of U.S. copyright law, without further verification of its accuracy/veracity. It does not necessarily represent my views nor those of NIAID, NIH, HHS, or the U.S. government.

Date:	Tue, 7 Sep 2021 10:30:18 PM -0400
Sent:	Tue, 7 Sep 2021 10:29:40 PM -0400
Subject:	Re: The Intercept report on coronavirus research at Chinese labs
From:	"Kristian G. Andersen" <(b) (6)
To:	Peter Daszak <(b) (6)
CC:	David Morens <(b) (6) Garry, Robert F <(b) (6) Edward Holmes <(b) (6) n Gale <(b) (6) mussen, Angie <(b) (6) Robert Kessler <(b) (6) Stephen Goldstein <(b) (6)
Attachments:	image001.jpg; image002.jpg

It's harassment, plain and simple - it has absolutely nothing to do with trying to find the truth of how SARS-CoV-2 emerged in the human population.

The way I see it though, we now have (a) the entire US IC having completed their investigation, (b) unredacted grants and annual reports from EcoHealth, and (c) old theses from the WIV.

This is *exactly* the type of information that Ebright, Metzl, Relman, Bloom, Chan, and the rest of the lot have been requesting. Now this work has been completed, what was unearthed? Nothing. Nada. Zilch. No evidence of the virus (or sequence) at the WIV (or anywhere else) prior to the pandemic. No gain-of-function work (despite what Ebright says). The same cloning system used again and again (WIV1). Vero cells used for virus isolation (SARS-CoV-2 loses the FCS in those cells), and no previously unreported viruses isolated (although I note the repeated use of "isolates" in one of the annual reports to describe 11 samples - I myself have made that mistake before). So again, there's nothing.

This absence of evidence is *in fact* evidence of absence in this particular case - there would have been *some* evidence for SARS-CoV-2 in *some* of these documents had it been at the WIV. Yet, nothing.

As for GOF work, again nothing. I note the mention of work with recombinant MERS in the year 3 report for work proposed in year 4 - depending on the nature of work, that could be considered GOF/DURC. However, when reading the year 4 report, I don't see any of that work mentioned - just work with pseudotyped viruses, which is clearly not GOF (or DURC).

Of course, people will take stuff out of context to make *anything* fit a particular narrative. However, there's an expiration date on bullshit and I suspect we're well past due.

K

On Tue, Sep 7, 2021 at 6:28 PM Peter Daszak (b) (6) > wrote:

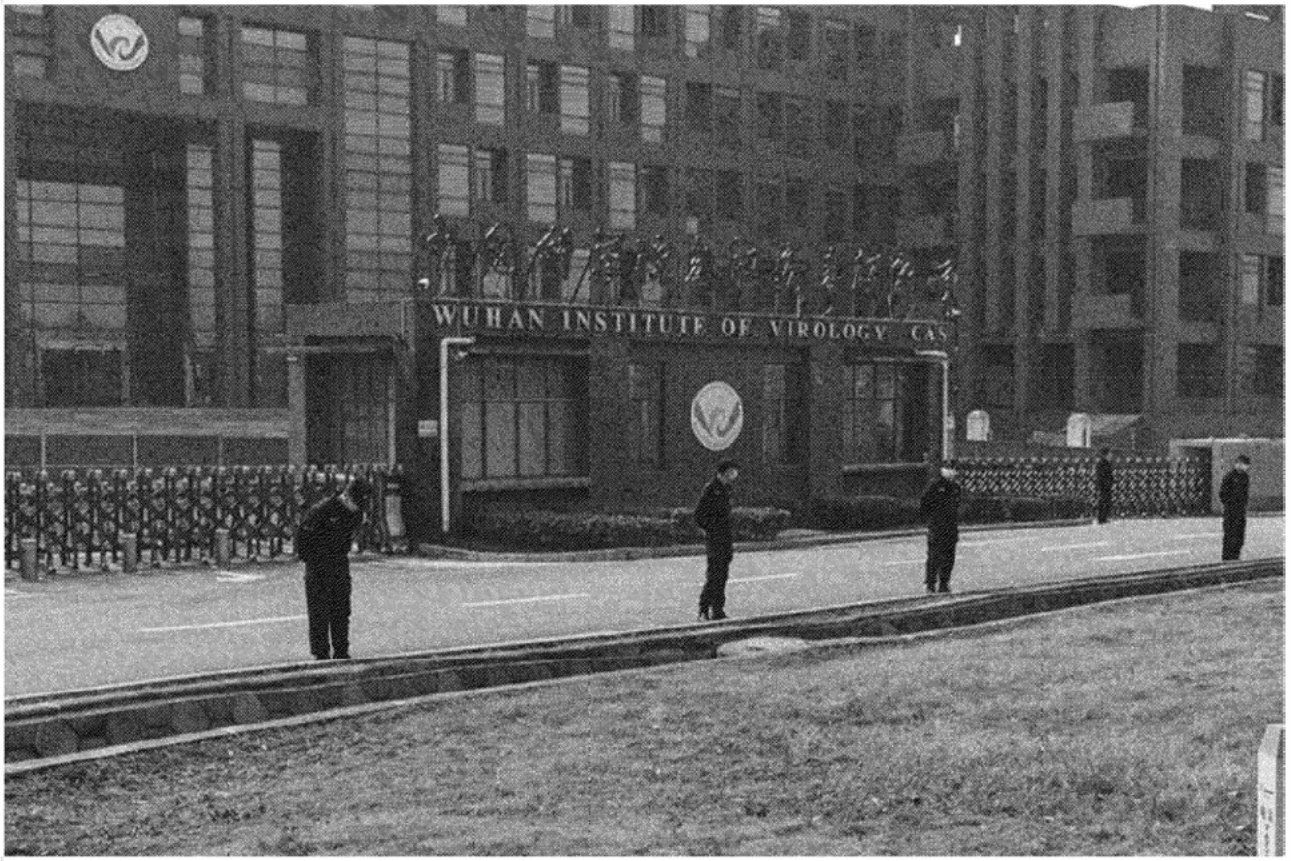
> Here's one of the "journalists" who got the "Scoop". Basically they just FoIA'd NIH, then sued when NIH refused to release, then dumped the documents online and asked for "people with relevant expertise to get in touch". Cue Drs. Ebright, Relman, Chan, Bloom and others to start their attempt at a character assassination…
>
> **Mara Hvistendahl**
>
> @MaraHvistendahl

.

15h

NEW: We obtained hundreds of pages from NIH detailing EcoHealth Alliance's work with the Wuhan Institute of Virology. We are publishing them in full. With

@fastlerner and @theintercept legal team, which filed a FOIA lawsuit for the documents' release



New Details Emerge About Coronavirus Research at Chinese Lab

More than 900 pages of materials related to US.-funded coronavirus research in China were released following a FOIA lawsuit by The Intercept.

theintercept.com



MORENS_SUBPOENA_022168
MORENS_NIH_043069
REL0000482256

Mara Hvistendahl

@MaraHvistendahl

.

15h The full documents are here: “Understanding the Risk of Bat Coronavirus Emergence”
https://documentcloud.org/documents/21055989-understanding-risk-bat-coronavirus-emergence-grant-notice…

"Understanding Risk of Zoonotic Virus Emergence in Emerging Infectious Disease Hotspots of Southeast Asia"
https://documentcloud.org/documents/21055988-risk-zoonotic-virus-hotspots-grant-notice…



Mara Hvistendahl

@MaraHvistendahl

.

7h

There is a lot here. @fastlerner and I are interested in hearing feedback from people with relevant expertise.

Cheers,

Peter

MORENS_SUBPOENA_022169
MORENS_NIH_043070
REL0000482256

Peter Daszak

President

EcoHealth Alliance

520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200

New York, NY 10018-6507

USA

Tel.: (b) (6)

Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org

Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

---

From: David Morens (b)
Sent: Tuesday, September 7, 2021 9:07 PM
To: Peter Daszak (b) (6)
Cc: Garry, Robert F (b) (6) @ >; Kristian G. Andersen (b) (6) >; Edward Holmes < (b) (6) >; Jason Gale <j.gale@bloomberg.net >; (b) (6) Robert Kessler < >; (b) (6)
Subject: Re: The Intercept report on coronavirus research at Chinese labs

Do not rule out suing these assholes for slander. d

Sent from my iPhone

David M Morens

OD, NIAID, NIH

On Sep 7, 2021, at 20:39, Peter Daszak (b) (6) > wrote:

MORENS_SUBPOENA_022170
MORENS_NIH_043071
REL0000482256

To be honest, this whole process is beyond a joke. We're spending a huge amount of staff time dealing with the BS from these FoIA requests even though the grant's been terminated, suspended and funds are still unavailable.

The lab leakers are already stirring up bullshit lines of attack that will bring more negative publicity our way – which is what this is about – a way to line up the GoF attack on Fauci, or the 'risky research' attack on all of us.

Jesse Bloom's now trying to claim we weren't following our proposed rules for data release (not true – all SARSr-CoV RdRp sequences on Genbank in summer 2020, despite the grant being terminated) – he's tagging Alina Chan and 'The Seeker' on Twitter. Ebright's trying to claim we were working on MERS as a 'shadow' line of work. There'll be more to come – just a free-for-all effort to find a few sentences that they can take out of context.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak

President

EcoHealth Alliance

520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200

New York, NY 10018-6507

USA

Tel.: (b) (6)

Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org

Twitter: @PeterDaszak

MORENS_SUBPOENA_022171
MORENS_NIH_043072
REL0000482256

From: Garry, Robert F (b) (6)
Sent: Tuesday, September 7
To: Kristian G. Andersen <(b) (6) >; Edward Holmes (b) (6)
Cc: Jason Gale <j.gale@bloomberg.net>; (b) (6)
(b) (6)
Subject: Re: The Intercept report on coronavirus research at Chinese labs

Totally - that the real story of the FOIAed grants - no SC2 or anything close that could have been converted to it.

Metzl, Chan and others wanted a "forensic investigation.' The grants that they thought would be private and written before the pandemic do not mention a new SARS-like virus. YOu can be sure that a new virus 76% similar to SC1 would have been front and center in the applications and progress reports.

My guess this is part of the info the IC used to conclude no bioweapon, likely no engineering - NO SC2 before the pandemic. This Gof debate now very clearly has nothing to do with the origin of SC2.

From: Kristian G. Andersen (b) (6)
Sent: Tuesday, September 7, 2021 11:56 PM
To: Edward Holmes (b) (6)
Cc: Jason Gale (b) (6)

MORENS_SUBPOENA_022172
MORENS_NIH_043073
REL0000482256

(b) (6)
(b) (6) (>; Garry, Robert F (b) (6)
(b) (6) >

Subject: Re: The Intercept report on coronavirus research at Chinese labs

External Sender. Be aware of links, attachments and requests.

Going through it carefully as we speak (already wasted a few hours) - because that's how idiotic this has become.

Nicely detailed annual reports - makes it easy to show that there's in fact no SARS-CoV- 2 in there...

People have lost their minds with this s***.

K

On Tue, Sep 7, 2021 at 4:50 PM Edward Holmes (b) (6) wrote:

> Yes, just more like evidence that they never had SC2 in the lab.
>
> Professor Edward C. Holmes FAA FRS
>
> The University of Sydney
>
> > On 8 Sep 2021, at 9:43 am, Jason Gale (BLOOMBERG/ NEWSROOM:) < j.gale@bloomberg.net > wrote:

MORENS_SUBPOENA_022173
MORENS_NIH_043074
REL0000482256

Just FYI

https://theintercept.com/2021/09/06/new- details-emerge-about-coronavirus-research-at-chinese-lab/

Disclaimer

The information contained in this communication from the sender is confidential. It is intended solely for use by the recipient and others authorized to receive it. If you are not the recipient, you are hereby notified that any disclosure, copying, distribution or taking action in relation of the contents of this information is strictly prohibited and may be unlawful.

This email has been scanned for viruses and malware, and may have been automatically archived by Mimecast, a leader in email security and cyber resilience. Mimecast integrates email defenses with brand protection, security awareness training, web security, compliance and other essential capabilities. Mimecast helps protect large and small organizations from malicious activity, human error and technology failure; and to lead the movement toward building a more resilient world. To find out more, visit our website.

Disclaimer

The information contained in this communication from the sender is confidential. It is intended solely for use by the recipient and others authorized to receive it. If you are not the recipient, you are hereby notified that any disclosure, copying, distribution or taking action in relation of the contents of this information is strictly prohibited and may be unlawful.

This email has been scanned for viruses and malware, and may have been automatically archived by Mimecast, a leader in email security and cyber resilience. Mimecast integrates email defenses with brand protection, security awareness training, web security, compliance and other essential capabilities. Mimecast helps protect large and small organizations from malicious activity, human error and technology failure; and to lead the movement toward building a more resilient world. To find out more, visit our website.

Date: Fri, 28 Apr 2023 1:34:34 PM -0400
Sent: Fri, 28 Apr 2023 1:34:29 PM -0400
Subject: Re: Mother Jones: The Coming Tidal Wave of Right Wing Covid Lawsuits
From: "Keusch, Gerald T" <(b) (6)
To: Roberts, Rich <(b) (6) >;
CC: Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6) David Morens <(b) (6) >; Jeff Sturchio <(b) (6) Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) >; Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >;

Agree. Let's find a time for a 1 pager for Mitchell and then focus on a short concept paper amd next steps to circulate among the participants and to get more folks involved. Peter H and Peter D you both did a great job at RF and at the Gala for EHA. Jerry

Sent from my iPhone

On Apr 28, 2023, at 11:35 AM, Roberts, Rich <(b) (6) > wrote:

Peter:

That's good! We should look further for funding as well.

Rich

Richard J. Roberts
New England Biolabs
240 County Road
Ipswich, MA 01938-2723
USA
Tel: (b) (6)
Fax: (978) 412 9910
email: (b) (6)

Executive Assistant: (b) (6)
Tel: (b) (6)
Fax: (978) 412 9910
email: (b) (6)

From: Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6)
Sent: Friday, April 28, 2023 10:43 AM
To: David Morens <(b) (6) >
Cc: Gerald Keusch <(b) (6) Jeff Sturchio <(b) (6) Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) Peter Daszak <(b) (6) Roberts, Rich <(b) (6)
Subject: Re: Mother Jones: The Coming Tidal Wave of Right Wing Covid Lawsuits

EXTERNAL SENDER

It was great to see everyone yesterday, I think we had a good start yesterday. We should zoom next week to decide how we want to follow up with the Mitchell Foundation

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP

Texas Children's Hospital: Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics | Co-Director, Texas Children's

Hospital Center for Vaccine Development | Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

Baylor College of Medicine: Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine | Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology | Health Policy Scholar

Baylor University, University Professor
Rice University, Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty
Texas A&M University, Faculty-Senior Fellow, Hagler Inst for Advanced Study & Scowcroft Institute of Intl Affairs

E-mail | Twitter | LinkedIn | Skype: (b) (6)

Amazon Author Center | Daily Beast Contributor

Senior Coordinator & Executive Support: Douglas Soriano
(b) (6) | Phone: (b) (6) | Fax: 713-798-2299

Media Inquiries:
(b) (6)

iPhone

On Apr 28, 2023, at 10:40 AM, David Morens (b) (6) wrote:

*****CAUTION:*** This email is not from a BCM Source. Only click links or open attachments you know are safe.**

Timely report related to many comments yesterday

d

Sent from my iPhone
David M Morens
OD, NIAID, NIH
Begin forwarded message:

> **From:** "Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E]" (b) (6)
> **Date:** April 28, 202
> **To:** David Morens (b) (6)
> **Subject: Fwd: Mother Jones: The Coming Tidal Wave of Right Wing Covid Lawsuits**
>
> Sent from my iPhone
> David M Morens
> OD, NIAID, NIH
> Begin forwarded message:
>
> > **From:** "Folkers, Greg (NIH/NIAID) [C]" (b) (6)
> > **Date:** April 27, 2023 at 16:34:53 EDT
> > **Subject: Mother Jones: The Coming Tidal Wave of Right Wing Covid Lawsuits**
> >
> > # The Coming Tidal Wave of Right Wing Covid Lawsuits
> >
> > **Lawyers have found a way to cash in on outrage over mask mandates and**

vaccines.

Kiera Butler 10 hours ago

In late March, I watched as some 300 lawyers, doctors, and activists assembled in the aggressively beige conference wing of the Midtown Atlanta Hilton for the inaugural Covid Litigation Conference. A promotional flier promised that the event would "provide attendees with the resources they need to begin taking on Covid cases for the first time or to expand the range of Covid claims that they currently handle." An unsuspecting lawyer could have been forgiven for expecting tips on how to help clients who had been disabled by Covid that they caught at their factory jobs, for instance, or those whose medical bills their insurance refused to pay.

But those kinds of cases were entirely absent from the agenda. Rather, the topic was a very particular kind of litigation: How best to advance the movement that organizers called "medical freedom." In other words, how to sue the people who created and enforced public health measures like vaccine and mask requirements, policies against Covid misinformation, and treatment protocols for hospitalized Covid patients.

The conference organizers wore t-shirts emblazoned with the slogan "Misinformation Superspreader." Steve Kirsch, a Silicon Valley entrepreneur, philanthropist, and a main organizer of the event, told me that the slogan was a cheeky reference to what he saw as the unfair labeling of anti-vaccine activists as peddlers of misinformation. "We said, 'Okay if that's what they're calling us," he explained, "let's kind of make fun of it." Indeed, many of the attendees seemed to see themselves as underdogs, scrapping against government and pharmaceutical behemoths.

What those underdogs didn't mention during the sessions, though, is their friends in high places: specifically, federal judges who seem to be sympathetic to their aversion to pandemic policies. Pointing to some of the victories that medical freedom lawyers have enjoyed in US District courts, Dorit Reiss, a public health lawyer and law professor at the University of California College of the Law, noted, "They're having some success in the federal system in front of Trump-appointed judges, and they're very much forum shopping right now." Adam Winkler, a constitutional law scholar at the University of California-Los Angeles, agreed. "The courts have issued a lot of what were once thought to be outlandish kinds of rulings with regard to any number of issues like abortion and affirmative action," he said. "I'd expect that encourages people to bind hope to the prospects of lawsuits that they would otherwise seem certain to lose."

When I arrived, I didn't think I'd get past the Misinformation Superspreaders and make it into the ballroom where the event was taking place. The media liaison for the conference, Trevor FitzGibbon, asked me if I was there to write about disinformation, and he seemed to balk at my affirmative answer. When I said I worked for *Mother Jones*, he noticeably brightened. He had come up in the PR business working for prominent progressive candidates and groups, he explained, including Barack Obama, MoveOn, and Planned Parenthood, which I took to mean that he considered us to be politically kindred spirits. And then he let me into the ballroom.

Once inside, I watched as one indignant panelist after another enumerated their grievances. At the Hospital Negligence Panel, doctors who refused to deviate from CDC protocol to treat Covid patients with unproven drugs like the antiparasitic medication ivermectin and antimalarial hydroxychloroquine were the targets of rage. The Education Mandates session featured the mother of a California teenager who had defied her school's mask requirement, showing up at school without a mask for weeks on end in 2021, and standing outside the school for hours every day after she was kicked out. The panelists batted around ideas: Could the refusal to wear a mask be considered free speech? Could putting a kid in detention for not wearing a mask count as false imprisonment?

In his speech, Kirsch, the conference organizer, told the story of how, at the beginning of the pandemic, he had invested $1 million of his own money toward studying existing drugs as potential Covid treatments. Somewhere along the way, he became convinced that the Covid vaccines were dangerous. Last year, he founded the Vaccine Safety Research Foundation, whose goal, according to its website, is "to advance COVID-19 vaccine safety through scientific research, public education, and advocacy, and to support the vaccine injured." After his speech, Kirsch told me that he sees litigation as a way to force the federal government agencies to release data that he believes they're concealing about the dangers of the Covid vaccines. He said he is sure that "the only reason that we're not allowed to see any of the data is because it's bad."

Many of the other speakers seemed to share Kirsch's belief that the public isn't seeing the whole picture of Covid. In a constitutional law panel, Robert Barnes, an attorney who previously represented both Kenosha shooter Kyle Rittenhouse and Sandy Hook conspiracy theorist Alex Jones, said, "Pfizer makes the Mexican drug cartels look like a street corner dealer by comparison." To

hold the public health crowd accountable, he implored the lawyers at the ballroom tables to "knock down the doors of every court we can."

But not just any court. Medical freedom activists have already started enjoying some successes in front of conservative judges. At the local level, several have sided with plaintiffs who've sued hospitals for refusing to give patients ivermectin. But it's been on the federal level, with Trump-appointed judges, where they've enjoyed some of their most significant successes. In 2021, Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton sued the Biden administration over a proposed policy that would have required Covid vaccinations for all Head Start employees. In March 2023, Judge James Wesley Hendrix of the Northern District of Texas, a Trump appointee, struck down the proposed policy. In January 2022, a group of government workers sued the Biden Administration over the president's vaccination requirements for all federal employees; in 2022, Judge Jeffrey Vincent Brown, whom Trump appointed in 2019, ruled in their favor. That ruling was briefly overturned, but in 2023, the 5th US Circuit Court of Appeals in New Orleans upheld it; the opinion was written by Trump appointee Judge Andrew Oldham.

In August 2022, a group of physicians sued the Biden Administration over its efforts to hold social media companies accountable for platforming physicians who spread misinformation about Covid. The plaintiffs, two of whom created the 2020 Great Barrington Declaration to oppose pandemic protections, accused the federal government of violating their First Amendment rights. "The US government used its vast power over social media and big tech to censor legitimate scientific and policy discussion about Covid during the pandemic," Jay Bhattacharya wrote in a statement. That case is still ongoing, but in March, Trump-appointed judge Terry Doughty, in the Western District of Louisiana, denied a motion to dismiss it.

"The US government used its vast power over social media and big tech to censor legitimate scientific and policy discussion about Covid during the pandemic."

There is more to come. Several of the conference speakers have embarked on a Covid litigation bonanza of late. Mark Meuser, a member of the Future Litigation and Censorship panels, boasts on his website that he "has been involved in 22 lawsuits brought against [California Governor Gavin] Newsom for his unconstitutional usurpation of power as a result of COVID-19." In the exhibition area, I visited the booth of Children's Health Defense, the anti-vaccine organization helmed by the new presidential hopeful Robert F. Kennedy, Jr., who announced his bid to replace Joe Biden in April. A flier that highlighted some of the dozens of lawsuits that the group had recently filed reveals its eagerness to sue the government, at both local and federal levels. It's suing California over a law that prohibits doctors from spreading misinformation; the *Washington Post* and other news outlets over their efforts to stop the spread of misinformation; and the CDC for access to reports of "unusual or unexpected patterns of adverse events reporting that can signal safety problems with a vaccine." Sen. Elizabeth Warren (D-Mass.) is getting sued for calling for a review of the Amazon algorithms that allegedly promoted anti-vaccine books, and Facebook parent company Meta is being sued for "collusion with the US government to censor CHD social media content." Add to the long list of defendants Rutgers University for its vaccine mandate for students and staff.

Law professor Reiss is dubious about the prospects for some of those lawsuits, especially those in which individuals sue a private company for censorship. The First Amendment, she noted, also protects "the freedom of private companies like Twitter and YouTube to kick them off." Nor was the idea of students suing universities, a winning strategy. "You don't have the right to go to a specific university," she said. "And if you don't like the university policies, universities are on pretty solid grounds denying you admission."

Yet she noted that some of the victories the medical freedom movement has racked up so far could pave the way for future legislation that would last long beyond the Covid era—and possibly transform established public health practices. In fact, that's already happening: Several panelists suggested making vaccination status a protected class like race or sex—which means that it would be illegal to discriminate against someone on the basis of whether or not they had received immunizations. In 2021, Montana became the first state to pass such a law. In February of this year, Idaho followed suit. Employers there who require vaccination against Covid can now be fined $1,000 per violation. A similar bill in Florida is currently under consideration.

Another potential opening for medical freedom advocates, Reiss said, is a broader interpretation of laws about religious exemptions to vaccine mandates, which most states allow. With the current Supreme Court's expansion of what is included within the definition of freedom of religion, she worried they may include religious objections to vaccines. "If they go there, it will make it a lot harder to prevent the abuse of religious exemption," she said. On April 18, a few weeks after I spoke to Reiss, a US district judge ruled that Mississippi must change its current policy to allow religious

exemptions for vaccine mandates. (The judge, Halil Suleyman Ozerden, had been nominated by Trump in 2019 to serve on the 5th Circuit Court of Appeals, but key Republicans questioned his conservative bona fides and he was never confirmed.)

With all this coming litigation, some of the conference sponsors saw a business opportunity. While the speakers inside the ballroom railed against big pharma and the CDC, just outside, representatives from law-firm-adjacent companies handed out business cards. Zena Obebe, the CEO of Hill Redaction Services, told me, "We wanted to get in front of those litigation lawyers and say, 'Hey, you can use us for the medical records.'" She expects to see many more Covid-related cases soon, explaining, "There's a huge influx that's coming down the pipeline."

Though Covid was the official topic of the conference, many of the people I talked to made detours into other subjects. Their involvement in the medical freedom movement, they said, had caused the scales to fall from their eyes. Kirsch, the conference organizer, explained that before the pandemic, he had never been skeptical of routine childhood vaccinations, but over the past few years, he has come to believe they cause autism (a theory that has been extensively discredited but one cherished by RFK, Jr. whose campaign, Kirsch says, he looks forward to supporting). So fervent is his newfound aversion to immunizations, he told me, that he now believes "nobody should ever" even vaccinate their pets.

For FitzGibbon, the comms guy, his involvement with the medical freedom movement has led to a more thorough disenchantment with his progressive roots. In 2020, during the height of the pandemic, he had become acutely ill with Covid, but two different hospitals sent him home. Only when a doctor-client put in a good word for him did he get admitted to an ICU, where he received monoclonal antibodies—an effective though underutilized treatment—which he credits with saving his life.

In the months that followed, he became skeptical of what he saw as the single-minded focus on Covid vaccines and what he considered to be the suppression of treatments like the one he received, as well as more scientifically dubious drugs like ivermectin and hydroxychloroquine. "All you saw in the US media was vaccine, vaccine, vaccine," he said. "Any other mentions of these alternative treatments were blacklisted." He now believes not only that the Covid vaccines are bioweapons, but also that the Democratic party has lost its way—he saw it even before Covid in Democrats' soft stance on domestic surveillance under Obama, and now he sees it in foreign policy, too. In a pivot I frankly did not see coming, he said, "I do not recognize this administration or this party when it comes to the war in Ukraine," especially since he claims that Russia had good reason to invade the country because of its problem with Nazis (ostensibly a reference to Russian President Vladimir Putin's shaky-at-best justification for his invasion).

It's possible, though, that something unrelated to politics deepened his disenchantment with progressives: In 2015, his PR firm closed abruptly after several female former employees accused him of sexual assault and harassment; he spoke to me on the condition that I note that the US Attorney declined to file any criminal charges, and a woman who had accused him of rape publicly retracted her allegations and apologized as part of a settlement in 2019.

Both Kirsch and FitzGibbon complained that progressive groups with whom they both were previously allied would no longer return their calls—about Covid or anything else. Aggrieved, they were determined to press on in what they saw as a countercultural but righteous crusade—a sentiment echoed by many of the speakers. Their alienation and what they consider to be oppression only further energizes them and their cause. In a heartfelt speech in the ballroom, Sujata Gibson, a New York-based lawyer and activist who recently won a lawsuit that led to New York overturning its vaccine mandate for healthcare workers, compared current medical freedom activism to the Indian struggle for independence, Nelson Mandela's campaign against apartheid in South Africa, and the American civil rights movement. "Part of what we have to do as lawyers when we're in these tyrannical moments in history—and this one is quite extreme—is we have to hold the line in the courts," she said. "I've been lucky enough to see time after time how David and Goliath battles can be won."

Disclaimer: Any third-party material in this email has been shared for internal use under fair use provisions of U.S. copyright law, without further verification of its accuracy/veracity. It does not necessarily represent my views nor those of NIAID, NIH, HHS, or the U.S. government.

Date:	Tue, 17 Aug 2021 8:40:12 AM -0400
Sent:	Tue, 17 Aug 2021 8:40:01 AM -0400
Subject:	Re: Nicholas Wade's piece in Bull Atomic Sci. today
From:	"Hotez, Peter Jay" <(b) (6)
To:	Peter Daszak <(b) (6)
CC:	David Morens <(b) (6) Roberts, Rich <(b) (6) Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6) (b) (6)
Attachments:	image001.jpg; image002.png; image003.png; image004.png; image005.png; image006.jpg

I spoke with House Energy and Commerce Republicans yesterday, was able to express my point of view how we need to get to the bottom of Covid's origins in Central China and the need for a Sino-US or Sino international year long field investigation. Also why perseverating on GOF and lab leak will miss vital information needed to preserve health security. They were polite and thoughtful, all long time staffers.

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP
Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine
Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology
Health Policy Scholar
Baylor College of Medicine

Texas Children's Hospital Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics
Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development

University Professor, Baylor University

Faculty Fellow, Hagler Institute for Advanced Study
Senior Fellow, Scowcroft Institute of International Affairs
Texas A&M University
Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty and Adjunct Professor of Bioengineering, Rice University
Adjunct Professor, University of Texas, School of Public Health

Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

E-mail: (b) (6)
Twitter: @peterhotez
Skype: (b) (6)
Linkedin Peter Hotez

Amazon Author Center: https://www.amazon.com/Peter- J.-Hotez/e/B001HPIC48
Daily Beast Contributor https://www.thedailybeast.com/author/peter- j-hotez
Like us on Facebook https://www.facebook.com/BCMNationalSchoolOfTropicalMedicine/

Senior Coordinator / Executive Support: Douglas Soriano
(b) (6)
Phone: (b) (6)
Fax: 713-798-2299

MORENS_SUBPOENA_021549
MORENS_NIH_042425
REL0000482260

iPhone

On Aug 17, 2021, at 7:30 AM, Peter Daszak <(b) (6) > wrote:

*****CAUTION:*** This email is not from a BCM Source. Only click links or open attachments you know are safe.**

Nicholas Wade's at it again – another miserable innuendo-filled attack on science and the process by which scientists email, talk and come to decisions. Nothing new of course, just trash journalism published in a pseudo-scientific journal. He infers that I was the lucky winner of an NIH center grant, and that this has some linkage to chumming up to Dr. Fauci and Dr. Farrar and dismissing the lab origin story (I applied for the funding in 2019 way before COVID). Pretty shameless smear – no facts of course, no sue-able accusations, just snipey comments and a picture of me with Dr. Fauci at an event in DC where he spoke, taken from Social Media. It's as if we can't now be scientists and actually colleagues who break bread and share a glass any more.

https://thebulletin.org/2021/08/how-covid-19s-origins-were-obscured-by-the-east-and-the-west/

The irony is in the ending – he claims the lab leak is an albatross hanging around China's neck that they won't be able to shake off until they open up the lab videos, books, freezers etc. The truth is his and others continued attacks are what put the albatross there in the first place. Does anyone really believe that if China gave access to all the above and no further evidence was found, that these folks would simply say "OK, it wasn't a lab leak after all"!!!

Cheers,

Peter

How COVID-19's origins were obscured, by the East and the West

By Nicholas Wade | August 17, 2021

<image001.jpg>

A bus carrying a team of experts from the World Health Organization departs an airport in Wuhan on Jan. 14, 2021, after arriving in the Chinese city to investigate the origins of the coronavirus pandemic. That investigation is widely seen as having been obstructed by Chinese authorities. (Photo by Kyodo News via Getty Images)

Some 20 months after the Covid-19 pandemic first broke out, its origins remain obscure. A vigorous campaign of concealment by the Chinese authorities is the principal reason. But China received considerable help, strange to say, from senior medical research officials in the United Kingdom and United States who mishandled and effectively derailed the initial inquiry into the virus's origins.

MORENS_SUBPOENA_021550
MORENS_NIH_042426
REL0000482260

The mishandling began at a pivotal teleconference held on February 1, 2020. The organizer was Jeremy Farrar, director of the Wellcome Trust, a large medical research charity in London. News of the conference emerged with the release this June of emails from the office of Anthony Fauci, director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID). Farrar supplied further information in his book *Spike*, published on July 22.

The conference was held to discuss the unanimous view of a group of virologists that the SARS2 virus had been manipulated in a lab. Yet within a few days of the meeting, the virologists abruptly reversed their conclusion. The meeting's participants were later involved in two letters to scientific journals that stated the virus must have emerged naturally and that condemned any suggestion of manipulation as a conspiracy theory. These two letters, to *The Lancet* and *Nature Medicine*, shaped the views of the mainstream media for more than a year.

<image002.png>

Letters published by *The Lancet* and *Nature Medicine* in early 2020.

Even today, no one can say for sure whether the SARS2 virus emerged naturally or escaped from a lab. Much less could anyone have been sure back then. If the conferees had stuck to known facts, they would have left the question open to the two hypotheses, and the full exploration of the virus's origins might not have been sidetracked for over a year.

More significant, the Chinese government would have found it much harder, if not impossible, to manipulate the World Health Organization (WHO) into setting terms of reference that favored China's obstructive goals and kept WHO inspectors who visited China this February from accessing records vital to understanding the origin of the pandemic. China now insists those terms of reference cannot be changed, blocking further investigation into the origin of the SARS2 virus. "The two groups that produced the infamous letters in *The Lancet* and *Nature Medicine* paved the way for the Chinese government and helped enormously to facilitate all of that," says Milton Leitenberg, an arms control expert at the University of Maryland. The reversal of the virologists' conclusion about SARS2's artificial origin is thus a matter of some significance.

At 10:32 p.m. on the evening before the February 1 conference, Fauci had received an electrifying memo from Kristian G. Andersen, a virologist at the Scripps Research institute in California. Andersen reported that the virus seemed to be man-made. "The unusual features of the virus make up a really small part of the genome," he wrote, referring presumably to a genetic component known as a furin cleavage site, which greatly enhances the virus's infectivity, "so one has to look really closely at all the sequences to see that some of the features (potentially) look engineered."

<image003.png>

A key email from Kristian Andersen to Anthony Fauci.

Andersen went on to note that "after discussions earlier today, Eddie, Bob, Mike and myself all find the genome inconsistent with expectations from evolutionary theory"—meaning that, in their unanimous view, the virus didn't come from nature. "Those opinions could still change," Andersen added. Eddie is Edward C. Holmes of the University of Sydney. Bob is Robert F. Garry of Tulane University. Mike is Michael Farzan at Scripps Research.

The message sent Fauci into a whirlwind of activity. "You will have tasks today that must be done," he emailed his deputy director, Hugh Auchincloss, two hours later at 12:29 am on

February 1. One of these urgent tasks evidently concerned NIAID funds that had been passed, via the EcoHealth Alliance of New York, to Zhengli Shi, China's leading bat virus expert, at the Wuhan Institute of Virology. Fauci was doubtless anxious to check whether his agency's funding of Shi's work had complied with US law, which banned funding gain-of-function research from 2014 to 2017 and required it be reported to a government panel thereafter. "Gain of function" refers to research in which a pathogen's ability to cause disease is enhanced. Auchincloss replied a few hours later that efforts were underway to ascertain "if we have any distant ties to this work abroad."

Meanwhile Farrar, who had independently heard of the Andersen team's conclusion from Holmes, says in *Spike* that he arranged a teleconference set for 7 p.m. London time, convenient for both Washington and Australia, where Holmes was based.

The participants included Fauci and possibly his nominal boss, Francis Collins, the director of the National Institutes of Health. (Farrar says in *Spike* that Collins was present, but Collins's name is not on the list of invitees in the Fauci emails.) Officials on the UK side were Farrar and Patrick Vallance, the chief scientific adviser to the UK government. The others were mostly virologists, including Andersen, Holmes, and Andrew Rambaut of the University of Edinburgh.

Far from being selected at random, the conferees were associated through a complicated web of relationships, a sort of virologists' old boy network that included senior medical officials in China. Farrar was well acquainted with George Fu Gao, the head of China's counterpart of the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. He has described Gao as an "old friend," who in fact had called a month earlier, on December 31, 2019, to tell Farrar about the initial cases in Wuhan of what turned out to be Covid-19. Farrar says in his book *Spike* that on the weekend of the teleconference, he called another highly placed Chinese official, Chen Zhu, China's minister of health from 2007 to 2013, to tell him of "rumours that the novel coronavirus could be the result of a lab accident." As for Holmes, he has published many papers both with Farrar and with Gao and has been a guest professor at Gao's CDC from 2014 until 2020.

Because of these varied connections, it seems likely that Chinese authorities knew about the conference almost from the moment it occurred and, if so, would have had the opportunity to influence deliberations that followed it.

At the conference there was a notable imbalance of power between the virologists and the officials. Fauci and Farrar together control a large portion of the funds available for virological research in the Western world. A virologist keen to continue his career would be very attentive to their wishes. Two of the conference participants had multimillion-dollar grant proposals under final review with NIAID at the time of the call.

Almost all references to what was discussed at the teleconference have been redacted from the Fauci emails under exceptions to the Freedom of Information Act. The conference would doubtless have included explanation from Andersen and Holmes as to why they had concluded the previous evening that the virus had been altered through laboratory manipulation. "Kristen and Eddie have shared this and will talk through it on the call," Farrar writes in one of the Fauci emails.

RELATED:

The known knowns, known unknowns, and unknown unknowns of COVID-19

<image004.png >
A Jeremy Farrar email about the teleconference.

Whatever was said at the meeting, it was followed by a remarkable and almost immediate

about-face. By at most three days later, Andersen had executed a 180 degree turn in his views about the virus. In an email of February 4, 2020 to Peter Daszak, president of the EcoHealth Alliance, which had directed NIAID funds to Shi, Andersen wrote, "The main crackpot theories going around at the moment relate to this virus being somehow engineered with intent and that is demonstrably not the case." The email was obtained by U.S. Right to Know, an investigatory group.

Participants have not explained what was said at the meeting or found in the days immediately following it to induce the change of mind. Media offices at the Wellcome Trust and NIAID declined to comment on this article. Andersen, Holmes and Rambaut did not reply to emails seeking an account of the reversal.

Farrar, not Fauci, seems to have been the leader in the teleconference's deliberations. "This is not my area of expertise so I have backed off and am leaving it all to Jeremy," Fauci wrote on February 13 to a CDC official. US officials were not to take the lead in this pivotal inquiry.

<image005.png>

Fauci's "leaving it all to Jeremy" email.

Farrar had a direct hand in the two letters that went out to the *Lancet* and *Nature Medicine*. He was a signatory of the *Lancet* letter, a draft of which Daszak, the organizer of the letter, began circulating just five days after the conference. The letter sought to squelch all discussion of the possibility that the virus had escaped from a lab by deriding it as a conspiracy theory. When Daszak wrote an article in the *Guardian* elaborating on the same theme, Farrar promoted it with a tweet, saying "as always worth reading @PeterDaszak." Farrar also recruited the five authors who drew up the *Nature Medicine* letter, his spokesman told the writer Ian Birrell. (The spokesman referred to the *Lancet* letter but evidently meant the *Nature Medicine* letter, which has five authors.) The *Nature Medicine* letter, accepted on March 6 and published on March 17, 2020, presented a detailed and influential case that the virus had emerged naturally from animals. Its authors were Andersen, Rambaut, W. Ian Lipkin, Holmes and Garry.

In his book *Spike*, Farrar portrays the events between the February 1 conference and publication of the two medical journal letters as a judicious process in which he held an agnostic view and played no role other than asking questions. "On a spectrum if 0 is nature and 100 is release—I am honestly at 50!" Farrar says he emailed to Fauci and Collins a day after the conference. But if that were honestly so, he fails to explain his switch from 50 to 0 when signing the *Lancet* letter a few days later.

According to *Spike*, it wasn't until March, "after the addition of important new information, endless analyses, intense discussions and many sleepless nights" that Andersen and his four fellow virologists "were ready to pronounce on the origins of the novel coronavirus." Why then was Andersen, the virologists' leader, ready to pronounce just 3 days after the conference that lab release was a conspiracy theory? Farrar's account does not match with the available facts.

Nor does Andersen's. In a June interview with the *New York Times,* he painted a picture that includes a change of mind on the possible engineering of the virus "in a matter of days, while we worked around the clock," and then that quick reversal being buttressed by drawn-out research.

"This is a textbook example of the scientific method, where a preliminary hypothesis is rejected in favor of a competing hypothesis as more data become available and analyses are completed," he said in a statement released by Scripps Research after his Jan 31 email to Fauci had become public. "I cautioned in that same email that we would need to

look at the question much more closely and that our opinions could change within a few days based on new data and analyses—which they did," Anderson said in the *New York Times* interview. In that same interview, he also said that "more extensive analyses, significant additional data and thorough investigations to compare genomic diversity more broadly across coronaviruses led to the peer-reviewed study published in *Nature Medicine* ."

These later data and analyses would not have been available three days after the conference, the date of Andersen's volte-face email to Daszak. And they would not have been available to Farrar as he signed the *Lancet* letter, which was published just 17 days after the teleconference.

More puzzling is Andersen's statement that in his preliminary studies "the genome of RaTG13, a SARS-related coronavirus found in bats, wasn't yet available." In fact its full sequence had been deposited by Shi in a data bank on January 24, 2020, a week before Andersen's report to Fauci, and Farrar says in *Spike* that he had seen the sequence by the time of the conference. RaTG13 is the closest known relative of SARS2, and the fact that it lacks the furin cleavage site found in SARS2 would have been a major reason for the Andersen group to suppose that this genetic element had been inserted into SARS2 in a lab.

Given his role in leading the February 1 teleconference, in presiding over the virologists' 180 degree change of views, and in arranging or influencing the *Lancet* and *Nature Medicine* letters, Farrar was evidently the driving force of the campaign to persuade the public that the SARS2 virus could not possibly have leaked from a lab. This was an unfortunate position for any scientist to take, given that he was assuring the public of something he could not be sure was true.

Farrar now says in *Spike* that, although natural emergence is more likely, "nobody is yet in a position to rule out an alternative." But his campaign sought very vigorously to do exactly that. "We stand together to strongly condemn conspiracy theories suggesting that COVID-19 does not have a natural origin," Farrar and his cosignatories wrote in the *Lancet* on February 18, 2020. This lapse in scientific judgment reflects also on the other senior participants in the conference who saw what was happening but apparently took no steps to insist that scientific truth should take precedence over unjustifiable professions of certainty.

RELATED:

Caltech's David Baltimore discusses the debate over origins of SARS-CoV-2

The decision to quash any notion of lab escape seems to have brought relief all round. At least until the tide of opinion began to change a year later, Fauci and Collins didn't have to endure unpleasant questions about why they had been funding hazardous research in minimally safe conditions at the Wuhan Institute of Virology.

"I just wanted to say a personal thank you on behalf of our staff and collaborators, for publicly standing up and stating that the scientific evidence supports a natural origin for COVID-19 from a bat-to-human spillover, not a lab release from the Wuhan Institute of Virology," Daszak emailed Fauci after a White House press briefing on April 17.

In August 2020 the NIAID announced it would award $82 million over five years to 10 participants in its new network for detecting infectious diseases. Among the lucky winners: Daszak, Andersen, and his associate Robert Garry.

The perturbing lab leak theory raised by Andersen and his colleagues on January 31, 2020 had been safely laid to rest. Farrar and his colleagues had succeeded in the one goal also pursued by the autocrats in Beijing, that of suppressing discussion of whether the SARS2 virus might have escaped from the Wuhan lab.

Beijing's way of squelching inquiry about the virus was, unintentionally, somewhat more obvious than the methods used in London. Chinese authorities tried so hard to stamp out information about the virus's origin that they left a rather clumsy trail of footprints pointing to where they didn't want people to go.

One of the more informative suppressions of data was the closure of China's main database on bat and other viruses. Zhengli Shi, China's leading expert on bat coronaviruses, told the BBC that it was taken off line because of numerous hacking attempts. It's conceivable that in January 2020, after the pandemic broke out, people without authorized access might have tried to hack into the database. But in fact the database went off line on September 12, 2019. Who would have wanted to hack into a bat virus database back then? More likely, that is the date at which Chinese authorities realized they had a virus escape problem.

In February of last year, President Xi referred to the need to ensure biosafety and biosecurity, and the Chinese Communist Party followed by tightening up their biosafety rules in October 2020, accelerating a long planned revision. "To me, the fact that the CCP enacted a major series of laboratory biosafety regulations this past year is an indication that China's political leadership believes that a lab accident is likely to have caused the pandemic," says a biosurveillance expert who has monitored China's disease outbreak reporting for the past two decades.

Major clues as to what happened are evident in Shi's various pronouncements about the virus. The omissions and untruths in these statements are specific enough to outline the very body of facts the censors have sought to conceal.

Wuhan Institute of Virology researcher Shi Zhengli spoke about SARS during a Yixi event (comparable to a TED talk) on June 23, 2018. (Yixi video)

In looking at Shi's questionable statements, it's only fair to keep in mind that they may have been compelled. Her train of deceptions began immediately after the genetic sequence of the SARS2 virus was published on January 10, 2020, by Yong-zhen Zhang of Fudan University, against the wishes of Chinese authorities who subsequently closed his lab for a time. Where did this strange new virus come from? Shi wanted or was told to establish SARS2's pedigree as a bat virus, with an ancestry analogous to that of SARS1, the bat virus that caused an epidemic in 2002. In an important paper published on February 3, 2020, Shi reported that the genome of SARS2 is 96 percent similar to that of a bat virus, RaTG13, "which was previously detected in [the bat species] *Rhinolophus affinis* from Yunnan province."

Shi neglected to mention a salient difference between the two viruses, namely that SARS2 possessed a furin cleavage site and RaTG13 did not. Alina Chan, of the Broad Institute in Cambridge, has likened the omission to describing a unicorn by reporting all its horse-like features, but neglecting to mention the horn. Evidently the Chinese authorities were highly sensitive to the furin cleavage site's presence.

Shi also failed to say when and where she had discovered the RaTG13 virus, surely important data for the closest known relative of SARS2. In fact, she had found RaTG13 in 2013, in an abandoned mine in Tongguan—the same place where six miners had fallen sick the year before. At that time, she analyzed just one of its genes and reported the virus under another name, BtCoV/4991. Daszak, the holder of her NIAID grant, told the London Times, perhaps on misinformation from Shi, that the virus was then thrown in a freezer and forgotten about until 2020. This was untrue—the virus was of much greater interest. Shi had analyzed its full genome, probably by 2018, but did not publish it. It was only when she

needed a bat virus pedigree for SARS2 that Shi released information about the virus, which she now renamed RaTG13. The fact that BtCoV/4991 and RaTG13 were one and the same was discovered by Monali Rahalkar and Rahul Bahulikar, two internet-sleuthing researchers in Pune, India.

It's not acceptable practice among scientists to report something already published under a different name as if were new. Shi's February paper had the goal of portraying SARS2 as just another bat virus while concealing the true provenance of its closest known relative—a cave known to harbor lethal viruses.

When RaTG13's connection to the Tongguan mine was pointed out, Shi still tried to conceal the lethality of the mine's bat viruses, saying the miners had died of a fungus infection. This untruth was corrected when a master's thesis by a Chinese doctor, Li Xu, was unearthed by the internet sleuth who calls himself TheSeeker268. The thesis reported that the miners had died of a SARS-related virus with symptoms identical to those of Covid-19 and with CT scans similar to those of Covid patients. The only evident difference between that virus's effects and those of SARS2 is that the miners' virus was not readily transmissible from one person to another.

The specificity of what Shi's statements concealed—the furin cleavage site, RaTG13's identity with BatCoV/4991, the latter's origin in the mine where six miners were infected, the death of the three miners from infection by a virus with symptoms very similar to those of SARS2—all point to the involvement of these elements in a scenario the Chinese authorities are determined to cloak. That scenario may have been the storage or generation of the SARS2 virus in Shi's lab from one of the many viruses recovered from the Tongguan cave.

The Chinese government's persistent stonewalling and Shi's pattern of evasions do not amount to proof that the SARS2 virus escaped from her lab. But they seem less like the actions of innocent people and more like attempts to cover up a fatal accident, one that has caused the deaths of maybe 10 million people and counting.

Perhaps proof will one day emerge that the virus emerged naturally. If not, the likelihood that SARS2 escaped from a researcher's laboratory is an albatross that will hang round China's neck in perpetuity. China's only hope of release from this terrible encumbrance lies in opening its laboratory doors and either establishing its innocence or admitting its fateful error.

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: (b) (6)
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

Disclaimer

The information contained in this communication from the sender is confidential. It is intended solely for use by the recipient and others authorized to receive it. If you are not the recipient, you are hereby notified that any disclosure, copying, distribution or taking action in relation of the contents of this information is strictly prohibited and may be unlawful.

This email has been scanned for viruses and malware, and may have been automatically archived by Mimecast, a leader in email security and cyber resilience. Mimecast integrates email defenses with brand protection, security awareness training, web security, compliance and other essential capabilities. Mimecast helps protect large and small organizations from malicious activity, human error and technology failure; and to lead the movement toward building a more resilient world. To find out more, visit our website.

Date: Fri, 5 May 2023 10:58:23 AM -0400
Sent: Fri, 5 May 2023 10:55:32 AM -0400
Subject: RE: New White House pandemic center
From: Peter Daszak <(b) (6)
To: Roberts, Rich <(b) (6) Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6) Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) David Morens <(b) (6) Gerald Keusch <(b) (6) Jeffrey Sturchio <(b) (6)

I'd be happy to run this program for the White House. I'll even offer to throw in the (formerly China) R01 grant that's just been refunded as part of the effort…

Of course, I'd have to rapidly resign if the Republicans win the presidency, but what the hell, I reckon I could set up a global early warning system in 1.5 yrs with a few $10s of millions..

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: (b) (6)
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

---

From: Roberts, Rich (b) (6) >
Sent: Friday, May 5, 2023 9:51 AM
To: Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6) @ Peter Daszak (b) (6) >; Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) >; David Morens (b) (6) >; Gerald Keusch (b) (6) >; Jeffrey Sturchio (b) (6)
Subject: RE: New White House pandemic center

Typical government approach – ask for something to be done and then give no money to get it done.

Richard J. Roberts
New England Biolabs
240 County Road
Ipswich, MA 01938-2723
USA
Tel :(b) (6)
Fax: (978) 412 9910
email:(b) (6)

Executive Assistant: (b) (6)

Tel: (b) (6)
Fax: (978) 412 9910
email: (b) (6)

From: Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6)
Sent: Friday, May 5, 20
To: Peter Daszak (b) (6) >; Aleksei Chmura (b) (6) ; David Morens <
(b) (6) Gerald Keusch (b) (6) >; Jeffrey Sturchio (b) (6) ; Roberts, Rich <

Subject: New White House pandemic center

EXTERNAL SENDER

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP

Texas Children's Hospital: Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics | Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development | Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

Baylor College of Medicine: Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine | Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology | Health Policy Scholar

Baylor University, University Professor
Rice University, Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty
Texas A&M University, Faculty-Senior Fellow, Hagler Inst for Advanced Study & Scowcroft Institute of Intl Affairs

E-mail | Twitter | LinkedIn | Skype: (b) (6)

Amazon Author Center | Daily Beast Contributor

Senior Coordinator & Executive Support: Douglas Soriano
(b) (6) | Phone: (b) (6) | Fax: 713-798-2299

Media Inquiries:
(b) (6)

(b) (6)
iPhone

MORENS_SUBPOENA_003431
MORENS_NIH_010306
REL0000482272

EcoHealth Alliance

RE: 5R01AI110964 Coronavirus Year 4 Report

1 message

Peter Daszak <(b) (6) Wed, Apr 25, 2018 at 9:25 PM
To: "Stemmy, Erik (NIH/NIAID) [E]" <(b) (6)
Cc: "(b) (6) <phi(b) (6) Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) Hongying Li
<(b) (6) Alison Andre <(b) (6)

….and here's the report attachment….

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak

President

EcoHealth Alliance

460 West 34th Street – 17th Floor

New York, NY 10001

Tel. (b) (6)

www.ecohealthalliance.org

@PeterDaszak

@EcoHealthNYC

EcoHealth Alliance leads cutting-edge research into the critical connections between human and wildlife health and delicate ecosystems. With this science we develop solutions that prevent pandemics and promote conservation.

From: Peter Daszak
Sent: Wednesday, April 25, 2018 9:16 PM
To: Stemmy, Erik (NIH/NIAID) [E]
Cc: (b) (6) Aleksei Chmura; Hongying Li; Alison Andre
Subject: 5R01AI110964 Coronavirus Year 4 Report

Dear Erik,

I just wanted to send you a pdf of our Year 4 Report which I submitted last week. We've had some fantastic results this past year and I've put these in the report summary, but also included the discovery of SADS-CoV as another key findings. As you'll see, we're on track to hit all the major goals of the project by the end of Yr5, including human questionnaires and sampling, risk modeling, more in-depth viral characterization and discovery.

I know you've likely not had chance to read the report yet, but I also wanted to check-in with you soon about submitting a new proposal/renewal to build on the work we've done. You suggested that this would be good timing when we met last summer, and right now I'm looking at the November 5th 2018 deadline (renewal). I have a couple of questions on this: First, I've not submitted a renewal before the end of a current R01, and just want to check that this is the standard procedure. Our R01 officially ends in May 31st 2019. Secondly, I wanted to check in which study section would be best for this. The original proposal went to CFRS-Clinical Research and Field Studies of Infectious Diseases. I've asked Alison to set up a time for us to have a quick chat sometime in the next few weeks if possible.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak

MORENS_NIH_046866
REL000482276

President

EcoHealth Alliance

460 West 34th Street – 17th Floor

New York, NY 10001

Tel (b) (6)

www.ecohealthalliance.org

@PeterDaszak

@EcoHealthNYC

EcoHealth Alliance leads cutting-edge research into the critical connections between human and wildlife health and delicate ecosystems. With this science we develop solutions that prevent pandemics and promote conservation.

Year 4 NIAID CoV Report.pdf
2664K

MORENS_NIH_046867
REL000482276

Date: Sun, 23 Jul 2023 1:08:46 PM -0400
Subject: Fwd: 6 virologists names posted on a 4Chan "Kill List"
From: David Morens <(b) (6)
To: David Morens <(b) (6)

David M. Morens, MD
(b) (6)

(b) (6)
(b) (6) (work)
(cell)

IMPORTANT: My gmail frequently sends incoming messages to Trash, which is apparently not correctable. If you don't hear from me in a reasonable time, please try again, call, or use my NIH email address

IMPORTANT: For US Government-related email, please also reply to my NIAID address

--------- Forwarded message ---------
From: Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6)
Date: Mon, Nov 7, 2022 at 2:39 PM
Subject: RE: 6 virologists names posted on a 4Chan "Kill List"
To: Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6) Roberts, Rich <(b) (6)
Cc: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >, Jeffrey Sturchio <(b) (6) Aleksei Chmura (b) (6) >, David Morens <(b) (6) >

It's truly appalling what so many Republican politicians, whether they totally agree or are just looking for a political edge in their election, can do knowing full well what they are unleashing. While most of the threats are just that, threats that are never considered to be actionable, there is plenty of reason to be concerned if there is one particularly evil Maggot out there.

I don't know why but today I'm feeling more upbeat about the outcome than the polls and history suggest likely. Tomorrow I vote and then I turn off my devices until Wednesday, as fortunately one of my best friends is performing in the Harvard Institute for Learning in Retirement Shakepeare players presentation of Midsummer's Night Dream, followed by Chinese food at a really good place in Cambridge. The latter two, set for tomorrow evening, seem more than coincidental to me and are the source of some optimism.

Jerry

MORENS_SUBPOENA_006121
MORENS_NIH_015011
REL000482277

From: Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6)
Sent: Monday, November 7, 2022 1:42 AM
To: Roberts, Rich <(b) (6)
Cc: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >; Jeffrey Sturchio <(b) (6) Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6) Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) >; David Morens <(b) (6) >
Subject: Re: 6 virologists names posted on a 4Chan "Kill List"

Let's see what new twists await us post Tuesday

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP

Texas Children's Hospital: Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics | Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development | Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

Baylor College of Medicine: Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine | Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology | Health Policy Scholar

Baylor University, University Professor

Rice University, Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty

Texas A&M University, Faculty-Senior Fellow, Hagler Inst for Advanced Study & Scowcroft Institute of Intl Affairs

E-mail | Twitter | LinkedIn | Skype: (b) (6)

Amazon Author Center | Daily Beast Contributor

Senior Coordinator & Executive Support: Douglas Soriano

(b) (6) | Phone: (b) (6) | Fax: 713-798-2299

Media Inquiries:

(b) (6)

MORENS_SUBPOENA_006122
MORENS_NIH_015012
REL000482277

(b) (6)

(b) (6)

iPhone

On Nov 7, 2022, at 4:31 AM, Roberts, Rich <(b) (6) wrote:

Peter:

You too – there are some really despicable characters in this world.

Let's hope the police and/or the FBI can put a stop to thie.

Rich

Richard J. Roberts

New England Biolabs

240 County Road

Ipswich, MA 01938-2723

USA

Tel: (b) (6)

Fax: (978) 412 9910

email: (b) (6)

Executive Assistant: (b) (6)

Tel: (b) (6)

Fax: (978) 412 9910

email: (b) (6)

From: Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6)
Sent: Sunday, November 6, 2022 11:03 AM
To: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >
Cc: Jeffrey Sturchio <(b) (6) >; Roberts, Rich <(b) (6) Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6) Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) >; David Morens <(b) (6) >
Subject: Re: 6 virologists names posted on a 4Chan "Kill List"

EXTERNAL SENDER

Yes I'm included as well unfortunately, we've notified Houston PD, Texas Med Center police, and FBI. I've given a heads up to everyone on the list, it was first picked up by Texas Children's Hospital security, except Ralph Baric since I don't know him, but believe Angie did.

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP

Texas Children's Hospital: Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics | Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development | Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

Baylor College of Medicine: Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine | Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology | Health Policy Scholar

Baylor University, University Professor

Rice University, Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty

Texas A&M University, Faculty-Senior Fellow, Hagler Inst for Advanced Study & Scowcroft Institute of Intl Affairs

E-mail | Twitter | LinkedIn | Skype: (b) (6)

Amazon Author Center | Daily Beast Contributor

Senior Coordinator & Executive Support: Douglas Soriano

Douglas.(b) (6) | Phone: (b) (6) | Fax: 713-798-2299

Media Inquiries:

(b) (6)

(b) (6)

(b) (6)

iPhone

On Nov 6, 2022, at 9:38 AM, Peter Daszak <(b) (6) > wrote:

Dear all,

Just wanted to let you know that I found out my name was on a 'kill list' posted on the Right wing anonymous internet site 4Chan. Someone posted the names of 6 virologists, including myself, and encouraged people who have had enough and were ready to commit suicide, to take go out and murder this group first. Even more horrific, they named my wife (who's got a different last name to mine, so is now traceable) and my eldest daughter, posting her name and University name also.

I'm traveling in Malaysia/Singapore with Janet this week, but have already contacted the FBI and both daughter's universities, but as you can imagine this is pretty awful, though sadly not unexpected.

I expect this will get worse after the mid-terms, when the truly heinous folks on the Right start the launch of their McCarthyesque witch hunts against scientists re. covid origins, vaccines, masks etc.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak

President

EcoHealth Alliance

520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200

New York, NY 10018-6507

USA

Tel.: (b) (6)

Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org

Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

From: Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6)
Sent: Tuesday, November 1, 2022 8:56 PM
To: Jeffrey Sturchio <(b) (6) >
Cc: Roberts, Rich <(b) (6) Keusch, Gerald T (b) (6)
Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >; Aleksei Chmura
(b) (6) >; David Morens <(b) (6) >
Subject: Re: Jeff Sachs moderated a Lancet Commission webinar on COVID-19 origins this morning

Kopp fabricated a story against me in the anti GMO press insinuating

MORENS_SUBPOENA_006126
MORENS_NIH_015016
REL000482277

I'm behind GOF research. It unleashed a slew of copycat articles in the far right press and a wave of threats online. It's among the more unethical things I've ever seen from someone who calls themself a journalist.

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP

Texas Children's Hospital: Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics | Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development | Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

Baylor College of Medicine: Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine | Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology | Health Policy Scholar

Baylor University, University Professor

Rice University, Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty

Texas A&M University, Faculty-Senior Fellow, Hagler Inst for Advanced Study & Scowcroft Institute of Intl Affairs

E-mail | Twitter | LinkedIn | Skype: (b) (6)

Amazon Author Center | Daily Beast Contributor

Senior Coordinator & Executive Support: Douglas Soriano

(b) (6) | Phone: (b) (6) | Fax: 713-798-2299

Media Inquiries:

(b) (6)

(b) (6)

(b) (6)

iPhone

On Nov 1, 2022, at 7:32 PM, Jeffrey Sturchio <(b) (6) > wrote:

CAUTION: This email is not from a BCM Source. Only click links or open attachments you know are safe.

Rich: Your summary of my summary is right on point – that was exactly the vibe of Sachs's comments during the webinar. He let Ebright and Kopp spell out the crazier aspects of the lab leakers' viewpoint. Chan was more balanced than I expected her to be (although her summary clearly had a thumb on the scale).

Best regards,

Jeff

From: Roberts, Rich <roberts@(b) (6)
Sent: Tuesday, November 1, 2022 8:28 PM
To: Jeffrey Sturchio <(b) (6) >; Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6) Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6) Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >; Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) >; David Morens <(b) (6) >
Subject: RE: Jeff Sachs moderated a Lancet Commission webinar on COVID-19 origins this morning

Jeff:

Great summary, but nothing really new as all the presenters had well-known views. My only comment is that Sachs recently seems to be a little less adamant that it was a lab leak and just now relies on innuendo.

Rich

Richard J. Roberts

MORENS_SUBPOENA_006128
MORENS_NIH_015018
REL0000482277

New England Biolabs

240 County Road

Ipswich, MA 01938-2723

USA

Tel: (b) (6)

Fax: (978) 412 9910

email: (b) (6)

Executive Assistant: (b) (6)

Tel: (b) (6)

Fax: (978) 412 9910

email: (b) (6)

From: Jeffrey Sturchio <(b) (6) >
Sent: Tuesday, November 1, 2022 8:15 PM
To: Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6) Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6) Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >; Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) >; Roberts, Rich <(b) (6) >; David Morens <(b) (6) >
Subject: Jeff Sachs moderated a Lancet Commission webinar on COVID-19 origins this morning
Importance: High

EXTERNAL SENDER

All: I listened in this morning on the webinar on COVID-19 origins that Jeff Sachs moderated under the auspices of the Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN). I wasn't able to stay until the end of the Q&A, but I did hear the three main presentations. Sachs said that he plans to post the recording of the session (on SDSN?). This was the first of three planned webinars – the second (on global health financing) will take place on November 22, the third (on health system strengthening) on December 8.

Sachs served as moderator. His introduction was fairly mundane. His basic premise was that there are two "absolutely viable" hypotheses for the origin of COVID-19 – either zoonotic or due to a lab leak. (Note that the language he uses – "absolutely viable" – obscures the fact that the evidence differs significantly for each of the two hypotheses. But this was a bias that ran through all of the presentations.) He then argued that we need to follow both lines of inquiry equally, to have a proper understanding of both possibilities. He alluded to the bimodal distribution of most discussion of these questions – with "mainstream media" coming down on natural origins, and "alternate media" arguing for laboratory origins (including in this Senator Burr's Senate Minority Report). He then turned to two "leading scientists" and a "leading reporter" for further perspectives.

The speakers were Alina Chan (Broad Institute), Richard Ebright (Rutgers University) and Emily Kopp (US Right to Know) – no great surprises there.

Alina Chan's main argument was that there is not enough evidence to decide which hypothesis is true, and that all the evidence is circumstantial. She did say that there is no argument over the fact that the pandemic originated in spillover from bats – just a difference of opinion on how and where this happened.

She presented a set of factors that would explain the chain of causation for each of the two hypotheses:

Natural origins

- Earliest cases handled live animals?

- Were there infected animals in markets or farms?

- Were there animal variants of the virus?

- Was there antibody evidence of infected animals or traders (not presenting with pneumonia)?

- Was there a strong wildlife conduit between known bat reservoirs and the outbreak site?

She then claimed that none of these have been established for

SARS-CoV-2, and thus we can't say that natural origins hypothesis is true.

Lab leak

- WIV was the HQ for virus hunting program targeting both animals and humans

- WIV found and developed SARS-CoV-2-like viruses by 2013

- WIV did advanced work with virus isolates and "seamless clones"

- Live virus work was done in BSL2 and BSL3 environments, which could not contain airborne viruses

- WIV and collaborators were planning to insert furin cleavage sites in different viruses (she referred to a "pipeline" of risky research and made a big deal of the rejected DARPA proposal, for which the research was never done)

Her conclusion: evidence is not definitive for either hypothesis, but these aspects of research at the WIV were "very concerning" and thus we need to investigate both conclusions.

Richard Ebright was then asked what should be done about improving the oversight of research in this area from the perspective of biosafety, biosecurity, and biorisk management. He concurred with Sachs and Chan that the available data do not enable a choice between the two hypotheses of COVID-19 origin. But regardless of where one stood on this question, the research by EcoHealth Alliance, WIV, and their collaborators – according to Ebright – used inadequate biosafety protocols and lacked transparency. Again, according to him, this points to, but does not prove, a research spillover as the origin of COVID-19.

I've attached a screen shot of the slide he shared that lays out his bill of complaint. As you can see, he's fixated on the work that WIV and EHA did from 2016-2019, arguing that, while this doesn't prove laboratory origins, it "exceeds the standard of probable cause" and provides "ample basis to initiate investigation and ample basis to improve oversight." (Like Chan, he also made much of EHA's rejected DARPA proposal, trying to use it as a "smoking gun" for malign intent by EHA and WIV, despite the fact that this research was never done!)

He spent most of his time, however, outlining a basis for and recommendations for improved research regulation and oversight in biosafety, biosecurity, and bio risk management.

Sachs and Ebright had an exchange about the recent news of the creation of a variant of COVID-19 that appeared to be more virulent than Omicron, without the "knowledge or approval of NIH." This was evidence for both of them of the need for enhanced oversight.

Emily Kopp, an investigative journalist with US Right to Know, then made a breathless presentation about her attempts to bring the truth about COVID-19 origins to light through FOIAs and dogged persistence. The gravamen of her complaint is that much of the relevant research has been underwritten by NIH, DOD, and USAID with taxpayer funds, and conducted in the US (at EHA, University of North Carolina, University of Texas, and UC Davis), yet she and her colleagues have had to file dozens of FOIA requests and lawsuits to get access to what they consider to be relevant information.

She reviewed five categories of evidence:

1. EHA progress reports to the NIH: She noted that the Intercept is going after 31 EHA NIH proposals and over 1000 other documents not yet released. They also plan to go after EHA Board members and collaborators at the U of Maryland and UC Davis.

2. USAID databases from PREDICT.

3. NIH bioinformatics databases for sequence data from WIV: She was quite exercised about the "apathy" of NIH at not going through archived sequences to provide the information that USRTK wants.

4. The Baric Lab at UNC: She said as yet there are few clues to planned work on genetic engineering techniques here.

5. Department of Defense: Again, she railed about the lack of transparency about the rejected EHA DARPA proposal, which she claimed

MORENS_SUBPOENA_006132
MORENS_NIH_015022
REL0000482277

DARPA tried to conceal. She also mentioned data from PREEMPT.

She then claimed that the public can't trust the credibility and integrity of the NIH on these matters, since they tried to obscure the existence of relevant data – and event tried to obscure the involvement of other scientists in the discussion of COVID-19 origins in the conversations that led to the Nature Medicine correspondence in 2020 (I lost her here – the discussion became very "inside baseball"). She concluded with a plea that the public deserves more clarity about the pandemic's early days.

Sachs then threw her a softball about the Nature Medicine correspondence, inviting her to tell the listeners how it appeared that NIH was trying to obscure who came up with the zoonotic origins theory (and then didn't credit those authors on the publication). She then said that the virologists who were on this correspondence have continued "to be aggressive about natural origins and to marginalize other theories" – asking (rhetorically) if they have shown integrity.

Sachs then said that all of this information had to be pried out of the NIH and the USG, rather than being offered transparently. He showed how the NIAID had redacted most of the 300-page COVID strategic plan of April 2020, and also made a point of saying that Robert Redfield had wanted to attend today's webinar but couldn't, noting that he believes a lab leak is more likely – and that he was shut down by NIH when he tried to call for further investigation. Sachs then teased that there may be new revelations that the WIV and US scientists were implicated in evidence that COVID-19 emerged in China before December 2019. (This latter evidence-free speculation seems to refer to Mike Pompeo's evidence-free contention that the USG had evidence of this – but that evidence has never materialized.)

Sachs then reiterated his contention that both hypotheses need further investigation – and that the relevant information may be in the US, not China. We need an independent, rigorous, transparent scientific investigation. (Despite this language, I think you can sense from my summary of the webinar that Sachs is actually shading the argument toward his belief that COVID-19 had a laboratory origin.)

I wasn't able to stay on for the Q&A, but we should be able to review the rest of the session when Sachs posts the recording.

MORENS_SUBPOENA_006133
MORENS_NIH_015023
REL0000482277

Hope this is helpful.

As ever,

Jeff

MORENS_SUBPOENA_006134
MORENS_NIH_015024
REL0000482277

Date: Mon, 20 Sep 2021 2:16:14 AM -0400
Sent: Mon, 20 Sep 2021 2:16:06 AM -0400
Subject: Re: Study from 2007 shows SARS-infected civets on farms in Hubei
From: Edward Holmes <(b) (6)
To: Jason Gale <(b) (6)
CC: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) David Morens <(b) (6) Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] <(b) (6) (b) (6) Kristian G. Andersen <(b) (6) Wang Linfa <(b) (6) (b) (6) Taubenberger, Jeffery (NIH/NIAID) [E] <(b) (6) (b) (6)

Yes, it's very odd. I just can't follow it.

What I did think was interesting - as you note - is that they talk a lot of the market which I thought was totally off the table in China. Also, it's from Nanshan Zhong and I last time I heard him speak he was strongly pushing the frozen food idea.

Perhaps a shift?

Or could just be a wet Wednesday afternoon's ramblings.

PROFESSOR EDWARD C. HOLMES FAA FRS
ARC Australian Laureate Fellow

THE UNIVERSITY OF SYDNEY
Marie Bashir Institute for Infectious Diseases & Biosecurity,
School of Life & Environmental Sciences and School of Medical Sciences,
The University of Sydney | Sydney | NSW | 2006 | Australia
T (b) (6)
E (b) (6)

On 20 Sep 2021, at 4:06 pm, Jason Gale (BLOOMBERG/ NEWSROOM:) <j.gale@bloomberg.net> wrote:

I thought the SARS-CoV-2 virus that emerged in Wuhan wasn't capable of infecting mice that weren't genetically engineered to express human ACE2? This paper, with its emphasis of meteorological factors, seems dodgy to me. But it's good to see research on the origins from researchers in China getting out, albeit it in an obscure journal.

From: (b) (6) At: 09/20/21 15:55:39 UTC+10:00
To: Jason Gale (BLOOMBERG/ NEWSROOM:)
Cc: (b) (6)
jw (b) (6) (b) (6) (b) (6)
(b) (6) (b) (6) (b) (6)

Subject: Re: Study from 2007 shows SARS-infected civets on farms in Hubei

MORENS_SUBPOENA_010526
MORENS_NIH_021048
REL0000482278

Although I can't quite tell if it is sane.

PROFESSOR EDWARD C. HOLMES FAA FRS
ARC Australian Laureate Fellow

THE UNIVERSITY OF SYDNEY
Marie Bashir Institute for Infectious Diseases & Biosecurity,
School of Life & Environmental Sciences and School of Medical Sciences,
The University of Sydney | Sydney | NSW | 2006 | Australia
T (b) (6)
E

On 20 Sep 2021, at 2:37 pm, Edward Holmes <(b) (6) wrote:

Just found this in an obscure journal.

Interesting it is Nanshan Zhong and interesting that there's a lot about the market….

PROFESSOR EDWARD C. HOLMES FAA FRS
ARC Australian Laureate Fellow

THE UNIVERSITY OF SYDNEY
Marie Bashir Institute for Infectious Diseases & Biosecurity,
School of Life & Environmental Sciences and School of Medical Sciences,
The University of Sydney | Sydney | NSW | 2006 | Australia
T (b) (6)
(b) (6)

On 20 Sep 2021, at 10:52 am, Jason Gale (BLOOMBERG/ NEWSROOM:) <j.gale@bloomberg.net> wrote:

I did this podcast episode on bats and zoonoses at the start of 2020 with the help of Hume Field, Trevor Drew, Mark Schipp and Linfa. Still seems relevant today. https://podcasts.apple.com/nz/podcast/how-it-all-started-rebroadcast/id1440051086?i=1000504072911

From: (b) (6) At: 09/20/21 10:17:32 UTC+10:00
To: Jason Gale (BLOOMBERG/ NEWSROOM:)

Cc: (b) (6)
(b) (6)
(b) (6) (b) (6)
(b) (6)
(b) (6)

Subject: Re: Study from 2007 shows SARS-infected civets on farms in Hubei

100% agree.

MORENS_SUBPOENA_010527
MORENS_NIH_021049
REL0000482278

PROFESSOR EDWARD C. HOLMES FAA FRS
ARC Australian Laureate Fellow

THE UNIVERSITY OF SYDNEY
Marie Bashir Institute for Infectious Diseases & Biosecurity,
School of Life & Environmental Sciences and School of Medical Sciences,
The University of Sydney | Sydney | NSW | 2006 | Australia
T (b) (6)
E (b) (6)

On 20 Sep 2021, at 10:16 am, Jason Gale (BLOOMBERG/ NEWSROOM:) <j.gale@bloomberg.net> wrote:

Suspect geopolitics is the biggest impediment to finding an animal source in China, and the best remedy for this is to rebuild/strengthen r'ships with scientists in China.

From: edward.(b) (6) At: 09/20/21 10:12:48 UTC+10:00
To: (b) (6)

Cc: Jason Gale (BLOOMBERG/ NEWSROOM:) ,
(b) (6) (b) (6)
(b) (6) (b) (6)
(b) (6) (b) (6)
(b) (6) (b) (6)

Subject: Re: Study from 2007 shows SARS-infected civets on farms in Hubei

Just need to keep sampling, but that sampling ought to be broader.

We need something >99% similar across the whole genome.

PROFESSOR EDWARD C. HOLMES FAA FRS
ARC Australian Laureate Fellow

THE UNIVERSITY OF SYDNEY
Marie Bashir Institute for Infectious Diseases & Biosecurity,
School of Life & Environmental Sciences and School of Medical Sciences,
The University of Sydney | Sydney | NSW | 2006 | Australia
T(b) (6)
E (b) (6)

On 20 Sep 2021, at 9:59 am, Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] <(b) (6) wrote:

MORENS_SUBPOENA_010528
MORENS_NIH_021050
REL0000482278

Agree totally except your certainty that China is the ultimate source. Admittedly much data point in that direction but how can you be sure? d

Sent from my iPhone
David M Morens
OD, NIAID, NIH

> On Sep 19, 2021, at 19:28, Edward Holmes <(b) (6) wrote:
>
> It's not phylogenetics.
>
> One thing is ascertainment bias which could be huge.
>
> Second thing is to distinguish the long-term ecology of these viruses from the short-term emergence of the virus. These Laos viruses are the former. Clearly these viruses are commonplace in SE Asia. And I don't just think that bats and pangolins will be the only animals with SC2-like viruses. Virus ecology does not work like that. But this is not the same as determining the events that happened in Wuhan. To me, China still looks like the most likely source.
>
> Third, I'm pretty certain that groups in China are sitting on more SC2-like viruses. If you sample bats you find them. It is striking to me that CCDC have published so little on this yet have supposedly sampled so many animals. That doesn't add up. Never discount the politics.
>
> Professor Edward C. Holmes FAA FRS
> The University of Sydney
>
> > On 20 Sep 2021, at 9:00 am, Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b) (6) wrote:
> >
> > Eddie, please clarify, i don't « get » all the phylogenetic asumptions you guys understand, but can you put it in lsyman's terms? As you know, i have said repeatedly to look past Yunnan to all of SE Asia, as i have bennunconconvinced of the Yunnan centrality of all this, suspecting thAt the universe of these viruses crosses borders to include not only SW and S China but all of SEA.
> >
> > If that is so, the implications ate huge: this is annintetnational problem demanding international cooperation. d
> >
> > Sent from my iPhone
> > David M Morens
> > OD, NIAID, NIH
> >
> > > On Sep 19, 2021, at 18:33, Edward Holmes <(b) (6) wrote:

Yes, good idea.

The receptor binding domain of some of these Laotian bats is so close to that of SARS-CoV-2 even some of the die-hard leakers are beginning to see the light…

This also effectively excludes that virus-receptor relationship was generated through lab passage, that the pangolin sequences were faked, and that this outbreak had anything to do with the Mojiang mine as a virus from a different country is now closer. That mine will go down in history as the reddest of herrings.

That said, I am a little worried about confirmation bias for the origin being bats from Yunnan/Laos/Cambodia. The more they find there, the more they sequence. But no doubt these Laotian samples are of huge significance. As are the Hubei civets.

<Screenshot from 2021-09-19 17-04-25.png>

PROFESSOR EDWARD C. HOLMES FAA FRS
ARC Australian Laureate Fellow

THE UNIVERSITY OF SYDNEY
Marie Bashir Institute for Infectious Diseases & Biosecurity,
School of Life & Environmental Sciences and School of Medical Sciences,
The University of Sydney | Sydney | NSW | 2006 | Australia
T (b) (6)
E

> On 20 Sep 2021, at 7:52 am, Morens, (b) (6) wrote:
>
> Yes, do it! This is important and i say modestly, game changing. The whole « origin » controversy needs to be rethought from the ground up
>
> We have been too micro-focusing (as i have long said to hard push back) but the sarobecovirus and merbecovirus problems are geographically and virologically complex and require us to drop back and study the viral-host universe. Thst universe is huge, complicated , and holds surprises, in my view. d
>
> Sent from my iPhone
> David M Morens
> OD, NIAID, NIH

On Sep 19, 2021, at 17:36, Jason Gale (BLOOMBERG/ NEWSROOM:) < j.gale@bloomberg.net> wrote:

I'm planning to pull the threads Peter has so eloquently laid out into a story. Bob, Stephen, Joel (and Kristian), if you have time/interest to get on Zoom today, let me know. Thanks a lot. Jason

From: (b) (6) At: 09/20/21 07:31:51 UTC+10:00
To: (b) (6)

Cc: Jason Gale (BLOOMBERG/ NEWSROOM:) , (b) (6) linfa.wang@duke-nus.edu.sg, (b) (6) , (b) (6) (b) (6) (b) (6) , (b) (6) (b) (6) , (b) (6) , (b) (6)

Subject: Re: Study from 2007 shows SARS-infected civets on farms in Hubei

nPeter, as i am perennially swamped with work that has nothing to do with COVID issues of importance, i am always catching up on reading the important stuff

Just now i poured a martini and-read word for word

MORENS_SUBPOENA_010531
MORENS_NIH_021053
REL0000482278

your “A strategy…” paper with first author Sánchez. Also Kevin and Lin-fa were coauthors. Wow!!!

This is dynamite and also beautifully written. I mean, Hemingway, Conrad, Nin, couldn’t have written it better. Beautiful job and so important.

I think you need to promote this work, and emphasize that the conclusions are far reaching and a sort of call to arms.

Let us all keep pushing, and keep our eyes on the prize of getting to the bottom of it all
david

Sent from my iPhone
David M Morens
OD, NIAID, NIH

> On Sep 18, 2021, at 12:05, Peter Daszak <
> (b) (6)
>
> I put it all in a twitter thread while drinking coffee in my local diner (Saturday is “full English breakfast” day for me).
>
> https://twitter.com/peterdasza
>
> No doubt ill be attacked by multiple lab leak aficionados but so be it - at least eddie,
> Garry and Kristian won’t see. The horrors of that…
>
> Cheers,
>
> Peter
>
> Peter Daszak
> (Sent from my

MORENS_SUBPOENA_010532
MORENS_NIH_021054
REL0000482278

iPhone)

President
EcoHealth Alliance

460 West 34th Street, New York, NY10001, USA

www.EcoHealthAlliance.org

On Sep 18, 2021, at 10:26 AM, Garry, Robert F < (b) (6) > wrote:

Of course, the momentum on the lab leak side will continue, with books by Sharri Markison, Alina Chan/Matt Ridley, Op Eds that criticize scientists, 70+ FoIAs by one organization alone, many other FoIAs on their way, 900 pages of FoIA'd grants and reports from EHA/NIAID showing zero evidence of lab leak.

Disclaimer

The information contained in this communication from the sender is confidential. It is intended solely for use by the recipient and others authorized to receive it. If you are not the recipient, you are hereby notified that any disclosure, copying,

distribution or taking action in relation of the contents of this information is strictly prohibited and may be unlawful.

This email has been scanned for viruses and malware, and may have been automatically archived by Mimecast, a leader in email security and cyber resilience. Mimecast integrates email defenses with brand protection, security awareness training, web security, compliance and other essential capabilities. Mimecast helps protect large and small organizations from malicious activity, human error and technology failure; and to lead the movement toward building a more resilient world. To find out more, visit our website.

<Screenshot from 2021-09-19 17-04-25.png>

<healthcare-09-01132-v2.pdf>

Date: Thu, 2 Dec 2021 3:34:33 PM -0500
Sent: Thu, 2 Dec 2021 3:33:10 PM -0500
Subject: FW: follow-up from the NAM
From: Peter Daszak <(b) (6)
To: keusch <(b) (6) Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6) David Morens <(b) (6)
Roberts, Rich <(b) (6)

Just keeping you abreast of what the NAM are saying. I don't have a response on my request for the specific policy that says I can't take part in NAM activities while these allegations are under review (I suspect there are none).

However I did get the weird email below saying I should keep all this confidential – maybe it's because Victor's seen your email Jerry.

I don't know if they realize that the Republicans already published the letter in full on their website! Maybe I should let her know that.

I also, ironically got a notice to cast my vote for NAM Home Secretary today, so I voted for this person's rival. I'm sure they'd be equally as opaque, but it's at least some empowerment.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: (b) (6)
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

From: Fuentes-Afflick, Elena <(b) (6) >
Sent: Thursday, December 2, 2021 1:45 PM
To: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >
Subject: Re: follow-up

Peter,

The conduct review process is handled with extreme confidentiality within the NAM and I would ask that you

MORENS_SUBPOENA_015064
MORENS_NIH_030738
REL0000482279

also consider it a highly confidential process, not to be shared with anyone.

Elena

Elena Fuentes-Afflick, MD, MPH
NAM Home Secretary
University of California, San Francisco

From: Peter Daszak (b) (6)
Sent: Wednesday, December 1, 2021 3:48 PM
To: Fuentes-Afflick, Elena
Cc: Aleksei Chmura
Subject: RE: follow-up

Thank you for the call today Elena. I've cc'd our Chief-of-Staff, Dr. Aleksei Chmura, who also joined us. I appreciate your explanation and will do my best to adhere to the policies of the NAM as we go through this process.

My only hope is that the review can be as rapid as possible. Our organization has been the focus of a horrific series of political attacks from the hard right wing as part of their political goals regarding Dr. Fauci, NIH and ultimately the Biden administration. These tie up resources and staff answering pages upon pages of false accusations, all carefully worded to give the impression of a thoughtful and sincere inquiry.

Again, I want to reassure you that none of the accusations from Republicans on the House E&C Committee have the slightest bearing in fact. We have acted honorably and with the highest scientific integrity throughout the pandemic, and simply want to be allowed to continue our work without constant, politically-motivated harassment.

sincerely,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: +(b) (6)
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

---

From: Fuentes-Afflick, Elena (b) (6)
Sent: Wednesday, December 1, 2021 6:25 PM
To: (b) (6)

MORENS_SUBPOENA_015065
MORENS_NIH_030739
REL0000482279

Subject: follow-up

Dr. Daszak,

Thank you for speaking with me this afternoon.

In accordance with the NAM's policy related to conduct, I am writing to inform you that we have received written allegations of misconduct. As we undertake our review process, you are not eligible to participate in any NAM and/or NASEM activities for the duration of the review.

Best,
Elena Fuentes-Afflick

Elena Fuentes-Afflick, MD, MPH
NAM Home Secretary
University of California, San Francisco

Disclaimer
The information contained in this communication from the sender is confidential. It is intended solely for use by the recipient and others authorized to receive it. If you are not the recipient, you are hereby notified that any disclosure, copying, distribution or taking action in relation of the contents of this information is strictly prohibited and may be unlawful.

This email has been scanned for viruses and malware, and may have been automatically archived by Mimecast, a leader in email security and cyber resilience. Mimecast integrates email defenses with brand protection, security awareness training, web security, compliance and other essential capabilities. Mimecast helps protect large and small organizations from malicious activity, human error and technology failure; and to lead the movement toward building a more resilient world. To find out more, visit our website.

Disclaimer
The information contained in this communication from the sender is confidential. It is intended solely for use by the recipient and others authorized to receive it. If you are not the recipient, you are hereby notified that any disclosure, copying, distribution or taking action in relation of the contents of this information is strictly prohibited and may be unlawful.

This email has been scanned for viruses and malware, and may have been automatically archived by Mimecast, a leader in email security and cyber resilience. Mimecast integrates email defenses with brand protection, security awareness training, web security, compliance and other essential capabilities. Mimecast helps protect large and small organizations from malicious activity, human error and technology failure; and to lead the movement toward building a more resilient world. To find out more, visit our website.

Date: Wed, 1 May 2024 8:57:43 PM -0400
Sent: Wed, 1 May 2024 8:57:37 PM -0400
Subject: RE: NYT: Republicans Step Up Attacks on Scientist at Heart of Lab Leak Theory
From: Jeffrey Sturchio <(b) (6)
To: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >; David Morens <(b) (6) Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6) Roberts, Rich <(b) (6) peter hotez <(b) (6) Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6)

Peter: I'm still at the PQMD conference in NY tomorroe, but I should be free by 1630. I have more time on Friday.

As ever,
Jeff

Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy smartphone

-------- Original message --------
From: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >
Date: 5/1/24 8:17 PM (GMT-05:00)
To: David Morens <(b) (6) >, Jeffrey Sturchio <(b) (6) >, "Keusch, Gerald T" <(b) (6) "Roberts, Rich" <(b) (6) peter hotez <(b) (6) Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) >
Subject: RE: NYT: Republicans Step Up Attacks on Scientist at Heart of Lab Leak Theory

This is probably the only good report in the press so far – all the rest is right wing animus about how EcoHealth should be debarred, and I should be referred for criminal investigation.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: +(b) (6)
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org

Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

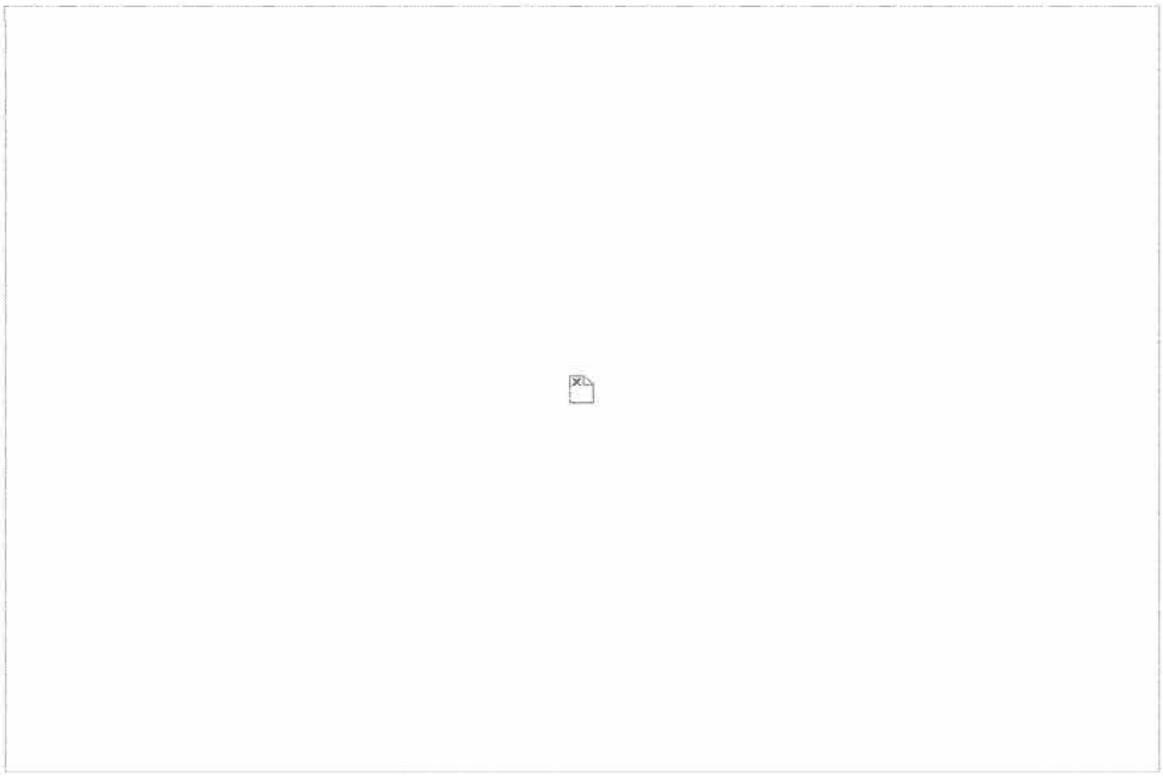
From: David Morens (b) (6)
Sent: Wednesday, May 1, 2024 7:49 PM
To: Peter Daszak (b) (6) ; Jeffrey Sturchio (b) (6) ; Keusch, Gerald T < (b) (6) Roberts, Rich (b) (6) peter hotez (b) (6) Aleksei Chmura < (b) (6)
Subject: Fwd: NYT: Republicans Step Up Attacks on Scientist at Heart of Lab Leak Theory

From the cell phone of David Morens

-------- Forwarded message --------
From: **Folkers, Greg (NIH/NIAID) [C]** <(b) (6)
Date: Wed, May 1, 2024, 19:36
Subject: NYT: Republicans Step Up Attacks on Scientist at Heart of Lab Leak Theory
To:

Republicans Step Up Attacks on Scientist at Heart of Lab Leak Theory

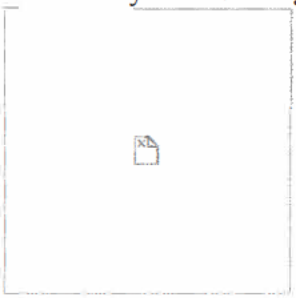
A heated hearing produced no new evidence that Peter Daszak or his nonprofit, EcoHealth Alliance, were implicated in the Covid outbreak.



Peter Daszak, president of EcoHealth Alliance, testifying during a hearing on Capitol Hill on

MORENS_NIH_051360
REL000482286

Wednesday.Credit...Ting Shen for The New York Times



By Benjamin Mueller
May 1, 2024, 6:54 p.m. ET

House Republicans demanded on Wednesday that the president of a virus-hunting nonprofit group be criminally investigated and barred from federal research funds, a sharp escalation in their campaign against scientists in the United States who Republicans have suggested either had links to the origin of the Covid-19 pandemic or obscured its true beginnings.

During a heated three-hour hearing of the Select Subcommittee on the Coronavirus Pandemic, Republican lawmakers at times raised their voices at the nonprofit's leader, Peter Daszak, and said that they believed that he would fare poorly as a defendant in criminal court.

The nonprofit, EcoHealth Alliance, which receives federal funding to study global threats from wild animal viruses, has faced suspicion over a proposal that it made in 2018 to team up with Chinese scientists on novel coronavirus experiments that Republicans believe could have led to the pandemic, despite that project's never receiving funding.

But in a report and in extensive questioning on Wednesday, the Republicans offered no new information suggesting that EcoHealth Alliance or Dr. Daszak were involved in the coronavirus outbreak. And they did not produce any evidence pointing directly to a coronavirus leak from a lab in China, with or without EcoHealth's involvement, a hitch in their yearslong effort to implicate Chinese and American scientists in the beginnings of the pandemic.

Democrats on the subcommittee seized on the dearth of new evidence, even as they echoed Republican concerns that Dr. Daszak had not been forthcoming about his collaborations with Chinese scientists.

The subcommittee, which is led by Republicans, has reviewed nearly a half-million pages of documents and conducted over 100 hours of private interviews in the course of investigating the origin of Covid, Representative Raul Ruiz of California, the panel's top Democrat, said on Wednesday.

But, Mr. Ruiz said, the subcommittee has found "no evidence" linking the pandemic to EcoHealth's research. And he added that the investigation had not "meaningfully advanced our understanding of the pandemic's origins." Rather, he said, the subcommittee's work now "appeared to be an effort to weaponize concerns about a lab-related origin to fuel sentiment against our nation's scientists and public health officials for partisan gain."

Republicans, for their part, pledged that their investigation would continue. They have called Dr. Anthony S. Fauci, the former director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, to testify next month. A Republican member of the subcommittee pushed in January for Dr. Fauci to be jailed.

"I support work that will make the world safer," the chairman of the subcommittee, Representative Brad Wenstrup of Ohio, a Republican, said as he opened the hearing on Wednesday. "Our concern is that this research and research similar does the opposite," he said, referring to EcoHealth's collaborations with Chinese scientists. "It puts the world at the risk of a pandemic."

Republicans and Democrats alike hammered Dr. Daszak on Wednesday for what they described as a long list of misrepresentations and evasions. They suggested, among other things, that he was being untruthful about why he had been late to submit a required report to health officials before the pandemic and that he had cast research proposals in ways that helped his chances of receiving funding but misled reviewers. Dr. Daszak strongly denied those charges.

Much of the suspicion centered on an EcoHealth request made in 2018 for Defense Department funding to collect and experiment on coronaviruses with novel traits that would make them highly transmissible in humans.

EcoHealth's proposed partners included the Wuhan Institute of Virology, a premier site for coronavirus

MORENS_NIH_051361
REL0000482286

research in China. That institute's presence in the city where the Covid outbreak began was at the heart of theories that the virus had first infected people as a result of research activities.

Republicans said that notes on a draft of the proposal from 2018 suggested Dr. Daszak was trying to mislead American officials about the extent of Chinese involvement in the project. Dr. Daszak denied that, saying that he had sought — and received — approval from American defense officials for Chinese scientists to participate. Dr. Daszak said the research had never been carried out.

"It's utterly irrelevant to the origins of Covid," Dr. Daszak said of the proposal. He acknowledged that Wuhan scientists could have been conducting research independently that he was not aware of.

The Wuhan institute's biosafety practices have intensified concerns about the possibility of a lab leak. On Wednesday, Republicans doubled down on worries about its lab's protocols, citing private emails and comments in a closed-door congressional interview by Ralph Baric, a virologist at the University of North Carolina who has collaborated with EcoHealth and the Wuhan institute.

In an email to Dr. Daszak in 2021, Dr. Baric said the Wuhan institute had failed to conduct virus experiments under appropriately safe conditions, and called the idea that they were taking proper precautions a "load of BS." Still, Dr. Baric told Dr. Daszak in a separate email that year that the coronavirus had most likely jumped from animals to people outside of a lab. He cited the absence of any evidence that the Wuhan institute possessed a virus related closely enough to the one that caused the pandemic.

There remains no evidence that the Wuhan institute stored any virus that could have become the coronavirus and caused Covid, with or without scientific tinkering, researchers have said.

Scientists who specialize in tracing outbreaks have published analyses of early cases and viral genomes that they say point to the pandemic's starting at an illegal wild-animal market in Wuhan. The presence of the coronavirus in samples from the market containing genetic material linked to raccoon dogs, they have said, is consistent with that scenario.

Dr. Daszak cited animal-borne disease threats on Wednesday in defending projects by EcoHealth, which works with collaborators around the world to identify and study dangerous viruses circulating in nature.

In April 2020, as EcoHealth came under attack from President Donald J. Trump, the group had a grant terminated by the National Institutes of Health. The grant was reinstated last year, but it does not provide funding for any research in China. The Biden administration has also taken steps to impose a 10-year ban on funding for the Wuhan Institute of Virology.

Republicans on Wednesday cited concerns about EcoHealth's compliance with grant reporting requirements in arguing that EcoHealth, too, should be barred from receiving federal funds. The N.I.H. faulted the group in 2021 for failing to promptly report findings from studies on how well bat coronaviruses grow in mice. An internal federal watchdog agency chided the N.I.H. last year for failing to demand a progress report from EcoHealth that was two years late.

In an interview after the hearing, Mr. Wenstrup, the Republican subcommittee chair, said that oversight by health agencies was too weak. He called for the creation of criminal penalties for violating health agency protocols — "anything from a misdemeanor to a felony," he said — as a way of better policing certain scientific research.

Disclaimer: Any third-party material in this email has been shared for internal use under fair use provisions of U.S. copyright law, without further verification of its accuracy/veracity. It does not necessarily represent my views nor those of NIAID, NIH, HHS, or the U.S. government.

Date: Mon, 27 Sep 2021 2:48:44 PM -0400
Sent: Mon, 27 Sep 2021 2:45:20 PM -0400
Subject: RE: Urgent - Amendment to defund EcoHealth Alliance was passed by the House last night and now moves to the Senate
From: Peter Daszak <(b) (6)
To: Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6) David Morens <(b) (6)
CC: Roberts, Rich <(b) (6) Robert Kessler <(b) (6)

Nothing new on the amendment yet. We need as much outreach to as many senators and others as possible so this rises to a level they actually notice and do something to remove it.

I'll keep you all informed, and we'll have a tracking doc by tomorrow also.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: (b) (6)
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

-----Original Message-----
From: Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6)
Sent: Monday, September 27, 2021 2:26 PM
To: David Morens <(b) (6)
Cc: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >; Roberts, Rich <(b) (6) >; Robert Kessler <(b) (6) >
Subject: RE: Urgent - Amendment to defund EcoHealth Alliance was passed by the House last night and now moves to the Senate

Hi David and friends,

MORENS_SUBPOENA_010919
MORENS_NIH_021483
REL0000482287

Just to let you know I called Tony's office and while he was not available now he told his secretary to take my phone number and he would call me back when he can, perhaps not until this evening.

Peter/Robert, anything new on the Reschenthaler amendment to the defense appropriations bill? I want to contact my congressional representatives and being up to date is relevant.

Jerry

-----Original Message-----
From: David Morens <(b) (6) >
Sent: Sunday, September 26, 2021 7:39 AM
To: Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6)
Cc: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >; Roberts, Rich <(b) (6) >; Robert Kessler <(b) (6) >
Subject: Re: Urgent - Amendment to defund EcoHealth Alliance was passed by the House last night and now moves to the Senate

Guys, i just emailed chief of staff Greg Folkers and also Patty, as these are the two key people who decide what Tony sees. I expect they will get back to me and will make sure Tony gets the message in advance. d

Sent from my iPhone
David M Morens
OD, NIAID, NIH

> On Sep 26, 2021, at 07:25, David Morens <(b) (6) > wrote:
>
> Patty is his « scheduler », whatever that means. But I will line up all
> the right people. Since Tony no longer reads his unfiltered email or
> answer his phone, this has to be teed up
>
> David
>
> Sent from my iPhone
> David M Morens
> OD, NIAID, NIH
>
>> On Sep 25, 2021, at 21:03, Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6) wrote:
>>
>> Thanks David,
>>
>> I will plan on doing that. I have a call with Richard Horton at noon to
>> discuss whether the Lancet will appoint us a Working Group reporting
>> directly to the Lancet. He was prepared to do that, extracted a promise
>> from Jeff he wouldn't be out in the public space after he altered the
>> Commission website, and asked up to develop a proposal. We did and listed
>> all 12 of the task force members as the new Working Group. With the WSJ
>> piece and other media vehicles picking up on it we are not inclined to
>> give one inch and it will be all 12 of us or none of us. We are still
>> holding our public voice silent, but the issue is not if but when, and
>> then what we will say.

MORENS_SUBPOENA_010920
MORENS_NIH_021484
REL0000482287

>>
>> What I want to talk to Tony about is the amendment to defund EHA in the
>> defense appropriation bill passed by the House. I am sure staff were
>> largely unaware. Just like I expect Richard Horton to stand on the side
>> of scientific integrity so too must the NIH, and it is time for Francis
>> Collins to set the record straight - Peter and EHA did nothing wrong,
>> their science was important and helped the world prepare for the
>> emergence of COVID rather than being responsible for it happening. I
>> think Tony can speak to Francis - who probably won't be listening - but
>> even more important to Biden, his senior staff, and to Eric Lander.
>>
>> Long story short is I can call Tony in the 1:30-2:30 time frame. If you
>> can let him and his secretary know that would be great. Is that still
>> Patty Conrad because she will most likely recognize my name.
>>
>> Jerry
>>
>> -----Original Message-----
>> From: David Morens <(b) (6) >
>> Sent: Saturday, September 25, 2021 4:08 PM
>> To: Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6)
>> Cc: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >; Roberts, Rich
>> <(b) (6) Robert Kessler <(b) (6) >
>> Subject: Re: Urgent - Amendment to defund EcoHealth Alliance was
>> passed by the House last night and now moves to the Senate
>>
>> Jerry, i would call him on his land line at work on Monday. 301 496
>> 2263, and his assistant Kim will answer. I can give her a heads up of
>> who you are and that u will be calling.
>>
>> In a pinch i can give you his cell phone, but there is a sort of rule
>> that us piss-ons shouldn't give it out. Although i sm sure he would be
>> fine
>>
>> But as he is so swamped all the time, i think the land line call is best,
>> so that he will know in advance that you are going to call. david
>>
>> Sent from my iPhone
>> David M Morens
>> OD, NIAID, NIH
>>
>>>> On Sep 25, 2021, at 15:59, Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6) wrote:
>>>
>>> David. What's the best way for me to contact Tony. I don't know what he
>>> could achieve in trying to get Collins to do what is right here but he
>>> can have a lot of influence on Biden and Eric Lander. I will raise what
>>> our mutual mentor, Shelly Wolff, would have done - make it clear this is
>>> egregious and get the Govt to do what is right.
>>>
>>> Jerry
>>>
>>> Sent from my iPhone
>>>

MORENS_SUBPOENA_010921
MORENS_NIH_021485
REL0000482287

>>>>> On Sep 25, 2021, at 11:50 AM, David Morens <(b) (6) > wrote:
>>>>
>>>> Peter, sorry for not replying earlier I was in a sort of urgent
>>>> situation and was tied up the whole past two days.
>>>>
>>>> First, it is hard to believe this passed or will be allowed to
>>>> stand, I suspect most Democrats and Republicans didn't even know
>>>> about it because some staffer sneaked it in. Also, and I dread
>>>> appearing charitable, I doubt even most Republicans would want this.
>>>>
>>>> beyond that, the law prevents me from doing anything about it other
>>>> than fume, so please accept my sympathetic fuming and hope that
>>>> this will die a rapid death. d
>>>>
>>>>
>>>>
>>>> (b) (6)
>>>>
>>>>
>>>>
>>>>
>>>> (b) (6)
>>>> (b) (6) (work)
>>>> (cell)
>>>>
>>>> IMPORTANT: My gmail frequently sends incoming messages to Trash,
>>>> which is apparently not correctable. If you don't hear from me in
>>>> a reasonable time, please try again, call, or use my NIH email
>>>> address
>>>>
>>>> IMPORTANT: For US Government-related email, please also reply to
>>>> my NIAID address
>>>>
>>>>> On Sat, Sep 25, 2021 at 9:30 AM Peter Daszak
>>>>> <(b) (6) > wrote:
>>>>>
>>>>> Jerry – this is very good to hear. Yesterday was a very worrying day.
>>>>> If this amendment becomes law, we will have to lay off staff and
>>>>> basically close down. It penalizes us for something that we didn't do,
>>>>> without due process. It sets a terrible precedence for congress
>>>>> members ability to shut down a non-profit or a university's line of
>>>>> research based on rumor and hearsay. It's also based on a falsehood
>>>>> that there is any evidence that the virus came out of a lab, of
>>>>> course.
>>>>>
>>>>>
>>>>>
>>>>> There's a lot of drum-banging going on out there, and the attacks on
>>>>> us continue. We're trying to do the right thing by keeping quiet and
>>>>> not talking to the press, but this also means they have a field day at
>>>>> our expense when every rumor or hyped-up article comes out.
>>>>>
>>>>>
>>>>>

MORENS_SUBPOENA_010922
MORENS_NIH_021486
REL0000482287

>>>>>
>>>>>
>>>>>
>>>>>
>>>>>
>>>>>
>>>>>
>>>>>
>>>>>
>>>>>
>>>>> Cheers,
>>>>>
>>>>>
>>>>>
>>>>> Peter
>>>>>
>>>>>
>>>>>
>>>>>
>>>>>
>>>>>
>>>>>
>>>>>
>>>>>
>>>>> Peter Daszak
>>>>>
>>>>> President
>>>>>
>>>>>
>>>>>
>>>>> EcoHealth Alliance
>>>>>
>>>>> 520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
>>>>>
>>>>> New York, NY 10018-6507
>>>>>
>>>>> USA
>>>>>
>>>>> Tel.: (b) (6)
>>>>>
>>>>> Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
>>>>>
>>>>> Twitter: @PeterDaszak
>>>>>
>>>>>
>>>>>
>>>>> EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent
>>>>> pandemics and promote conservation
>>>>>
>>>>>
>>>>>
>>>>> From: Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6)
>>>>> Sent: Friday, September 24, 2021 9:05 PM

MORENS_SUBPOENA_010923
MORENS_NIH_021487
REL0000482287

>>>>> To: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >; David Morens
>>>>> <(b) (6) Roberts, Rich <(b) (6)
>>>>> Cc: Robert Kessler <(b) (6) >
>>>>> Subject: RE: Urgent - Amendment to defund EcoHealth Alliance was
>>>>> passed by the House last night and now moves to the Senate
>>>>>
>>>>>
>>>>>
>>>>> I'm going to contact my congressional representative and senators, and
>>>>> Tony Fauci and Victor Dzau as well.
>>>>>
>>>>>
>>>>>
>>>>> If Rich gets in touch with Harold that could help some, at least with
>>>>> Eric Lander who sits in the cabinet and has the ear of the White House
>>>>> leadership.
>>>>>
>>>>>
>>>>>
>>>>> Jerry
>>>>>
>>>>>
>>>>>
>>>>> Gerald T. Keusch, M.D.
>>>>>
>>>>> Professor of Medicine
>>>>>
>>>>> Associate Director
>>>>>
>>>>> National Emerging Infectious Diseases Laboratory
>>>>>
>>>>> Boston University, Boston MA 02118
>>>>>
>>>>>
>>>>>
>>>>> From: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >
>>>>> Sent: Friday, September 24, 2021 1:31 PM
>>>>> To: David Morens <(b) (6) >; Keusch, Gerald T
>>>>> <(b) (6) Roberts, Rich <(b) (6)
>>>>> Cc: Robert Kessler <(b) (6) >
>>>>> Subject: FW: Urgent - Amendment to defund EcoHealth Alliance was
>>>>> passed by the House last night and now moves to the Senate
>>>>> Importance: High
>>>>>
>>>>>
>>>>>
>>>>> Dear Robert, David, and Jerry,
>>>>>
>>>>>
>>>>>
>>>>> Sorry to send this, but please read the email below and you'll see
>>>>> that a bill filed by a Republican congressman from PA then became a
>>>>> single line amendment attached to the Defense Appropriations bill, and

>>>>> actually passed the House last night.
>>>>>
>>>>>
>>>>>
>>>>> We're very worried here because we rely on Federal funding and this
>>>>> puts our organization in great threat. Any advice is welcome. We're
>>>>> reaching out to Senators Gillibrand and Schumer, but I'm really
>>>>> worried that if they are too busy to get involved for a small
>>>>> non-profit with no political clout, we'll be drummed out of business.
>>>>>
>>>>>
>>>>>
>>>>> If you have colleagues who know how to deal with this sort of issue,
>>>>> and are willing to help, we would be extremely grateful for any
>>>>> advice, suggestions and support. I realize you've all spent social and
>>>>> political capital helping our organization since we were first
>>>>> targeted by Pres. Trump, but this is truly an existential threat to
>>>>> us, considering 80-90% of our budget is from federal grants and
>>>>> contracts.
>>>>>
>>>>>
>>>>>
>>>>>
>>>>>
>>>>>
>>>>>
>>>>> Cheers,
>>>>>
>>>>>
>>>>>
>>>>> Peter
>>>>>
>>>>>
>>>>>
>>>>>
>>>>>
>>>>>
>>>>>
>>>>>
>>>>>
>>>>> Peter Daszak
>>>>>
>>>>> President
>>>>>
>>>>>
>>>>>
>>>>> EcoHealth Alliance
>>>>>
>>>>> 520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
>>>>>
>>>>> New York, NY 10018-6507
>>>>>
>>>>> USA

MORENS_SUBPOENA_010925
MORENS_NIH_021489
REL0000482287

>>>>>
>>>>> Tel.: +(b) (6)
>>>>>
>>>>> Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
>>>>>
>>>>> Twitter: @PeterDaszak
>>>>>
>>>>>
>>>>>
>>>>> EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent
>>>>> pandemics and promote conservation
>>>>>
>>>>>
>>>>>
>>>>> From: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >
>>>>> Sent: Friday, September 24, 2021 1:11 PM
>>>>> To: 'Jamison, Brooke (Gillibrand)'
>>>>> <(b) (6) >; 'Ruiz, Gilbert (Gillibrand)'
>>>>> (b) (6)
>>>>> Cc: Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) >; Robert Kessler
>>>>> <(b) (6) >; Jeff Sturchio
>>>>> (b) (6) <(b) (6) >
>>>>> Subject: Urgent - Amendment to defund EcoHealth Alliance was
>>>>> passed by the House last night and now moves to the Senate
>>>>> Importance: High
>>>>>
>>>>>
>>>>>
>>>>> Dear Jamison and Gilbert,
>>>>>
>>>>>
>>>>>
>>>>> You were kind enough to talk with us a couple of months ago about
>>>>> attacks on our New York City-based 501c3 non-profit from the hard
>>>>> right wing regarding the work we've done in the past trying to protect
>>>>> us from new emerging diseases coming out of China and other hotspots.
>>>>> As you remember, this work was largely funded by NIH, DoD and USAID
>>>>> and has become a target for Republican-led attacks on the Biden
>>>>> administration.
>>>>>
>>>>>
>>>>>
>>>>> We're very concerned that one of the House Republicans, Congressman
>>>>> Reschenthaler, filed a bill titled HR591 "Defund EcoHealth Alliance
>>>>> Bill" in Jan. 2021 and managed to get this attached as Amendment 148
>>>>> to the National Defense Authorization Act (HR 4350). The five other
>>>>> co-sponsors are all Republicans: Van Drew, Perry, Harshbarger,
>>>>> Keller, and Budd: https://rules.house.gov/bill/117/hr- 4350. The House
>>>>> passed the NDAA last night (https://armedservices.house.gov/ndaa) and
>>>>> unfortunately this Amendment is now progressing with it.
>>>>>
>>>>>
>>>>>

MORENS_SUBPOENA_010926
MORENS_NIH_021490
REL0000482287

>>>>> EcoHealth Alliance is a non-profit based in Midtown Manhattan that
>>>>> employs around 50 people whose jobs depend on the funding we receive
>>>>> each year. If this amendment continues forwards, we stand to all lose
>>>>> our jobs and close down the organization. This amendment is based on a
>>>>> false premise that our organization acted wrongly and was involved in
>>>>> the origin of the COVID pandemic. In fact it's the opposite, we worked
>>>>> with federal approval to help protect US citizens against this and
>>>>> other pandemic risks. If passed, it would penalize an organization
>>>>> doing public good, without any due process or consideration of the
>>>>> facts. Also of great concern is that this amendment would set a
>>>>> precedent that any single member of Congress can specifically block
>>>>> funding to an organization or institution through a simple amendment,
>>>>> bypassing all political norms.
>>>>>
>>>>>
>>>>>
>>>>> We are urgently hoping that you will be able to make Sen. Gillibrand
>>>>> aware of our issue and move to strike out this amendment at the first
>>>>> possible opportunity. We are at this point very worried for our staff,
>>>>> and our work around the world protecting the US against the next
>>>>> pandemic.
>>>>>
>>>>>
>>>>>
>>>>>
>>>>>
>>>>>
>>>>>
>>>>>
>>>>>
>>>>>
>>>>> Yours sincerely,
>>>>>
>>>>>
>>>>>
>>>>> Peter
>>>>>
>>>>>
>>>>>
>>>>>
>>>>>
>>>>>
>>>>>
>>>>>
>>>>>
>>>>>
>>>>> Peter Daszak
>>>>>
>>>>> President
>>>>>
>>>>>
>>>>>
>>>>> EcoHealth Alliance
>>>>>
>>>>> 520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200

>>>>>
>>>>> New York, NY 10018-6507
>>>>>
>>>>> USA
>>>>>
>>>>> Tel.: (b) (6)
>>>>>
>>>>> Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
>>>>>
>>>>> Twitter: @PeterDaszak
>>>>>
>>>>>
>>>>>
>>>>> EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent
>>>>> pandemics and promote conservation
>>>>>
>>>>>
>>>>>
>>>>> From: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >
>>>>> Sent: Thursday, July 15, 2021 10:46 AM
>>>>> To: Jamison, Brooke (Gillibrand)
>>>>> <(b) (6) >; Ruiz, Gilbert (Gillibrand)
>>>>> <(b) (6) >
>>>>> Cc: Dennis Carroll <(b) (6) >; Aleksei Chmura
>>>>> <(b) (6) >; Robert Kessler
>>>>> <(b) (6) >
>>>>> Subject: RE: Concerns about political attacks on EcoHealth Alliance
>>>>> around COVID origins.
>>>>>
>>>>>
>>>>>
>>>>> That would be perfect. It'll be me, our chief of staff Aleksei Chmura,
>>>>> and our Communications Director Robert Kessler.
>>>>>
>>>>>
>>>>>
>>>>> Thanks for making time!
>>>>>
>>>>>
>>>>>
>>>>>
>>>>>
>>>>>
>>>>>
>>>>>
>>>>>
>>>>> Cheers,
>>>>>
>>>>>
>>>>>
>>>>> Peter
>>>>>
>>>>>

MORENS_SUBPOENA_010928
MORENS_NIH_021492
REL0000482287

>>>>>
>>>>>
>>>>>
>>>>>
>>>>>
>>>>>
>>>>>
>>>>> Peter Daszak
>>>>>
>>>>> President
>>>>>
>>>>>
>>>>>
>>>>> EcoHealth Alliance
>>>>>
>>>>> 520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
>>>>>
>>>>> New York, NY 10018-6507
>>>>>
>>>>> USA
>>>>>
>>>>> Tel.: (b) (6)
>>>>>
>>>>> Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
>>>>>
>>>>> Twitter: @PeterDaszak
>>>>>
>>>>>
>>>>>
>>>>> EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent
>>>>> pandemics and promote conservation
>>>>>
>>>>>
>>>>>
>>>>> From: Jamison, Brooke (Gillibrand)
>>>>> <(b) (6) >
>>>>> Sent: Thursday, July 15, 2021 8:42 AM
>>>>> To: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >; Ruiz, Gilbert
>>>>> (Gillibrand) <(b) (6) >
>>>>> Cc: Dennis Carroll <(b) (6) >; Aleksei Chmura
>>>>> <(b) (6) >; Robert Kessler
>>>>> <(b) (6) >
>>>>> Subject: RE: Concerns about political attacks on EcoHealth Alliance
>>>>> around COVID origins.
>>>>>
>>>>>
>>>>>
>>>>> Happy to chat. Would Monday at 2:30pm over zoom work for you all?
>>>>>
>>>>>
>>>>>
>>>>> From: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >
>>>>> Sent: Wednesday, July 14, 2021 3:38 PM

MORENS_SUBPOENA_010929
MORENS_NIH_021493
REL0000482287

>>>>> To: Jamison, Brooke (Gillibrand)
>>>>> <(b) (6) >
>>>>> Cc: Dennis Carroll <(b) (6) >; Aleksei Chmura
>>>>> <(b) (6) >; Robert Kessler
>>>>> <(b) (6) >
>>>>> Subject: Concerns about political attacks on EcoHealth Alliance around
>>>>> COVID origins.
>>>>> Importance: High
>>>>>
>>>>>
>>>>>
>>>>> Dear Brooke,
>>>>>
>>>>>
>>>>>
>>>>> I hope you don't mind me contacting you directly – I was given your
>>>>> email address by my colleague Dennis Carroll.
>>>>>
>>>>>
>>>>>
>>>>> As you may know, I'm the President of EcoHealth Alliance, based here
>>>>> in NYC, and also Chair of the NASEM Forum on Microbial Threats and
>>>>> member of the National Academy of Medicine. I mentioned the latter,
>>>>> because I received a very kind letter from Senator Gillibrand when I
>>>>> was voted onto the NAM a couple of years ago – it's now framed on my
>>>>> wall!
>>>>>
>>>>>
>>>>>
>>>>> You may have heard our organization's name (EcoHealth Alliance) and
>>>>> mine being mentioned in the press recently in the general discussion
>>>>> of identifying the origins of COVID-19. For the last 17 years, we've
>>>>> worked closely with colleagues in China to get ahead of emerging
>>>>> viruses, including by collaborating with their premier virologists at
>>>>> the Wuhan Institute of Virology. Unfortunately, this work has become a
>>>>> very public target politically following over a year of conspiracy
>>>>> theories online that have now gone mainstream about the possibility
>>>>> COVID emerged as a leak from a biosafety laboratory in Wuhan. This was
>>>>> amplified a few weeks ago with testimony by Dr. Fauci and the release
>>>>> of FoIA'd emails that have put our organization in the cross-hairs of
>>>>> efforts to attack the current administration. This includes proposals
>>>>> by some minority members for bills that would significant harm our
>>>>> international work to prevent pandemics, as well as directly defund
>>>>> our organization.
>>>>>
>>>>>
>>>>>
>>>>> I've attached a letter in Lancet that came out last week that helps
>>>>> provide some context of the way this issue is being viewed by serious
>>>>> scientists, but as you can imagine we're worried about the impact on
>>>>> work that we believe is critical to preventing future pandemics. I
>>>>> wondered if you would be interested in my giving you a short briefing
>>>>> on this issue, to explain in more detail what the evidence behind

MORENS_SUBPOENA_010930
MORENS_NIH_021494
REL0000482287

>>>>> these theories is, and to get your take on the political issues we are
>>>>> concerned about?
>>>>>
>>>>>
>>>>>
>>>>>
>>>>>
>>>>>
>>>>>
>>>>> Cheers,
>>>>>
>>>>>
>>>>>
>>>>> Peter
>>>>>
>>>>>
>>>>>
>>>>>
>>>>>
>>>>>
>>>>>
>>>>>
>>>>>
>>>>> Peter Daszak
>>>>>
>>>>> President
>>>>>
>>>>>
>>>>>
>>>>> EcoHealth Alliance
>>>>>
>>>>> 520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
>>>>>
>>>>> New York, NY 10018-6507
>>>>>
>>>>> USA
>>>>>
>>>>> Tel.: (b) (6)
>>>>>
>>>>> Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
>>>>>
>>>>> Twitter: @PeterDaszak
>>>>>
>>>>>
>>>>>
>>>>> EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent
>>>>> pandemics and promote conservation
>>>>>
>>>>>
>>>>>
>>>>>
>>>>>
>>>>> Disclaimer

MORENS_SUBPOENA_010931
MORENS_NIH_021495
REL0000482287

>>>>>
>>>>> The information contained in this communication from the sender is
>>>>> confidential. It is intended solely for use by the recipient and
>>>>> others authorized to receive it. If you are not the recipient, you are
>>>>> hereby notified that any disclosure, copying, distribution or taking
>>>>> action in relation of the contents of this information is strictly
>>>>> prohibited and may be unlawful.
>>>>>
>>>>> This email has been scanned for viruses and malware, and may have been
>>>>> automatically archived by Mimecast, a leader in email security and
>>>>> cyber resilience. Mimecast integrates email defenses with brand
>>>>> protection, security awareness training, web security, compliance and
>>>>> other essential capabilities. Mimecast helps protect large and small
>>>>> organizations from malicious activity, human error and technology
>>>>> failure; and to lead the movement toward building a more resilient
>>>>> world. To find out more, visit our website.
>>>>>
>>>>>
>>>>>
>>>>> Disclaimer
>>>>>
>>>>> The information contained in this communication from the sender is
>>>>> confidential. It is intended solely for use by the recipient and
>>>>> others authorized to receive it. If you are not the recipient, you are
>>>>> hereby notified that any disclosure, copying, distribution or taking
>>>>> action in relation of the contents of this information is strictly
>>>>> prohibited and may be unlawful.
>>>>>
>>>>> This email has been scanned for viruses and malware, and may have been
>>>>> automatically archived by Mimecast, a leader in email security and
>>>>> cyber resilience. Mimecast integrates email defenses with brand
>>>>> protection, security awareness training, web security, compliance and
>>>>> other essential capabilities. Mimecast helps protect large and small
>>>>> organizations from malicious activity, human error and technology
>>>>> failure; and to lead the movement toward building a more resilient
>>>>> world. To find out more, visit our website.
>>>>>
>>>>>
>>>>>
>>>>> Disclaimer
>>>>>
>>>>> The information contained in this communication from the sender is
>>>>> confidential. It is intended solely for use by the recipient and
>>>>> others authorized to receive it. If you are not the recipient, you are
>>>>> hereby notified that any disclosure, copying, distribution or taking
>>>>> action in relation of the contents of this information is strictly
>>>>> prohibited and may be unlawful.
>>>>>
>>>>> This email has been scanned for viruses and malware, and may have been
>>>>> automatically archived by Mimecast, a leader in email security and
>>>>> cyber resilience. Mimecast integrates email defenses with brand
>>>>> protection, security awareness training, web security, compliance and
>>>>> other essential capabilities. Mimecast helps protect large and small

MORENS_SUBPOENA_010932
MORENS_NIH_021496
REL0000482287

>>>>> organizations from malicious activity, human error and technology
>>>>> failure; and to lead the movement toward building a more resilient
>>>>> world. To find out more, visit our website.

Disclaimer

The information contained in this communication from the sender is confidential. It is intended solely for use by the recipient and others authorized to receive it. If you are not the recipient, you are hereby notified that any disclosure, copying, distribution or taking action in relation of the contents of this information is strictly prohibited and may be unlawful.

This email has been scanned for viruses and malware, and may have been automatically archived by Mimecast, a leader in email security and cyber resilience. Mimecast integrates email defenses with brand protection, security awareness training, web security, compliance and other essential capabilities. Mimecast helps protect large and small organizations from malicious activity, human error and technology failure; and to lead the movement toward building a more resilient world. To find out more, visit our website.

Date: Thu, 15 Sep 2022 11:30:35 AM -0400
Sent: Thu, 15 Sep 2022 11:30:31 AM -0400
Subject: RE: Another attack from Republican Senators
From: "Keusch, Gerald T" (b) (6)
To: Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6)
CC: Roberts, Rich <(b) (6) Jeffrey Sturchio <(b) (6) Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >; David Morens <(b) (6) >; Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) >;

He repeated every inappropriate and unbalanced view he has repeatedly pushed everywhere else. Totally inappropriate, and he more than implied that these were the conclusions of the Commission.

Jerry

From: Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6)
Sent: Thursday, Septem 27 AM
To: Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6)
C (b) (6) Jeffrey Stu (b) (6) >; Peter Daszak <(b) (6) David Morens <(b) (6) >; Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) >
Subject: Re: Another attack from Republican Senators

I can't bring myself to watch

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP

Texas Children's Hospital: Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics | Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development | Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

Baylor College of Medicine: Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine | Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology | Health Policy Scholar

Baylor University, University Professor
Rice University, Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty
Texas A&M University, Faculty-Senior Fellow, Hagler Inst for Advanced Study & Scowcroft Institute of Intl Affairs

E-mail | Twitter | LinkedIn | Skype: (b) (6)

Amazon Author Center | Daily Beast Contributor

Senior Coordinator & Executive Support: Douglas Soriano
(b) (6) Phone: (b) (6) | Fax: 713-798-2299

Media Inquiries:
(b) (6)

iPhone

On Sep 15, 2022, at 11:18 AM, Keusch, Gerald T (b) (6) wrote:

Watching Jeff expound and I am nauseated.

Sent from my iPhone

On Sep 15, 2022, at 9:19 AM, Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6) > wrote:

I
(b) (6)

tell you what he'll likely say, About how well behaved Jeff was at the press event, but no mentions or ogies for past horrors

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP

Texas Children's Hospital: Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics | Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development | Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

Baylor College of Medicine: Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine | Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology | Health Policy Scholar

Baylor University, University Professor
Rice University, Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty
Texas A&M University, Faculty-Senior Fellow, Hagler Inst for Advanced Study & Scowcroft Institute of Intl Affairs

E-mail | Twitter | LinkedIn | Skype: (b) (6)

Amazon Author Center | Daily Beast Contributor

& e Suppor Douglas Soriano
(b) (6) | Phone: (b) (6) | Fax: 713-798-2299

Media Inquiries:
(b) (6)

iPhone

On Sep 15, 2022, at 9:10 AM, Roberts, Rich (b) (6) rote:

Peter:

Do you have Horton's email address? I was going to write to him about Jeff and see what he has to say.

Rich

Richard J. Roberts
New England Biolabs
240 County Road
Ipswich, MA 01938-2723
USA
Tel: (b) (6)
Fax: (9
email: (b) (6)

MORENS_SUBPOENA_001241
MORENS_NIH_007307
REL0000482290

From: Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6)
Sent: Thursday, Sep (b) (6)
To: Jeffrey Sturch (b) (6)
Cc: >; Keusch, Gerald T (b) (6) David Morens (b) (6) (b) (6) berts, Rich (b) (6) Aleksei Chmura < >
Subject: Re: Another attack from Republican Senators

EXTERNAL SENDER

I'm just sick of the whole thing. Richard Horton sent me an inappropriate note this morning. I feel as though I protected the reputation of the LC by being the bad cop with Jeff, and beat up for it.

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP

Texas Children's Hospital: Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics | Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development | Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

Baylor College of Medicine: Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine | Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology | Health Policy Scholar

Baylor University, University Professor
Rice University, Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty
Texas A&M University, Faculty-Senior Fellow, Hagler Inst for Advanced Study & Scowcroft Institute of Intl Affairs

E-mail | Twitter | LinkedIn | Skype: (b) (6)

Amazon Author Center | Daily Beast Contributor

Senior Coordinator & Executive Support: Douglas Soriano (b) (6) | Phone: (b) (6) | Fax: 713-798-2299

Media Inquiries: (b) (6)

iPhone

On Sep 14, 2022, at 10:56 PM, Jeffrey Sturchio (b) (6) wrote:

Peter: The *Washington Post* report was pretty balanced – and I'm glad that Dan Diamond gave you and Angela Rasmussen the space to clarify some of the more dubious elemenets of the *Lancet Commission* report. Your quotation was excellent – strong, succinct, clear, and true. Angela's was also terrific.

As ever,
jeff

From: Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6)
Sent: Wednesday, September 14, 2022 10:05 PM
To: Peter Daszak (b) (6)
Cc: Keusch, Gerald T (b) (6) ; David Morens (b) (6) Rich Roberts (b) (6) leksei Chmura (b) (6) >; Jeff Sturchio <

Subject: Re: Another attack from Republican Senators

It's awful, here are my quotes in the Washington Post tonight

https://www.washingtonpost.com/health/2022/09/14/lancet- covid-commission-report-who/

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP

Texas Children's Hospital: Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics | Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development | Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

Baylor College of Medicine: Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine | Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology | Health Policy Scholar

Baylor University, University Professor
Rice University, Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty
Texas A&M University, Faculty-Senior Fellow, Hagler Inst for Advanced Study & Scowcroft Institute of Intl Affairs

E-mail | Twitter | LinkedIn | Skype: (b) (6)

Amazon Author Center | Daily Beast Contributor

(b) (6) **e Support:** Douglas Soriano | Phone: (b) (6) | Fax: 713-798-2299

(b) (6)

On Sep 14, 2022, at 8:31 PM, Peter Daszak (b) (6) wrote:

Just saw this letter being promoted by Richard Ebright online. It's an effort to get USAID to defund EcoHealth, even when the funding they give us at present doesn't involved viral work at all – it's conservation and training grants.

The letter's led by Sen. Marshall, cosigned by the usual suspects, Rand Paul, Marc Rubio etc.

https://www.marshall.senate.gov/wp- content/uploads/USAID-Letter-re-EHA-suspension-

MORENS_SUBPOENA_001243
MORENS_NIH_007309
REL0000482290

9.14.2022.pdf

I hope it won't get much traction or lead to further delays in our work.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: (b) (6)
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

---

From: Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6)
Sent: Wednesday, September 7, 2022 9:17 AM
To: Keusch, Gerald T (b) (6)
Peter Daszak (b) (6) ; David Morens <
(b) (6) >; Rich Roberts (b) (6) Aleksei Chmura <
(b) (6) >
Subject: Re: Lancet covid commission report.

I've mostly given up on appealing to Richard Horton. Initially he wouldn't answer my emails, and finally when he agreed to a zoom and promised to redress my concerns, even stating he would do so in writing, so far nothing. He can't be bothered or at some level he agrees with Jeff?

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP

Texas Children's Hospital: Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics | Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development | Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

Baylor College of Medicine: Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine | Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology | Health Policy Scholar

Baylor University, University Professor
Rice University, Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty
Texas A&M University, Faculty-Senior Fellow, Hagler Inst for Advanced Study & Scowcroft Institute of Intl Affairs

E-mail | Twitter | LinkedIn | Skype: (b) (6)

Amazon Author Center | Daily Beast Contributor

ve Suppor riano
(b) (6) | Phone: (b) (6) | Fax: 713-798-2299

Media Inquiries:
(b) (6)

On Sep 7, 2022, at 7:57 AM, Keusch, Gerald T (b) (6) wrote:

The Task Force paper is now in production. I won't have a real estimated date for publication until the galleys are available and then its 2-3 weeks. So probably end of the month, at best around the time of UNGA.

Now you should remind Horton about his promise to control Sachs. Its shameful how ineffective he, Horton, has been and how slovenly he is with accuracy and science.

We (the Independent Task Force) are addressing the dissemination of our report to be as forceful and as fast as possible when the paper appears.

Jerry

From: Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6)
Sent: Wednesday, September 7, 2022 6:49 AM
To: Peter Daszak (b) (6)
Cc: Keusch, Gerald T (b) (6) ; David Morens (b) (6)
Rich Roberts (b) (6) ; Aleksei Chmura (b) (6)
>
Subject: Re: Lancet covid commission report.

Yes I think it may be released as soon as next week, with press conferences I believe in NY around the time of UNGA (as originally planned). I was not invited to participate.

Two weeks ago, Richard Horton in a zoom agreed to address my concerns about Jeff's specific attacks on me, he was supposed to respond by last week. But nothing so far, so I'm not optimistic. Best Peter

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP

Texas Children's Hospital: Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics | Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development | Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

Baylor College of Medicine: Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine | Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology | Health Policy Scholar

Baylor University, University Professor
Rice University, Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty
Texas A&M University, Faculty-Senior Fellow, Hagler Inst for

Advanced Study & Scowcroft Institute of Intl Affairs

E-mail | Twitter | LinkedIn | Skype: (b) (6)

Amazon Author Center | Daily Beast Contributor

Senior Coordinator & Executive Support: Douglas Soriano (b) (6) | Phone: (b) (6) | Fax: 713-798-2299

Media Inquiries:
(b) (6)

iPhone

On Sep 7, 2022, at 2:00 AM, Peter Daszak (b) (6) wrote:

*****CAUTION:*** This email is not from a BCM Source. Only click links or open attachments you know are safe.**

Just been sent this link to a webinar on sept 15th.
https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_2fOHd3OlRHuljvaKUPrYHg?s=09

It looks like the lancet Covid-19 commission's report will be released then. Is that right Peter?

I note that there's no specific placeholder for a report on the origins despite Jeff Sachs' recent pontification on the subject!!

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak

President
EcoHealth Alliance

520 8th Avenue, New York, NY10018-6507, USA

www.EcoHealthAlliance.org

Date: Wed, 28 Apr 2021 5:29:58 PM -0400
Subject: FW: WSJ COVID origins article today
From: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] <(b) (6) >
To: David Morens ((b) (6) <(b) (6) >;
Attachments: image001.gif; image002.jpg

David

David M. Morens, M.D.
CAPT, United States Public Health Service
Senior Advisor to the Director
Office of the Director
National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases
National Institutes of Health
Building 31, Room 7A-03
31 Center Drive, MSC 2520
Bethesda, MD 20892-2520
(b) (6) assistants: Kimberly Barasch; Whitney Robinson)
(b) (6)

Disclaimer: **This message is intended for the exclusive use of the recipient(s) named above. It may contain information that is PROTECTED, PRIVILEGED, and/or CONFIDENTIAL, and it should not be disseminated, distributed, or copied to persons not authorized to receive such information. All sensitive documents must be properly labeled before dissemination via email. If you are not the intended recipient, any dissemination, distribution, or copying is strictly prohibited. If you have received this communication in error, please erase all copies of the message and its attachments and notify us immediately.**



From: Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6)
Sent: Wednesday, April 28, 2021 1:44 PM
To: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b) (6) ; Rich Roberts <(b) (6) Robert Kessler <(b) (6) Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) >
Subject: RE: WSJ COVID origins article today

MORENS_SUBPOENA_015815
MORENS_NIH_033514
REL0000482292

Thanks Peter,

I had a long conversation with Drew Hinshaw a couple of weeks ago, I think via a referral from you. He seemed reasonable to me and I didn't feel there were any traps in what he was asking and how he was asking it. I think it is reasonably well balanced compared to some of the other crap out there. What he didn't include from my comments was that the hostile behavior of the US towards China had closed the door – so far – on any expectation of cooperation from China. There is no way they would open up a government containment lab to hostile foreigners seeking to shift blame for an incident any more than the US would open up the labs at Ft. Detrick including the IRF, Rocky Mountain or CDC. No wonder WHO rejected all of the suggested US government experts for the WHO international team, no doubt with the concurrence/pressure from the Chinese.

As an aside, does Robert Kessler or David have the text of the remarks Kamala Harris made to the UN on Monday, in which she says we need to be working to prepare better for the next outbreak. All I can find so far is the AP report which is then parroted in lots of media follow up. Thanks,
Jerry

From: Peter Daszak (b) (6) >
Sent: Wednesday, April 28, 2021 1:01 PM
To: Keusch, Gerald T (b) (6) Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b) (6) Rich Roberts < (b) (6) ; Robert Kessle (b) (6) ; Aleksei Chmura (b) (6)
Subject: RE: WSJ COVID origins
Importance: High

The WSJ article is probably this one, which came out yesterday and represents a bit of a winding back of the US State Depts hard stance on WHO origins mission report:

https://www.wsj.com/articles/u- s-aims-to-shape-new-phase-of-who-led-probe-into-origin-of-covid-19-11619547836?reflink=desktopwebshare_twitter

I've attached it as a pdf also.

Despite the headline, it says that the US will not be pushing for an independent investigation of a lab leak from WIV, that this now would need a whistleblower to find out more info. They call for full and rapid phase 2 of the WHO work. That's exactly what the report says needs to be done, and by the way, exactly what we're doing – weekly calls to design next phase of work. It makes you realize that the whole US stance was pure politics to make Biden look strong against China to continue to build his narrow support in the independents…

The 'whistleblower' comment is a bit of a cop out from my point of view – either they believe there is a lab leak and should demand an investigation, or they basically know there wasn't and should stop implying it – it's bad for public health to push conspiracies!

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

MORENS_SUBPOENA_015816
MORENS_NIH_033515
REL0000482292

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: (b) (6)
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

From: Keusch, Gerald T (b) (6)
Sent: Wednesday, April 28, 2021 11:05 AM
To: Peter Daszak (b) (6) Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b) (6) Rich Roberts (b) (6) ; Robert Kessle (b) (6) >; Aleksei Chmura (b) (6)
Subject: RE: WSJ COVID origins article today

And what article in WSJ is this referring to? If you also have a link send it on. Thanks.

Jerry

Gerald T. Keusch, M.D.
Professor of Medicine
Associate Director
National Emerging Infectious Diseases Laboratory
Boston University, Boston MA 02118

From: Peter Daszak (b) (6)
Sent: Wednesday, April 28, 2021 10:59 AM
To: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] <(b) (6) Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6) ; Rich Roberts < (b) (6) >; Robert Kessler <(b) (6) >; Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6)
Subject: RE: WSJ COVID origins article today
Importance: High

Really good to see that language below. Is this related to Francis Collins testifying before House Energy & Commerce Committee today (11am) on Long Covid?

https://energycommerce.house.gov/committee- activity/hearings/hearing- on-the-long-haul-forging-a-path-through-the-lingering-effects-of

Looks like all of this US undermining the WHO report was simply political activity from State Dept to beat their chests re. China and keep the moderate Republican vote.

I hope this can be pulled back round – it's done some serious damage to the WHO report.

Cheers,

MORENS_SUBPOENA_015817
MORENS_NIH_033516
REL0000482292

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: (b) (6)
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

From: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b) (6)
Sent: Wednesday, April 28, 2021 10:20 AM
To: Peter Daszak (b) (6) Gerald Keusch (b) (6) >; Rich Roberts <(b) (6)
Robert Kessler (b) (6) ; Aleksei Chmura (b) (6)
Subject: Fwd: WSJ COVID origins article today

Sent from my iPhone
David M Morens
OD, NIAID, NIH
Begin forwarded message:

> **From:** "Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E]" (b) (6)
> **Date:** April 28, 2021 at 10:18:03 EDT
> **To:** David Morens (b) (6)
> **Subject: Fwd: WSJ COVID origins article today**
>
> Sent from my iPhone
> David M Morens
> OD, NIAID, NIH
> Begin forwarded message:
>
> > **From:** "Embry, Alan (NIH/NIAID) [E]" (b) (6)
> > **Date:** April 28, 2021 at 09:57:33 EDT
> > **To:** NIAID OD AM <NIAIDODAM@niaid.nih.gov >
> > **Subject: FW: WSJ COVID origins article today**
> >
> > **From:** Mciff, Colin (HHS/OS/OGA) (b) (6)
> > **Sent:** Wednesday, April 28, 2021 9:55 AM
> > **To:** Embry, Alan (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b) (6) >; Hall, Bill (HHS/ASPA) (b) (6) >;
> > Pace, Loyce (HHS/OS/OGA) (b) (6) ; Tatem, Anne (HHS/OS/ASL) (b) (6) ;
> > Espinosa, Kimberly (HHS/ASL) (b) (6)

MORENS_SUBPOENA_015818
MORENS_NIH_033517
REL0000482292

Cc: Berger, Sherri (CDC/OCOO/OD) (b) (6)
Subject: RE: WSJ COVID origins article today

All, here are the points you are cleared to use for the hearings this morning.

- **Since the release of the Phase 1 WHO-led study and report into the origins of COVID-19, U.S. government scientists and experts have continued to evaluate it, to provide an independent technical assessment of the evidence provided, including what further studies would be critical in determining the source of the virus.**
- **In the U.S.-led joint statement signed by a cross-regional coalition of 13 other countries, we urged the WHO to commence phase 2 without further delay, in a way that is transparent, expert-led, and free from interference.**
- **The origins inquiry must be science-based and have access to the best information available.**
- **It is a *completely normal scientific process*—in the middle of an ongoing pandemic no less—to have experts review emerging data and information, and discuss openly the optimal studies for better understanding the origins of the pandemic.**
- **To that end, the United States stands ready to collaborate with the WHO and other Member States on key elements that would strengthen experts' ability determine the origins of the virus as they embark on phase 2 of the study.**

Let us know if you have any questions or need additional follow up,

Colin

Disclaimer

The information contained in this communication from the sender is confidential. It is intended solely for use by the recipient and others authorized to receive it. If you are not the recipient, you are hereby notified that any disclosure, copying, distribution or taking action in relation of the contents of this information is strictly prohibited and may be unlawful.

This email has been scanned for viruses and malware, and may have been automatically archived by Mimecast, a leader in email security and cyber resilience. Mimecast integrates email defenses with brand protection, security awareness training, web security, compliance and other essential capabilities. Mimecast helps protect large and small organizations from malicious activity, human error and technology failure; and to lead the movement toward building a more resilient world. To find out more, visit our website.

Disclaimer

The information contained in this communication from the sender is confidential. It is intended solely for use by the recipient and others authorized to receive it. If you are not the recipient, you are hereby notified that any disclosure, copying, distribution or taking action in relation of the contents of this information is strictly prohibited and may be unlawful.

This email has been scanned for viruses and malware, and may have been automatically archived by Mimecast, a leader in email security and cyber resilience. Mimecast integrates email defenses with brand protection, security awareness training, web security, compliance and other essential capabilities. Mimecast helps protect large and small organizations from malicious activity, human error and technology failure; and to lead the movement toward building a more resilient world. To find out more, visit our website.

Date: Wed, 27 Jul 2022 9:53:57 PM -0400
Sent: Wed, 27 Jul 2022 9:53:52 PM -0400
Subject: Re: angie rasmussen on pbs newshour now discussing viral origins
From: "Keusch, Gerald T" <(b) (6)
To: David Morens <(b) (6)
CC: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) Rich Roberts <(b) (6) Peter Hotez <(b) (6) Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) Greg Folkers <(b) (6) Jeffery Taubenberger <(b) (6)

She cleaned up her act and was just as compelling, but not such a hoot as she is in tweets. Thanks for alerting me so I made sure I saw the PBS Newshour tonight.

Jerry

Sent from my iPhone

> On Jul 27, 2022, at 6:56 PM, David Morens <(b) (6) > wrote:
>
>
>
> Sent from my iPhone
> David M Morens
> OD, NIAID, NIH

Date: Fri, 4 Jun 2021 7:08:09 PM -0400
Sent: Fri, 4 Jun 2021 7:04:41 PM -0400
Subject: RE: Thanks
From: Peter Daszak <(b) (6)
To: Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6) David Morens <(b) (6)

The problem is that this is the way now with social media – this person will be just some random ne'er-do-well.

I looked up the name and he's harassing trans women as well on Twitter:

https://twitter.com/thaumatropia/status/1256669048340914178?s=20

Like the journalists who came round my house this afternoon, they're just after a reaction, so if you respond, they will use that in some nefarious way.

Best just block and move on.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: (b) (6)
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

From: Keusch, Gerald T (b) (6) >
Sent: Friday, June 4, 2021 2:36 PM
To: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) @ >; David Moren (b) (6)
Subject: FW: Thanks

You probably got this too. It's nice to know that Jason is sincere. I am contemplating a three word response because trinities are holy. Fuck you Jason.

OK, not really.

From: Jason Chapman (b) (6)
Sent: Friday, June 4, 2021 2:34 PM
To: Keusch, Gerald T (b) (6)
Subject: Thanks

In that letter you signed, you said people spread prejudice (i.e. were racists) for questioning the origin of the

virus....absolutely disgusting. I am throughly enjoying watching your credibility and the credibility of Democrat biased academia evaporate in real time.

Sincerely,
Jason

https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article- 9652589/amp/One- original-lab-leak-deniers-calls-thorough-investigation-Covids-origin.html

Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android

Disclaimer

The information contained in this communication from the sender is confidential. It is intended solely for use by the recipient and others authorized to receive it. If you are not the recipient, you are hereby notified that any disclosure, copying, distribution or taking action in relation of the contents of this information is strictly prohibited and may be unlawful.

This email has been scanned for viruses and malware, and may have been automatically archived by Mimecast, a leader in email security and cyber resilience. Mimecast integrates email defenses with brand protection, security awareness training, web security, compliance and other essential capabilities. Mimecast helps protect large and small organizations from malicious activity, human error and technology failure; and to lead the movement toward building a more resilient world. To find out more, visit our website.

Date: Wed, 12 May 2021 1:54:53 PM -0400
Sent: Wed, 12 May 2021 1:54:51 PM -0400
Subject: RE: Reporter, and GAO
From: "Keusch, Gerald T" <(b) (6)
To: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] <(b) (6)
CC: (b) (6) Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) Robert Kessler <(b) (6) >;
Attachments: OpEd The Hill 7-23-2020.pdf

I'll be happy to prep them as well, very happy. Let them know I wrote in the Hill about this on behalf of 139 other elected members of the National Academy of Medicine (attached).

Jerry

From: Peter Daszak <(b) (6)
Sent: Wednesday, May 12, 2021 12:25 PM
To: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] <(b) (6)
Cc: Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6) (b) (6) Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) Robert Kessler <(b) (6) >
Subject: Reporter, and GAO

Thanks – please ask him to email me and cc Robert Kessler. Right now is not a great time for EHA to be speaking out, but we can always give him facts and have that in background.

Also, by the way, I heard back from GAO. They're focusing on the details of why the NIH grant to EHA was terminated, and the follow up actions, trying to understand if NIH was the subject of political interference. I'll be sending them all the relevant docs and doing an interview v. soon.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: (b) (6)
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

From: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] [(b) (6)]
Sent: Wednesday,
To: Peter Daszak [(b) (6)]
Cc: Keusch, Gerald T [(b) (6)]; Aleksei Chmura [(b) (6)]; Robert Kessler [(b) (6)]
Subject: Re: Busy day for my blood pressure - mostly good so far

Peter, am re-sending this in case you didn't see. He emailed me again this morning. d

On 5/11/2021 9:48 PM, David Morens wrote:

> PS, the journalist Arthur Allen asked me today whether he could contact you and potentially others knowledgeable about your situation
>
> I have know him for years and he is an honest honorable guy. I speak to him on background when needed
>
> I told him that i doubted you would speak on the record, and that i and others were advising you not to speak to the press, but he wants to talk to you anyway. Let me know if you will, you can just tell him its off the record. D
>
> Sent from my iPhone
> David M Morens
> OD, NIAID, NIH
>
> > On May 11, 2021, at 21:40, David Morens [(b) (6)] wrote:
> >
> > Peter,
> >
> > It just hit me that i have some recommended reading for you. The story of a great scientist who went through something eerily similar to what you are going through - attacked by the wackos with death threats requiring police protection, accused of bioterrorism and starting a potential pandemic, and thrown under the bus by the US government, AND losing his research work. This was exactly 120 years ago and the scientist was Joe Kinyoun, the founder of the NIH
> >
> > You can read the whole story in a monograph i wrote 10 years ago, available on the nih website. It's quite long, but just read the several ending chapters beginning with the San Fran plague epidemic of 1900 until the end, maybe a 25 minute read.
> >
> > I think you may he shocked at the similarities. Come to think of it, it would make a great then and now manuscript ....
> >
> > The reason it hit me just now is that PBS is doing a show on it and they are filming at my house on Thu. In preparation, i just read the whole monograph to refresh my memory, and it was like i was reading YOUR story. Wow.
> >
> > It should be easy to find on the nih website if you search on kinyoun and morens. If not I can send the pdf
> >
> > D
> >
> > Sent from my iPhone
> > David M Morens
> > OD, NIAID, NIH
> >
> > > On May 11, 2021, at 13:31, Peter Daszak [(b) (6)] wrote:
> > >
> > > Just to let you know that the saga continues…
> > >
> > > First, I got an email from a GAO group "examining issues related to scientific integrity and independence at

MORENS_SUBPOENA_012346
MORENS_NIH_023451
REL0000482301

HHS agencies, including NIH, at the request of Senators Warren, Peters, and Murray, and Rep. Tonko" requesting an interview re. the terminated grant. I'll be setting up an interview with them and hope this might lead somewhere. It might be part of the new Scientific Integrity Taskforce that Biden's setting up via OSTP – I'll find out (https://www.cnn.com/2021/05/10/politics/biden- task-force-science/index.html) – their first meeting is Friday

Second, Sen. Marshall (R) published a resolution calling for Covid-19 Select Investigative Committee, including "secret research and gain-of-function zoonic (sic) research at WIV" and "funding distributed by WIV by NIAID, NIH and organizations of higher education" https://www.washingtonpost.com/context/marshall- resolution-calling-for-covid-19-select-investigative-committee/b44a9780- 7653-4004-8887-ed24ace6dce8/ I doubt it will go anywhere – it's grandstanding.

Third – just saw excellent testimony before a senate committee where Dr. Fauci duked it out with Sen. Rand Paul re. 'gain-of-function': Dr. Fauci stated that "The NIH has not ever, & does not now, fund 'gain of function research' in the Wuhan Institute." He was then asked about our terminated grant and said: "Let me explain to you why that was done, the SARS COV-1 originated in bats in China. It would have been irresponsible of us if we did not investigate the bat viruses & the serology to see who might have been infected." https://thehill.com/policy/healthcare/552857- rand-paul-clashes-with-fauci-over-coronavirus-origins. The video is worth watching if you have a spare 10 mins: Full hearing here https://help.senate.gov, the Q&A with Rand Paul begins at 01:11:59. Fauci dodges the question on whether he 'supports funding of WIV', and just repeats that NIH did not fund GoF work there. It's categorically correct. He also points out that the expt. that Rand Paul talks about (a supervirus – actually SARS with a bat spike that is less able to infect human cells than sars!) was conducted in North Carolina, not Wuhan.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: (b) (6)
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

Disclaimer

The information contained in this communication from the sender is confidential. It is intended solely for use by the recipient and others authorized to receive it. If you are not the recipient, you are hereby notified that any disclosure, copying, distribution or taking action in relation of the contents of this information is strictly prohibited and may be unlawful.

This email has been scanned for viruses and malware, and may have been automatically archived by Mimecast, a leader in email security and cyber resilience. Mimecast integrates email defenses with brand protection, security awareness training, web security, compliance and other essential capabilities. Mimecast helps protect large and small organizations from malicious activity, human error and technology failure; and to lead the movement toward building a more resilient world. To find out more, visit our website.

Disclaimer

The information contained in this communication from the sender is confidential. It is intended solely for use by the recipient and others authorized to receive it. If you are not the recipient, you are hereby notified that any disclosure, copying, distribution or taking action in relation of the contents of this information is strictly prohibited and may be unlawful.

This email has been scanned for viruses and malware, and may have been automatically archived by Mimecast, a leader in email security and cyber resilience. Mimecast integrates email defenses with brand protection, security awareness training, web security, compliance and other essential capabilities. Mimecast helps protect large and small organizations from malicious activity, human error and technology failure; and to lead the movement toward building a more resilient world. To find out more, visit our website.

Date: Fri, 23 Sep 2022 10:39:43 PM -0400
Sent: Fri, 23 Sep 2022 10:39:14 PM -0400
Subject: Confidential - advance copy of our upcoming report from our (formerly Lancet) Task force
From: Peter Daszak <(b) (6)
To: David Morens <(b) (6)
CC: Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6)
Attachments: Keusch et al. PNAS 2022 proofs.pdf; Keusch et al. PNAS 2022 Supporting Info..pdf

Hi David – here's the PNAS paper that represents the official report of our Task Force (formerly under the Lancet COVID-19 Commission). Also attached is the supporting information

Please share with Tony. Obviously it's been hard to stick to the original workplan, given the trouble we had with Jeff Sachs' interference, but we hope that you'll agree the report is a decent assessment of what happened with COVID in relation to prior emerging diseases (mainly RNA virus outbreaks), and makes a strong case for a One Health approach for pandemic prevention strategies, given CoVs and other viruses' ability to recombine and jump hosts. We then lay out a series of recommendations and we think these will have legs.

Also attached is a copy of the appendices (Supporting information). Of particular interest will be Table S6, and the discussion afterwards that deals with the evidence for a so-called 'natural' origin of COVID-19 vs. a lab leak. We went through almost all of the papers or reports that provide an argument for origins of COVID, summarized them, and whether they are primary data/analysis, op ed, review articles, and whether they've been peer-reviewed or just put up on the web as preprints or unreviewed blog-like articles.

Please pass on our best regards to Tony, of course!

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: (b) (6)
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

Date: Sat, 4 Sep 2021 9:15:28 AM -0400
Sent: Sat, 4 Sep 2021 9:15:26 AM -0400
Subject: RE: Interview Request: Scientific American
From: "Keusch, Gerald T" <(b) (6)
To: David Morens <(b) (6)
CC: Pe (b) (6) Justin Ling <(b) (6) Robert Kessler <(b) (6) >;

Agree. What was interesting to me was that she wanted to learn and not just get a few zingers. Her questions were good, and when my responses were beyond what she understood she stopped and said review this, or that, or go deeper, or what does this imply etc.

Peter had recommended her as a good reporter. To be sure we are talking about the same person I spoke with Amber Dance (what a great name for a byline).

Maybe, with more reporting from Jon Cohen, and Nature doing a good job, and more data (and we know the only side of the debate the data will relate to and support) coming out the tide will continue to move the way it is once again.

Jerry

From: David Morens <(b) (6)
Sent: Friday, September 3, 2021 10:03 PM
To: Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6)
Cc: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) Justin L ing (b) (6) n>; Robert Kessler <(b) (6) >
Subject: Re: Interview Request: Scientific American

I have a good feeling about that. I directed her to the Ralph Baric studies and she spoke to him and hot back to me today for more background. I feel she wants to get this right. d

Sent from my iPhone
David M Morens
OD, NIAID, NIH

> On Sep 3, 2021, at 20:57, Keusch, Gerald T (b) (6) wrote:
>
> I also spoke to her about 2 weeks ago. And then a follow up question she had. She seems to be doing her homework. I hope her report will be focused and reflect the scientific input she is getting.
> Jerry
>
> **From:** David Morens <(b) (6) >
> **Sent:** Wednesday, September 1, 2021 6:46 PM
> **To:** Peter Daszak (b) (6) >
> **Cc:** Justin Ling (b) (6) >; Robert Kessle (b) (6) ; Keusch, Gerald T < (b) (6)
> **Subject:** Re: Interview Request: Scientific American
>
> TY Peter, I just spoke at length today on GoF to a Nature reporter, the first time that the govt here has lifted censorship on me discussing this issue. Happy to discuss once clearance is nailed down. d
>
> Sent from my iPhone
> David M Morens

MORENS_SUBPOENA_022125
MORENS_NIH_043023
REL0000482313

On Sep 1, 2021, at 18:41, Peter Daszak (b) (6) > wrote:

Thanks for the nudge Justin. I'm sorry, but I really think I'm the wrong person to be talking about gain of function work pros and cons given that I'm not a lab virologist and haven't been involved in GoF work really. I know people who would be much better to talk to and who might be willing to talk including Gerry Keusch from the Boston NEIDL lab and BU, and David Morens at NIAID. I've cc'd them here.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: (b) (6)
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

From: Justin Ling (b) (6)
Sent: Wednesday, September 1, 2021 9:46 AM
To (b) (6)
Cc: (b) (6)
Subject: Re: Interview Request: Scientific American

Hey Peter,

Just following up again to see if you'd be able to chat sometime in the next week or two

Sent from ProtonMail mobile

-------- Original Message --------
On Jul 22, 2021, 11:00 AM, Justin Ling < justinling@protonmail.com > wrote:

MORENS_SUBPOENA_022126
MORENS_NIH_043024
REL0000482313

Hey Peter, thanks for getting back

I totally get it. I'm happy to talk on background if that's the best way to do it.

Justin Ling
Journalist
(b) (6)

------- Original Message -------
On Wednesday, July 21st, 2021 at 12:40 PM, Peter Daszak (b) (6)
> wrote:

> Cc'ing Robert Kessler, our communications director. I don't know if I'll be able to talk – I'm being sent death threats on a regular basis, and these increase when my name or our organization's name is in the press. But I'll at least be able to talk off the record.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak

President

EcoHealth Alliance

520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200

New York, NY 10018-6507

MORENS_SUBPOENA_022127
MORENS_NIH_043025
REL0000482313

USA

Tel.: (b) (6)

Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org

Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

From: Justin Ling <justinling@protonmail.com>
Sent 4 AM
To: (b) (6)
Subject: Interview Request: Scientific American

Hi there Dr. Daszak,

I'm a freelance journalist, writing for Scientific American, on a story that I think you might have some really valuable insight on.

The story is really looking to kick the tires on the utility, efficacy, and safety of gain-of-function research.

I should say right away: This is a piece that is determined to look at the *science* of the matter, not the speculation. I pitched the piece because the histrionics around this issue have gotten so intense, that I think it's hard for people to separate fact from speculation. I've previously written about why this myth-making around the Wuhan Institute of Virology's supposedly incredibly gain-of-function research makes little sense: https://foreignpolicy.com/2021/06/15/lab- leak-theory-doesnt-hold-up-covid-china/

So the point isn't to rehash the same unproven allegations about the supposed lab

MORENS_SUBPOENA_022128
MORENS_NIH_043026
REL0000482313

origins of COVID-19. The point is, now that gain-of-function is front-page news, to revisit the debates that have been had in recent decades and ask whether gain-of-function has really offered the breakthroughs we had hoped for. If so, what are they? How does that research work?

And, if not, do we have to have a new discussion about whether this research is worth it?

I think putting on the table some hard facts about what gain-of-function is, and what it's capable of, will be useful for a lot of people who have only heard the conspiracy theorists.

Let me know if you would be interested in talking. I fully appreciate that you've become a bit of an unwanted celebrity amonst the rabidly pro-lab leakers, so I'm happy to further explain exactly what I'm working on or to discuss some things on background. Just let me know.

Thanks

Justin Ling

Journalist

(b) (6)

Disclaimer

The information contained in this communication from the sender is confidential. It is intended solely for use by the recipient and others authorized to receive it. If you are not the recipient, you are hereby notified that any disclosure, copying, distribution or taking action in relation of the contents of this information is strictly prohibited and may be unlawful.

This email has been scanned for viruses and malware, and may have been automatically archived by Mimecast, a leader in email security and cyber resilience. Mimecast integrates email defenses with brand protection, security awareness training, web security, compliance and other essential capabilities. Mimecast helps protect large and small organizations from malicious activity, human error and technology failure; and to lead the movement toward building a more resilient world. To find out more, visit our website.

Disclaimer

The information contained in this communication from the sender is confidential. It is intended solely for use by the recipient and others authorized to receive it. If you are not the recipient, you are hereby notified that any disclosure, copying, distribution or taking action in relation of the contents of this information is strictly prohibited and may be unlawful.

This email has been scanned for viruses and malware, and may have been automatically archived by Mimecast, a leader in email security and cyber resilience. Mimecast integrates email defenses with brand protection, security awareness training, web security, compliance and other essential capabilities. Mimecast helps protect large and small organizations from malicious activity, human error and technology failure; and to lead the movement toward building a more resilient world. To find out more, visit our website.

Date:	Wed, 23 Mar 2022 4:07:32 PM -0400
Sent:	Wed, 23 Mar 2022 4:06:48 PM -0400
Subject:	Congressional Republicans trying to shut down lab animal work in some foreign countries
From:	Peter Daszak <(b) (6)
To:	Roberts, Rich <(b) (6) Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6) Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6) David Morens <(b) (6) Jeff Sturchio <(b) (6)
CC:	Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6)
Attachments:	image001.jpg

As expected Congressional Republicans are trying to close down US funding to foreign subawardees in some countries (incl. China). GAO is now doing a review of NIH funding to foreign labs to do animal research, following right wing attack articles about Fauci funding work to infect beagles with leishmaniasis and NIH funding a Russian lab to stick electrodes on cat nerves/brains.

Of course, the articles mention EcoHealth's work with WIV and 'questions that linger' about our biosafety record thanks to NIH O/D who threw us under the bus.

Here's an article in the Washington Times, replete with ubiquitous Wuhan lab security guard pictures!:

U.S-backed animal experiments in Chinese, Russian labs get new scrutiny by Congress, GAO

Lawmakers want to reel in taxpayer dollars sent to rogue states for scientific research

LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD

- **GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABILITY OFFICE**
- **NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF HEALTH**

MORENS_SUBPOENA_006009
MORENS_NIH_014703
REL0000482318



In this file photo, security personnel gather near the entrance of the Wuhan Institute of Virology during a visit by the World Health Organization team in Wuhan in China's Hubei province on Wednesday, Feb. 3, 2021. A Marine Corps officer ... more >

By Tom Howell Jr. - *The Washington Times - Wednesday, March 23, 2022*

Global crises involving authoritarian states and concerns about animal cruelty are prompting Congress to scrutinize U.S.-funded research at labs overseas and mull whether taxpayer dollars should be redirected toward projects at home.

Republican senators this month told the Biden administration to cancel a grant that funded spinal research on cats at state-owned labs in Russia, which invaded Ukraine, and lawmakers still have questions about how grant funding was spent at a virology lab in Wuhan, China, before the COVID-19 pandemic.

Concerns about rogue regimes are layered on top of bipartisan concern about the mistreatment of animals.

The Government Accountability Office, a key government watchdog, told The Washington Times it accepted a request from Congress to review what's going on at 300 labs in 57 countries that conduct animal research with U.S. tax dollars.

Those labs may not have the rigorous laws governing animal welfare that are in place in the U.S., said the GAO.

The GAO launched the probe after Rep. Brian Mast, Florida Republican, Rep. Lucille Roybal-Allard, California Democrat, and over two dozen members from both parties asked for the

review last year.

"There's been a notable push among members to take a serious look at the research NIH is funding, particularly as it relates to animal testing and authoritarian regimes. There have been multiple letters sent and bills introduced, and I would expect that this is a push that'll continue or ramp up in light of current events," Mast spokeswoman AnnMarie Graham said. "Rep. Mast would support efforts to shift funding to domestic research where there can be more accountability to taxpayers on how the dollars are spent."

The coronavirus crisis thrust NIH funding abroad into the spotlight, with Republicans saying they have lingering questions about how a sub-grant awarded to EcoHealth was used at the Wuhan Institute of Virology, which is located in the city where the COVID-19 pandemic began.

The lawmakers question whether the work performed with U.S. backing amounted to gain-of-function research that could make viruses more deadly and point to signs of reporting lapses around their research, though NIH officials say there is no way the projects were related to the virus that devastated the globe.

Russia's invasion of Ukraine intensified scrutiny of work performed in overseas labs with close ties to governments that are considered bad actors.

Rep. Lisa McLain, Michigan Republican, and other lawmakers demanded the early cancelation of a grant after White Coat Waste Project revealed the NIH provided funding totaling over $549,000 to Russia's state-run Pavlov Institute of Physiology in November. The money, in part, went to fund spinal cord research on cats.

Specifically, the cats had a portion of their brains removed, while electrodes were implanted in their spines. The animals were then forced to walk on treadmills for hours on end while scientists studied the impact on their spinal cords.

Ms. McLain is also gathering co-sponsors for a bill she filed in October to respond to growing unease with spending U.S. tax dollars in countries with authoritarian tendencies. The Accountability in Foreign Animal Research (AFAR) Act would prevent U.S. tax dollars from being used to conduct or support research on vertebrate animals in foreign countries that are considered adversaries, including China, Russia, Iran, North Korea, Cuba and Venezuela's Maduro regime.

Her office said four labs in Russia and 27 labs in China are actively eligible to receive NIH funding.

"When we send U.S. tax dollars over to Russia or any of our adversaries for that matter, we truly don't have any idea where those funds are going," Ms. McLain said in a video for The White Coat Waste Project, which opposes forcing taxpayers to pay for animal experiments at home or abroad. "Look at the regulations and the security [in these foreign labs], they're no more secure than a dentist office."

The NIH maintains a web-based database of grant awards by location and organization at

https://report.nih.gov/award/index.cfm.

The White Coat Waste Project searched the database and estimated there were just over 700 U.S.-funded projects costing roughly $316 million in foreign nations in fiscal 2021. That's up from a decade-low of 646 foreign projects in fiscal 2017, though far below the more than 1,000 projects it found in each of fiscal years 2012 through 2015.

"There is definitely a downward trend in NIH-funded research overseas, but there are still hundreds of projects," said the group's spokesman, Justin Goodman.

He said their list doesn't include sub-awards, however, such as pass-through money that went to the Wuhan lab through the U.S.-backed grantee.

Legislative aides say some grants flow overseas because American scientists find opportunities to work with colleagues abroad and then tap into funding streams back home in the U.S.

In other cases, the situation on the ground in a specific country makes it the most salient spot for research. For instance, scientists have been studying coronavirus in bat caves in China for years before the pandemic.

The NIH defended its outflow of dollars to other nations, saying an increasingly interconnected world demands it and allows the U.S. to benefit from discoveries abroad.

"We know now more than ever that diseases do not respect borders. Globalization has increased the movement of people and products around the world so diseases can spread more quickly, as the pandemic has demonstrated," the agency told The Times. "Global health research helps prevent and treat diseases not only in other countries but in the United States as well. Americans can benefit enormously from research that has taken place elsewhere."

The agency said Pedialyte, the everyday product used to hydrate children when they have diarrhea or other complications, was developed by researchers in Bangladesh who were trying to combat cholera. Other times, tropical diseases that are found in the U.S. are far more common in other places, so it is easier to study them there, or foreign nations have concentrations of animals with a disease that is representative of similar problems in humans, such as Chinese water buffalo that have a strain of schistosomiasis that mimics the natural schistosome parasite infection in humans.

The NIH also said its animal experiments go through a "rigorous review process to assess their scientific and technical merit, which includes an assessment of the applicants' plans for the protection of research animals."

"Reviewers examine the justification for using animals in each study, whether the research goals can be accomplished using an alternative model, and interventions to minimize pain and distress," the agency said.

Lawmakers continue to object to experiments they consider to be wasteful or harmful. Sen. Rand Paul, Kentucky Republican, objected in recent years to a British university project that cost $708,000 to study nicotine addiction in certain fishes.

"Everybody agrees that nicotine addiction is a problem. But you have to be smoking something other than nicotine if you think the solution is to ship American tax dollars abroad to addict zebrafish to nicotine," Mr. Paul wrote in his 2019 "Festivus Report" on perceived government waste.

While global crises cast a spotlight on getting entangled with certain nations, many lawmakers are expressly motivated by concerns over animal welfare.

Rep. Lucille Roybal-Allard, a California Democrat who is retiring at the end of this year, has a long track record on the subject. During the last decade, she spearheaded efforts to get NIH to stop sourcing dogs from "Class B" dealers who obtain the animals randomly from other owners instead of raising them on their own.

Her name appears first among signatories of the letter that pressed the GAO to scrutinize the NIH's oversight of taxpayer-funded animal research at foreign institutions.

In the letter, lawmakers said projects taking place outside the U.S. are ultimately subject only to foreign animal-welfare laws, rather than more rigorous protections that govern projects involving primates, dogs, mice and other animals in projects at home.

"The apparent lack of adequate oversight of foreign animal research raises serious questions about animal welfare, scientific rigor, research integrity and even national security. As the NIH has noted, a lack of rigor and transparency in animal research compromises its value and contributes to wasted time, money and animals' lives," they wrote in the letter.

The GAO pulled together a panel to work on the project and has met with some lawmakers who requested the review. The final report is not expected until late this year or early 2023.

Mr. Goodman, at the White Coast Waste Project, said his group is enthusiastic about the added scrutiny. The letter demanding a GAO probe was signed by lawmakers on both the political right and left — from Rep. Louie Gohmert, a Texas conservative, to Delegate Eleanor Holmes Norton, the non-voting member from liberal Washington.

"We've been very encouraged to see that cutting taxpayer funding for wasteful, cruel and dangerous animal experiments in foreign labs is an issue that unites lawmakers across the political spectrum," Mr. Goodman said, "whether their concern is national security, wasteful government spending, animal welfare or all of the above."

• *Haris Alic contributed to this report.*

• *Tom Howell Jr. can be reached at thowell@washingtontimes.com .*

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: (b) (6)
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

Disclaimer

This communication, together with any attachment, may contain confidential and/or proprietary information (including without limitation copyright material and/or other intellectual property) and is intended only for the person(s) and/or entity(ies) to whom it is addressed. If you are not the intended recipient of this communication, or if you received it in error, you should not disseminate, distribute or copy this communication and you are asked to kindly delete it and promptly notify us. Any copying, use, disclosure or distribution of any part of this communication or taking any action in reliance on the contents of this communication, unless duly authorized by or on behalf of EcoHealth Alliance, is strictly prohibited and may be unlawful.

Date:	Tue, 7 Sep 2021 11:11:43 AM -0400
Sent:	Tue, 7 Sep 2021 11:11:16 AM -0400
Subject:	Stories today re. FoIA'd grants, but not being widely amplified
From:	Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >
To:	David Morens <(b) (6) >;
CC:	Robert Kessler <(b) (6) >; Keusch, Jerry <(b) (6) Jeff Sturchio <(>;
Attachments:	image006.jpg; image007.jpg; image008.jpg; image041.png; image042.gif; image043.jpg; image044.jpg; image045.jpg; image001.png; image002.png; image003.png; image004.png; image005.png; image013.png; image021.png; image022.png; image023.png; image024.png; image025.png; image026.png; image027.png; image028.png; image029.png; image030.png

The stories are sputtering forth slowly today but only in a few hard right outlets. The comments online are that this is largely a non-story and actually points to a very carefully designed study that considers the risks correctly.

Great quote from our spokesperson here – Robert Kessler, by the way: Asked about the grant materials, Robert Kessler, communications manager at EcoHealth Alliance, said, "We applied for grants to conduct research. The relevant agencies deemed that to be important research, and thus funded it. So I don't know that there's a whole lot to say."

https://theintercept.com/2021/09/06/new- details-emerge-about-coronavirus-research-at-chinese-lab/

Richard Ebright's trying to cause trouble on Twitter re. Dr. Fauci lying before congress – as is Josh Hawley and Rand Paul. I suspect it'll go nowhere fast.

By the way – on the Ebright issue – the definition of a P3CO-worthy expt is to "enhance virulence or transmission in people". If a virus has never been found in people, it's virulence or transmission cannot, by definition, be enhanced. Again – these are bat viruses, never found in people.

There are copycat stories in other journals, all based on this one.

This should go away if Rand Paul doesn't amplify it too much, so finger's cross on that.

Cheers,

Peter

NEW DETAILS EMERGE ABOUT CORONAVIRUS RESEARCH AT CHINESE LAB

More than 900 pages of materials related to US.-funded coronavirus research in China were released following a FOIA lawsuit by The Intercept.



Sharon Lerner, Mara Hvistendahl
September 6 2021, 9:06 p.m.

NEWLY RELEASED DOCUMENTS provide details of U.S.-funded research on several types of coronaviruses at the Wuhan Institute of Virology in China. The Intercept

has obtained more than 900 pages of documents detailing the work of EcoHealth Alliance, a U.S.-based health organization that used federal money to fund bat coronavirus research at the Chinese laboratory. The trove of documents includes two previously unpublished grant proposals that were funded by the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, as well as project updates relating to EcoHealth Alliance's research, which has been scrutinized amid increased interest in the origins of the pandemic.

The documents were released in connection with ongoing Freedom of Information Act litigation by The Intercept against the National Institutes of Health. The Intercept is making the full documents available to the public.

"This is a road map to the high-risk research that could have led to the current pandemic," said Gary Ruskin, executive director of U.S. Right To Know, a group that has been investigating the origins of Covid-19.

One of the grants, titled "Understanding the Risk of Bat Coronavirus Emergence," outlines an ambitious effort led by EcoHealth Alliance President Peter Daszak to screen thousands of bat samples for novel coronaviruses. The research also involved screening people who work with live animals. The documents contain several critical details about the research in Wuhan, including the fact that key experimental work with humanized mice was conducted at a biosafety level 3 lab at Wuhan University Center for Animal Experiment — and not at the Wuhan Institute of Virology, as was previously assumed. The documents raise additional questions about the theory that the pandemic may have begun in a lab accident, an idea that Daszak has aggressively dismissed.

Join Our Newsletter

Original reporting. Fearless journalism. Delivered to you!

I'm in

The bat coronavirus grant provided EcoHealth Alliance with a total of $3.1 million, including $599,000 that the Wuhan Institute of Virology used in part to identify and alter bat coronaviruses likely to infect humans. Even before the pandemic, many scientists were concerned about the potential dangers associated with such experiments. The grant proposal acknowledges some of those dangers: "Fieldwork involves the highest risk of exposure to SARS or other CoVs, while working in caves with high bat density overhead and the potential for fecal dust to be inhaled."

Alina Chan, a molecular biologist at the Broad Institute, said the documents show that EcoHealth Alliance has reason to take the lab-leak theory seriously. "In this proposal, they actually point out that they know how risky this work is. They keep talking about people potentially getting bitten — and they kept records of everyone who got bitten," Chan said. "Does EcoHealth have those records? And if not, how can they possibly rule out a research-related accident?"

According to Richard Ebright, a molecular biologist at Rutgers University, the documents contain critical information about the research done in Wuhan, including about the creation of novel viruses. "The viruses they constructed were tested for their

ability to infect mice that were engineered to display human type receptors on their cell," Ebright wrote to The Intercept after reviewing the documents. Ebright also said the documents make it clear that two different types of novel coronaviruses were able to infect humanized mice. "While they were working on SARS-related coronavirus, they were carrying out a parallel project at the same time on MERS-related coronavirus," Ebright said, referring to the virus that causes Middle East Respiratory Syndrome.



The Coronavirus Crisis

Read Our Complete Coverage

Asked about the grant materials, Robert Kessler, communications manager at EcoHealth Alliance, said, "We applied for grants to conduct research. The relevant agencies deemed that to be important research, and thus funded it. So I don't know that there's a whole lot to say."

The grant was initially awarded for a five-year period — from 2014 to 2019. Funding was renewed in 2019 but suspended by the Trump administration in April 2020.

The closest relative of SARS-CoV-2, which causes Covid-19, is a virus found in bats, making the animals a focal point for efforts to understand the origins of the pandemic. Exactly how the virus jumped to humans is the subject of heated debate. Many scientists believe that it was a natural spillover, meaning that the virus passed to humans in a setting such as a wet market or rural area where humans and animals are in close contact. Biosafety experts and internet sleuths who suspect a lab origin, meanwhile, have spent more than a year poring over publicly available information and obscure scientific publications looking for answers. In the past few months, leading scientists have also called for a deeper investigation of the pandemic's origins, as has President Joe Biden, who in May ordered the intelligence community to study the issue. On August 27, Biden announced that the intelligence inquiry was inconclusive.

Biden blamed China for failing to release critical data, but the U.S. government has also been slow to release information. The Intercept initially requested the proposals in September 2020.

"I wish that this document had been released in early 2020," said Chan, who has called for an investigation of the lab-leak origin theory. "It would have changed things massively, just to have all of the information in one place, immediately transparent, in a credible document that was submitted by EcoHealth Alliance."

The second grant, "Understanding Risk of Zoonotic Virus Emergence in Emerging Infectious Disease Hotspots of Southeast Asia," was awarded in August 2020 and

extends through 2025. The proposal, written in 2019, often seems prescient, focusing on scaling up and deploying resources in Asia in case of an outbreak of an "emergent infectious disease" and referring to Asia as "this hottest of the EID hotspots."

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: (b) (6)
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

From: David Morens <(b) (6)
Sent: Sunday, September 5, 2021 5:05 PM
To: Peter Daszak (b) (6)
Cc: Robert Kessler (b) (6) >; Keusch, Jerry (b) (6)
Subject: Re: ASF ---foia

Yes! I think the conspiracy wackos might be running out of gas. Let's PRAY they are. Reality is in your side, don't ever forget that. My sense is that there is a new push back opportunity. As i mentioned, in rate stolen minutes i have been amassing several hundred papers on the origin of S2 andxreading-dissecting-making notes. The aim is an editorial that says F the bullshit, here is what we, we internstional scientists, need to do collaboratively to get on top of this. d

Sent from my iPhone
David M Morens
OD, NIAID, NIH

On Sep 5, 2021, at 14:33, Peter Daszak <(b) (6) wrote:

You're right – at some point this becomes so boring and repetitive that it doesn't get traction, but some of these reporters are really good at making up stories – checkout this doozie below…

https://thenationalpulse.com/breaking/daszak- deletes-tweet-from-wuhan-fauci-conerence/

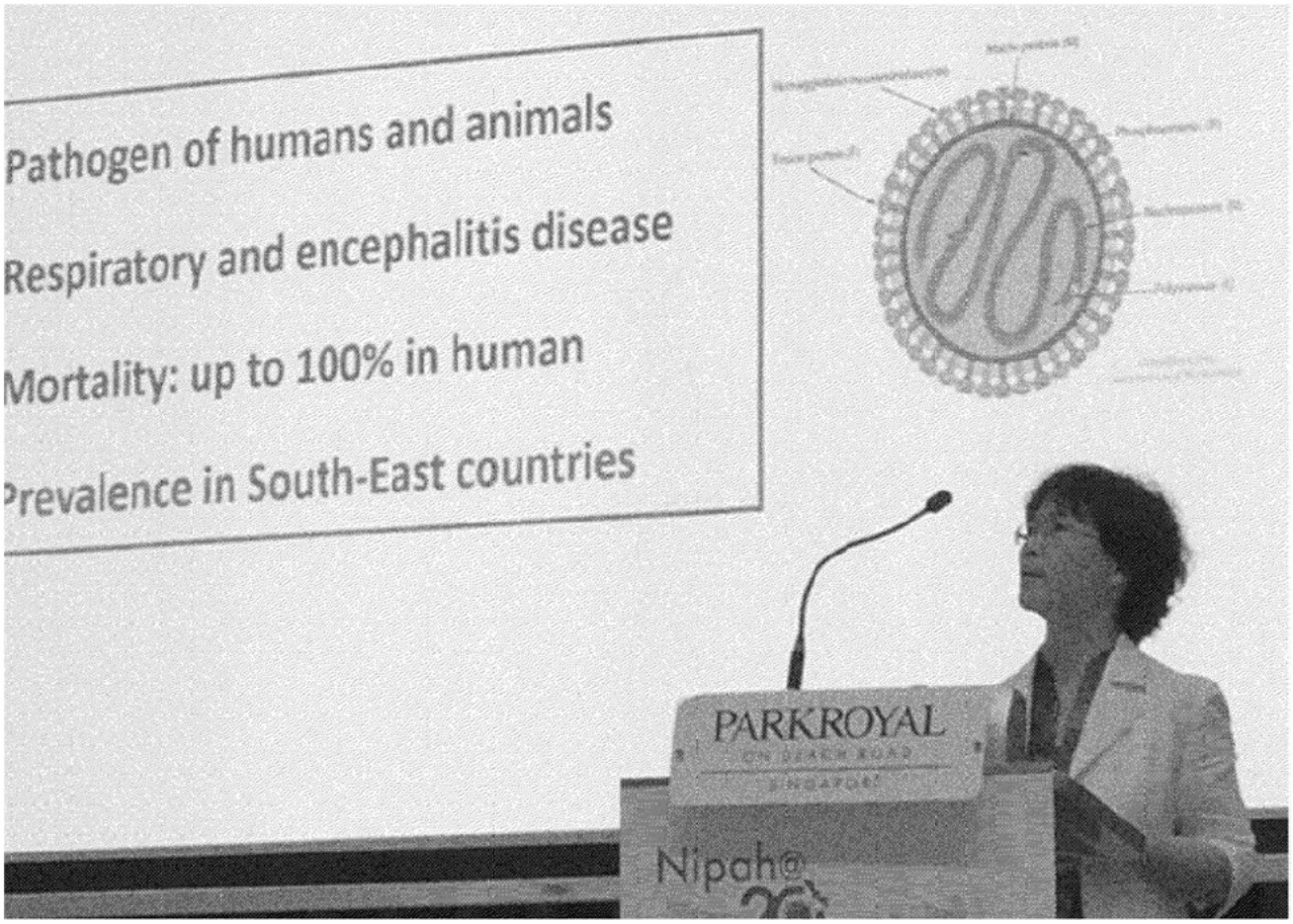
I deleted it after the lab leakers started their craziness because it has Zhengli's email address in it. The fact that I was at the conference is public knowledge and I regularly mention it to reporters – it was December 2019 just before the first cases of COVID were happening.

Cheers,

Peter

EcoHealth's Peter Daszak Deletes Tweet Revealing Wuhan Lab Researchers At Fauci-Funded Conference.

AUGUST 28, 2021 NATALIE WINTERS



SHARE THIS NEWS

EcoHealth Alliance President Peter Daszak – the disgraced proponent of the COVID-19 "natural origins" theory and longtime collaborator of the Chinese Communist Party – deleted a tweet revealing his attendance at an event sponsored by Anthony Fauci's National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases featuring Wuhan Institute of Virology researchers.

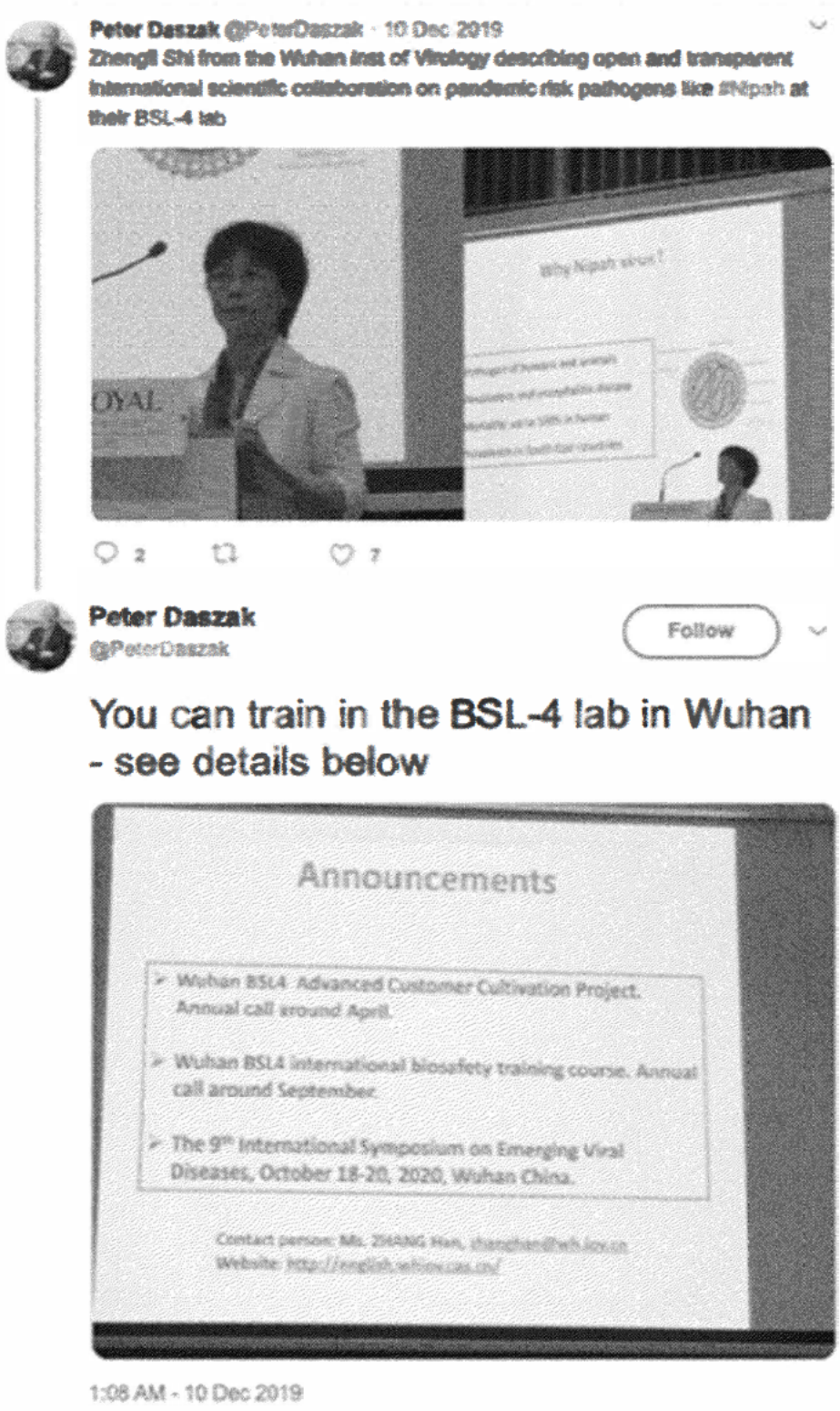
Posted on December 10th, 2019, just weeks before the Chinese government reported its first case of COVID-19, the tweet revealed Daszak's attendance at the Nipah Virus International Conference in Singapore.

"The two-day session was co-hosted by Duke-NUS Medical School (Duke-NUS) and the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations (CEPI). Also listed as organizers are the World Health Organization and the National Institute

of Allergy and Infectious Diseases," reports the site Some Bitch Told Me. CEPI was founded with a sizable investment from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.

In the now-deleted tweet, Daszak details how Shi Zhengli, the Wuhan Institute of Virology's "bat lady," calls for "open and transparent international scientific collaboration on pandemic risk pathogens" at her lab's Biosafety Level 4 (BSL-4) facility. He follows up with a slide explaining how "you can train in the BSL-4 lab in Wuhan."

MORENS_SUBPOENA_022154
MORENS_NIH_043055
REL0000482328



NOW-DELETED TWEET.

Daszak's deletion of the tweet follows The National Pulse unearthing the scientist's extensive conflicts of interest with the Chinese Communist Party and its Wuhan Institute of Virology. These ties ultimately led to his recusal from the *Lancet* COVID-19 commission, where he used his position to

MORENS_SUBPOENA_022155
MORENS_NIH_043056
REL0000482328

discredit the “lab leak” theory and spread disinformation about the origins of the virus.

The unearthed post also follows Fauci, whose NIAID sponsored the event, denying affiliation with the Wuhan lab.

SHARE THIS NEWS

Should Joe Biden Resign? *

- Not Sure
- No
- Yes

Your e-mail is required to confirm your vote. This is to stop spammers. If you use a fake email, your vote won't be counted.

Email *

Submit



Natalie Winters

Natalie Winters is an Investigative Reporter at the National Pulse and contributor to The National Pulse podcast.

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: (b) (6)
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

From: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b) (6)
Sent: Sunday, September 5, 2021 1:34 PM
To: Peter Daszak (b) (6) g >; Robert Kessler (b) (6) >; Keusch, Jerry < (b) (6)
Subject: Re: FW: ASF---foia

But I think that's the important thing: since there is nothing to find, there is little they can do with it. Maybe at some point these nutters will move on to another conspiracy.... d

On 9/5/2021 1:19 PM, Peter Daszak wrote:

> Thanks for the heads-up. The 900 pages of grant material I think is the stuff we've been processing through with our lawyers. It includes the full proposal for our grant in China, reports etc. as well as our current U01. It's extremely upsetting that these will now be dragged through the mud, but the truth is, there's nothing unusual or embarrassing in there – everything is completely normal and above board, and both were highly scored by reviewers.

MORENS_SUBPOENA_022156
MORENS_NIH_043057
REL0000482328

In my view, this sort of stuff isn't going to get them the same level of interest that it did at the beginning of summer, so hopefully this will be another non-event, but let's see what drama they can dream up from it.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: (b) (6)
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

From: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b) (6)
Sent: Sunday, September 5, 2021 1:07 PM
To: Peter Daszak (b) (6) g>; Robert Kessler (b) (6) Keusch, Jerry <(b) (6)
Subject: Fwd: FW: ASF -- foia

Peter, have a stiff drink before you read. But do not worry, this is thd new normal and there will be no "there" there..... d

------- Forwarded Message -------
Subject: FW: ASF -- foia
Date: Sun, 5 Sep 2021 16:57:49 +0000
From: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b) (6) >
To: David Morens ((b) (6)

David

David M. Morens, M.D.
CAPT, United States Public Health Service
Senior Advisor to the Director
Office of the Director
National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases
National Institutes of Health
Building 31, Room 7A-03
31 Center Drive, MSC 2520
Bethesda, MD 20892-2520
(b) (6) assistant: Whitney Robinson)

MORENS_SUBPOENA_022157
MORENS_NIH_043058
REL0000482328

(b) (6)

Disclaimer: This message is intended for the exclusive use of the recipient(s) named above. It may contain information that is PROTECTED, PRIVILEGED, and/or CONFIDENTIAL, and it should not be disseminated, distributed, or copied to persons not authorized to receive such information. All sensitive documents must be properly labeled before dissemination via email. If you are not the intended recipient, any dissemination, distribution, or copying is strictly prohibited. If you have received this communication in error, please erase all copies of the message and its attachments and notify us immediately.



From: Folkers, Greg (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b) (6)
Sent: Friday, September 3, 2021 9:29 AM
To: NIAID OD AM <NIAIDODAM@niaid.nih.gov>
Subject: RE: ASF --- foia

Further on FOIA

900 pages of EcoHealth Alliance grant materials are going out (with redactions) today under a lawsuit with First Look Institute (The Intercept) [redacted]

ASF --- I do not think you need to look at this

Also, as folks may be aware, and apropos of my email late last night, Congress does not have to go through the FOIA. So the tranche from last night was not in the usual NIH FOIA channel.

From: Folkers, Greg (NIH/NIAID) [E]
Sent: Friday, September 3, 2021 12:09 AM
To: NIAIDODAM@niaid.nih.gov <NIAIDODAM@niaid.nih.gov>
Subject: ASF -- foia

We have closely monitored foia document releases with an eye toward items that are new/different/potentially problematic in terms of people using them to cause mischief. Nothing recently has fallen into those categories

NOW -- What is new and will be released soon, perhaps tomorrow

Unredacted emails requested by minority members of House Committee on Oversight and Reform

In OD, please see

HOGR minority requested emails 9/2/2021 9:03 PM

ASF I think it would be helpful for you to eyeball all the redacted emails now being released in un-redacted form
For instance, for this entry, look at at the top one

NIH 2157 - 2161
NIH 2157 - 2161 redacted

We have gone through these, and the ones that might be worth a first look are:

MORENS_SUBPOENA_022158
MORENS_NIH_043059
REL0000482328

- 2157-2161
- 2314-2324
- #14 and 15

Disclaimer: Any third-party material in this email has been shared for internal use under fair use provisions of U.S. copyright law, without further verification of its accuracy/veracity. It does not necessarily represent my views nor those of NIAID, NIH, HHS, or the U.S. government.

Disclaimer

The information contained in this communication from the sender is confidential. It is intended solely for use by the recipient and others authorized to receive it. If you are not the recipient, you are hereby notified that any disclosure, copying, distribution or taking action in relation of the contents of this information is strictly prohibited and may be unlawful.

This email has been scanned for viruses and malware, and may have been automatically archived by Mimecast, a leader in email security and cyber resilience. Mimecast integrates email defenses with brand protection, security awareness training, web security, compliance and other essential capabilities. Mimecast helps protect large and small organizations from malicious activity, human error and technology failure; and to lead the movement toward building a more resilient world. To find out more, visit our website.

Disclaimer

The information contained in this communication from the sender is confidential. It is intended solely for use by the recipient and others authorized to receive it. If you are not the recipient, you are hereby notified that any disclosure, copying, distribution or taking action in relation of the contents of this information is strictly prohibited and may be unlawful.

This email has been scanned for viruses and malware, and may have been automatically archived by Mimecast, a leader in email security and cyber resilience. Mimecast integrates email defenses with brand protection, security awareness training, web security, compliance and other essential capabilities. Mimecast helps protect large and small organizations from malicious activity, human error and technology failure; and to lead the movement toward building a more resilient world. To find out more, visit our website.

Disclaimer

The information contained in this communication from the sender is confidential. It is intended solely for use by the recipient and others authorized to receive it. If you are not the recipient, you are hereby notified that any disclosure, copying, distribution or taking action in relation of the contents of this information is strictly prohibited and may be unlawful.

This email has been scanned for viruses and malware, and may have been automatically archived by Mimecast, a leader in email security and cyber resilience. Mimecast integrates email defenses with brand protection, security awareness training, web security, compliance and other essential capabilities. Mimecast helps protect large and small organizations from malicious activity, human error and technology failure; and to lead the movement toward building a more resilient world. To find out more, visit our website.

Date: Wed, 3 Aug 2022 2:38:47 PM -0400
Sent: Wed, 3 Aug 2022 2:38:42 PM -0400
Subject: RE: Jeff Sachs is at it again!
From: "Keusch, Gerald T" <(b) (6)
To: David Morens <(b) (6) Roberts, Rich <(b) (6)
CC: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6) Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) <(b) (6)

Rich and I have already spoken about my call with Ian. He feels there is nothing he can do. His concerns are the following, some of which he has made abundantly clear in various articles and interviews.

1. The viability of the lab-leak hypothesis is a self-imposed injury by scientists, pointing to the conversation between Jeremy Farrar, Francis Collins, Christian Andersen et al in February 2020, and the denial and then the FOIA.

2. Peter is conflicted (appearance, not necessarily reality) and should not have accepted appointment to the Lancet Commission, the WHO team etc. He (Ian) would not have if he had been asked.

3. There is no way to get Sachs to "stand down".

4. The two science papers by Worobey et al are "crap epidemiology".

There is no viable way for me to push any further with Ian. On the issue of the reputation of Columbia University I am thinking about contacting Waafa El-Sadr, Vince Racaniello, and the Nobel laureate economist Joe Stiglitz, all of whom I know well enough to contact. The secondary issue is Sachs' cognitive health, as he becomes ever more focused, concrete in his thinking, and unable to take in and evaluate new information. He is a broken record, for sure, very possibly because he is a record in the process of breaking. Are others concerned? Concerned enough to be in touch with and supportive of his wife and family be expressing concern for his public face, reputation, and legacy?

I'm thinking it over before doing anything more. Thoughts?

Jerry
-----Original Message-----
From: David Morens <(b) (6) >
Sent: Wednesday, August 3, 2022 11:50 AM
To: Roberts, Rich <(b) (6)
Cc: Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6) Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >; Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6) Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) >; Jeff Sturchio <(b) (6)
Subject: Re: Jeff Sachs is at it again!

Also at Columbia is Steve Morse, who has been studying pandemic viruses since his days with Josh Ledeberg in the late 1980s.....

David M. Morens, MD
(b) (6)

(b) (6)
(b) (6) (work)

MORENS_SUBPOENA_009166
MORENS_NIH_019546
REL0000482333

240 495 1738 (cell)

IMPORTANT: My gmail frequently sends incoming messages to Trash, which is apparently not correctable. If you don't hear from me in a reasonable time, please try again, call, or use my NIH email address

IMPORTANT: For US Government-related email, please also reply to my NIAID address

On Wed, Aug 3, 2022 at 11:42 AM Roberts, Rich <(b) (6) > wrote:
>
> Jerry:
>
>
>
> I can try Ian Lipkin too. He may be concerned about the general damage to science and to Jeff himself. One of Jeff's very good friends tells me that a lot of people who know him closely think he is going off the rails.
>
>
>
> Rich
>
>
>
> Richard J. Roberts
>
> New England Biolabs
>
> 240 County Road
>
> Ipswich, MA 01938-2723
>
> USA
>
> Tel: (b) (6)
>
> Fax: (978) 412 9910
>
> email: (b) (6)
>
>
>
> From: Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6)
> Sent: Wednesday, August 3, 2022 11:37 AM
> To: Roberts, Rich <(b) (6) >; Peter Daszak
> <(b) (6) >; Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6)
> Cc: David Morens <(b) (6) Aleksei Chmura
> <(b) (6) >; Jeff Sturchio <(b) (6) >
> Subject: RE: Jeff Sachs is at it again!
>
>
>
> EXTERNAL SENDER
>
>

MORENS_SUBPOENA_009167
MORENS_NIH_019547
REL0000482333

>
> You are right, but I doubt Columbia can do anything to stop a faculty member speaking on his own behalf from saying stupid things. What needs to happen is that the faculty at Columbia with the expertise also speak out against his stupidity.
>
>
>
> For what it is worth I will follow up with Ian Lipkin (who probably won't be sympathetic) and Wafaa El-Sadr (who will be).
>
>
>
> Jerry
>
>
>
> From: Roberts, Rich <(b) (6) >
> Sent: Wednesday, August 3, 2022 11:24 AM
> To: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >; Keusch, Gerald T
> <(b) (6) Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6)
> Cc: David Morens <(b) (6) Aleksei Chmura
> <(b) (6) >; Jeff Sturchio <(b) (6)
> Subject: RE: Jeff Sachs is at it again!
>
>
>
> Peter:
>
>
>
> "Inaccuracies" is a very mild word for the statements he makes.
>
>
>
> This just gets more disturbing by the day. I wonder how the administration at Columbia view this? Are they aware of the damage he is doing?
>
>
>
> Rich
>
>
>
> Richard J. Roberts
>
> New England Biolabs
>
> 240 County Road
>
> Ipswich, MA 01938-2723
>
> USA
>

MORENS_SUBPOENA_009168
MORENS_NIH_019548
REL0000482333

> Tel: (b) (6)
>
> Fax: (978) 412 9910
>
> email: (b) (6)
>
>
>
> From: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >
> Sent: Wednesday, August 3, 2022 11:05 AM
> To: Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6) >; Roberts, Rich <(b) (6) >;
> Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6)
> Cc: David Morens <(b) (6) Aleksei Chmura
> <(b) (6) >; Jeff Sturchio <(b) (6)
> Subject: Jeff Sachs is at it again!
> Importance: High
>
>
>
> EXTERNAL SENDER
>
>
>
> I just saw this in Current Affairs. At least this is not a major daily broadsheet, but it's filled with inaccuracies again (some of them highlighted in the text below, in order of appearance).
>
>
>
> He responds to the two papers in Science this week by dismissing the scientists (all 20+ of them) as having already stated their opinions prior to the paper, so what they're doing is simply creating a narrative.
>
> He states that the work in our rejected DARPA proposal was underway and being promoted very actively – again simply not true as I've stated publicly – the grant was not funded and the work not done.
>
> He goes into details of our unfortunate conversations as he tried to remove me from the Lancet Commission. He implies I didn't share the details of my work in China with him prior to joining. This is not true – it's why he invited me to lead the taskforce.
>
> He accuses me of 'misdirection' re. the work I've done in China. Not sure how publishing it in dozens of papers and speaking about it daily at the beginning of the pandemic is somehow misdirecting.
>
> He follows a common theme from the lab leakers that we had 180 viral 'strains' in the lab. Not true – we had hundreds of short RdRp sequences (few hundred base pairs) PCR'd from bat samples – only 3 viral strains in culture. All of this publicly released, all of it repeatedly stated.
>
> He makes a demand for 'lab notebooks' again. This amplifies the aggressive FoIAs and congressional attacks against us. I already told him EHA doesn't have a lab and doesn't keep 'lab notebooks'. Good luck asking for these from China with this aggressive narrative.
>
> He outright accuses scientists arguing that the virus did not come from a lab as 'lying'.
>
> He follows another lab leak narrative of dismissing EcoHealth's work as simply being a 'marriage-maker' between US and China labs to shunt NIH money to China. I'm very proud of the fact that EHA's work over the

last two decades has led to multiple papers in Nature, Science, and all other leading journals. You just don't end up being senior author on these papers by acting as a 'marriage maker', but dismissing our scientific status is part of the lab leak agenda to undermine science.
>
> He accuses me of 'not telling the truth'. No details of course!
>
> Accuses all the other Task Force members of hiding some alleged
> conflict of interest - that they are 'part of this thing', whatever
> that is
>
> Accuses the task force of trying to avoid looking into the lab leak even though he knew full well we had interviewed people like Relman, Ebright, Quay as part of our work and had stated publicly that we would look at all hypotheses re. COVID origins.
>
> He dodges the question on my alleged 'hiding pretty serious conflicts
> of interest' by saying he asked for my research proposals and I
> wouldn't hand them over on legal advice. What he failed to mention is
> the reason I gave him for this in an email – NIH had refused to make
> those proposals public under FoIA and had then been sued. If I then
> went against their direction I would run the risk of further grant
> terminations. That's what my lawyers advised and I have an
> organization to run, rather than undermine our funding base just
> because Jeff Sachs is inquisitive…
>
> Damagingly, he states that our rationale for hiding the truth is because we don't want to be guilty for millions of deaths. That is exactly the comment I get when people send me death threats (more every week now that these stories are in the news). It's a pretty straightforward incitement to violence for these people.
>
> He states that he doesn't trust scientists because we hide our work, when in fact we've published it in papers, and our proposals (even those that are not funded) are now public.
>
> He equates this work with nuclear weapons research
>
> He criticizes NIH for redacting 290 pages of attachments. Anyone who's bothered to look at that will see that NIH was circulating a DRAFT version of their COVID-19 research strategy that was released a few days later having been corrected and edited. It was simply an attachment to an email. There's no way that a govt agency should be circulating uncorrected versions of a strategic plan – that's just commonsense.
>
>
>
>
>
> https://www.currentaffairs.org/2022/08/why- the-chair-of-the-lancets-co
> vid-19-commission-thinks-the-us-government-is-preventing-a-real-invest
> igation-into-the-pandemic
>
>
>
>
>
> Why the Chair of the Lancet's COVID-19 Commission Thinks The US
> Government Is Preventing a Real Investigation Into the Pandemic
>

> Prof. Jeffrey Sachs says he is “pretty convinced [COVID-19] came out of US lab biotechnology” and warns that there is dangerous virus research taking place without public oversight.
>
> Current Affairs
>
> filed 02 August 2022 in THE VIRUS
>
> Prof. Jeffrey Sachs is the Director of the Center for Sustainable Development at Columbia University and the President of the UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network. He has also served as the chair of the COVID-19 commission for leading medical journal the Lancet. Through his investigations as the head of the COVID-19 commission, Prof. Sachs has come to the conclusion that there is extremely dangerous biotechnology research being kept from public view, that the United States was supporting much of this research, and that it is very possible that SARS-CoV-2, the virus responsible for COVID-19, originated through dangerous virus research gone awry.
>
> Prof. Sachs recently co-authored a paper in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences calling for an independent inquiry into the virus’s origins. He believes that there is clear proof that the National Institutes of Health and many members of the scientific community have been impeding a serious investigation of the origins of COVID-19 and deflecting attention away from the hypothesis that risky U.S.-supported research may have led to millions of deaths. If that hypothesis is true, the implications would be earth-shaking, because it might mean that esteemed members of the scientific community bore responsibility for a global calamity. In this interview, Prof. Sachs explains how he, as the head of the COVID-19 commission for a leading medical journal, came to the conclusion that powerful actors were preventing a real investigation from taking place. He also explains why it is so important to get to the bottom of the origins of COVID: because, he says, there is extremely dangerous research taking place with little accountability, and the public has a right to know since we are the ones whose lives are being put at risk without our consent.
>
> NATHAN ROBINSON:
>
> I want to quote something that you said recently:
>
> “I chaired the commission for the Lancet for two years on COVID. I’m pretty convinced it came out of U.S. lab biotechnology, not out of nature, just to mention. After two years of intensive work on this. So it’s a blunder in my view of biotech, not an accident of a natural spillover. We don’t know for sure, I should be absolutely clear. But there’s enough evidence that it should be looked into. And it’s not being investigated, not in the United States, not anywhere. And I think for real reasons that they don’t want to look underneath the rug, the statement.”
>
> The statement that you made there is a controversial one. Just to read a couple of quotes from the New York Times in the last year:
>
> “In a review of recent studies and comparisons to other outbreaks, a group of virologists contends that there is more evidence to support a natural spillover from animals to humans.”
>
> “Scientists released a pair of extensive studies over the weekend that point to a large food and live animal market in Wuhan, China, as the origin of the coronavirus pandemic.”
>
> So I want to start by asking you just to tell us a little bit about the investigation that you were part of and what led you to think that what I just quoted is a misleading statement of the state of the evidence.
>
> JEFFREY SACHS:
>
> Well, the funny thing is those scientists who are saying that said the same thing on February 4, 2020, before

they had done any research at all. And they published the same statement in March 2020, before they had any facts at all. So they're creating a narrative. And they're denying the alternative hypothesis without looking closely at it. That's the basic point.
>
> Now, what is the alternative hypothesis? The alternative hypothesis is quite straightforward. And that is that there was a lot of research underway in the United States and China on taking SARS-like viruses, manipulating them in the laboratory, and creating potentially far more dangerous viruses. And the particular virus that causes COVID-19, called SARS-Cov-2, is notable because it has a piece of its genetic makeup that makes the virus more dangerous. And that piece of the genome is called the "furin cleavage site." Now, what's interesting, and concerning if I may say so, is that the research that was underway very actively and being promoted, was to insert furin cleavage sites into SARS-like viruses to see what would happen. Oops!
>
> Well, that is what may have happened. And what has been true from the start is that that very real possibility, which a lot of scientists know, has not been looked at closely, even though it's absolutely clear that it could have happened that way. They're not looking. They just keep telling us, "Look at the market, look at the market, look at the market!" But they don't address this alternative. They don't even look at the data. They don't even ask questions. And the truth is from the beginning, they haven't asked the real questions.
>
> But not quite the beginning. Because at the beginning, which we could date from the first phone call of the National Institutes of Health (NIH) with a group of virologists on February 1, 2020, the virologists said "Oh my god, that is strange, that could well be a laboratory creation. What is that furin cleavage site doing in there?" Because scientists knew that was part of an active ongoing research program. And yet, by February 3, the same group is saying "No, no, it's natural, it's natural." By February 4, they start to draft the papers that are telling the public, "Don't worry, it's natural." By March, they write a paper—totally spurious, in my view—called the proximal origins paper that is the most cited bio paper in 2020. It said: it is absolutely natural. [Note: the paper's conclusion is "we do not believe that any type of laboratory-based scenario is plausible."] But they didn't have any of the data that you read about in the New York Times. They didn't have any of this. They just said the labs weren't working on this alternative. But you know what, they don't know what the labs were working on, because they never asked, and NIH hasn't told us.
>
> ROBINSON:
>
> Let me ask you if we can distinguish between what we know for certain and what is speculative because we just haven't got the data. So we do know that there was—correct me if I'm wrong—research proposed that would have dealt with this category of viruses and would have modified them in ways that would have made them potentially more lethal. Do we know whether that kind of research was in fact actually ongoing somewhere?
>
> SACHS:
>
> We have enormous reason to believe that it was. And clearly, we haven't even asked that question. But we have a lot of reason to believe that it was, because the scientists that were doing that research loved that research. And they explained to us publicly why it's so important. And they wrote editorials about why this research must continue. And they made grant proposals saying that it should continue. And for those of us in the business of writing grant proposals, the fact that a particular grant proposal that's deeply troubling was turned down doesn't mean that it wasn't carried out afterwards. But where is NIH saying, "Yeah, that's an interesting question. Why don't we get the evidence?" It doesn't even ask that question.
>
> And the scientists like those that talk about the Huanan market, they don't even discuss that research that was underway. That is just misdirection, to my mind. It's like sleight of hand art. Don't look over there. Look over here. But we know that there was a tremendous amount of this research underway. We have interviews by the lead scientists. We have these research proposals. I know the intention of doing this research from discussions. I've read so many studies of the importance of this research claimed by the scientists. And yet I see NIH with

its head in the ground. “Oh, no, nothing here to look at.” And then I see the scientists. “Oh, nothing here to look at. We know it’s the market. Did we find an animal? No. Do we have an explanation of where that furin cleavage site came in? No. We don’t have an explanation of the timing, which doesn’t quite look right. Oh, but don’t look over there, because there’s nothing there, they keep telling us. Well, that’s a little silly.
>
> So my point is, there is a huge amount of reason to believe that that research was underway. Because there are published papers on this. There are interviews on this. There are research proposals. But NIH isn’t talking. It’s not asking. And these scientists have never asked either. From the very first day, they have kept hidden from view the alternative. And when they discuss the alternative, they don’t discuss the research program. They discuss complete straw men about the lab, not the actual kind of research that was underway, which was to stick furin cleavage sites into SARS-like viruses in a way that could have created SARS-Cov-2.
>
> What I’m calling for is not the conclusion. I’m calling for the investigation. Finally, after two and a half years of this, it’s time to fess up that it might have come out of a lab and here’s the data that we need to know to find out whether it did.
>
> ROBINSON:
>
> One of the things that struck me that I didn’t know when I started writing about this and actually doing some some research is realizing that in the years leading up to the pandemic, there was a huge controversy about whether it was wise to modify viruses in the course of research in ways that could make a virus more infectious or more lethal. And some people were arguing that this kind of research was insane. And some people were warning that in the case of a lab accident—an accident, mind you, not as an intentional “bioweapon”—a simple human error could cause a real catastrophe.
>
> SACHS:
>
> That is exactly right. There were several kinds of experiments of manipulation of the genes of dangerous viruses. And this raised a lot of alarm. And there was actually a moratorium in 2014. But the champions of this kind of research pushed on, they applied for waivers, which they got, and finally the moratorium came off in 2017. And they said how important it is to do this dangerous kind of research, because they claimed, “Well, there are lots of viruses out there. And we don’t know when they’re going to become highly pathogenic, and we need to develop drugs and vaccines against a wide spectrum of them. So we have to test all these viruses that we can find, to see whether they have high spillover potential.” But they weren’t actually aiming to just test viruses that they were collecting in nature. They were aiming to modify those viruses. Because the scientists knew that a SARS-like virus without a furin cleavage site wouldn’t be that dangerous. But they wanted to test their drugs and vaccines and theories against dangerous viruses. Their proposal was to take hundreds, by the way—or least they talked about in one proposal more than 180 previously unreported strains—and test them for their so-called “spillover potential.” How effective would they be? And to look: do they have a furin cleavage site, or technically what’s called a proteolytic cleavage site? And if not, put them in. For heaven’s sake. My God! Are you kidding?
>
> Okay, but we didn’t even ask the question from the first day: did you guys do that? Tell us what you did. Could you give us your lab notebooks? We’re kind of curious. Instead, these people who are writing these New York Times articles right now and publishing these pieces about the market, from the first day—without asking about the experiments—they said, “Nope, it’s natural.” That’s why I don’t trust them. Because they’ve never looked at the alternative hypothesis. And their hypothesis has so many gaps, so many holes in it. But they don’t even try to look at the alternative hypothesis.
>
> ROBINSON:
>
> I think it’s very important to make clear that the “alternative hypothesis” is mainly a hypothesis about an accident, and scientific hubris. It’s important to distinguish the kooky theories from the incredibly plausible

theories. Because what you're talking about is people who did not appreciate the dangers of what they were doing.
>
> SACHS:
>
> In fact, it's very interesting. The alternative that is the right one to look at is part of a very extensive research program that was underway from 2015 onward, funded by the NIH, by Tony Fauci, in particular NIAID [National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases], and it was to examine the spillover potential of SARS-like viruses. The champions of this research explained in detail their proposals. But after the event, we'd never asked them, "So what were you actually doing? What experiments did you do? What do you know?" We somehow never asked. It was better just to sweep it under the rug, which is what Fauci and the NIH have done up until this point. Maybe they could tell us, "Oh, full exoneration," but they haven't told us that at all. They haven't shown us anything.
>
> So there's nothing "kooky" about it, because it's precisely what the scientists were doing. And then you can listen to the scientists on tape describing why they think the research program is so important, because they say these are dangerous viruses, and therefore we have to prepare broad spectrum vaccines and drugs. They explain it's not good enough to test one or two viruses. We have to test all of them. And then they came to realize, as I said earlier, that just having a SARS-like virus, if it doesn't have this piece of the gene, it's almost surely not going to be that effective. So they got around to the idea. "Well, let's put these in," if you can imagine that. To my mind, it's mind-boggling.
>
>
>
> But they were proud of this, because it's actually genius at a technological level. Can you imagine: you can take a sequence of letters, which defines the genome, you can recreate the virus just from the letters. You don't even have to have the biological virus in hand, you just need the sequence. Then you can say "I'm going to add these four letters RRAR, the furin cleavage site, or maybe it's eight, RRARSVAS, this is a sequence of eight amino acids—I'm going to stick it in there right at the S1 S2 junction of the spike protein, because I know from my research program that will make it more pathogenic, that is more disease-causing. And then I can see whether my drug candidates like remdesivir, or some other candidate works against it. That is their idea. There's nothing kooky about our claim: Hey, what were you doing? Because they told us that they wanted to do these projects. And they told us that they were wanting to do these projects in the months leading up to this outbreak. And then what is absolutely strange is that even though scientists knew right from the start, that is very weird to have that RRAR furin cleavage site in there—never saw that before in a SARS-like virus, and that that could well have come from a lab—hush, hush. Don't talk about it. Don't even discuss it. Just say right from the beginning: This is natural. Of course, it's natural. Everything else is kooky.
>
> So you saw a narrative being created. And the scientists are not acting like scientists. Because when you're acting like a scientist, you're pursuing alternative hypotheses. And the scientists just wrote recently an op-ed saying the only evidence that this came out of a lab that's been put forward is that it came in a city, Wuhan, where an institute was located. Well, that's a lie. That is not the only coincidence that leads to this theory. What leads to this alternative hypothesis is the detailed research program the NIH funded that was underway in the years leading up to the outbreak. So I see the scientists absolutely trying to create a narrative and take our eyes off of another issue.
>
> Now, again, let me emphasize, we don't have definitive evidence of either hypothesis. But what we do have is definitive evidence that officialdom has tried to keep our eyes away from the lab creation hypothesis.
>
> ROBINSON:
>
> You mentioned the lab in Wuhan. It's not just that there was a lab in Wuhan doing research on viruses. But there were ties between the lab and those pursuing this program. What do we know about the research that was

actually occurring there?
>
> SACHS:
>
> We know that at the Wuhan Institute of Virology, the scientists there had been trained by American scientists to use advanced bioengineering methodologies. And in particular, we have scientists in North Carolina, Texas, and so forth who do this kind of research, believe in it, argue for it, and say that they don't want any regulations on it and so on. And they were in close contact with Wuhan Institute of Virology, and they were part of a joint research group that was stitched together by something called EcoHealth Alliance. And EcoHealth Alliance was the kind of marriage maker between the American scientists and the Chinese scientists. That was the vehicle for funding from the U.S. government, especially from the National Institutes of Health, and especially from Tony Fauci's unit, the NIAID. There were years of grants, there were grant proposals. We don't know exactly what was done. But we have enough reason to know that we should be asking exactly what was done. And we know definitively that from the beginning, NIH has been running from telling us what has been done. They're not telling us the truth, that they had reason to fear from the start that this came out of a lab. And that to this day, they have reason to suspect it, but they're not talking.
>
> ROBINSON:
>
> A shocking thing to me was that the head of the EcoHealth Alliance was on the World Health Organization team that actually investigated the origins of COVID and concluded that it wasn't the lab.
>
> SACHS:
>
> Well, more than that: I appointed him—this was Peter Daszak—I appointed him to chair the task force of the pandemic commission that I was running for the Lancet. And he headed a task force on the origins. I thought, naively at the beginning, "Well, here's a guy who is so connected, he would know." And then I realized he was not telling me the truth. And it took me some months, but the more I saw it, the more I resented it.
>
> And so I told him, "Look, you have to leave." And then the other scientists in that task force attacked me for being anti-scientific. And I asked them: "What are your connections with all of this?" They didn't tell me. Then when the Freedom of Information Act released some of these documents that NIH had been hiding from the public, I saw that people that were attacking me were also part of this thing. So I disbanded that whole task force. So my own experience was to witness close up how they're not talking. And they're trying to keep our eyes on something else. And away from even asking the questions that we're talking about. We don't have the answers. But we have good reasons to ask. And we have good reasons to know that NIH is not doing its job properly right now.
>
> ROBINSON:
>
> So you're saying that Daszak and others did not disclose to you pretty serious conflicts of interest? Since, on the hypothesis that it had something to do with this kind of research, that would have implicated Daszak himself in the origins of the crisis?
>
> SACHS:
>
> Well, he could have explained to me right from the beginning that there was a big research program and that they were manipulating the viruses, and here's how. He could have given me the research proposals. And when I asked him for one of the research proposals, he said, "No, my lawyer says I can't give it to you." I said, "What? You're heading a commission. We're a transparent commission. You're telling me your lawyer says you can't give me your project proposal." I said, "Well, then you can't be on this commission. This is not even a close call."
>

> But there were so many other things. He was just filled with misdirection. I don't know whether he understands or not, maybe he doesn't understand. But the things he said just were absolutely not right.
>
> ROBINSON:
>
> When people hear you say, "They're sweeping it under the rug, they don't want to look," one question that may come to their minds is "Well, why? Why would people not be interested in getting to the truth?" But the alternate hypothesis from the natural spillover that you're talking about could have serious repercussions. It would implicate a lot of people in potentially millions of deaths. So there's a lot at stake here for the scientific community. Which explains why there would be an interest in directing people away from this possibility.
>
> SACHS:
>
> There are at least two reasons why they might be doing what they're doing. One is, as you say, the implications are huge. Imagine if this came out of a lab. And we have, by some estimates, about 18 million dead worldwide from this. That's not the official count. But that's the estimated excess mortality from COVID. Well, the implications of that—the ethical, the moral, the geopolitical—everything is enormous.
>
> But there's a second matter that is really important, too. One thing that is rather clear to me is that there is so much dangerous research underway right now under the umbrella of biodefense or other things that we don't know about, that is not being properly controlled. This is for sure. And that's happening around the world. And governments say "don't poke your nose into that." That's our business, not your business. But it's actually our business. It's our business to understand what is going on with this. This is not to be kept secret. We don't trust you.
>
> Let me put it this way: I don't trust them right now. I want to know. Because even what we know of the dangerous research is enough to raise a lot of questions of responsibility for the future. And to pose the question: "Hey, what other viruses are you guys working on? What should we know?" Because no matter what the truth is on SARS-Cov-2, what is pretty clear is we've got so much technological capacity to engineer dangerous pathogens right now. And a lot of that is being done. And it's classified. It's secret, and we don't know what it is. And I don't like that feeling at all. I don't recommend it for us and for the world.
>
> ROBINSON:
>
> Well, you've rather answered the question of why it's important to get to the bottom of this. Because one of the excuses you hear is, "Well, who really cares? Does it matter? It was an animal, it was a lab, whatever it is, it's here." But what you're saying is, "No, we actually need to know where this started." Because this isn't going to be the only one, whatever the origins are. And we don't want people to die from future viruses. This is critically important. If we're going to save millions of lives, we have to find out the answer.
>
> SACHS:
>
> I can tell you one thing that I've learned from talking to a lot of scientists in the last couple of years: the technological capacity to do dangerous things using this biotechnology is extraordinary right now. So I want to know what's being done. I want to know what other governments are doing, too, not just ours. I want some global control over this stuff.
>
> We've kind of understood the nuclear risk—even that, of course, is in a lot of ways hidden from view. But this is a clear and present risk. And there's reason to believe we're actually in the midst of it, not just hypothetically. So come on: it's time to open the books everywhere. It's time to find out. Maybe it was the marketplace. Maybe it wasn't a lab. But we need to get real answers, now. Not the kind of misdirection that's been going in since February 2020. Enough nonsense! Enough New York Times stories saying, "Oh, it's this, it's that," without looking closely at the very plausible laboratory hypothesis.

>
> ROBINSON:
>
> It seems from what you're saying that as the head of the Lancet's COVID-19 commission, you didn't feel you were able to get satisfactory answers or see the data you wanted. What kind of investigation do we need and who ought to do it?
>
> SACHS:
>
> The most interesting things that I got as chair of the Lancet commission came from Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) lawsuits and whistleblower leaks from inside the U.S. government. Isn't that terrible? NIH was actually asked at one point: give us your research program on SARS-like viruses. And you know what they did? They released the cover page and redacted 290 pages. They gave us a cover page and 290 blank pages! That's NIH, for heaven's sake. That's not some corporation. That is the U.S. government charged with keeping us healthy.
>
> What I found is that we have a lot of data which we're not finding right now. And I don't want to have to rely on FOIA and leaks, though those can be incredibly informative. I want clear, independent scientific investigation and transparency. One way to do this would be a bipartisan congressional oversight investigation that had subpoena power. Give us your lab records, your notebooks, your data files of virus strains, and so forth. There are many questions that we need independent scientists to define, to tell us exactly the kinds of information. But we know right now we're operating in an environment in which the government is working to hide the data that we need to make a real assessment.
>
> If you enjoyed this article, please consider subscribing to our magnificent print edition or making a donation. Current Affairs is 100% reader-supported.
>
> Current Af
>
>
>
>
>
> Cheers,
>
>
>
> Peter
>
>
>
>
>
>
>
>
>
> Peter Daszak
>
> President
>
>
>

MORENS_SUBPOENA_009177
MORENS_NIH_019557
REL0000482333

> EcoHealth Alliance
>
> 520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
>
> New York, NY 10018-6507
>
> USA
>
> Tel.: (b) (6)
>
> Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
>
> Twitter: @PeterDaszak
>
>
>
> EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent
> pandemics and promote conservation

Date: Fri, 28 Apr 2023 7:29:12 PM -0400
Sent: Fri, 28 Apr 2023 7:29:06 PM -0400
Subject: RE: Mother Jones: The Coming Tidal Wave of Right Wing Covid Lawsuits
From: "Keusch, Gerald T" <(b) (6)
To: Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6) Roberts, Rich <(b) (6) >;
CC: David Morens <(b) (6) >; Jeff Sturchio <(b) (6) Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) >; Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >;

And by the way, it was very good to see you as well. You made major contributions to the successful start of our quest for a suitable and effective response to all the messy nasty stuff out there. Now let it rock and roll…
Jerry

From: Keusch, Gerald T
Sent: Friday, April 28, 2023 7:28 PM
To: Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6) Roberts, Rich <(b) (6)
Cc: David Morens (b) (6) >; Jeff Sturchio <(b) (6) Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) Peter Daszak <(b) (6)
Subject: RE: Mother Jones: The Coming Tidal Wave of Right Wing Covid Lawsuits

The GND cytokine guy from Harvard School of Public Health? No I wasn't aware that he was there. What's he up to these days? I thought he had moved to Brazil for a while – is he now a New Yorker?

Jerry

From: Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6)
Sent: Friday, April 28, 2023 2:37 PM
To: Keusch, Gerald T (b) (6) ; Roberts, Rich (b) (6)) (6)
Cc: David Morens (b) (6) Jeff Sturchio (b) (6) Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) >; Peter Daszak (b) (6) >
Subject: Re: Mother Jones: The Coming Tidal Wave of Right Wing Covid Lawsuits

Thank you Jerry, it was so great seeing you and everyone! Did you get a chance to see John David, that was nice as well.

I thought the evening was a great show of support for Peter Daszak and the EcoHealth Alliance, especially from the Board. I think that was probably the best part of the gala, the unbridled enthusiasm for the mission, it was nice to see.

The meeting at the RF in the afternoon was impactful and meaningful. I think we have some momentum to move forward on a coalition. So let's meet next week by zoom.

Warmest regards, Peter

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP

Texas Children's Hospital: Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics | Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development | Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

Baylor College of Medicine: Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine | Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular

Virology & Microbiology | Health Policy Scholar

Baylor University , University Professor

Rice University , Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty

Texas A&M University , Faculty-Senior Fellow, Hagler Inst for Advanced Study & Scowcroft Institute of Intl Affairs

E-mail | Twitter | LinkedIn | Skype: (b) (6)

Amazon Author Center | Daily Beast Contributor

Senior Coordinator & Executive Support: Douglas Soriano

(b) (6) | Phone: (b) (6) | Fax: 713-798-2299

Media Inquiries:

(b) (6)

From: Keusch, Gerald T (b) (6) >
Sent: Friday, April 28, 2023 12:34 PM
To: Roberts, Rich (b) (6) >
Cc: Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6) >; David Morens (b) (6) >; Jeff Sturchio (b) (6) Aleksei Chmura (b) (6) >; Peter Daszak (b) (6) >
Subject: Re: Mother Jones: The Coming Tidal Wave of Right Wing Covid Lawsuits

Agree. Let's find a time for a 1 pager for Mitchell and then focus on a short concept paper amd next steps to circulate among the participants and to get more folks involved. Peter H and Peter D you both did a great job at RF and at the Gala for EHA. Jerry

Sent from my iPhone

> On Apr 28, 2023, at 11:35 AM, Roberts, Rich (b) (6) > wrote:
>
> Peter:
>
> That's good! We should look further for funding as well.
>
> Rich
>
> Richard J. Roberts
> New England Biolabs
> 240 County Road
> Ipswich, MA 01938-2723

USA
Tel: (b) (6)
Fax: (978) 412 9910
email: (b) (6)

Executive Assistant: (b) (6)
Tel: (b) (6)
Fax: (978) 412 9910
email: (b) (6)

From: Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6)
Sent: Friday, April 28, 2023 10:43 AM
To: David Morens <(b) (6) >
Cc: Gerald Keusch <(b) (6) Jeff Sturchio (b) Aleksei Chmura < (b) (6) Peter Daszak (b) (6) @ Roberts, Rich (b) (6) @ 6)
Subject: Re: Mother Jones: The Coming Tidal Wave of Right Wing Covid Lawsuits

EXTERNAL SENDER

It was great to see everyone yesterday, I think we had a good start yesterday. We should zoom next week to decide how we want to follow up with the Mitchell Foundation

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP

Texas Children's Hospital: Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics | Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development | Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

Baylor College of Medicine: Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine | Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology | Health Policy Scholar

Baylor University, University Professor

Rice University, Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty

Texas A&M University, Faculty-Senior Fellow, Hagler Inst for Advanced Study & Scowcroft Institute of Intl Affairs

E-mail | Twitter | LinkedIn | Skype: (b) (6)

Amazon Author Center | Daily Beast Contributor

Senior Coordinator & Executive Support: Douglas Soriano
(b) (6) | Phone: (b) (6) | Fax: 713-798-2299

Media Inquiries:

(b) (6)

iPhone

On Apr 28, 2023, at 10:40 AM, David Morens (b) (6) > wrote:

CAUTION: This email is not from a BCM Source. Only click links or open attachments you know are safe.

Timely report related to many comments yesterday

d

Sent from my iPhone
David M Morens
OD, NIAID, NIH
Begin forwarded message:

From: "Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E]" (b) (6) gov>
Date: April 28, 2023 at 10:37:33 EDT
To: David Morens (b) (6) >
Subject: Fwd: Mother Jones: The Coming Tidal Wave of Right Wing Covid Lawsuits

Sent from my iPhone
David M Morens
OD, NIAID, NIH
Begin forwarded message:

From: "Folkers, Greg (NIH/NIAID) [C]" <(b) (6) >
Date: April 27, 2023 at 16:34:53 EDT
Subject: Mother Jones: The Coming Tidal Wave of Right Wing Covid Lawsuits

The Coming Tidal Wave of Right Wing Covid Lawsuits

Lawyers have found a way to cash in on outrage over mask mandates and vaccines.

Kiera Butler 10 hours ago

In late March, I watched as some 300 lawyers, doctors, and activists assembled in the aggressively beige conference wing of the Midtown Atlanta Hilton for the inaugural Covid Litigation Conference. A promotional flier promised that the event would "provide attendees with the resources they need to begin taking on Covid cases for the first time or to expand the range of Covid claims that they currently handle." An unsuspecting lawyer could have been forgiven for expecting tips on how to help clients who had been disabled by Covid that they caught at their factory jobs, for instance, or those whose medical bills their insurance refused to pay.

But those kinds of cases were entirely absent from the agenda. Rather, the topic was a very particular kind of litigation: How best to advance the movement that organizers called "medical freedom." In other words, how to sue the people who created and enforced public health measures like vaccine and mask requirements, policies against Covid misinformation, and treatment protocols for

hospitalized Covid patients.

The conference organizers wore t-shirts emblazoned with the slogan "Misinformation Superspreader." Steve Kirsch, a Silicon Valley entrepreneur, philanthropist, and a main organizer of the event, told me that the slogan was a cheeky reference to what he saw as the unfair labeling of anti-vaccine activists as peddlers of misinformation. "We said, 'Okay if that's what they're calling us," he explained, "let's kind of make fun of it." Indeed, many of the attendees seemed to see themselves as underdogs, scrapping against government and pharmaceutical behemoths.

What those underdogs didn't mention during the sessions, though, is their friends in high places: specifically, federal judges who seem to be sympathetic to their aversion to pandemic policies. Pointing to some of the victories that medical freedom lawyers have enjoyed in US District courts, Dorit Reiss, a public health lawyer and law professor at the University of California College of the Law, noted, "They're having some success in the federal system in front of Trump-appointed judges, and they're very much forum shopping right now." Adam Winkler, a constitutional law scholar at the University of California-Los Angeles, agreed. "The courts have issued a lot of what were once thought to be outlandish kinds of rulings with regard to any number of issues like abortion and affirmative action," he said. "I'd expect that encourages people to bind hope to the prospects of lawsuits that they would otherwise seem certain to lose."

When I arrived, I didn't think I'd get past the Misinformation Superspreaders and make it into the ballroom where the event was taking place. The media liaison for the conference, Trevor FitzGibbon, asked me if I was there to write about disinformation, and he seemed to balk at my affirmative answer. When I said I worked for *Mother Jones*, he noticeably brightened. He had come up in the PR business working for prominent progressive candidates and groups, he explained, including Barack Obama, MoveOn, and Planned Parenthood, which I took to mean that he considered us to be politically kindred spirits. And then he let me into the ballroom.

Once inside, I watched as one indignant panelist after another enumerated their grievances. At the Hospital Negligence Panel, doctors who refused to deviate from CDC protocol to treat Covid patients with unproven drugs like the antiparasitic medication ivermectin and antimalarial hydroxychloroquine were the targets of rage. The Education Mandates session featured the mother of a California teenager who had defied her school's mask requirement, showing up at school without a mask for weeks on end in 2021, and standing outside the school for hours every day after she was kicked out. The panelists batted around ideas: Could the refusal to wear a mask be considered free speech? Could putting a kid in detention for not wearing a mask count as false imprisonment?

In his speech, Kirsch, the conference organizer, told the story of how, at the beginning of the pandemic, he had invested $1 million of his own money toward studying existing drugs as potential Covid treatments. Somewhere along the way, he became convinced that the Covid vaccines were dangerous. Last year, he founded the Vaccine Safety Research Foundation, whose goal, according to its website, is "to advance COVID-19 vaccine safety through scientific research, public education, and advocacy, and to support the vaccine injured." After his speech, Kirsch told me that he sees litigation as a way to force the federal government agencies to release data that he believes they're concealing about the dangers of the Covid vaccines. He said he is sure that "the only reason that we're not allowed to see any of the data is because it's bad."

Many of the other speakers seemed to share Kirsch's belief that the public isn't seeing the whole picture of Covid. In a constitutional law panel, Robert Barnes, an attorney who previously represented both Kenosha shooter Kyle Rittenhouse and Sandy Hook conspiracy theorist Alex Jones , said, "Pfizer makes the Mexican drug cartels look like a street corner dealer by comparison." To hold the public health crowd accountable, he implored the lawyers at the ballroom tables to "knock down the doors of every court we can."

But not just any court. Medical freedom activists have already started enjoying some successes in front of conservative judges. At the local level, several have sided with plaintiffs who've sued hospitals for refusing to give patients ivermectin. But it's been on the federal level, with Trump-appointed judges, where they've enjoyed some of their most significant successes. In 2021, Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton sued the Biden administration over a proposed policy that would have required Covid vaccinations for all Head Start employees. In March 2023, Judge James Wesley Hendrix of the Northern District of Texas, a Trump appointee, struck down the proposed policy. In January 2022, a group of government workers sued the Biden Administration over the president's vaccination requirements for all federal employees; in 2022, Judge Jeffrey Vincent Brown, whom Trump appointed in 2019, ruled in their favor. That ruling was briefly overturned, but in 2023, the 5th US Circuit Court of Appeals in New Orleans upheld it; the opinion was written by Trump

appointee Judge Andrew Oldham.

In August 2022, a group of physicians sued the Biden Administration over its efforts to hold social media companies accountable for platforming physicians who spread misinformation about Covid. The plaintiffs, two of whom created the 2020 Great Barrington Declaration to oppose pandemic protections, accused the federal government of violating their First Amendment rights. "The US government used its vast power over social media and big tech to censor legitimate scientific and policy discussion about Covid during the pandemic," Jay Bhattacharya wrote in a statement. That case is still ongoing, but in March, Trump-appointed judge Terry Doughty, in the Western District of Louisiana, denied a motion to dismiss it.

"The US government used its vast power over social media and big tech to censor legitimate scientific and policy discussion about Covid during the pandemic."

There is more to come. Several of the conference speakers have embarked on a Covid litigation bonanza of late. Mark Meuser, a member of the Future Litigation and Censorship panels, boasts on his website that he "has been involved in 22 lawsuits brought against [California Governor Gavin] Newsom for his unconstitutional usurpation of power as a result of COVID-19." In the exhibition area, I visited the booth of Children's Health Defense, the anti-vaccine organization helmed by the new presidential hopeful Robert F. Kennedy, Jr., who announced his bid to replace Joe Biden in April. A flier that highlighted some of the dozens of lawsuits that the group had recently filed reveals its eagerness to sue the government, at both local and federal levels. It's suing California over a law that prohibits doctors from spreading misinformation; the *Washington Post* and other news outlets over their efforts to stop the spread of misinformation; and the CDC for access to reports of "unusual or unexpected patterns of adverse events reporting that can signal safety problems with a vaccine." Sen. Elizabeth Warren (D-Mass.) is getting sued for calling for a review of the Amazon algorithms that allegedly promoted anti-vaccine books, and Facebook parent company Meta is being sued for "collusion with the US government to censor CHD social media content." Add to the long list of defendants Rutgers University for its vaccine mandate for students and staff.

Law professor Reiss is dubious about the prospects for some of those lawsuits, especially those in which individuals sue a private company for censorship. The First Amendment, she noted, also protects "the freedom of private companies like Twitter and YouTube to kick them off." Nor was the idea of students suing universities, a winning strategy. "You don't have the right to go to a specific university," she said. "And if you don't like the university policies, universities are on pretty solid grounds denying you admission."

Yet she noted that some of the victories the medical freedom movement has racked up so far could pave the way for future legislation that would last long beyond the Covid era—and possibly transform established public health practices. In fact, that's already happening: Several panelists suggested making vaccination status a protected class like race or sex—which means that it would be illegal to discriminate against someone on the basis of whether or not they had received immunizations. In 2021, Montana became the first state to pass such a law. In February of this year, Idaho followed suit. Employers there who require vaccination against Covid can now be fined $1,000 per violation. A similar bill in Florida is currently under consideration.

Another potential opening for medical freedom advocates, Reiss said, is a broader interpretation of laws about religious exemptions to vaccine mandates, which most states allow. With the current Supreme Court's expansion of what is included within the definition of freedom of religion, she worried they may include religious objections to vaccines. "If they go there, it will make it a lot harder to prevent the abuse of religious exemption," she said. On April 18, a few weeks after I spoke to Reiss, a US district judge ruled that Mississippi must change its current policy to allow religious exemptions for vaccine mandates. (The judge, Halil Suleyman Ozerden, had been nominated by Trump in 2019 to serve on the 5th Circuit Court of Appeals, but key Republicans questioned his conservative bona fides and he was never confirmed.)

With all this coming litigation, some of the conference sponsors saw a business opportunity. While the speakers inside the ballroom railed against big pharma and the CDC, just outside, representatives from law-firm-adjacent companies handed out business cards. Zena Obebe, the CEO of Hill Redaction Services, told me, "We wanted to get in front of those litigation lawyers and say, 'Hey, you can use us for the medical records.'" She expects to see many more Covid-related cases soon, explaining, "There's a huge influx that's coming down the pipeline."

Though Covid was the official topic of the conference, many of the people I talked to made detours into other subjects. Their involvement in the medical freedom movement, they said, had caused the scales to fall from their eyes. Kirsch, the conference organizer, explained that before the pandemic, he had never been skeptical of routine childhood vaccinations, but over the past few years, he has

MORENS_SUBPOENA_005362
MORENS_NIH_013388
REL0000482335

come to believe they cause autism (a theory that has been extensively discredited but one cherished by RFK, Jr. whose campaign, Kirsch says, he looks forward to supporting). So fervent is his newfound aversion to immunizations, he told me, that he now believes "nobody should ever" even vaccinate their pets.

For FitzGibbon, the comms guy, his involvement with the medical freedom movement has led to a more thorough disenchantment with his progressive roots. In 2020, during the height of the pandemic, he had become acutely ill with Covid, but two different hospitals sent him home. Only when a doctor-client put in a good word for him did he get admitted to an ICU, where he received monoclonal antibodies—an effective though underutilized treatment—which he credits with saving his life.

In the months that followed, he became skeptical of what he saw as the single-minded focus on Covid vaccines and what he considered to be the suppression of treatments like the one he received, as well as more scientifically dubious drugs like ivermectin and hydroxychloroquine. "All you saw in the US media was vaccine, vaccine, vaccine," he said. "Any other mentions of these alternative treatments were blacklisted." He now believes not only that the Covid vaccines are bioweapons, but also that the Democratic party has lost its way—he saw it even before Covid in Democrats' soft stance on domestic surveillance under Obama, and now he sees it in foreign policy, too. In a pivot I frankly did not see coming, he said, "I do not recognize this administration or this party when it comes to the war in Ukraine," especially since he claims that Russia had good reason to invade the country because of its problem with Nazis (ostensibly a reference to Russian President Vladimir Putin's shaky-at-best justification for his invasion).

It's possible, though, that something unrelated to politics deepened his disenchantment with progressives: In 2015, his PR firm closed abruptly after several female former employees accused him of sexual assault and harassment; he spoke to me on the condition that I note that the US Attorney declined to file any criminal charges, and a woman who had accused him of rape publicly retracted her allegations and apologized as part of a settlement in 2019.

Both Kirsch and FitzGibbon complained that progressive groups with whom they both were previously allied would no longer return their calls—about Covid or anything else. Aggrieved, they were determined to press on in what they saw as a countercultural but righteous crusade—a sentiment echoed by many of the speakers. Their alienation and what they consider to be oppression only further energizes them and their cause. In a heartfelt speech in the ballroom, Sujata Gibson, a New York-based lawyer and activist who recently won a lawsuit that led to New York overturning its vaccine mandate for healthcare workers, compared current medical freedom activism to the Indian struggle for independence, Nelson Mandela's campaign against apartheid in South Africa, and the American civil rights movement. "Part of what we have to do as lawyers when we're in these tyrannical moments in history—and this one is quite extreme—is we have to hold the line in the courts," she said. "I've been lucky enough to see time after time how David and Goliath battles can be won."

Disclaimer: Any third-party material in this email has been shared for internal use under fair use provisions of U.S. copyright law, without further verification of its accuracy/veracity. It does not necessarily represent my views nor those of NIAID, NIH, HHS, or the U.S. government.

Date: Fri, 26 Apr 2024 7:36:42 AM -0400
Sent: Fri, 26 Apr 2024 7:36:22 AM -0400
Subject: Re: Details and a link to my upcoming Public Hearing
From: Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6)
To: Roberts, Rich <(b) (6)
CC: (b) (6) <(b) (6) Peter Daszak <(b) (6) Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6) Jeff Sturchio <(b) (6) (b) (6) Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) (b) (6)

I look forward to seeing you there, Rich! Best Peter

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP

Texas Children's Hospital: Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics | Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development | Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

Baylor College of Medicine: Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine | Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology | Health Policy Scholar

Baylor University, University Professor
Rice University, Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty
Texas A&M University, Faculty-Senior Fellow, Hagler Inst for Advanced Study & Scowcroft Institute of Intl Affairs

E-mail | Twitter | LinkedIn | Skype: (b) (6)
Amazon Author Center | Daily Beast Contributor

Senior Coordinator & Executive Support: Douglas Soriano
(b) (6) | Phone: (b) (6) Fax: 713-798-2299

Media Inquiries:
(b) (6)
(b) (6)
iPhone

On Apr 26, 2024, at 6:28 AM, Roberts, Rich <(b) (6) > wrote:

Peter:

Good luck. I am at the NAS meeting and will be in the audience.

Rich

Get Outlook for iOS

From: Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6)
Sent: Friday, April 26, 2024 7:19:14 AM
To: (b) (6) <(b) (6)
Cc: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) Keusch, Gerald T <k(b) (6) Jeff Sturchio <(b) (6) Roberts, Rich <(b) (6) (b) (6) <(b) (6) Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) >; (b) (6) <(b) (6) >

MORENS_NIH_047322
REL0000482341

Subject: Re: Details and a link to my upcoming Public Hearing

EXTERNAL SENDER

Thanks, whether it stimulates any tangible action or deliverables is hard to say, but I will try! Best Peter

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP

Texas Children's Hospital: Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics | Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development | Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

Baylor College of Medicine: Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine | Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology | Health Policy Scholar

Baylor University, University Professor
Rice University, Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty
Texas A&M University, Faculty-Senior Fellow, Hagler Inst for Advanced Study & Scowcroft Institute of Intl Affairs

E-mail | Twitter | LinkedIn | Skype: (b) (6)
Amazon Author Center | Daily Beast Contributor

Senior Coordinator & Executive Support: Douglas Soriano
Douglas.(b) (6) | Phone: 713-798-1199 | Fax: 713-798-2299

Media Inquiries:
homa.shalchi@bcm.edu
(b) (6)
iPhone

On Apr 26, 2024, at 5:48 AM, (b) (6) <(b) (6) > wrote:

Peter, that is great. I hope you pull no punches and also get a chance to let NAS colleagues what is happening and what needs to be done to put an end to it. d

Sent from Proton Mail Android

-------- Original Message --------
On 4/26/24 01:20, Hotez, Peter Jay wrote:

Dear Peter: this Sunday I'm in DC at NAS on a panel with Tony Fauci, Michael Mann, and Akiko Iwasaki discussing the political attacks on scientists and I plan to comment on these horrific congressional hearings, best Peter

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP

Texas Children's Hospital: Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics | Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development | Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine

Development

Baylor College of Medicine: Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine | Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology | Health Policy Scholar

Baylor University, University Professor
Rice University, Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty
Texas A&M University, Faculty-Senior Fellow, Hagler Inst for Advanced Study & Scowcroft Institute of Intl Affairs

E-mail | Twitter | LinkedIn | Skype: (b) (6)
Amazon Author Center | Daily Beast Contributor

Senior Coordinator & Executive Support: Douglas Soriano
(b) (6) | Phone: (b) (6) | Fax: 713-798-2299

Media Inquiries:
(b) (6)
(b) (6)
iPhone

On Apr 25, 2024, at 10:35 PM, Peter Daszak <(b) (6) > wrote:

*****CAUTION:*** This email is not from a BCM Source. Only click links or open attachments you know are safe.**

Dear colleagues,

Sadly we're getting close to my upcoming public hearing with the SSCP. There are some details and a link below that you can use to watch it live on the day:
https://uspolitics.einnews.com/pr_news/706672646/hearing- advisory-ecohealth-alliance-president-dr-peter-daszak-to-testify-on-may-1

Hearing Advisory: EcoHealth Alliance President Dr. Peter Daszak to Testify on May 1

WASHINGTON — On May 1, 2024 at 10:00am ET, the Select Subcommittee on the Coronavirus Pandemic will hold a hearing titled, "A Hearing with the President of EcoHealth Alliance, Dr. Peter Daszak." This hearing will examine EcoHealth Alliance's (EcoHealth) use of U.S. taxpayer dollars to fund dangerous gain-of-function research at the Wuhan Institute of Virology as well as hold Dr. Daszak publicly accountable for any and all discrepancies between his closed-door transcribed interview and available evidence. Prior to Dr. Daszak's public testimony, the Select Subcommittee will release the full transcript from Dr. Daszak's transcribed interview and publish a detailed report about EcoHealth's impact on the origins of COVID-19.

Read more about Dr. Daszak's upcoming hearing here.

WHAT: Hearing titled "A Hearing with the President of EcoHealth Alliance, Dr. Peter Daszak"

DATE: Wednesday, May 1, 2024

TIME: 10:00AM ET

LOCATION: 2154 Rayburn House Office Building

WITNESS:

Dr. Peter Daszak

President

EcoHealth Alliance, Inc.

WATCH: The hearing will be open to the public and press and will be livestreamed online at https://oversight.house.gov/hearing/a-hearing-with-the-president-of-ecohealth-alliance-dr-peter-daszak/.

RSVP: Media must be congressionally credentialed and RSVP by Tuesday, May 1 at 5:00 PM ET.

###

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: (b) (6)
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

From: (b) (6) (b) (6)
Sent: Wednesday, April 24, 2024 6:37 PM
To: Peter Daszak (b) (6) >; Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6) Jeff Sturchio (b) @ Roberts, Rich <(b) (6) Hotez, Peter Jay < (b) (6)

MORENS_NIH_047325
REL0000482341

Cc: Aleksei Chmura <chmura@ecohealthalliance.org>; feigelson@ecohealthalliance.org
Subject: Re: Now public that Tony Fauci will testify in front of SSCP on June 3rd

I do not I t have a date yet. My lawyer is ne
motivating with sscp

In the meantime, my law.yers have initiated a professional deep dive into my Gmail and Proton mail,and will turn that over to sscp. This will take some time. I doubt there is anything to find but of course. they will look for crumbs to blow up into mountains. d

Sent from Proton Mail Android

-------- Original Message --------
On 4/24/24 17:33, Peter Daszak wrote:

> I've attached a pdf of the story in the Washington Post (it's behind a paywall) – also here: https://www.washingtonpost.com/health/2024/04/24/fauci- congress-testimony-pandemic/.
>
> David – have your lawyers managed to get a date for you to testify yet?

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: (b) (6)
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

From: Peter Daszak (b) (6)
Sent: Friday, April 19, 2024 9:15 PM

To: (b) (6) (b) (6) ; 'Keusch, Gerald T' (b) (6) 'Jeff Sturchio' (b) (6) >; 'Roberts, Rich (b) (6) >; 'Hotez, Peter Jay' < (b) (6)

Cc: 'Aleksei Chmura' (b) (6) ; 'John Feigelson' < (b) (6)

Subject: RE: Today's news...

By the way – Allegations that me sending information to David Morens is somehow corrupt are outrageous. Tony Fauci was busy working with the White House COVID taskforce at the time, trying to halt the worse pandemic since the 1918 influenza outbreak. I would have happy emailed him directly, but pretty sure he wasn't checking each of his 50,000 emails a day!

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: +(b) (6)
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

---

From: Peter Daszak (b) (6) .>
Sent: Friday, April 19, 2024 8:10 PM
To: (b) (6) (b) (6) ; 'Keusch, Gerald T' (b) (6) >; 'Jeff Sturchio' (b) (6) ; 'Roberts, Rich' (b) (6) >; 'Hotez, Peter Jay' < (b) (6)

Cc: Aleksei Chmura (b) (6) >; John Feigelson < (b) (6) >

Subject: Today's news...

Had a very successful EcoHealth Alliance benefit last night – sorry some of you couldn't be there.

Michael Mann was our main honoree, and he was great! We raised well above our

expectation – all critical to keeping us afloat given the increased pressure we're under right now.

Speaking of which – here's the latest attempt from the SSCP to smear David Morens, EcoHealth Alliance and others as being involved in a 'cover up'

https://nypost.com/2024/04/19/us-news/ex-fauci-adviser-shared-confidential-nih-info-with-ecohealth-about-covid-biosafety-levels-docs/

Basically, they've found an email from me to David, Jerry others when the allegations that EcoHealth expts were conducted at an insufficient BSL level first came out. Tony Fauci was interviewed and said that he would look into it. I sent David M. a review I'd done of the BSL rules for Bat CoVs in various countries, which clearly show that we were operating at the correct biosafety levels.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: +1(b) (6)
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

From: (b) (6) <(b) (6)
Sent: Wednesday, April 17, 2024 7:16 AM
To: Peter Daszak (b) (6) >; Keusch, Gerald T (b) (6) ; Jeff Sturchi (b) (6) ; Roberts, Rich (b) (6) Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6)
Cc: Aleksei Chmura (b) (6)
Subject: Re: Testimony from Science Editor, Holden Thorp in front of the SSCP today

Peter, my thought is that it could have been worse, and he does blame Collins as well.... d

Sent from Proton Mail Android

-------- Original Message --------
On 4/16/24 20:59, Peter Daszak wrote:

Unpleasant to see him criticize me and EcoHealth today, in a pretty shoddy attempt to curry favor with the SSCP:

https://x.com/COVIDSelect/status/1780332154620092505

Here's the text of the tweet:

Select Subcommittee on the Coronavirus Pandemic

@COVIDSelect

<image005.png>
<image005.png>
<image005.png>

@ScienceMagazine AGREES that EcoHealth Alliance may have misled the U.S. government about its highly controversial DEFUSE proposal — which some believe created a blueprint for COVID-19. WATCH
<image005.png>
<image005.png>

You can see the video of him criticizing our work here:

https://youtu.be/Oru0-fYGcJU

The relevant section starts at 1hour, 31 minutes and 30 seconds into the video

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: (b) (6)
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

From: Peter Daszak <(b) (6)
Sent: Tuesday, April 16, 2024 3:22 PM
To: (b) (6) <(b) (6) (b) (6) >; 'Keusch, Gerald T' (b) (6) >; 'Jeff Sturchio' (b) (6) 'Roberts, Rich' (b) (6) 'Hotez, Peter Jay' <(b) (6)
Cc: Aleksei Chmura (b) (6) >; John Feigelson <fe(b) (6)
Subject: COVID Select Subcommittee subpoena to David Morens for correspondence etc.
Importance: High

Here is today's subpoena & a cover letter to David Morens from the SSCP for all correspondence with the following people, related to WIV, EcoHealth or COVID origins or "regarding or referencing the following people". He has to produce this by April 30th

No direct demand for public hearing has been made public yet.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: +(b) (6)
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

From: (b) (6) <(b) (6)

Sent: Monday, April 15, 2024 8:39 PM
To: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) g>; Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6) >; Jeff Sturchio (b) >; Roberts, Rich <r (b) (6)); Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6)
Cc: Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) (b) (6) ;

Subject: Re: COVID select subcommittee is now threatening to call David in for a public hearing

Guys,my lawyer called and i am to be subpoenaed to testify in public hearing on camera. They want me b4 Tony but after Peter. The Dems reached out to my lawyer and asked WTF is going on. Not sure why they don't know. d

Sent from Proton Mail Android

-------- Original Message --------
On 4/12/24 16:12, Peter Daszak wrote:

> Here's the COVID committee (SSCP) threatening to call David in for a public hearing based on the emails they claim show that we all used gmail inappropriately (based on a Washington Examiner report today)…
>
> Tweet here: https://x.com/COVIDSelect/status/1778859503796056214
>
> Washington Examiner BS article here: https://www.washingtonexaminer.com/policy/healthcare/2964227/ecohealth-alliance-email-release-confirms-fauci-aide-used-private-account-discuss-covid/
>
> Full text of tweet:
>
> **Post**
> See new posts
> **Conversation**
> **Pinned**
> <image003.jpg>
>
> **Select Subcommittee on the Coronavirus Pandemic**
>
> @COVIDSelect
>
> <image005.png>
> BREAKING
> <image005.png>
>
> @EcoHealthNYC
> President Dr. Peter Daszak CONFIRMS whistleblower

allegations that Dr. David Morens — a top advisor to Dr. Fauci — used Gmail to hide COVID-19 information. We are beginning the process to secure Dr. Morens's public testimony.
<image004.jpg>

From washingtonexaminer.com

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: +(b) (6)
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

From: kuuipo9 <(b) (6)
Sent: Friday, April 12, 2024 1:37 PM
To: Peter Daszak (b) (6) >; Keusch, Gerald T < (b) (6) Jeff Sturchio (b) Roberts, Rich < Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6)
Cc: Aleksei Chmura (b) (6) (b) (6)
Subject: Re: My email to Michael Hiltzik with an EcoHealth Statement and Email release today

Again. this is excellent. We need more of these stand-up-to-bullies fusillades. d

Sent from Proton Mail Android

-------- Original Message --------
On 4/12/24 11:20, Peter Daszak wrote:

> Please read the email I just sent to Michael Hiltzik. It has links to a statement from EcoHealth and the release of the full text (slight redactions) of emails that involve David and Jerry, and were reported in the NY Post and other Right wing outlets yesterday, amplified by Republicans on the COVID Committeee…

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: (b) (6)
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

From: Peter Daszak <(b) (6)
Sent: Friday, April 12, 2024 11:19 AM
To: 'Michael Hiltzik' (b) (6) >
Cc: 'Aleksei Chmura (b) (6) <
(b) (6) >
Subject: EcoHealth Statement and Email release today has relevance to NIH and Michael Lauer issues
Importance: High

Good to talk with you yesterday Michael. We got more negative press yesterday, this time related to emails that allegedly show coverups and inappropriate behavior among scientists. The Republicans released only the subject line and addresses etc. (https://oversight.house.gov/release/wenstrup- reveals-emails-from-whistleblower-alleging-additional-attempts-by-fauci-advisor-to-subvert-transparency-about-covid-19-origins/), leading to BS stories in the usual right wing press. We released the full text of the emails today:

https://www.ecohealthalliance.org/2024/04/ecohealth- alliance-releases-emails-that-are-the-subject-of-false-allegations-in-the-press

These are all from me to senior NIAID staffmember David Morens and former NIH Center Director Jerry Keusch, trying to make sense of the termination of our grant by Trump, and to find a way to get it reinstated. In the end NIH did reinstate the grant (May 2023). One of the chains shows emails that refer to the pressure from Michael Lauer, and the fact NIH instructed me not to talk with our program officer (Erik Stemmy) and direct all communications to Grants Management (Emily Linde). That was another highly unusual move from NIH and is part of the pattern that I was talking with you about.

Here is that particular set of emails:
https://www.ecohealthalliance.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/04/Emails-01.pdf

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: (b) (6)
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

From: Michael Hiltzik (b) (6)
Sent: Tuesday, April 9, 2024 6:01 PM
To: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >
Subject: Re: Call tomorrow?

Absolutely. That time is good…I can call then...

MH

On Tue, Apr 9, 2024 at 2:59 PM Peter Daszak <(b) (6) > wrote:

Hi Michael – just following up on this – are you available tomorrow at 5:30pm my time, 2:30pm West Coast time?

I can send a zoom link or call my cellphone 845-641-0899

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: +(b) (6)
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

---

From: Peter Daszak (b) (6)
Sent: Sunday, April 7, 2024 9:34 AM
To: 'Michael Hiltzik' <(b) (6)
Cc: 'Aleksei Chmura ((b) (6) @ <(b) (6) 'Alison Andre ((b) (6) (b) (6)
Subject: RE: Confidential - NIH still hampering EcoHealth's ability to conduct work 4 years since the termination of our grant
Importance: High

I have good answers for you on all of those – it's ugly and political. There are also others who are well-placed who you can talk with.

I can do Wednesday at 5:30pm my time if that works for you (2:30pm West Coast). I have other times as well… cc'ing Alison who will make sure we find a time that works.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: +1(b) (6)
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

From: Michael Hiltzik (b) (6)
Sent: Saturday, April 6, 2024 6:50 PM
To: Peter Daszak <(b) (6)
Subject: Re: Confidential - NIH still hampering EcoHealth's ability to conduct work 4 years since the termination of our grant

Peter,

Let's set up a time to talk next week (Wednesday or later best for me). On first glance, it strikes me that I'm glad I'm not in the grants-application business, because the bureaucratic behavior here seems incomprehensible, at least to a layman.

What's the overarching theme in their relations with you? Is it pressure from the lab-leak crowd, the FOIAing from Tobias, which as far as I can tell has yielded nothing of any substance? A spillover from the Trump era?

I read the Science piece, which was thorough in detailing what was done to the Chinese researchers but silent on what provoked it....what was the question I was left with--Why did NIH do all this?

MH

On Sat, Apr 6, 2024 at 12:03 PM Peter Daszak <(b) (6) > wrote:

> Hi Michael, I'm just contacting you off the record in case you or others are interested in reporting on what's going

MORENS_NIH_047336
REL0000482341

on at NIH with respect to EHA's grants. We were trying to deal with this privately, without it becoming public, but we found out last week that some of our recent correspondence with Emily Erbelding asking for her help is in a batch of FoIA's emails that will be released to Jimmy Tobias in the next couple of weeks. Tobias is in the habit of simply dumping these on the internet, so we wanted to get these to a bona fide reporter before that happens.

As you probably know, our organization has been funded by NIAID for around 20 years, conducting successful research on emerging diseases, and working closely with communities, scientists and governments in emerging disease hotspot countries to try to reduce the risk of disease emergence. Prior to the termination of our R01 grant in April 2020 that would have had the Wuhan Institute of Virology as a subrecipient, we had never had any issues with NIH or NIAID, and had been lauded by program officers for our cutting edge research into viral emergence, and the many papers in Science, Nature, NEJM and others based on NIH funding.

After the termination of our grant, the HHS OIG was called in to audit our work and NIH's oversight. They reported back after an 18 month audit with recommendations for both us, and for NIH, most of which were minor and easily addressed. We rapidly complied and NIH's DFAS group confirmed that all audit findings were resolved. However, we continued to receive further actions from the Office of the Director (Michael Lauer, who *Science* wrote about re. NIH's actions on grantees with China connections https://www.science.org/content/article/pall- suspicion-nihs-secretive-china-initiative-destroyed-scores-academic-careers), and the NIH group that manages oversight (OPERA) directly under Michael Lauer. In April 2023, Michelle Bulls from Opera and Emily Linde from NIAID placed 4 Specific Award Conditions (SACs) on our grants. At the time, Michael Lauer had contacted Tufts University who oversaw our IACUC approvals to conduct wildlife sampling because EHA doesn't have an animal facility. This led to Tufts canceling our interinstitutional agreement. The only way for us to proceed was to request an Animal Welfare Assurance from OLAW (based at NIH), but this was denied because of these SACs. One of the SACs stated that all of our subcontracts must be reviewed and revised by NIH reviews. We worked extremely hard to rapidly respond (often within days) to every single request, despite many of them being contradictory or having no material impact on the contracts. In the original letter NIH set a deadline of September 2023 to resolve the SACs, which due to

repeated delays by NIH grants management staff in responding to us, continued further requests and shifting of the goalposts means we still do not have resolution. Furthermore, grants management are now suggesting that we are beyond the period of work and our subcontractees won't be able to be reimbursed. Additionally, during the past 12 months, NIH has only reimbursed EcoHealth for around $50K of the now nearly $2 million we are expecting and have expended.

As you can imagine, this puts us in a very difficult position, with institutions like UNC and Uniformed Services University likely to be outraged that their funding is threatened, and with us unable to do our work fully – work that has been reviewed, scored well, and is critical to pandemic prevention. We've tried every possible avenue to get a fair and reasonable rapid resolution. We've informed Emily Erbelding of these issues (hence the FoIA'd email), and Program staff at NIAID remain supportive of our work, but we still have no resolution. Every time we try to seek a meeting or resolution, we get a hard response from NIH that we're out of compliance and they set further deadlines and further minor issues for us to fix. Right now I believe we're probably in greater compliance with NIH rules and just about any other institution in the US, given the level of scrutiny we've gone through. I've attached some of the many recent letters between NIH OPERA, NIAID Grants managements and EcoHealth Alliance to give you an indication of the levels of detailed work that we've gone through to try and resolve these issues.

We don't know the reasons why this is happening – all our subcontracts prior to April 2023 covered every single requirement in NIH's grants management guidance, subrecipients had to sign that they would adhere to these. The stonewalling, and shifting of goalposts by NIH is linked to emails that they send us stating that we're 'delinquent' or 'out of compliance', or that they're 'concerned' etc. and seem to us designed ready to be FoIA'd (which they are being) or to be used when NIH has to show Congressional Republicans that EcoHealth is being treated in the way they are calling for. Meanwhile, important findings can't be reported, including a novel SARS-CoV-2 related virus able to bind well to human ACE2 that we have found in one of our country sites, but are now unable to publish because our subrecipient is concerned they don't yet have an approved contract. This is hurting our ability to conduct pandemic prevention work, and the US's ability to be informed about public health threats that could emerge and threaten our citizens.

If you want to report on this, I'm happy to talk on-the-

record on some issues, and there are others who are aware of these problems that I can put you in touch with, including at NIH and senior people from outside.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: (b) (6)
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

Date: Sun, 20 Mar 2022 9:05:18 PM -0400
Sent: Sun, 20 Mar 2022 9:05:01 PM -0400
Subject: RE: Enigma, wrapped within a riddle, peppered with a conspiracy...
From: Peter Daszak <(b) (6)
To: David Morens <(b) (6) Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6) Roberts, Rich <(b) (6) Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6)
CC: Jeff Sturchio <(b) (6) Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6)

The Hill has now come out with a story about their interview of the journalist who interviewed me. Amusingly, they quote her as calling accusations that our work was involved in the COVID-19 emergence as "conspiracy theories".

Feels like pop is eating itself as they try to churn each story into another one....

https://thehill.com/policy/healthcare/598816- hvistendahl-reports-that-us-funded-lab-leaked-covid-19-are-dangerous

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: (b) (6)
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

From: Peter Daszak (b) (6)
Sent: Sunday, March 20, 2022 1:17 PM
To: 'David Morens ((b) (6) 'Keusch, Gerald T' (b) (6) ; 'Roberts, Rich' (b) (6) 'Hotez, Peter Jay' (b) (6)
Cc: Jeff Sturchio (b) Aleksei Chmura (b) (6) (b) (6)
Subject: Enigma, wrapped within a riddle, peppered with a conspiracy...

Thought you might all get some mild amusement from this clip. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ROEC1EPc60E It's a couple of right wing 'journalists' at *The Hill.TV* "*Rising*" program interviewing a journalist from *The Intercept* that I spoke with a couple of weeks ago. If you look at the last couple of minutes, they actually try to make a conspiracy out of the other conspiracy journalist...

The Intercept has been attacking us for months, armed with out-of-context FoIA'd emails, sentences from reports, and unfunded grant proposals, so I agreed to talk with them to correct some of the disinformation. I answered all their questions honestly of course, including about our unfunded DARPA proposal with Ralph Baric and others. They asked repeatedly if the work in that grant had been done. I told them the grant wasn't funded so the work wasn't done, but they kept asking if others on the proposal could have done it, in particular the paragraph where Ralph Baric proposed changes to polybasic cleavage sites we might find in bat-CoVs, including furin cleavage sites and if his group could have done the work. Honest answer is of course, "I don't know".

In the last two mins of the video, they have a good effort at twisting this to interpret that SARS-CoV-2 could have emerged from Univ. N. Carolina!

The Intercept journalist kept trying to correct them, but they ended with "So Dr. Baric, if you're listening, we're happy to do an interview"…

You couldn't make this crap up!

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: (b) (6)
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

Disclaimer

This communication, together with any attachment, may contain confidential and/or proprietary information (including without limitation copyright material and/or other intellectual property) and is intended only for the person(s) and/or entity(ies) to whom it is addressed. If you are not the intended recipient of this communication, or if you received it in error, you should not disseminate, distribute or copy this communication and you are asked to kindly delete it and promptly notify us. Any copying, use, disclosure or distribution of any part of this communication or taking any action in reliance on the contents of this communication, unless duly authorized by or on behalf of EcoHealth Alliance, is strictly prohibited and may be unlawful.

Date: Mon, 3 Oct 2022 3:22:10 PM -0400
Sent: Mon, 3 Oct 2022 3:22:01 PM -0400
Subject: Re: Jeff Sachs accuses US of blowing up the Nordstream pipelines last week....
From: "Hotez, Peter Jay" <(b) (6)
To: Peter Daszak <(b) (6)
CC: David Morens <(b) (6) Gerald Keusch <(b) (6) Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) Rich Roberts <(b) (6) Jeff Sturchio <(b) (6) >;
Attachments: image001.jpg; image001.jpg

I saw the Garry rebuttal paper in PNAS which I thought was excellent. What about your paper Jerry? Should all these papers be put together in a packet?

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP

Texas Children's Hospital: Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics | Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development | Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

Baylor College of Medicine: Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine | Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology | Health Policy Scholar

Baylor University, University Professor
Rice University, Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty
Texas A&M University, Faculty-Senior Fellow, Hagler Inst for Advanced Study & Scowcroft Institute of Intl Affairs

E-mail | Twitter | LinkedIn | Skype: (b) (6)
Amazon Author Center | Daily Beast Contributor

Senior Coordinator Executive Support: Douglas Soriano
(b) (6) | Phone: (b) (6) | Fax: 713-798-2299

Media Inquiries:
(b) (6)

iPhone

On Oct 3, 2022, at 2:15 PM, Peter Daszak <(b) (6) > wrote:

*****CAUTION:*** This email is not from a BCM Source. Only click links or open attachments you know are safe.**

Looks like he's deep in conspiracy land on a number of issues:

https://video.twimg.com/ext_tw_video/1576915780515553282/pu/vid/1280x720/0aRcMZC6LHGNHa7-_.mp4?tag=12

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: (b) (6)
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

From: David Morens (b) (6) >
Sent: Monday, October 3, 2022 6:43 AM
To: Gerald Keusch <(b) (6) Peter Daszak (b) (6) g>; Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) Peter Hotez (b) (6) ; Rich Roberts <(b) (6) Jeff Sturchio <(b) (6)
Subject: Fwd: NYT book review: Scientists Knew More About Covid-19 Than We Think. And They Still Do./In "Breathless," David Quammen explores the predictable lead-up to the global Covid pandemic, and the frantic, belated attempts to stop it.

Sent from my iPhone
David M Morens
OD, NIAID, NIH
Begin forwarded message:

> **From:** "Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E]" <(b) (6)
> **Date:** October 3, 2022 at 06:42:51 EDT
> **To:** David Morens (b) (6)
> **Subject: Fwd: NYT book review: Scientists Knew More About Covid-19 Than We Think. And They Still Do./In "Breathless," David Quammen explores the predictable lead-up to the global Covid pandemic, and the frantic, belated attempts to stop it.**
>
> Sent from my iPhone
> David M Morens
> OD, NIAID, NIH
> Begin forwarded message:
>
> > **From:** "Folkers, Greg (NIH/NIAID) [E]" (b) (6)
> > **Date:** October 2, 2022 at 22:54:29 EDT
> > **Subject: NYT book review: Scientists Knew More About Covid-19 Than We Think. And They Still Do./In "Breathless," David Quammen explores the predictable lead-up to the global Covid pandemic, and the frantic, belated attempts to stop it.**
> >
> > # Scientists Knew More About Covid-19

Than We Think. And They Still Do.

In "Breathless," David Quammen explores the predictable lead-up to the global Covid pandemic, and the frantic, belated attempts to stop it.



New Jersey first responder Robert Sabia being decontaminated after answering a call in March, 2020.Credit...Chang W. Lee/The New York Times

By Michael Sims
Oct. 1, 2022

"Nobody," Donald Trump claimed in a March 2020 address, "had any idea." He was talking about the Covid virus — which had, seemingly overnight, sparked a global pandemic. In his compelling and terrifying new book, "Breathless: The Scientific Race to Defeat a Deadly Virus," the veteran science journalist David Quammen demonstrates just how much was known — and expected — by infectious disease scientists long before patrons of the Huanan Seafood Wholesale Market fell ill in December 2019 with a pneumonia-like virus.

"Soothsayer" isn't on Quammen's extensive résumé, but he was among those who had long predicted this kind of catastrophe. In 2012 he provided a field guide to the future, "Spillover," whose subtitle — "Animal Infections and the Next Human Pandemic" — explains exactly what the scientific community had long been expecting.

"This is a book about the science of SARS-CoV-2," he specifies in his new book. "The medical crisis of Covid-19, the heroism of health care workers and other people performing essential services, the unjustly distributed human suffering, and the egregious political malfeasance that made it all worse — those are topics for other books." Instead, he focuses his informed attention on the unsung heroes who dare to wrestle with viruses, those strange entities he calls "the dark angels of evolution." Human beings are part of a sprawling family of interconnected species who can share illness because they all grew up together. It is our common ancestry and related bodily ecology that makes spillover possible between, say, bats and Earth's (currently) dominant mammal.

Covid is, after all, as natural as a wolf cub or David Attenborough, and its thriller-level rate of evolution is part of its danger. "A virus is a parasite, yes," writes Quammen, "a genetic parasite, to be more precise, using the resources of other organisms to replicate its own genome." He demonstrates the sheer *weirdness* of viruses when he explains how difficult it is to even define them.

Quammen follows the story of Covid from scientists' first awareness of the outbreak in Wuhan through

MORENS_SUBPOENA_001581
MORENS_NIH_007881
REL000482344

reports of Omicron in late 2021. Alongside the human story, spillover between humans and other animals is a persistent theme. Early in 2020, a dog in Hong Kong tested positive. There were positive cats in Minnesota, two positive hippos in Antwerp, a positive tiger in Knoxville. An outbreak spread through mink farms in the Netherlands. Last year, of the many white-tailed deer sampled in Pennsylvania, 44 percent tested positive. The persistent danger of spillover between species informs arguments over the virtues and the flaws of both approaches to pandemics: "prediction and prevention versus surveillance and response."

"Breathless" is so good that I was slow to realize that it lacks the vivid you-are-there details of "Spillover." That's because he *wasn't* there. In "Breathless," there are no scenes of an intrepid author helping trap macaques at a Sufi shrine or examining a white-footed mouse for Lyme-infested larval ticks. Among its other virtues, "Spillover" was something of a nightmare travel book, but "Breathless" is a different species of tour de force. Quammen's research methods have mutated. "I avoided airports for more than two years after Covid-19 exploded," he says up front, "and I got through the year 2020 on one tank of gas." Yet these barriers didn't prevent him from writing a luminous, passionate account of the defining crisis of our time — and the unprecedented international response to it. While many people were begging for mercy from the motley of gods that they also credit with designing this Eden for viruses, epidemiologists and vaccine scientists all over the world raced to save the lives of people they would never meet.

Citing Faulkner's multiple narrators, Quammen says, "The discernment of truth — let's make that 'truth,' because it's such an imperious and suspect word — comes from listening to many voices." He read a library's worth of books and Zoomed with some 95 sources — epidemiologists, geneticists and public health officials who were closely involved in research and decision-making. He smoothly weaves not only their facts, but their way of speaking, into his story. "Spoken words are data, in nonfiction," he says, "and I share scientists' respect for the sanctity of data." He provides a mini-biography of each interviewee. Backstage outtakes humanize the participants, as when Quammen asks Anthony Fauci whether Brad Pitt or Kate McKinnon did a better job of satirizing him. These glimpses undergird his assertion that science is "a rational process leading toward ever-clearer understanding of the material world, but it's also an activity performed by humans."

Quammen marries an old-fashioned love of colorful language to his passion for detail — an odd coupling that results not just in a lucid book about an important topic, but also in a book that's a pleasure to read. "What nature of bug seethed in this dollop of liquid human distress?" he asks of a private genome-sequencing company in Guangzhou. Sometimes his Chandleresque metaphors distract. (When the rate of infection among the deer spikes, it's "like popcorn in a hot pan.") Usually, however, his imagery vividly reinforces a point. He explains that a laboratory sample from bat feces "is not a virus, just as the text of 'Hamlet, Prince of Denmark' is not a performed play" — that the sample is, instead, "the script of a virus." Quammen can't resist snarking that Trump, "as you may have heard, is not a scientific sophisticate," but he doesn't waste much time shooting at such an easy target. He describes Elon Musk as an "entrepreneur and spaceman," and Alex Azar, the secretary of health and human services, as "pliable." The "Intelligence Community" is "a bodacious aggregation of intelligences" that includes Space Delta 7 — "within the United States Space Force, whatever that is." Didier Raoult, the French physician who promoted hydroxychloroquine, Quammen terms a "prideful contrarian." Hydroxychloroquine did indeed have a history of prescription for malaria, and, he deduces, presumably, "Trump listened to people who listened to people who listened to Didier Raoult."

While staying on mission, Quammen allows himself room for context. The importance of the February 2020 announcement that scientists had found in pangolins a close match to the virus infecting humans makes more sense — both scientific and narrative — because Quammen begins with a brief survey course on these armored-looking, anteater-like creatures. He smoothly interweaves their evolution, the ecological sin of animal trafficking, the imaginary pharmacological virtues of pangolin scales (which are actually mostly keratin) and the contemporary "vogue in urban China for *ye wei*, or 'wild tastes.'"

"This virus is going to be with us forever," Quammen warns, with a wealth of data and precedent to support him. We haven't eradicated polio or measles. "And those viruses have nowhere to hide except within humans." This one could be cleared from every living human, and still exist in other animals. "Covid-19 won't be our last pandemic of the 21st century. It probably won't be our worst." In our international world, as one scientist tells Quammen, "A disease anywhere is a disease everywhere."

Michael Sims's books include "Adam's Navel" and a companion volume to the National Geographic Channel series "In the Womb: Animals."

BREATHLESS: The Scientific Race to Defeat a Deadly Virus | By David Quammen | 406 pp. | Simon & Schuster | $28.99

MORENS_SUBPOENA_001582
MORENS_NIH_007882
REL0000482344

Disclaimer: Any third-party material in this email has been shared for internal use under fair use provisions of U.S. copyright law, without further verification of its accuracy/veracity. It does not necessarily represent my views nor those of NIAID, NIH, HHS, or the U.S. government.

Date: Fri, 4 Jun 2021 5:13:59 PM -0400

Subject: Re: Daily Mail: Now one of the original lab leak deniers calls for a 'thorough investigation' into Covid's origin as he admits 'a lot of disturbing information' has surfaced since he signed Lancet letter denouncing theory

From: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] <(b) (6)

To: Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6)

CC: Breman, Joel (NIH/FIC) [V] <(b) (6) >; Karen Goraleski <(b) (6) >; Rosenthal, Philip (Infectious Diseases) <(b) (6) >; Jacobson, Julie <(b) (6) >; Stephen Popper <(b) (6) (b) (6) (b) (6) Dan Bausch <(b) (6) >; Taubenberger, Jeffery (NIH/NIAID) [E] <(b) (6) >; Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >; Rich Roberts <(b) (6) <(b) (6)

Attachments: image002.gif; image003.jpg; image004.jpg; image002.gif; image003.jpg; image004.jpg

Jerry, i think that's a good idea. I floated the thought of something similar a few days ago

Let's hear again from Karen, Phil, Julie, Joel, Dan Christine and the others. This is doable altho the details are to be determined. d

Sent from my iPhone
David M Morens
OD, NIAID, NIH

On Jun 4, 2021, at 17:08, Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6) wrote:

I was thinking along the same lines. At least today two Washington Post journalists said some rational things about the spillover of CoV-2 to the human population.

It seems to me there should be a one year reassessment of the article published last year, with all of us continuing to support the most likely evidence supported pathways rather than the evidence free lab leak scenario, and why the heat of the debate as currently being framed (it is essentially free of any light) will prevent any non-political international science based approach to move forward.

Jerry

From: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] <(b) (6)
Sent: Friday, June 4, 2021 4:35 PM
To: Breman, Joel (NIH/FIC) [V] <(b) (6) Karen Goraleski <(b) (6) Rosenthal, Philip (Infectious Diseases) <(b) (6) Jacobson, Julie <(b) (6) <(b) (6) >; Stephen Popper <(b) (6) (b) (6) Breman, Joel (NIH/FIC) [V] <(b) (6) christine- (b) (6) Dan Bausch <(b) (6) <(b) (6) >
Cc: Taubenberger, Jeffery (NIH/NIAID) [E] <(b) (6) >; Peter Daszak

MORENS_SUBPOENA_016028
MORENS_NIH_033779
REL0000482349

(b) (6)
) <(b) (6) Rich Roberts ((b) (6)
<(b) (6) Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6)
Subject: FW: Daily Mail: Now one of the original lab leak deniers calls for a 'thorough investigation' into Covid's origin as he admits 'a lot of disturbing information' has surfaced since he signed Lancet letter denouncing theory

Dear ASTMH colleagues,

As of today, shockingly, our own Charlie Calisher, who has been involved in so-called GOF research, and who coauthored last year's ASTMH paper, and who has been an esteemed colleague of mine for 45+ years, told the press in two separate interviews that he now thinks the lab leak theory is possible. Peter Palese, an esteemed researcher who has done and been accused of GOF research today said the same. I am very depressed by this, as I know these men and their scientific creds and their integrity.

What is going on?

Possibility no. 1: I am totally crazy and the whole world is a conspiracy that I am blind to.

Possibility no. 2: this is a McCarthy-era witchhunt story and good people are being drawn into it from fear, moral confusion, or a weak inability to evaluate scientific evidence I (I rather hope it's not the latter)….

Before deciding on which of these two, I would recommend seeing the play, or more conveniently and quickly the movie made from it, of Arthur Miller's McCarthy-era classic "The Crucible". I went through all of this as a kid. This whole thing is to me déjà vu all over again.

I don't know what, if anything, ASTMH can or should do, but let us at least agree that this is one of the most dangerous attacks on science in memory.

Surely we should have a voice in some sphere.

David

David M. Morens, M.D.
CAPT, United States Public Health Service
Senior Advisor to the Director
Office of the Director
National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases
National Institutes of Health
Building 31, Room 7A-03
31 Center Drive, MSC 2520
Bethesda, MD 20892-2520
(b) (6) (assistant: Whitney Robinson)
(b) (6)

Disclaimer: This message is intended for the exclusive use of the recipient(s) named above. It may contain information that is PROTECTED, PRIVILEGED, and/or CONFIDENTIAL, and it should not be disseminated, distributed, or copied to persons not authorized to receive such information. All sensitive documents must be properly labeled before dissemination via email. If you are not the intended recipient, any dissemination, distribution, or copying is strictly prohibited. If you have received this communication in error, please erase all copies of the message and its attachments and notify us immediately.



Now one of the original lab leak deniers calls for a 'thorough investigation' into Covid's origin as he admits 'a lot of disturbing information' has surfaced since he signed Lancet letter denouncing theory

- **EXCLUSIVE: Peter Palese has U-turned after claiming virus was natural in origin**
- **New York microbiologist signed letter in Lancet denouncing all other theories**
- **'Bullying' letter has been described as ostracizing dissenting voices in science**

By Joe Davies For Mailonline
Published: 12:11 EDT, 4 June 2021 | Updated: 13:46 EDT, 4 June 2021



Dr Peter Palese, a professor of microbiology at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai in New York, has U-turned after previously supporting a letter denying that COVID-19 could've leaked from a Wuhan lab

One of the 27 Covid lab leak deniers who signed a letter denouncing the theory that the virus escaped from a lab in Wuhan has now called for a 'thorough investigation' into Covid's origins, MailOnline can reveal.

Dr Peter Palese, a microbiologist at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai in New York, signed the letter in the Lancet in February last year claiming the virus could only have been natural in origin and to suggest otherwise would create 'fear, rumors, and prejudice'.

The 'bullying' letter was criticized by experts for ostracizing anyone offering different opinions on the virus' origins,

MORENS_SUBPOENA_016030
MORENS_NIH_033781
REL0000482349

dismissing them as conspiracy theorists.
It is only now, nearly 16 months after that letter was published in the world-renowned medical journal, that the theory Covid was accidentally leaked from a lab in Wuhan is being looked at seriously.
US President **Joe Biden** last week ordered intelligence agencies to launch a probe into whether Covid was man-made after all. But **China** immediately hit back and called the suggestion a 'conspiracy'.
And now Professor Palese, 77, has made a significant U-turn, admitting all theories on how Covid came about now need proper investigating.
He told MailOnline: 'I believe a thorough investigation about the origin of the Covid-19 virus is needed.
'A lot of disturbing information has surfaced since the Lancet letter I signed, so I want to see answers covering all questions.'
Asked how he was originally approached to sign the letter and what new information had come to light specifically, Professor Palese declined to comment.
Palese spoke out as America's leading pandemic expert Dr. Anthony Fauci continues to face fevered calls to resign after emails revealed that leading virus experts warned Covid could be man-made even as he downplayed the possibility.
The emails also showed he communicated with Dr. Peter Daszak, the head of a non-profit that funneled U.S. taxpayer dollars to the Wuhan Institute of Virology.
Biden through his support behind the embattled expert on Friday, saying: 'Yes I'm very confident in Dr. Fauci.'
Dr. Daszak - a key architect of the Lancet letter - runs the New York-based, tax payer-funded non-profit EcoHealth Alliance, which has funneled hundreds of thousands of dollars to the Wuhan Institute of Virology.

Guardian forced to amend article it published by Peter Daszack to reveal his ties to Wuhan lab as Lancet editor voices support for lab leak theory denouncement

The Guardian was forced to amend an article it published by Dr Peter Daszack to include a reference to his work with the Wuhan Institute of Virology.
The article, published in June last year, was amended three days after its publication.
In the article titled 'Ignore the conspiracy theories: scientists know Covid-19 wasn't created in a lab', Dr Daszack said the lab-leak theory was a 'chapter in a tale of blame, misinformation and finger-pointing'.
He characterised lab-leak theorists as 'conspiracy theorists' believing in 'frankenviruses'.
The Guardian was forced to amend the original article to highlight Dr Daszack's ties to the Wuhan lab from where some suggest Covid was accidentally leaked.
The paper said: 'This article was amended on 11 June 2020 to make clear the writer's past work with researchers at the Wuhan Institute of Virology.'
Editor of the Lancet Richard Horton — who published the letter dismissing theories Covid may not have originated naturally in his prestigious scientific journal — Tweeted support for the piece.
He wrote: 'Peter Daszak rejects conspiracy theories about the origins of Covid-19 and he knows more than most of us about coronaviruses.'
Mr Horton has regularly criticised lab-leak theories during the pandemic.
He told the Hong Kong-based South China Morning Post it was it is 'not helpful' and 'unfair' to blame China for being the source of the pandemic last year.
He worked with the lab's so-called 'bat woman' Shi Zhengli as they investigated and modified coronaviruses.
Shi, 57, proved that horseshoe bats were behind a SARS virus that killed nearly 800 people in 2002 and has collected thousands of samples from bat caves.
Dr Daszak was one four Brits to sign the letter, including SAGE advisor Sir Jeremy Farrar and two other experts working for the Welcome Trust at the time. The letters' signatories included four others who worked for EcoHealth.
Jamie Metzl, who sits on the World Health Organization's advisory committee on human genome editing and is a form Bill Clinton administration staffer, said Dr Daszak's letter was a 'form of thuggery'.
He said: 'The Lancet letter was scientific propaganda and a form of thuggery and intimidation.
'By labeling anyone with different views a conspiracy theorist, the Lancet letter was the worst form of bullying in full contravention of the scientific method.'
MailOnline has approached the letters' other signatories for comment.
A Freedom of Information Act request revealed Dr Daszak told his fellow signatories in an email that the letter would not be sent under the EcoHealth logo 'and will not be identifiable as coming from any one organization of person'.
The emails show he even considered not signing the letter himself, although in the end he did.
The idea, he said was for it to be coming from 'a community supporting our colleagues'.
The letter — titled 'Statement in support of the scientists, public health professionals, and medical professionals of China combatting Covid-19' — praised the Chinese 'who continue to save lives and protect global health during the challenge of the Covid-19 outbreak'.
It went on to add: 'We stand together to strongly condemn conspiracy theories suggesting that Covid-19 does not have a natural origin.
'Conspiracy theories do nothing but create fear, rumors and prejudices that jeopardize our global collaboration in the fight

against the virus.'
It ended with the words: 'We declare no competing interests.'
The letter proved so influential that it virtually ended debate on the origin of Covid for more than a year.
Anyone who suggested it could have been man-made was shot down amid accusations of anti-Chinese xenophobia.
Robert Redfield, the former director of the Centers for Disease Control told **Vanity Fair** he received death threats after floating the theory that the virus could have been man-made.
He said: 'I was threatened and ostracized because I proposed another hypothesis. I expected it from politicians. I didn't expect it from science.'
Dr Peter Daszak, 55, from Manchester, orchestrated a behind-the-scenes 'bullying' campaign to ensure blame for Covid was directed away from a Chinese lab with which he had worked closely.
Dr Daszack worked with the lab's so-called 'bat woman' Shi Zhengli (pictured left) as they investigated and modified coronaviruses. Shi, 57, proved that horseshoe bats were behind a SARS virus that killed nearly 800 people in 2002 and has collected thousands of samples from bat caves
The theory the virus escaped from the Wuhan Institute of Virology was originally dismissed by left-leaning media outlets last year as a conspiracy theory after it was mentioned by then-President Donald Trump.
But they have now changed course with the launch of the US investigation.
Liberal US outlets, who slammed Mr Trump when he said a year ago said he had 'a high degree of confidence' that the virus escaped from a lab, have finally conceded that he may have been right — after a year ridiculing the suggestion.

Who signed the letter in The Lancet?

- Peter Daszak, EcoHealth Alliance, New York
- Charles Calisher, Colorado State University
- Dennis Carroll, Scowcroft Institute of International Affairs, Texas
- Rita Colwell, University of Maryland
- Ronald Corley, NEIDL Institute, Boston
- Christian Drosten, Charité – Universitatsmedizin Berlin, Germany
- Luis Enjuanes, National Center of Biotechnology, Madrid
- Jeremy Farrar, The Wellcome Trust, London
- Hume Field, EcoHealth Alliance, New York
- Josie Golding, The Wellcome Trust, London
- Alexander Gorbalenya, Leiden University Medical Center, Leiden, Netherlands
- Bart Haagmans, Erasmus Medical Center, Rotterdam, Netherlands
- James Hughes, Emory University, Atlanta
- William Karesh, EcoHealth Alliance, New York
- Gerald Keusch, Boston University
- Sai Kit Lam, University of Malaya, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
- Juan Lubroth, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, Rome, Italy
- John Mackenzie, Curtin University, Perth, Australia
- Larry Madoff, Massachusetts Medical School
- Jonna Mazet, University of California at Davis
- Peter Palese, Icahn School of Medicine, New York
- Stanley Perlman, University of Iowa
- Leo Poon, The University of Hong Kong
- Bernard Roizman, University of Chicago
- Linda Saif, The Ohio State University
- Kanta Subbarao, The University of Melbourne, Australia
- Mike Turner, The Wellcome Trust, London

The lab-leak theory was bolstered last week after it was revealed three workers at the Wuhan lab were hospitalized in November, 2019, months before Covid was first discovered in China.
China claims the virus was transmitted to humans from an animal host, with bats and pangolins both named as potential sources. Many scientists agree that is the most likely theory.
Professor of clinical microbiology at the University of Cambridge Ravi Gupta, a member of Nervtag, said the theory has not yet been investigated with 'scientific rigor'.
He told **The Telegraph**: 'The possibility was not adequately explored due to lack of access to primary records by the WHO group. Lab leak has not been scientifically rejected as a cause using [the] scientific rigor that one would expect.'
A soon to be published report by a team of British and Norwegian experts suggests it is possible to trace the creation of the virus to research in China that began in 2008.
Professor David Relman, a microbiologist at Stanford University, said the theory needs to be investigated by an

international consortium of scientists in collaboration with the UN.
He said: 'Ideally, an investigation would rely on an international consortium of scientists under the auspices of many national academies of science working in partnership, in collaboration with an international governance entity, the UN Secretary General's Office, or something of that sort.'
And Harvard epidemiologist Professor Marc Lipsitch said a lab escape scenario 'remains plausible enough that it should be looked into rigorously'.
He told the paper: 'This is not a fringe position, given that multiple European governments and Dr Tedros have said the same.'
He said that while scientists are not saying a lab origin is more likely than a natural one, a thorough investigation is needed to reveal the cause of the pandemic.
As Dr Daszak's links to the Wuhan lab become clearer, more questions are being asked about his influence over the WHO team that went to China in January and stayed for four weeks searching for answers.
The team was met with resistance in China. Authorities there made them quarantine for two weeks in Wuhan and barred two members completely after they tested positive for coronavirus antibodies.
But critics say the WHO researchers were too cozy with Chinese authorities, who are desperate not to shoulder the blame for a worldwide death toll now approaching 3.6 million.
They claim its members may have been influenced by a tour they took round a 'propaganda museum' which described Wuhan's fight against the virus and the leading role taken by President Xi Jinping.
While China has tried to insist the virus originated elsewhere, academics, politicians and the media have begun to contemplate the possibility it escaped from the WIV - raising suspicions that Chinese officials simply hid evidence of the early spread
The Wuhan Institute of Virology is about 20 miles from the Huanan Seafood Market where the first coronavirus cases are reported to have occurred
In recent weeks, the lab-escape theory has gained ground. Already British intelligence officials, who are helping the US search for the cause of the pandemic that has cost nearly 600,000 American lives, are said to be leaning towards the man-made scenario.
Last week MailOnline revealed two leading scientists had found 'unique fingerprints' in Covid samples that could only have come from lab manipulation.
British Professor Angus Dalgleish and Norwegian scientist Birger Sørensen, wrote that they have had 'prima facie evidence of retro-engineering in China' for a year — but were ignored by academics and major journals.

Did Covid originate in Chinese lab?

The Wuhan Institute of Virology has been collecting numerous coronaviruses from bats ever since the SARS outbreak in 2002.
They have also published papers describing how these bat viruses have interacted with human cells.
US Embassy staff visited the lab in 2018 and 'had grave safety concerns' over the protocols which were being observed at the facility.
The lab is just eight miles from the Huanan wet market which is where the first cluster of infections erupted in Wuhan.
The market is just a few hundred yards from another lab called the Wuhan Centers for Disease Prevention and Control (WHCDC).
The WHCDC kept disease-ridden animals in its labs, including some 605 bats.
Those who support the theory argue that Covid-19 could have leaked from either or both of these facilities and spread to the wet market.
Most argue that this would have been a virus they were studying rather than one which was engineered.
Last year a bombshell paper from the Beijing-sponsored South China University of Technology recounted how bats once attacked a researcher at the WHCDC and 'blood of bat was on his skin.'
The report says: 'Genome sequences from patients were 96% or 89% identical to the Bat CoV ZC45 coronavirus originally found in Rhinolophus affinis (intermediate horseshoe bat).'
It describes how the only native bats are found around 600 miles away from the Wuhan seafood market and that the probability of bats flying from Yunnan and Zhejiang provinces was minimal.
In addition there is little to suggest the local populace eat the bats as evidenced by testimonies of 31 residents and 28 visitors.
Instead the authors point to research being carried out within 300 yards at the WHCDC.
One of the researchers at the WHCDC described quarantining himself for two weeks after a bat's blood got on his skin, according to the report. That same man also quarantined himself after a bat urinated on him.
And he also mentions discovering a live tick from a bat - parasites known for their ability to pass infections through a host animal's blood.
'The WHCDC was also adjacent to the Union Hospital (Figure 1, bottom) where the first group of doctors were infected during this epidemic.' The report says.
'It is plausible that the virus leaked around and some of them contaminated the initial patients in this epidemic, though

solid proofs are needed in future study.'
Professor Dalgleish, 71, a vaccine researcher and professor of oncology at St George's Hospital, last year struggled to find a publisher for his paper suggesting the virus's spike protein contains artificially inserted sequences.
He said the research was shunned by the scientific community, who did not want to threaten China or be seen to be agreeing with President Donald Trump — who was a big advocate for the theory the virus was leaked from a lab at the time.
The oncologist said: 'The changes required to infect humans are extremely unlikely to have occurred naturally.'
Professor Dalgleish — who ran for Parliament as a UKIP candidate in 2015 — said the President's use of the terms 'Wuhan flu' and 'China virus' damaged scientific debate on the subject.
He told The Times: 'I was basically ostracized. I was fearful — really frightened by the way I was being treated. I was told I was not an expert on coronaviruses and I should just shut up.
'We couldn't believe people with whom we'd collaborated and published papers with in the past would shun us — I was warned I was out of my depth and I shouldn't get into this and I'd make a fool of myself.'
And just last week President Joe Biden ordered another look at the theory as part of a wide-ranging intelligence investigation into the pandemic's origins. He felt it so urgent that he put a 90-day deadline for a conclusion.
Emails from Dr Anthony Fauci, Mr Biden's chief medical advisor, show that leading virus experts warned Covid could be man-made even as he downplayed the possibility.
Fauci says those emails, obtained by Buzzfeed, have been taken out of context.
But he did U-turn about where the virus may have originated this week, saying 'you never know'.
One of them was from Dr Daszak, who thanked Dr Fauci for pushing back on the man-made theory.
In April, Dr Drazak wrote: 'I just wanted to say a personal thank you on behalf of our staff and collaborators, for publicly standing up and stating that the scientific evidence supports a natural origin for Covid-19 from a bat-to-human spillover, not a lab release from the Wuhan Institute of Virology.'
Even WHO's Ethiopian director-general Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said the report was not extensive enough and more work needed to be done to discover the cause of Covid.
'As far as WHO is concerned, all hypotheses remain on the table,' he said.
'This report is a very important beginning, but it is not the end.'
America is looking at the theory seriously, leading to China hitting out at the 'dark history' of the US intelligence community after President Biden's probe was announced.
Lijian Zhao, foreign ministry spokesman who has been Beijing's point-man in trying to pin blame for the pandemic outside the country's borders, accused the US of trying to shift blame away from its own high Covid case and death counts - and suggested security services may be involved in a cover-up.
Meanwhile Hu Xijin, editor of the state mouthpiece Global Times newspaper, accused Biden of trying to discredit a WHO investigation which concluded that a lab leak is 'unlikely' — although critics have previously blasted that report as a China-centric whitewash.
China's American embassy also hit out, accusing Biden and his security services of being 'fixated on political manipulation and (the) blame game' in a statement on its website.
No10 officials have called for investigators to probe all theories as to how the Covid pandemic began.
Dominic Cummings this week revealed the PM held meetings when the crisis first began to discuss whether it had 'escaped' from a laboratory and whether the disease had been 'engineered'.

The Lancet letter in full: 'Statement in support of the scientists, public health professionals, and medical professionals of China combatting COVID-19'

We are public health scientists who have closely followed the emergence of 2019 novel coronavirus disease (Covid-19) and are deeply concerned about its impact on global health and wellbeing.
We have watched as the scientists, public health professionals, and medical professionals of China, in particular, have worked diligently and effectively to rapidly identify the pathogen behind this outbreak, put in place significant measures to reduce its impact, and share their results transparently with the global health community. This effort has been remarkable.
We sign this statement in solidarity with all scientists and health professionals in China who continue to save lives and protect global health during the challenge of the Covid-19 outbreak.
We are all in this together, with our Chinese counterparts in the forefront, against this new viral threat.
The rapid, open, and transparent sharing of data on this outbreak is now being threatened by rumours and misinformation around its origins.
We stand together to strongly condemn conspiracy theories suggesting that Covid-19 does not have a natural origin.
Scientists from multiple countries have published and analysed genomes of the causative agent, severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2), and they overwhelmingly conclude that this coronavirus originated in wildlife, as have so many other emerging pathogens.
This is further supported by a letter from the presidents of the US National Academies of Science, Engineering, and Medicine and by the scientific communities they represent.

Conspiracy theories do nothing but create fear, rumours, and prejudice that jeopardise our global collaboration in the fight against this virus.
We support the call from the Director-General of WHO to promote scientific evidence and unity over misinformation and conjecture.
We want you, the science and health professionals of China, to know that we stand with you in your fight against this virus.
We invite others to join us in supporting the scientists, public health professionals, and medical professionals of Wuhan and across China. Stand with our colleagues on the frontline!
We speak in one voice. To add your support for this statement, sign our letter online. LM is editor of ProMED-mail. We declare no competing interests.

Sen. Rand Paul says Fauci's emails paint a 'disturbing picture' about what he knew about work inside the Wuhan lab

Sen. **Rand Paul** continued his blitz on Dr. **Anthony Fauci** in the wake of Fauci's email dump, telling Fox that Fauci knew the US was funding gain-of-function research in Wuhan even though he continues to deny it.
The Republican from **Kentucky** told Fox Thursday night that Fauci's emails 'tell me early on that he was very worried' before the pandemic even started.
'There's a disturbing picture. He gets an email or he gets notification of what's going on in Wuhan and immediately sends something to his assistant saying, "We must meet immediately." And in the subject line it says gain of function research in Wuhan.'
While Paul and other Republicans have come after Fauci, Biden reaffirmed his confidence in Fauci in a Friday morning press conference.
The president had actually left the room where he gave the speech when DailyMail.com shouted a question to him about the director of the U.S. National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases.
President Biden stuck his head back in to answer.
'Yes I'm very confident in Dr. Fauci,' he said.
Paul's Thursday night interview on Fox - and weeks of public comments that - makes it clear that senator doesn't share have the same faith in Fauci, and he alluded to a February 1, 2020 email exchange between Fauci and Principal NIAID Director Dr. Hugh Auchincloss.
Auchincloss wrote to Fauci to discuss a paper Fauci sent him appearing to question if National Institute of Health (NIH) grants funded gain-of-function research relating to coronaviruses.
In the email to Fauci, Auchincloss said, 'The paper you sent me says the experiments were performed before the gain of function pause but have since been reviewed and approved by NIH.'
He also noted that a colleague would 'try to determine if we have any distant ties to this work abroad.'
This was one of the 3,200-plus emails obtained and published by Buzzfeed News on Tuesday.
The NIH awarded a $3.7 million grant to EcoHealth Alliance, which is based in the United States, to study the risk of coronaviruses emerging from bats in 2014. EcoHealth Alliance in turn distributed nearly $600,000 of that funding to its collaborator, the Wuhan Institute of Virology.
The senator also took a shot Thursday at the embattled chief medical advisor on Twitter after Amazon and Barnes & Noble pulled his book from their sites because it wasn't supposed to be released until November: 'Oh, I don't know. I think they should publish it. I love science fiction.'
Paul's interview came after Fauci dismissed the recent revelations that he was warned that COVID-19 may have been 'engineered' and said that the emails are easily misunderstood.
During a Wednesday interview on the Donlon Report, Fauci said of the emails, 'The only trouble is they are really ripe to be taken out of context where someone can snip out a sentence in an email without showing the other emails, and say "based on an email from Dr. Fauci, he said such and such" where you don't really have the full context.'
Fauci added that the Wuhan lab 'is a very large lab to the tune of hundreds of millions, if not billions of dollars.'
'The grant that we're talking about was $600,000 over five years for an average of about $125,000 to $140,000 a year,' he said.
Fauci also said on Donlon that he 'can't guarantee everything that is going on in the Wuhan lab.'
Paul has been on Fox twice since a trove of Fauci's emails - dating from January to June 2020 - were obtained and published by Buzzfeed on Tuesday.
Within hours of publication, Paul tweeted '#firefauci' and other Republicans, like Majorie Greene Taylor, followed suit.
Until recently, the Wuhan lab leak was at best a fringe theory, and it has been mostly laughed off by many scientists. The general consensus on COVID-19's origin was that it jumped from a bat to a human in the Wuhan market.
Despite the recent scrutiny, Fauci continues to say that's what he believes happened.
During Senate committee hearings in early May, Paul sparred with Fauci over the two origin theories and said the lab leak is a real possibility that's not being acknowledged.
Instead of investigating the cause of COVID-19 'government authorities - self-interested in continuing gain of function research - say there's nothing to see here,' Paul said during the May 11 hearing.
'To arrive at the truth, the U.S. government should admit that the Wuhan Virology Institute was experimenting to enhance

the coronavirus' ability to infect humans,' he said.
The lab leak theory is now one that President Joe Biden wants investigated.
Last week, Biden ordered a 90-day review to investigate the possibility and several high-profile public health experts have come out in recent months saying they believe that's how COVID-19 started.
British intelligence also reportedly assessed the theory recently and upgraded its likeliness from 'remote' to 'feasible'.

Disclaimer: Any third-party material in this email has been shared for internal use under fair use provisions of U.S. copyright law, without further verification of its accuracy/veracity. It does not necessarily represent my views nor those of NIAID, NIH, HHS, or the U.S. government.

Date: Thu, 3 Jun 2021 9:14:55 PM -0400
Sent: Thu, 3 Jun 2021 9:14:53 PM -0400
Subject: RE:
From: "Keusch, Gerald T" <(b) (6)
To: David Morens <(b) (6) Peter Daszak <(b) (6) Rich Roberts <(b) (6)

I heard that on the radio rebroadcast of Judy Woodruff's PBS Newhour on my way home. That's two recent interviews in which Collins is pulling back from his prior despicable actions. He needs to be held to the fire and restore EHA funding. I plan on talking to Varmus soon to get his advice on how to push Eric Lander to make noise within the cabinet, now that he has been confirmed and as of yesterday sworn in.

It's a good time to activate the troops.

Gerald T. Keusch, M.D.
Professor of Medicine
Associate Director
National Emerging Infectious Diseases Laboratory
Boston University, Boston MA 02118

-----Original Message----
From: David Morens <(b) (6) >
Sent: Thursday, June 3, 2021 6:35 PM
To: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >; Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6) Rich Roberts <(b) (6) >
Subject:

Frances Collins interview on pbs just now. He said the virus probably emerged in nature and defended the value of funding your work. He said there was no way that work nih funded could have led to covid emergence.
d

Sent from my iPhone
David M Morens
OD, NIAID, NIH

MORENS_SUBPOENA_016124
MORENS_NIH_033890
REL0000482351

Date: Thu, 15 Jul 2021 1:43:22 PM -0400
Sent: Thu, 15 Jul 2021 1:42:41 PM -0400
Subject: My last email had the wrong email address!
From: Peter Daszak <(b) (6)
To: David Morens <(b) (6) Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6) peter hotez <(b) (6)

Apologies all – just noticed I cc'd Richard Horton by mistake. I've emailed him already and asked him to ignore and delete – ouch!

I'll re-send cc'ing Rich Roberts as intended…

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: +(b) (6)
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

From: Peter Daszak (b) (6) >
Sent: Thursday, July 15, 2021 1:37 PM
To: David Morens ((b) (6) <(b) (6) 'Keusch, Gerald T'(b) (6) '
(b) (6) <(b) (6) >; peter hotez ((b) (6)
Subject: Confidential: WHO DG Circular Letter to Member States - Origins of SARS-CoV-2
Importance: High

David – please pass this information on to Tony and Clifford if you possibly can,

The WHO DG, Dr. Tedros set up a 6am Monday morning meeting with the current WHO Origins team – the international experts who went to Wuhan to work with our China counterparts on COVID origins. He announced they'd be disbanding the team, setting up a separate structure and moving to a system whereby a new team will be formed to do Phase 2 of the work in China. The stated goal is to follow member state's wishes and improve transparency in the way the origins team is selected. Sadly it will reduce transparency because there will now be a 'behind closed doors' decision from the member states on who of the nominees are put forward to WHO, then another 'behind closed doors' decision from WHO on who is selected, with, we've been told, the DG of WHO having final say.

From my point of view it's a real problem because given the political pressure from the Right wing, it might prevent my future involvement in this work. This means my 17 years + of collaboration with the very people in China who we need to work with, will not be part of Phase 2 work – including designing the animal testing protocols that are my key expertise. Disbanding the current team will also significantly delay the work and this threatens to undermine our capacity to do the trace-back, as

antibodies wane among wildlife farmers in rural China who we've proposed should be interviewed and tested in Phase 2, for example. The current team has a good working relationship with the China side and has made significant progress over the last few months, meeting weekly as an international expert group and working with our Chinese counterparts to update the WHO report, include new data and get phase 2 Terms of Reference thrashed out. We'd reached the beginnings of consensus on this.

It will also be seen as an implicitly political move on behalf of WHO, and one that projects a perception of undermining the hard work we did to produce buckets of new data in the WHO report. The rest of the team are very angry about the way we've been repeatedly undermined by politics, and we're working on a communications strategy right now.

David, I'm not sure who is the US representative for WHO Covid origins negotiations. It was publicly announced that Tony would represent the US at WHO, but it may be a State Dept or other HHS person. I think it's important that Tony and perhaps Clifford know what's happening.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: (b) (6)
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

---

From: BOEHME, Catharina Cora (b) (6) >
Sent: Wednesday, July 14, 2021 4:35 PM
To: Владимир Дедков <(b) (6) Leendertz, Fabian <(b) (6) >; Peter Daszak < (b) (6) LeendertzF (b) (6) >; Keith Hamilton (b) (6) >; John Watson (b) (6) >; DEBBICHE, Hassene (b) (6) ; Thea Kølsen Fischer < BAERT, Primaël (b) (6)) SHEATH, Danny (b) (6) Nguyen, Hung (ILRI) <(b) (6) STREIJFFERT, Carlos Johan (b) (6) DRURY, Patrick Anthony < (b) (6) >; Ken Maeda (b) (6) >; M.P.G. Koopmans (b) (6) < (b) (6) >; Hayman, David (b) (6) >; IVANOVIC, Dragana <(b) (6) >; Dr. Elmoubasher Abu Baker Abd Farag (b) (6) ; Dominic Dwyer <(b) (6) >
Cc: RYAN, Michael J. <(b) (6) Dr VAN KERKHOVE, Maria (b) (6) ; BEN EMBAREK, Peter Karim (b) (6)
Subject: Circular Letter to Member States - Origins of SARS-CoV-2

Dear all,

It was a pleasure to meet you on Monday. Please find attached for your information and on behalf of the DG our communication to member states, shared with them as a circular letter this evening. Please don't hesitate to reach out to us for follow up discussions.
Please keep this confidential during the next days. We will have a member state briefing and discussion on this subject on Friday.

With my best regards,
Catharina

MORENS_SUBPOENA_020914
MORENS_NIH_041679
REL0000482355

P.S. I hope I have the correct list of emails addresses.

Disclaimer

The information contained in this communication from the sender is confidential. It is intended solely for use by the recipient and others authorized to receive it. If you are not the recipient, you are hereby notified that any disclosure, copying, distribution or taking action in relation of the contents of this information is strictly prohibited and may be unlawful.

This email has been scanned for viruses and malware, and may have been automatically archived by Mimecast, a leader in email security and cyber resilience. Mimecast integrates email defenses with brand protection, security awareness training, web security, compliance and other essential capabilities. Mimecast helps protect large and small organizations from malicious activity, human error and technology failure; and to lead the movement toward building a more resilient world. To find out more, visit our website.

Date: Mon, 2 Aug 2021 6:01:50 PM -0400
Sent: Mon, 2 Aug 2021 5:59:08 PM -0400
Subject: FW: House report on Origins
From: Peter Daszak <(b) (6)
To: Roberts, Rich <(b) (6) Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6)
CC: David Morens <(b) (6) Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6) Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) Robert Kessler <(b) (6)
Attachments: image001.gif; image002.jpg; ORIGINS-OF-COVID-19-REPORT (1).pdf

More attempts to discredit me from the Republicans.

Just forwarding this to Rich and Peter. The Republicans in the House Foreign Affairs Committee have released a 'Covid-19 origins report' in advance of the White House intel report. It re-hashes all the usual conspiracies with no new information at all. However, they are now accusing me of following orders from China in 'covering up' COVID's origins and asking for me to be subpoena'd. Today I've been called the 'Public Face of China's Disinformation Campaign' by one right wing press outlet, and I expect this will drive a follow up cycle of abuse and offense from the Murdoch Press. In fact, I've received multiple requests for comment from reporters already including Josh Rogin in the Washington Post, reporters in the Washington Examiner etc.

Here are some articles:

https://www.nationalreview.com/corner/house- report-names-public-face-of-chinas-disinformation-campaign-on-covid-origin/

https://news.yahoo.com/peter- daszak-subpoenaed-wuhan-lab-183600491.html

https://nypost.com/2021/08/02/gop- investigation-proves-covid-leaked-from-wuhan-lab-report/

https://www.telegraph.co.uk/world- news/2021/08/02/covid- did-leak-wuhan-lab-say-republicans-want-subpoena-british/

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: +(b) (6)
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

From: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] <(b) (6)
Sent: Monday, August 2, 2021 11:24 AM
To: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) g >; Keusch, Jerry <(b) (6) <(b) (6) ; Taubenberger, Jeffery (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b) (6) ; Jason Gale (BLOOMBERG/ NEWSROOM:) (b) (6) >; Eddie Holmes (b) (6) >; Kessler, Robert (b) (6) <(b) (6) >; Wang Linfa < (b) (6))

Subject: FW: House report on Origins

David

David M. Morens, M.D.
CAPT, United States Public Health Service
Senior Advisor to the Director
Office of the Director
National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases
National Institutes of Health
Building 31, Room 7A-03
31 Center Drive, MSC 2520
Bethesda, MD 20892-2520
(b) (6) (assistant: Whitney Robinson)
(b) (6)

Disclaimer: **This message is intended for the exclusive use of the recipient(s) named above. It may contain information that is PROTECTED, PRIVILEGED, and/or CONFIDENTIAL, and it should not be disseminated, distributed, or copied to persons not authorized to receive such information. All sensitive documents must be properly labeled before dissemination via email. If you are not the intended recipient, any dissemination, distribution, or copying is strictly prohibited. If you have received this communication in error, please erase all copies of the message and its attachments and notify us immediately.**



From: Embry, Alan (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b (b) (6) >
Sent: Monday, August 2, 2021 11:19 AM
To: NIAID OD AM <NIAIDODAM@niaid.nih.gov >
Subject: House report on Origins

Disclaimer

The information contained in this communication from the sender is confidential. It is intended solely for use by the recipient and others authorized to receive it. If you are not the recipient, you are hereby notified that any disclosure, copying, distribution or taking action in relation of the contents of this information is strictly prohibited and may be unlawful.

This email has been scanned for viruses and malware, and may have been automatically archived by Mimecast, a leader in email security and cyber resilience. Mimecast integrates

MORENS_SUBPOENA_021304
MORENS_NIH_042159
REL0000482361

email defenses with brand protection, security awareness training, web security, compliance and other essential capabilities. Mimecast helps protect large and small organizations from malicious activity, human error and technology failure; and to lead the movement toward building a more resilient world. To find out more, visit our website.

MORENS_SUBPOENA_021305
MORENS_NIH_042160
REL0000482361

Date: Thu, 21 Apr 2022 9:32:03 AM -0400
Sent: Thu, 21 Apr 2022 9:31:46 AM -0400
Subject: RE: New GAO Report on Scientific Integrity at HHS
From: Peter Daszak <(b) (6)
To: Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6)
CC: Jeff Sturchio <(b) (6) Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6) Roberts, Rich <(b) (6) David Morens <(b) (6)

Exactly – it's weak and will likely be ineffective at dealing with the pressures from the rabid Right wing.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: (b) (6)
org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

From: Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6)
Sent: Thursday, April 21, 2022 9:23 AM
To: Peter Daszak <(b) (6)
Cc: Jeff Sturchio <(b) (6) Keusch, Gerald T (b) (6) Roberts, Rich (b) (6) (b) (6) David Morens <(b) (6)
Subject: Re: New GAO Report on Scientific Integrity at HHS

Problem is this does not address the bigger issue of widespread attacks on science and scientists, most outside the government from the US Congress, conservative news outlets and even the federal courts

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP
Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine
Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology
Health Policy Scholar
Baylor College of Medicine

Texas Children's Hospital Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics
Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development

University Professor, Baylor University

Faculty Fellow, Hagler Institute for Advanced Study
Senior Fellow, Scowcroft Institute of International Affairs
Texas A&M University
Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty and Adjunct Professor of Bioengineering, Rice University
Adjunct Professor, University of Texas, School of Public Health

Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

E-mail: (b) (6)
Twitter: @peterhotez
Skype: (b) (6)
Linkedin Peter Hotez

Amazon Author Center: https://www.amazon.com/Peter- J.-Hotez/e/B001HPIC48
Daily Beast Contributor https://www.thedailybeast.com/author/peter- j-hotez
Like us on Facebook https://www.facebook.com/BCMNationalSchoolOfTropicalMedicine/

Senior Coordinator / Executive Support: Douglas Soriano
(b) (6)
Phone: (b) (6)
Fax: 713-798-2299

iPhone

On Apr 21, 2022, at 7:55 AM, Peter Daszak <(b) (6) wrote:

*****CAUTION:*** This email is not from a BCM Source. Only click links or open attachments you know are safe.**

The GAO was asked by the Biden administration to look into political interference in science by the white house under Trump. They interviewed me repeatedly last year and this year about the termination of our R01 grant.

https://www.gao.gov/products/gao- 22-104613

This is the first report from them on the topic. It's massively disappointing, of course, because it just comes up with broad recommendations on what agencies should do to protect themselves against political interference. However, if you read the email below, this is the first of two reports, and the second one should hopefully go into more detail about the NIH actions on EcoHealth's grant.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: +(b) (6)
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

From: Marek, Robert J (b) (6)
Sent: Wednesday, April 20, 2022 5:56 PM
To: (b) (6)
Subject: New GAO Report on Scientific Integrity at HHS

Dear Peter,

Thank you for participating in our report on scientific integrity at HHS. Our completed report can be accessed here. Please feel free to share it with your network and colleagues. We plan to issue an additional report that will examine the key characteristics that can insulate agencies from political interference, and how, if at all, the selected HHS agencies have experienced potential political interference while carrying out their missions.

Thank you again for your time and providing information on this important topic.

Sincerely,

Rob Marek

Disclaimer

This communication, together with any attachment, may contain confidential and/or proprietary information (including without limitation copyright material and/or other intellectual property) and is intended only for the person(s) and/or entity(ies) to whom it is addressed. If you are not the intended recipient of this communication, or if you received it in error, you should not disseminate, distribute or copy this communication and you are asked to kindly delete it and promptly notify us. Any copying, use, disclosure or distribution of any part of this communication or taking any action in reliance on the contents of this communication, unless duly authorized by or on behalf of EcoHealth Alliance, is strictly prohibited and may be unlawful.

Disclaimer

This communication, together with any attachment, may contain confidential and/or proprietary information (including without limitation copyright material and/or other intellectual property) and is intended only for the person(s) and/or entity(ies) to whom it is addressed. If you are not the intended recipient of this communication, or if you received it in error, you should not disseminate, distribute or copy this communication and you are asked to kindly delete it and promptly notify us. Any copying, use, disclosure or distribution of any part of this communication or taking any action in reliance on the contents of this communication, unless duly authorized by or on behalf of EcoHealth Alliance, is strictly prohibited and may be unlawful.

Date: Sun, 14 Apr 2024 4:18:02 PM -0400
Subject: Re:
From: David Morens <(b) (6)
To: Jeffrey Sturchio <(b) (6)
CC: Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6) Peter Daszak <(b) (6) Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6) Jeffery Taubenberger <(b) (6) Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) Roberts, Rich <(b) (6)
Attachments: image001.jpg; image001.jpg

They missed EVERYTHING that wasn't a conspiracy theory. d

>From the cell phone of David Morens

On Sun, Apr 14, 2024, 15:44 Jeffrey Sturchio <(b) (6) > wrote:

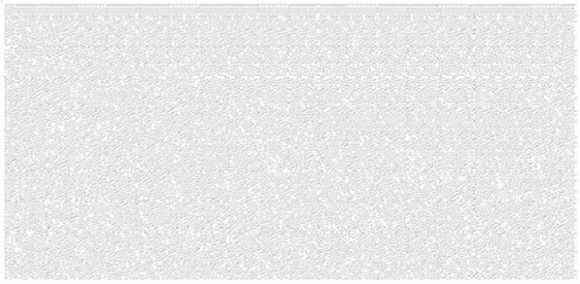
Peter: Agree – Garry's article seemed definitive to me at the time. But the lab leakers seem to have missed the memo!

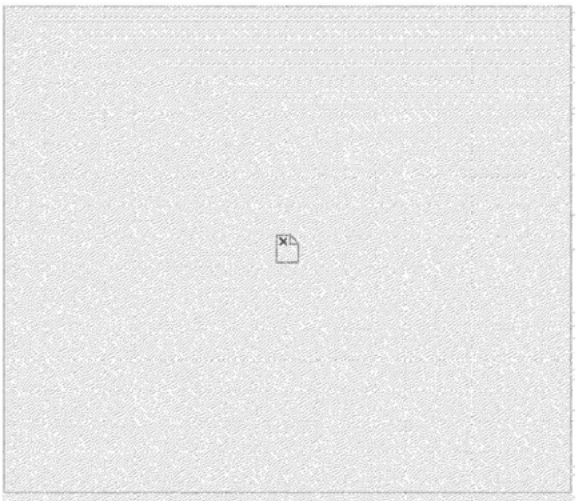
As ever,

Jeff

From: Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6)
Sent: Sunday, April 14, 2024 3:36 PM
To: Jeffrey Sturchio (b
Cc: David Morens (b) (6) >; Peter Daszak (b) (6) >; Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6) Jeffery Taubenberger <(b) (6) >; Aleksei Chmura (b) (6) >; Roberts, Rich <(b) (6)
Subject: Re:

Furin cleavage was debunked long ago by Robert Garry





SARS-CoV-2 furin cleavage site was not engineered | Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences

pnas.org

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP

Texas Children's Hospital: Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics | Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development | Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

Baylor College of Medicine: Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine | Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology | Health Policy Scholar

Baylor University, University Professor
Rice University, Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty
Texas A&M University, Faculty-Senior Fellow, Hagler Inst for Advanced Study & Scowcroft Institute of Intl Affairs

E-mail | Twitter | LinkedIn | Skype: (b) (6)

Amazon Author Center | Daily Beast Contributor

(b) (6) **e Support:** Douglas Soriano
| Phone: (b) (6) | Fax: 713-798-2299

Media Inquiries:
(b) (6)

iPhone

On Apr 14, 2024, at 2:29 PM, Jeffrey Sturchio (b) (6) > wrote:

CAUTION: This email is not from a BCM Source. Only click links or open attachments you know are safe.

David: This is a terrific article – clear, persuasive, and fully documented. It reminds me of what Carl Sagan once said in response to questions about where there was intelligent life elsewhere in the universe: "It's possible – but there isn't a smidgen of evidence for it." Kristian Andersen deserves a medal for taking the time to unravel the ins & outs of his interactions with McNeil – and how McNeil used selective evidence to build a case that isn't supported by the facts. Note, for example, that McNeil keeps banging on about the alleged insertion of a furin cleavage site into a bat coronavirus to turn it into SARS-CoV-2 as a "smoking gun" – and how Kristian Andersen dismisses that argument quickly and elegantly.

As ever,

Jeff

From: David Morens <(b) (6)
Sent: Sunday, April 14, 2024 1:46 PM
To: Peter Daszak (b) (6) Keusch, Gerald T (b) (6) >; Jeffery Taubenberger < (b) (6) >; Jeffrey Sturchio <(b) (6) >; peter hotez (b) (6) @ Aleksei Chmura < (b) (6) Roberts, Rich (b) (6) 6)
Subject:

https://medium.com/@K_G_Andersen/its- not-about-getting-the-scoop-it-s-about-getting-it-right-origin-of-covid-19-my-emails-7447e59d79e3

From the cell phone of David Morens

MORENS_SUBPOENA_014193
MORENS_NIH_026798
REL0000482366

Date: Tue, 28 Sep 2021 11:49:13 PM -0400
Sent: Tue, 28 Sep 2021 11:47:26 PM -0400
Subject: Good LA Times article.
From: Peter Daszak <(b) (6)
To: Roberts, Rich <(b) (6) Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6) David Morens <(b) (6)
CC: Robert Kessler <(b) (6)

Just saw a piece in the LA Times that sums up the state of the origins "debate" pretty clearly:

https://www.latimes.com/business/story/2021-09-28/evidence-against-a-lab-leak-as-covid-source

It's firewalled so here's the article:

Column: New evidence undermines the COVID lab-leak theory — but the press keeps pushing it

BY MICHAEL HILTZIK BUSINESS COLUMNIST
SEPT. 28, 2021 6 AM PT

When it comes to the pandemic, pseudoscience has outweighed real science at almost every turn. One of the best examples of that is the unsupported assertion that the virus causing COVID-19 escaped from a Chinese laboratory.

Despite mounting evidence that the virus reached humans through natural pathways — from infected animals such as bats — the lab-leak hypothesis recently jumped back into the news, thanks to CNN, the investigative news site the Intercept, and the Atlantic.

All treat the idea that the virus escaped from a lab credulously. They downplay or entirely ignore the latest scientific findings that support the theory that the virus' origin can be found in the animal kingdom — the view accepted by a preponderance of experts in virology.

It's a likely probability that this one originated from animals as well. But the possibility also remains that the virus leaked from a lab.
CNN'S SANJAY GUPTA OVERSTATES THE LAB LEAK THEORY

This is known as the zoonotic theory, from the term for a disease that can be transmitted from animals to humans.

We've reported before on the near absence of evidence for a lab leak, whether or not it's the product of a deliberate act.

Ever since the lab-leak claim first emerged during the Trump administration, where it was part of a White House information campaign demonizing China, one of the arguments in its favor has been that evidence for a zoonotic origin has also been spotty.

That argument has never been quite true — virologists know that animals have been the source of most of the viral diseases afflicting humanity — but it has become weaker than ever over the last year.

The question of the origin of COVID-19 isn't of merely academic interest. The answer could guide the world's preparation for future pandemics; if the virus emerged from a laboratory, then improving lab safety measures will be prioritized. If scientific opinion continues to coalesce around animal-to-human transmission, that will underscore the importance of regulating contact between humans and wildlife.

To put it another way, if we focus on the wrong answer, the right measures won't be taken. In a real sense, humankind's future depends on not being distracted by an unsupported, politically motivated claim about Chinese labs.

Before examining the flaws in the CNN, Intercept and Atlantic treatments, let's look at what's been published recently about the zoonotic path.

For context, keep in mind that the earliest cluster of COVID-19 cases, in late 2019, was identified in the environs of the Huanan seafood market in the Chinese metropolis of Wuhan. Lab-leak theorists find this significant, because it's 7.5 miles from the Wuhan Institute of Virology, which does research on bat viruses.

A paper posted online earlier this month chiefly by researchers at France's Institut Pasteur and under consideration for publication in a Nature journal, however, reports that three viruses were found in bats living in caves in northern Laos with features very similar to SARS-CoV-2, the virus responsible for COVID-19.

As Nature reported, those viruses are "more similar to SARS-CoV-2 than any known viruses."

Another paper, posted in late August by researchers from the Wuhan lab, reports on viruses found in rats also with features similar to those that make SARS-CoV-2 infectious in humans. Two other papers published on the discussion forum virological.org present evidence that the virus jumped from animals to humans at more than one animal market in Wuhan, not just the Huanan seafood market.

Given that these so-called wet markets have long been suspected as transmission points of viruses from animals to humans because they sell potentially infected animals, that makes the laboratory origin vastly less likely, according to a co-author of one of the papers.

"That a laboratory leak would find its way to the very place where you would expect to find a zoonotic transmission is quite unlikely," Joel Wertheim, an associate professor at UC San Diego's medical school, told me. "To have it find its way to multiple markets, the exact place where you would expect to see the introduction, is unbelievably unlikely."

As virologist Robert F. Garry of Tulane, one of Wertheim's co-authors, told Nature, the finding is "a dagger into the heart" of the lab-leak hypothesis.

Garry and Wertheim are among the 21 expert co-authors of a "critical review" of virological findings on the origins of COVID-19. The review concludes, "There is currently no evidence that SARS-CoV-2 has a laboratory origin."

Now let's look at the recent reporting in support of the lab-leak theory.

On Sept. 19, CNN aired an hourlong documentary entitled "The Origins of COVID-19: Searching for the Source." Hosted by the channel's star science anchor, Sanjay Gupta, the program carries the veneer of an evenhanded approach.

Proponents of the zoonotic origin theory are given airtime, including Kristian Andersen of the Scripps Research Institute in La Jolla and Peter Daszak, a prominent grant maker in the virology field.

But so are proponents of the lab-leak theory. They include Alina Chan, a researcher at the Broad Institute, a biomedical research center, and Josh Rogin, a Washington Post columnist. Neither has any experience in virology. Chan is co-writing a book about COVID's origins that is expected to feature the lab-leak theory prominently, a fact not mentioned by CNN.

Yet at the top of the hour, referring to the common pattern of viruses jumping from animals to humans, Gupta says, "It's a likely probability that this one originated from animals as well. But the possibility also remains that the virus leaked from a lab."

By posing these two theories as simply two equally plausible solutions to a mystery, CNN glosses over the fact that the virological community regards the animal origin as vastly more likely than a lab leak. In fact, the two hypotheses are miles apart in credibility.

One of the program's chief targets is a report by a World Health Organization team issued in early 2021 that found spillover from an animal host to be "likely to very likely" and a laboratory incident an "extremely unlikely pathway."

Gupta calls the WHO report "the only scientific study of COVID's origins to date." That's not remotely accurate. There have been countless scientific studies, both before the WHO report and since. Indeed, Gupta mentions one of them, a seminal paper by Andersen and colleagues, published in March 2020. That paper termed the lab-leak theory "a speculative incomplete hypothesis with no credible evidence."

Much of the rest of the CNN program is filled with speculation about the Wuhan Institute, typically presented with portentous music on the soundtrack, suggesting subliminally that something sinister is going on there. The absence of information from the institute or the Chinese government is generally taken as tantamount to an admission of guilt.

"Over the course of 2020," Gupta declares, "more and more revelations emerged related to the Wuhan Institute of Virology."

One of these revelations concerned three staff members who reportedly sought hospital treatment for a flu-like illness in November 2019, before the COVID pandemic emerged.

Nothing has ever transpired to suggest these workers had COVID — November is flu season, after all. That they sought treatment at a hospital is immaterial, since it is well-known that people in China often go to hospitals for primary care, which residents of other countries would tend to receive in a doctor's office.

A CNN reporter appearing on air overstated the case, saying the patients were "hospitalized with an unknown illness." There has been no evidence that they were admitted to the hospital or that their illness was "unknown."

MORENS_SUBPOENA_010989
MORENS_NIH_021554
REL0000482368

CNN doesn't bring its audience up to date on any of the latest research supporting the zoonotic theory, though it was published well before the air date and superseded what Gupta described as "the only scientific study" of COVID origins.

More recently, the Intercept trumpeted a purported scoop based on a leaked document — a grant proposal submitted in 2018 by Daszak's organization, the EcoHealth Alliance, to the Pentagon's Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency, or DARPA.

The proposal, for a laboratory manipulation of a virus related to SARS, the viral disease that caused an outbreak of pulmonary disease in China in 2003. DARPA rejected the proposal, however, and there's no evidence that it was submitted to, much less approved by, any other funding body.

"Many questions remain about the proposal, including whether any of the research described in it was completed," the Intercept acknowledged.

Commentators on the Intercept's disclosure have displayed, perhaps in spite of themselves, that they lack the courage of their own convictions. In an article published Sept. 24, the Atlantic, unable or unwilling to delve into what the Intercept's document actually meant, if anything, settled for declaring that it made the lab-leak debate "even messier."

The magazine's Daniel Engber and Adam Federman wrote: "Does the SARS-CoV-2 pandemic have an unnatural origin? The answer hasn't changed: probably not. But we have learned something quite disturbing in the past few days, simply from how and when this information came to light."

By pretending that the debate itself is important, as if both sides have something to offer, they manage to report on a claim that has no substance. The approach also protects journalists from their persistent fear of landing on the wrong side of things — the authors preserve an out in case the lab-leak hypothesis turns out to be true, as unlikely as that is. If that happens, they can point to their lily-livered observations and say, "See, we knew it all along."

In this debate, however, the zoonotic camp has evidence and the lab-leak camp nothing to offer but innuendo.

Here's the true state of the discussion. There is no evidence that the virus leaked from the Wuhan laboratory or any other lab. There is no evidence that the Wuhan lab was working with a bat virus that had anything but a very distant resemblance to SARS-CoV-2. Viruses that resemble it much more closely have been found in natural settings a thousand miles from Wuhan, as the crow, or bat, flies.

Evidence that artificial manipulation of a virus gave rise to SARS-CoV-2 has faded, as scientists find more evidence that features of SARS-CoV-2 thought to be unnatural occur in nature. Meanwhile, evidence for zoonotic transmission is constantly accumulating. No one who reports on the issue without acknowledging these two trends should be trusted.

Los Angeles Times columnist Michael Hiltzik writes a daily blog appearing on latimes.com. His seventh book, "Iron Empires: Robber Barons, Railroads, and the Making of Modern America," has just been published by Houghton Mifflin Harcourt. Follow him on Twitter at twitter.com/hiltzikm and on Facebook at facebook.com/hiltzik.

MORENS_SUBPOENA_010990
MORENS_NIH_021555
REL0000482368

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: +(b) (6)
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

---

From: Peter Daszak (b) (6)
Sent: Monday, September 27, 2021 11:31 AM
To: 'Roberts, Rich' <(b) (6) 'Keusch, Gerald T' (b) (6) 'David Morens' (b) (6)
Cc: Robert Kessler (b) (6)
Subject: RE: Urgent - Amendment to defund EcoHealth Alliance was passed by the House last night and now moves to the Senate

Thank you so much for doing this Rich – extremely appreciated by us all here at EHA.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: +(b) (6)
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

---

From: Roberts, Rich <(b) (6) (6)
Sent: Monday, September 27, 2021 12:11 AM
To: Keusch, Gerald T (b) (6) ; Peter Daszak (b) (6) >; David Morens <

(b) (6)

Cc: Robert Kessler <(b) (6) >
Subject: RE: Urgent - Amendment to defund EcoHealth Alliance was passed by the House last night and now moves to the Senate

Hi:

Letter sent to Harold, Tony, Eric, Francis and a staff member of Senator Ed. Markey.

Rich

Richard J. Roberts
New England Biolabs
240 County Road
Ipswich, MA 01938-2723
USA
Tel: (b) (6)
Fax: (978) 412 9910
email (b) (6)

From: Keusch, Gerald T (b) (6) >
Sent: Friday, September 24, 2021 9:05 PM
To: Peter Daszak (b) (6) >; David Morens (b) (6) >; Roberts, Rich < (b) (6) >
Cc: Robert Kessler <(b) (6)
Subject: RE: Urgent - Amendment to defund EcoHealth Alliance was passed by the House last night and now moves to the Senate

EXTERNAL SENDER

I'm going to contact my congressional representative and senators, and Tony Fauci and Victor Dzau as well.

If Rich gets in touch with Harold that could help some, at least with Eric Lander who sits in the cabinet and has the ear of the White House leadership.

Jerry

Gerald T. Keusch, M.D.
Professor of Medicine
Associate Director
National Emerging Infectious Diseases Laboratory
Boston University, Boston MA 02118

From: Peter Daszak (b) (6) >
Sent: Friday, September 24, 2021 1:31 PM
To: David Morens (b) (6) >; Keusch, Gerald T (b) (6) >; Roberts, Rich <(b) (6) 6)
Cc: Robert Kessler
Subject: FW: Urgent - Amendment to defund EcoHealth Alliance was passed by the House last night and now moves to the Senate
Importance: High

Dear Robert, David, and Jerry,

Sorry to send this, but please read the email below and you'll see that a bill filed by a Republican congressman from PA then became a single line amendment attached to the Defense Appropriations bill, and actually passed the House last night.

We're very worried here because we rely on Federal funding and this puts our organization in great threat. Any advice is welcome. We're reaching out to Senators Gillibrand and Schumer, but I'm really worried that if they are too busy to get involved

MORENS_SUBPOENA_010992
MORENS_NIH_021557
REL0000482368

for a small non-profit with no political clout, we'll be drummed out of business.

If you have colleagues who know how to deal with this sort of issue, and are willing to help, we would be extremely grateful for any advice, suggestions and support. I realize you've all spent social and political capital helping our organization since we were first targeted by Pres. Trump, but this is truly an existential threat to us, considering 80-90% of our budget is from federal grants and contracts.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA
Tel.: (b) (6)
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

From: Peter Daszak <(b) (6)
Sent: Friday, September 24, 2021 1:11 PM
To: 'Jamison, Brooke (Gillibrand)' <(b) (6) >; 'Ruiz, Gilbert (Gillibrand)' <(b) (6)
Cc: Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) Robert Kessler (b) (6) >; Jeff Sturchio (b) (6)
Subject: Urgent - Amendment to defund EcoHealth Alliance was passed by the House last night and now moves to the Senate
Importance: High

Dear Jamison and Gilbert,

You were kind enough to talk with us a couple of months ago about attacks on our New York City-based 501c3 non-profit from the hard right wing regarding the work we've done in the past trying to protect us from new emerging diseases coming out of China and other hotspots. As you remember, this work was largely funded by NIH, DoD and USAID and has become a target for Republican-led attacks on the Biden administration.

We're very concerned that one of the House Republicans, Congressman Reschenthaler, filed a bill titled HR591 "Defund EcoHealth Alliance Bill" in Jan. 2021 and managed to get this attached as Amendment 148 to the National Defense Authorization Act (HR 4350). The five other co-sponsors are all Republicans: Van Drew, Perry, Harshbarger, Keller, and Budd: https://rules.house.gov/bill/117/hr-4350. The House passed the NDAA last night (https://armedservices.house.gov/ndaa) and unfortunately this Amendment is now progressing with it.

EcoHealth Alliance is a non-profit based in Midtown Manhattan that employs around 50 people whose jobs depend on the funding we receive each year. If this amendment continues forwards, we stand to all lose our jobs and close down the organization. This amendment is based on a false premise that our organization acted wrongly and was involved in the origin of the COVID pandemic. In fact it's the opposite, we worked with federal approval to help protect US citizens against this and other pandemic risks. If passed, it would penalize an organization doing public good, without any due process or consideration of the facts. Also of great concern is that this amendment would set a precedent that any single member of Congress can specifically block funding to an organization or institution through a simple amendment, bypassing all political norms.

MORENS_SUBPOENA_010993
MORENS_NIH_021558
REL0000482368

We are urgently hoping that you will be able to make Sen. Gillibrand aware of our issue and move to strike out this amendment at the first possible opportunity. We are at this point very worried for our staff, and our work around the world protecting the US against the next pandemic.

Yours sincerely,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: (b) (6)
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

---

From: Peter Daszak <(b) (6)
Sent: Thursday, July 15, 2021 10:46 AM
To: Jamison, Brooke (Gillibrand) (b) (6)
(b) (6)
Cc: (b) (6) >; Aleksei Chmura (b) (6) >; Robert Kessler <
(b) (6)
Subject: RE: Concerns about political attacks on EcoHealth Alliance around COVID origins.

That would be perfect. It'll be me, our chief of staff Aleksei Chmura, and our Communications Director Robert Kessler.

Thanks for making time!

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: (b) (6)

MORENS_SUBPOENA_010994
MORENS_NIH_021559
REL0000482368

Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

---

From: Jamison, Brooke (Gillibrand) <(b) (6) @ e.g
Sent: Thursday, July 15, 2021 8:42 AM
To: Peter Daszak (b) (6) >; Ruiz, Gilbert (Gillibrand) (b) (6) >
Cc: Dennis Carroll (b) (6) Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) ; Robert Kessler <
(b) (6) >
Subject: RE: Concerns about political attacks on EcoHealth Alliance around COVID origins.

Happy to chat. Would Monday at 2:30pm over zoom work for you all?

From: Peter Daszak (b) (6)
Sent: Wednesday, July 14, 2021 3:38 PM
To: Jamison, Brooke (Gillibrand) (b) (6)
Cc: Dennis Carroll (b) (6) ; Aleksei Chmura (b) (6) ; Robert Kessler <
(b) (6)
al attacks on EcoHealth Alliance around COVID origins.
Importance: High

Dear Brooke,

I hope you don't mind me contacting you directly – I was given your email address by my colleague Dennis Carroll.

As you may know, I'm the President of EcoHealth Alliance, based here in NYC, and also Chair of the NASEM Forum on Microbial Threats and member of the National Academy of Medicine. I mentioned the latter, because I received a very kind letter from Senator Gillibrand when I was voted onto the NAM a couple of years ago – it's now framed on my wall!

You may have heard our organization's name (EcoHealth Alliance) and mine being mentioned in the press recently in the general discussion of identifying the origins of COVID-19. For the last 17 years, we've worked closely with colleagues in China to get ahead of emerging viruses, including by collaborating with their premier virologists at the Wuhan Institute of Virology. Unfortunately, this work has become a very public target politically following over a year of conspiracy theories online that have now gone mainstream about the possibility COVID emerged as a leak from a biosafety laboratory in Wuhan. This was amplified a few weeks ago with testimony by Dr. Fauci and the release of FoIA'd emails that have put our organization in the cross-hairs of efforts to attack the current administration. This includes proposals by some minority members for bills that would significant harm our international work to prevent pandemics, as well as directly defund our organization.

I've attached a letter in Lancet that came out last week that helps provide some context of the way this issue is being viewed by serious scientists, but as you can imagine we're worried about the impact on work that we believe is critical to preventing future pandemics. I wondered if you would be interested in my giving you a short briefing on this issue, to explain in more detail what the evidence behind these theories is, and to get your take on the political issues we are concerned about?

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507

MORENS_SUBPOENA_010995
MORENS_NIH_021560
REL0000482368

USA

Tel.: (b) (6)
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

Disclaimer

The information contained in this communication from the sender is confidential. It is intended solely for use by the recipient and others authorized to receive it. If you are not the recipient, you are hereby notified that any disclosure, copying, distribution or taking action in relation of the contents of this information is strictly prohibited and may be unlawful.

This email has been scanned for viruses and malware, and may have been automatically archived by Mimecast, a leader in email security and cyber resilience. Mimecast integrates email defenses with brand protection, security awareness training, web security, compliance and other essential capabilities. Mimecast helps protect large and small organizations from malicious activity, human error and technology failure; and to lead the movement toward building a more resilient world. To find out more, visit our website.

Disclaimer

The information contained in this communication from the sender is confidential. It is intended solely for use by the recipient and others authorized to receive it. If you are not the recipient, you are hereby notified that any disclosure, copying, distribution or taking action in relation of the contents of this information is strictly prohibited and may be unlawful.

This email has been scanned for viruses and malware, and may have been automatically archived by Mimecast, a leader in email security and cyber resilience. Mimecast integrates email defenses with brand protection, security awareness training, web security, compliance and other essential capabilities. Mimecast helps protect large and small organizations from malicious activity, human error and technology failure; and to lead the movement toward building a more resilient world. To find out more, visit our website.

Disclaimer

The information contained in this communication from the sender is confidential. It is intended solely for use by the recipient and others authorized to receive it. If you are not the recipient, you are hereby notified that any disclosure, copying, distribution or taking action in relation of the contents of this information is strictly prohibited and may be unlawful.

This email has been scanned for viruses and malware, and may have been automatically archived by Mimecast, a leader in email security and cyber resilience. Mimecast integrates email defenses with brand protection, security awareness training, web security, compliance and other essential capabilities. Mimecast helps protect large and small organizations from malicious activity, human error and technology failure; and to lead the movement toward building a more resilient world. To find out more, visit our website.

Date:	Fri, 20 May 2022 3:54:40 PM -0400
Sent:	Fri, 20 May 2022 3:52:43 PM -0400
Subject:	RE: HOTEZ PARAGRAPHS Important caveat: Potential response to the PNAS paper - initial thoughts as draft bullets
From:	Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >
To:	Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6)
CC:	Jeffrey Sturchio <(b) (6) Roberts, Rich <(b) (6) David Morens <(b) (6) Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6) Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) >;
Attachments:	image014.png; image015.jpg; image016.jpg; image017.jpg; image018.jpg; image019.jpg; image020.jpg; image021.jpg; image022.jpg; image023.jpg; image024.jpg; image025.jpg; image026.jpg; image027.jpg

Great – I'll send round a draft over the weekend, and anyone interested can edit and co-author.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: (b) (6)
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

From: Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6)
Sent: Friday, May 20, 2022 3:48 PM
To: Peter Daszak (b) (6) @ >
Cc: Jeffrey Sturchio <(b) (6) Roberts (b) (6) (b) (6) d Morens (b) (6) (b) (6)
Keusch, Gerald T (b) (6) Aleksei Chmura ; Hotez, Peter Ja
Subject: Re: HOTEZ PARAGRAPHS Important caveat: Potential response to the PNAS paper - initial thoughts as draft bullets

OK I drafted a couple of paragraphs for you to use or not or modify, ATTACHED

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP
Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine

Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology
Health Policy Scholar
Baylor College of Medicine

Texas Children's Hospital Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics
Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development

University Professor, Baylor University

Faculty Fellow, Hagler Institute for Advanced Study
Senior Fellow, Scowcroft Institute of International Affairs
Texas A&M University
Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty and Adjunct Professor of Bioengineering, Rice University
Adjunct Professor, University of Texas, School of Public Health

Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

E-mail: (b) (6) u
Twitter: @peterhotez
Skype: (b) (6)
Linkedin Peter Hotez

Amazon Author Center: https://www.amazon.com/Peter-J.-Hotez/e/B001HPIC48
Daily Beast Contributor https://www.thedailybeast.com/author/peter-j-hotez
Like us on Facebook https://www.facebook.com/BCMNationalSchoolOfTropicalMedicine/

Senior Coordinator / Executive Support: Douglas Soriano
(b) (6)
Phone: (b) (6)
Fax: 713-798-2299

From: Peter Daszak (b) (6)
Sent: Friday, May 20, 2022 12:24 PM
To: Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6)
Cc: Jeffrey Sturchio ; Roberts, Rich (b) (6) ; David Moren (b) (6)
Keusch, Gerald T (b) (6) Aleksei Chmura (b) (6)
Subject: RE: Important caveat: Potential response to the PNAS paper - initial thoughts as draft bullets

I should add that the former Lancet Taskforce (Jerry and I are on it) have a "perspectives" paper to submit Monday for PNAS that reviews all the theories on origins and proposes One Health strategies to deal with future pandemic threats, so we don't need to go too far into the arguments for a natural origin – it will be dealt with in detail in that paper.

MORENS_SUBPOENA_004799
MORENS_NIH_011840
REL0000482369

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: +(b) (6)
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

---

From: Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6)
Sent: Friday, May 20, 2022 1:07 PM
To: Peter Daszak <(b) (6)
Cc: Jeffrey Sturchio (b) (6) Roberts, Rich (b) (6) ; David Morens <(b) (6)
Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6) Aleksei Chmur (b) (6)
Subject: Re: Important caveat: Potential response to the PNAS paper - initial thoughts as draft bullets

Sounds good, let me know if and how you would like me to contribute, i could write a section that makes the case for natural origins as the most plausible scenario?

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP
Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine
Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology
Health Policy Scholar
Baylor College of Medicine

Texas Children's Hospital Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics
Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development

University Professor, Baylor University

Faculty Fellow, Hagler Institute for Advanced Study
Senior Fellow, Scowcroft Institute of International Affairs
Texas A&M University
Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty and Adjunct Professor of Bioengineering, Rice University
Adjunct Professor, University of Texas, School of Public Health

Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

E-mail: (b) (6)

Twitter: @peterhotez
Skype: (b) (6)
Linkedin Peter Hotez

Amazon Author Center: https://www.amazon.com/Peter- J.-Hotez/e/B001HPIC48
Daily Beast Contributor https://www.thedailybeast.com/author/peter- j-hotez
Like us on Facebook https://www.facebook.com/BCMNationalSchoolOfTropicalMedicine/

Senior Coordinator / Executive Support: Douglas Soriano
(b) (6)
Phone: (b) (6)
Fax: 713-798-2299

iPhone

On May 20, 2022, at 11:45 AM, Peter Daszak (b) (6) wrote:

Note that I should have said on the last email – I'm not necessarily saying we *should* rebut the paper, nor am I expecting that all of you would want to be involved. I respect your views, your moral support, and your wishes to remain above the fray – that has huge benefits also!

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: (b) (6)
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org

MORENS_SUBPOENA_004801
MORENS_NIH_011842
REL0000482369

Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

---

From: Peter Daszak (b) (6) >
Sent: Friday, May 20, 2022 12:40 PM
To: 'Jeffrey Sturchio' (b) (6) >; 'Hotez, Peter Jay' (b) (6)
Cc: 'Roberts, Rich' (b) (6) ; 'David Morens' (b) (6) 'Keusch, Gerald T' < (b) (6) >; 'Aleksei Chmura' <(b) (6) rg
Subject: Potential response to the PNAS paper - initial thoughts as draft bullets
Importance: High

FYI, Rich will be speaking with Jeff and I sent him some bullets on general reasons why the call for an investigation into US scientists is flawed, inappropriate and based on easil y debunked narratives and simple mistakes.

I think we could draft a polite and decent rebuttal based on these. The general thrust I think should be "Why investigating US scientists is the wrong way to identify COVID-19 origins, and prevent future pandemics". This would take the moral high ground in the same way that Peter Hotez has been doing with anti-vaxx sentiment, by talking about how damaging these narratives are on science, and scientists, and how they ultimately undermine public health.

Here is the summary I sent to Rich. I'll continue to read the paper and identify factual inaccuracies we can correct, hut maybe one of you (e.g. Peter) could build on this for a rebuttal draft? I have beaucoup references for each point I make, including peer-reviewed science that demolishes the FCS hypothesis, media articles where we refute some of the claims about our openness and data sharing, and reports that l ink to articles and emails that have been made public via FoIA.

Bullets for a draft rebuttal:
I think we could start on a conciliatory note that most reasonable scientists who believe the lab leak is 'extremely unlikely' (words of the WHO report I was involved with) also believe it is possible. Therefore, calls for further investigations into the origin (including a potential lab leak) are warranted and valid, and come from a basis of scientific inquiry that is beneficial. If a lab leak did happen, we should know, and it would benefit our defenses against future pandemics. However, we should then rapidly pivot to the main issue: that the call for an independent investigation in to US scientists and organizations that the article lays out, and many of the specific statements in it are based on flawed narratives, misunderstandings of the balance of the evidence, mistakes in interpreting the facts behind the work, and simple errors in understanding how science is conducted. Here are some key issues we could raise:

- Understanding COVID origins will require cooperation with China, not investigation of US scientists. A brief look at the history of recent emerging diseases shows that it usually takes many years to identify the reservoir hosts, the amplifier hosts, and the pathway to emergence (e.g. SARS – our paper showing bats carry SARSr-CoVs that can bind to human cells was published 12 years after the outbreak). To do this requires access to sample collection, testing and analysis within the country of origin, and cooperation with the government. Thus, investigating either a natural or a lab origin of COVID will absolutely require working with China.
- Why 'investigating US scientists' is already a witch hunt. The opinion piece calls for bipartisan independent commission that doesn't engage in a 'witch hunt'. However, we are already engaged in a witch hunt. The issue was politicized under Trump, and has led to dozens of letters from Republican members of Congress and the Senate to US scientists demanding documents and testimony, or making accusations about them to the agencies, to the DoJ, White House, and which are inevitably made public without the opportunity for US scientists to respond. Each of the allegations I have seen from Republicans against EHA are easily refuted with documentary evidence, but the volume of them, and their inflammatory nature means that responding to each is either logistically impossible, or simply amplifies these attacks. There have been NO bipartisan requests that I have seen.
- All *relevant* data have already been shared publicl y or with the relevant govt. agencies. The article states that " *EHA, UNC, NIH, USAID, and other research partners have failed to disclose their activities to the US scientific community and the US public, instead declaring that they were not involved in any experiments that could have*

MORENS_SUBPOENA_004802
MORENS_NIH_011843
REL0000482369

resulted in the emergence of SARS-CoV-2." This is simply not true. Each collaborating org has published dozens of papers on this work, in US (not Chinese) journals, uploading data to US (not Chinese) databases like Genbank. All of EHA's papers are available on our website for any member of the public to review, and have been for years. Our staff have given literally hundreds of public lectures on this work. Even after these attacks began, we continued to publish data from our China work, e.g. the 700+ CoV sequences we published and uploaded into Genbank in 2020). Lead scientists from each collaborating organization have shared all unpublished data of relevance (i.e. related to SARSr-CoVs) with the relevant federal agencies including NIH, USAID, DoD, and the intelligence and law enforcement agencies. Sharing of these data has been voluntary, extensive and honorable. This information has not been made public, because it undermines the agencies' ability to conduct their work.

- Demanding release of private emails, files from US scientists does not help build trust in science. Demands on US scientists to release private emails, unpublished data, drafts of reports and other documents that are normally not made public does nothing to elucidate the origins of COVID. Neither does it help build trust in science at a time when our country is so divided along party lines, and where this issue has been so politicized. With social media algorithms demonstrably amplifying negative narratives, the release of private emails and drafts of later-published reports or papers, are easily used to drive and amplify these negative narratives. We have seen this played out already – with every FoIA release of emails, they are cherry-picked for partial-sentence quotes that are then misquoted, misconstrued, and published as part of (usually) right wing hit-pieces that drive the narrative of an elite group of scientists trying to make money by manipulating viruses or vaccines. They are dangerous and lead to people avoiding vaccines. In the case of EcoHealth, the release of private documents, and the narratives around them have also demonstrably been linked to death threats, white powder letters, break-ins, and hacking attempts that we have been suffering repeatedly for the past 2.5 years.
- Inability to prove a negative: We can't prove that China didn't release a virus accidently or by design – that's the nature of scientific hypothesis testing. If US scientists are forced to release emails or files that these do not show any evidence of a lab leak, they will be followed by allegations that other files are being hidden, and therefore more requests for data dumps. For example, if my emails show that China was not working on a SARS-CoV-2 virus with NIH funding, they will be followed by allegations that we used other private funding to do this work (this has already been alleged), and further requests for private emails. Meanwhile, every email, report or unpublished paper I'm forced to turn over is used over and over again by the political forces to attack science – misquoting, using innuendo and assumptions of motives.
- Furin cleavage site hypothesis is already debunked: Theories that the FCS of SARS-CoV-2 indicates lab manipulation have been widely circulated for 2 years and repeatedly debunked by leading virologists. Firstly, there is nothing novel about a wild-type virus having an FCS – they are found in influenza where they enhance virulence, and in other CoVs, including MERS-CoV, and a Rat coronavirus we discovered in China, in wildlife farms, hotels and train stations and published during 2021. There are now peer-reviewed scientific papers demonstrating that bat-CoVs closely related to SARS-CoV-2 have mutations around the site where the FCS in SARS-CoV-2 is found, that are a few mutations away from a true FCS, indicating that this could have easily evolved in nature. These mutations around the polybasic cleavage site are found in many of the viruses closely related to SARS-CoV-2 from SE Asia, and in CoVs from European bats. Other theories about the FCS being incredibly efficient at binding to human cells, or being enhanced easily in a lab, have been refuted in these and other papers.
- Inappropriate legal basis to investigate scientists when no evidence of a lab leak has been proffered: At the moment, it is a fact that there's simply no verifiable evidence whatsoever that a lab leak occurred leading to COVID-19. We have accusations from Secretary Pompeo that people at WIV were sick from COVID in November 2019, but these are allegedly classified. We have stories about the motivations of Chinese scientists in pulling down a database, not citing papers correctly, or removing genomic data from Genbank, but all of these (and all others) can be easily explained by the normal process of doing science, and each of them has occurred many times before with other labs and other circumstances. Many of us, and many other leading scientists have spent countless hours explaining why the theories around lab leaks do not amount to "evidence of a lab leak". Without this it would be massively inappropriate for federal authorities, including the OIG, the FBI or other agencies to launch official investigations into US scientists or US organizations. That's why they haven't, and that's why the public haven't been informed of any investigations.

In addition to these issues, there are multiple factual inaccuracies in the paper that are extremely important, because some of them are used to provide justification for the lab leak theory. For example, here is an inexhaustive list, just by looking at half of one page of the paper:

- "The exact details of the fieldwork and laboratory work of the EHA-WIV-UNC partnership, and the engagement of other institutions in the United States and China, *has not been disclosed for independent analysis*." ***This is not true because details of field and laboratory work have been published repeatedly in scientific papers in the last 15 years, in reports to NIH and USAID, and are laid out in proposals that include pages of details on human subjects, animal use, biosafety and select agent use etc. These are all now public.***
- "Much of the work on SARS-like CoVs performed in Wuhan was part of an active and highly collaborative US–China scientific research program funded by the US Government (NIH, *Defense Threat Reduction Agency [DTRA]*, and US Agency for International Development [USAID]), coordinated by researchers at EcoHealth Alliance (EHA), but involving researchers at several other US institutions." ***False - DoD DTRA do not and have not funded work in China through EHA. This is an easily verified issue, and is a mistake that causes damage because conspiracy theorists globally are on the lookout for linkages to DoD, which leads to damaging narratives such as the Ukraine Biolabs conspiracy theories. The way to check this is that DTRA are NEVER cited on any publication resulting from the work in China.***
- "The precise nature of the experiments that were conducted, *including the full array of viruses collected from the field* and the subsequent sequencing and manipulation of those viruses, *remains unknown*." ***Not true. It is a widely circulated myth that our work involved 'collection of hundreds of viruses from bats'. In fact, there were only 3 isolates of SARSr-CoVs from our work. All of these have been published and some shared with labs in the USA where they were used to test Remdesivir, Molnupiravir, COVID-19 vaccine candidates and monoclonal therapies like ADG20. This work has had a direct benefit to public health and has saved lives of US citizens!***
- "These research proposals make clear that the EHA-WIV-UNC collaboration *was involved in the collection of a large number of so-far undocumented SARS-like viruses* and was engaged in their manipulation within biological safety level (BSL)-2 and BSL-3 laboratory facilities, raising concerns that an airborne virus might have infected a laboratory worker (9)" ***Not true – there were only 3 SARS-related CoVs isolated in China. All the rest are genetic sequences of a short read of the RdRp gene, with a few dozen full genomes. It's documented repeatedly in the scientific papers we published in collaboration with WIV, in mainly US journals, all of which are available publicly on PubMED and on our website. All sequences were uploaded into the US Genbank database and have been freely available for other scientists to peruse and use.***

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

MORENS_SUBPOENA_004804
MORENS_NIH_011845
REL0000482369

Tel.: +(b) (6)
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

From: Peter Daszak <(b) (6)
Sent: Friday, May 20, 2022 8:13 AM
To: 'Jeffrey Sturchio' (b) (6) >; 'Hotez, Peter Jay' (b) (6)
Cc: 'Roberts, Rich' (b) (6) 3) 'David Morens' (b) (6) >; 'Keusch, Gerald T' <
(b) (6) ; Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6)
Subject: RE: Peter Hotez' tweet and Jamie Metzl's

I don't think PNAS would retract – Sachs is well-known, and this paper will be cited, so it's good for business.

We could ask them to correct, but I think Peter's idea is a good one – a response that's carefully worded, that corrects the errors, and explains why the general approach of investigating scientists based on no evidence would be flawed and damaging to medical progress.

I'm sending some bullets to Rich this morning and will share them with you as a start to addressing some of the errors.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: +(b) (6)
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

From: Jeffrey Sturchio (b) (6)
Sent: Friday, May 20, 2022 7:15 AM
To: Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6) >; Peter Daszak (b) (6) >
Cc: Roberts, Rich (b) (6) 3) David Morens (b) (6) >; Keusch, Gerald T (b) (6) ;
Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) >

MORENS_SUBPOENA_004805
MORENS_NIH_011846
REL0000482369

Subject: RE: Peter Hotez' tweet and Jamie Metzl's

Peter: I think a response along the lines you suggest would be a good idea. Sachs's piece is so egregious it shouldn't be allowed to stand. Perhaps even better would be a sharp letter to the editor(s) of PNAS explaining why a retraction is necessary. As you and Peter D point out, his argument is based on a number of readily refuted erroneous assertions – it's surprising that PNAS would have published it in the first place.

As ever,
Jeff

From: Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6)
Sent: Friday, May 20, 2022 7:09 AM
To: Peter Daszak (b) (6)
Cc: Roberts, Rich (b) (6) >; David Morens <(b) (6) >; Keusch, Gerald T (b) (6) >; Jeffrey Sturchio (b) (6) >; Aleksei Chmura (b) (6)
Subject: Re: Peter Hotez' tweet and Jamie Metzl's

Potentially we could write a response or a commentary piece in PNAS refuting the nonsense, one that begins with the talking points in my Twitter thread.

There is also suggestion from a Nature article that even SARS 1 exhibited some degree of furin cleavage but that with SARS 2 it accelerated and of course evolved even further with alpha then delta to make it more transmissible.

https://www.nature.com/articles/d41586-021-02039-y

I could have added that as well. The point is it's not an all or none phenomenon as the Sachs article suggests. He wrote an awful paper that needs to be retracted.

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP
Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine
Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology
Health Policy Scholar
Baylor College of Medicine

Texas Children's Hospital Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics
Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development

University Professor, Baylor University

Faculty Fellow, Hagler Institute for Advanced Study
Senior Fellow, Scowcroft Institute of International Affairs
Texas A&M University
Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty and Adjunct Professor of Bioengineering, Rice University

Adjunct Professor, University of Texas, School of Public Health

Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

E-mail: (b) (6)
Twitter: @peterhotez
Skype: (b) (6)
Linkedin Peter Hotez

Amazon Author Center: https://www.amazon.com/Peter- J.-Hotez/e/B001HPIC48
Daily Beast Contributor https://www.thedailybeast.com/author/peter- j-hotez
Like us on Facebook https://www.facebook.com/BCMNationalSchoolOfTropicalMedicine/

Senior Coordinator / Executive Support: Douglas Soriano
(b) (6)
Phone: (b) (6)
Fax: 713-798-2299

iPhone

> On May 19, 2022, at 9:13 PM, Peter Daszak (b) (6) > wrote:
>
> I appreciate that Rich.
>
> I understand his motivations – he believes that all data should be put forward because the pandemic makes this an emergency and unprecedented global concern. However, there is no getting away from the fact that there's simply no evidence whatsoever for a lab leak, so no matter how much data or emails I and other labs are forced to turn over, it will never disprove the negative. We can't prove that China didn't release a virus accidently or by design – that's the nature of scientific hypothesis testing. Meanwhile, every email, report or unpublished paper I'm forced to turn over is used over and over again by the political forces to attack science – misquoting, using innuendo and assumptions of motives. It's a naïve argument from Jeff Sachs at best, and one based on a series of easily refutable errors in black and white, in his paper.
>
> Cheers,
>
> Peter

MORENS_SUBPOENA_004807
MORENS_NIH_011848
REL0000482369

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: (b) (6)
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

From: Roberts, Rich (b) (6)
Sent: Thursday, May 19, 2022 8:34 PM
To: Peter Daszak (b) (6) ; Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6)
(b) (6) David Morens (b) (6) ; Keusch, Gerald T (b) (6) Jeffrey Sturchio <
; Aleksei Chmura (b) (6)
Subject: RE: Peter Hotez' tweet and Jamie Metzl's

Peter:

Thanks. I intend to take this up with Jeff.

Rich

Richard J. Roberts
New England Biolabs
240 County Road
Ipswich, MA 01938-2723
USA (b) (6)
Tel: (
Fax: (978) 412 9910
email (b) (6)

From: Peter Daszak (b) (6)
Sent: Thursday, May 19, 2022 6:41 PM
To: Roberts, Rich (b) (6) Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6) >
Cc: David Morens <(b) (6) >; Keusch, Gerald T (b) (6) Jeffrey Sturchio <
(b) (6) >; Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6)
Subject: Peter Hotez' tweet and Jamie Metzl's

EXTERNAL SENDER

This might work to see the tweet – it won't take you to Twitter – it's on a webpage now

https://threadreaderapp.com/thread/1527398466305105921.html

and here's Jamie Metzl's commentary – says it's a 'critically important new opinion piece'!!

https://threadreaderapp.com/thread/1527404374804287495.html

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: (b) (6)
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

---

From: Roberts, Rich (b) (6)
Sent: Thursday, May 19, 2022 5:48 PM
To: Peter Daszak (b) (6) g>; Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6)
Cc: David Morens (b) (6) ; Keusch, Gerald T (b) (6) Jeffrey Sturchio < (b) (6) ; Aleksei Chmura (b) (6)
Subject: RE: Jeff Sachs causing trouble via a PNAS article

Peter:

I don't do Twitter. Can someone send me Peter's piece please?

Thanks

Rich

Richard J. Roberts
New England Biolabs
240 County Road
Ipswich, MA 01938-2723
USA
Tel: (b) (6)
Fax: (978) 412 9910
email: (b) (6)

From: Peter Daszak (b) (6)
Sent: Thursday, May 19, 2022 5:41 PM
To: Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6) >
Cc: Roberts, Rich (b) (6) 6) David Morens (b) (6) @ .>; Keusch, Gerald T < (b) (6) @ Jeffrey Sturchio <(b) (6) Aleksei Chmura (b) (6) >
Subject: RE: Jeff Sachs causing trouble via a PNAS article

MORENS_SUBPOENA_004809
MORENS_NIH_011850
REL0000482369

EXTERNAL SENDER

Just read it now Peter – it's already getting amplified. Extremely glad you did this.

The response from virologists on the furin cleavage site garbage in his PNAS piece will be pretty damning…it's been discussed, debated and debunked for 2 years now!

Meanwhile, the witch hunt continues…

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: (b) (6)
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

From: Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6)
Sent: Thursday, May 19, 2022 5:36 PM
To: Peter Daszak (b) (6)
Cc: Roberts, Rich (b) (6) >; David Morens <(b) (6) ; Keusch, Gerald T < (b) (6) Jeffrey Sturchio (b) (6) Aleksei Chmura (b) (6)
Subject: Re: Jeff Sachs causing trouble via a PNAS article

I just put out a thread on Twitter to point out why Jeff's article does not hold much water even on scientific grounds

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP
Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine
Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology
Health Policy Scholar
Baylor College of Medicine

Texas Children's Hospital Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics
Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development

University Professor, Baylor University

Faculty Fellow, Hagler Institute for Advanced Study
Senior Fellow, Scowcroft Institute of International Affairs
Texas A&M University
Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty and Adjunct Professor of Bioengineering, Rice University
Adjunct Professor, University of Texas, School of Public Health

Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

E-mail: (b) (6)
Twitter:
Skype: (b) (6)
Linkedin Peter Hotez

Amazon Author Center: https://www.amazon.com/Peter-J.-Hotez/e/B001HPIC48
Daily Beast Contributor https://www.thedailybeast.com/author/peter-j-hotez
Like us on Facebook https://www.facebook.com/BCMNationalSchoolOfTropicalMedicine/

Senior Coordinator / Executive Support: Douglas Soriano
(b) (6)
Phone: (b) (6)
Fax: 71

iPhone

On May 19, 2022, at 4:27 PM, Peter Daszak (b) (6) > wrote:

What's really irksome is that this article in PNAS is full of errors and misunderstandings.

I haven't read the whole thing, but just about every paragraph contains an erroneous assumption that could easily be refuted, e.g.:

- "EHA, UNC, NIH, USAID, and other research partners have failed to disclose their activities to the US scientific community and the US public, instead declaring that they were not involved in any experiments that could have resulted in the emergence of SARS-CoV-2." BS – we published dozens of papers on our work (they're on our website!) and sent reports in to NIH each year. We also gave hundreds of public lectures on this and spoke with the intelligence agencies about it.

  "The exact details of the fieldwork and laboratory work of the EHA-WIV-UNC partnership, and the engagement of other institutions in the United States and China, has not been disclosed for independent analysis." BS – that's what happens when you publish peer-reviewed papers. Maybe Sachs has forgotten how that works!

  "Much of the work on SARS-like CoVs performed in Wuhan was part of an active and highly

MORENS_SUBPOENA_004811
MORENS_NIH_011852
REL0000482369

collaborative US–China scientific research program funded by the US Government (NIH, Defense Threat Reduction Agency [DTRA], and US Agency for International Development [USAID]), coordinated by researchers at EcoHealth Alliance (EHA), but involving researchers at several other US institutions." Wrong again – DoD DTRA do not and have not funded work in China, let alone the Wuhan lab.

"The precise nature of the experiments that were conducted, including the full array of viruses collected from the field and the subsequent sequencing and manipulation of those viruses, remains unknown." BS – all 'viruses' collected from the field have been published already.

"These research proposals make clear that the EHA-WIV-UNC collaboration was involved in the collection of a large number of so-far undocumented SARS-like viruses and was engaged in their manipulation within biological safety level (BSL)-2 and BSL-3 laboratory facilities, raising concerns that an airborne virus might have infected a laboratory worker (9)" BS – there were only 3 SARS-related CoVs isolated in China. All the rest are simply genetic sequences of a short read of the RdRp gene, with a few dozen full genomes. It's all in the scientific papers that Sachs hasn't bothered to read.

And so on, and so forth.

Honestly, it would take me about a day to go through this paper and rebut every single error and misconception, but who's got time for that!

By the way – all of these questions have been asked repeatedly on Twitter, by journalists, by the FBI and CIA, and by hundreds of people who've spoken with me over the last 2 years. I've answered them all, now I have to do it all again, and again, and again. Problem I see here is that he just doesn't believe me, so the only option is for my laptop to be downloaded in front of a Great Inquisition, led by an eminent person such as…dare I say…Professor Sachs himself.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: +1(b) (6)
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

From: Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6)
Sent: Thursday, May 19, 2022 4:58 PM
To: Roberts, Rich <(b) (6) @ 6)
Cc: Peter Daszak (b) (6) g >; David Morens (b) (6) s@ >; Keusch, Gerald T (b) (6) Jeffrey Sturchio (b) (6) Aleksei Chmura < (b) (6) >
Subject: Re: Jeff Sachs causing trouble via a PNAS article

How could PNAS publish this crap?

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP
Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine
Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology
Health Policy Scholar
Baylor College of Medicine

Texas Children's Hospital Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics
Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development

University Professor, Baylor University

Faculty Fellow, Hagler Institute for Advanced Study
Senior Fellow, Scowcroft Institute of International Affairs
Texas A&M University
Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty and Adjunct Professor of Bioengineering, Rice University
Adjunct Professor, University of Texas, School of Public Health

Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

E-mail: (b) (6)
Twitter: @peterhotez
Skype: (b) (6)
Linkedin Peter Hotez

Amazon Author Center: https://www.amazon.com/Peter- J.-Hotez/e/B001HPIC48
Daily Beast Contributor https://www.thedailybeast.com/author/peter- j-hotez
Like us on Facebook https://www.facebook.com/BCMNationalSchoolOfTropicalMedicine/

Senior Coordinator / Executive Support: Douglas Soriano
(b) (6)
Phone: (b) (6)
Fax: 713-798-2299

iPhone

On May 19, 2022, at 3:54 PM, Roberts, Rich <(b) (6) wrote:

Peter:

As you say more nonsense. My opinion of Sachs is waning rapidly.

Rich

Richard J. Roberts
New England Biolabs
240 County Road
Ipswich, MA 01938-2723
USA
Tel: ((b) (6)
Fax: (978) 412 9910
email (b) (6)

From: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >
Sent: Thursday, May 19, 2022 4:32 PM
To: Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6) ; David Morens <(b) (6)
Cc: Keusch, Gerald T (b) (6) ; Jeffrey Sturchio (b) (6) Aleksei Chmura (b) (6) >; Roberts, Rich (b) (6) >
Subject: Jeff Sachs causing trouble via a PNAS article
Importance: High

EXTERNAL SENDER

Looks like Sachs has been taken down yet another rabbit hole by a scientist at Columbia (Harrison) who doesn't work in the field, and is just plain wrong. It's the old Furin cleavage site hypothesis again, without any new data or evidence. Of course, that's their point – the lack of evidence means we're all hiding information and need to be hung, drawn and quartered.

They've published an opinion piece in PNAS (attached) and there's this article in 'The Intercept'. Ebright is quoted, of course!

https://theintercept.com/2022/05/19/covid- lab-leak-evidence-jeffrey-sachs/

All this will be put straight into the subpoena letters that we've been told by Democrat staffers to expect to arrive in Jan/Feb 2023 when the Republicans take over the house (their words, not mine).

Base/Bloomberg via Getty Images

JEFFREY SACHS PRESENTS EVIDENCE

OF POSSIBLE LAB ORIGIN OF COVID-19

An article in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences calls for an independent investigation of information held by U.S.-based institutions that could shed light on the origins of Covid.



Sharon Lerner
May 19 2022, 4:00 p.m.

IN AN ARTICLE published Thursday, economist Jeffrey Sachs called for an independent investigation of information held by U.S.-based institutions that could shed light on the origins of the Covid-19 pandemic. Writing in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, Sachs and his co-author, Neil Harrison, a Columbia University professor of molecular pharmacology and therapeutics, said that federal agencies and universities possess evidence that has not been adequately reviewed, including virus databases, biological samples, viral sequences, email communications, and laboratory notebooks. Sachs and Harrison also highlighted a tantalizing scientific detail that may be an indication that SARS-CoV-2, the coronavirus that causes Covid-19, originated in a laboratory: a sequence of eight amino acids on a critical part of the virus's spike protein that is identical to an amino acid sequence found in cells that line human airways.

Sachs and Harrison are hardly the first to suggest that SARS-CoV-2 might have been created in a lab. Since its genetic sequence was first published in February 2020, scientists have puzzled over the furin cleavage site, an area on the virus's spike that allows it to be broken apart by a protein on the membrane of human cells and makes the coronavirus particularly dangerous to people. Once split, the virus releases its genetic material into the cell and reproduces. While all viruses work by attaching themselves to cells, breaking apart, and releasing their genetic material, SARS-CoV-2 is the only one of its class, sarbecoviruses, to use this particular mechanism to do so.

MORENS_SUBPOENA_004815
MORENS_NIH_011856
REL0000482369

As with past discussion of a possible lab origin of SARS-CoV-2, this latest theory has already been met with considerable pushback. Even some scientists who are open to the idea that a lab accident could have sparked the pandemic remain unconvinced by the particular trail of evidence laid out by Sachs and Harrison.

The journal article offers a scientific road map for how this unusual sequence of amino acids could have made its way into the furin cleavage site, or FCS, of the virus. Sachs and Harrison acknowledge that the sequence could have arisen naturally. But they also lay out another possibility: that scientists might have purposefully inserted this particular string of amino acids into a bat coronavirus in the course of their work. They focus particularly on scientists who submitted an unfunded grant proposal to a division of the Defense Department called the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency, or DARPA, laying out plans to insert a furin cleavage site into a bat coronavirus.

"We do not know whether the insertion of the FCS was the result of natural evolution — perhaps via a recombination event in an intermediate mammal or a human — or was the result of a deliberate introduction of the FCS into a SARS-like virus as part of a laboratory experiment," Sachs and Harrison write. "We do know that the insertion of such FCS sequences into SARS-like viruses was a specific goal of work proposed by the EHA-WIV-UNC partnership within a 2018 grant proposal ("DEFUSE") that was submitted to the US Defense Advanced Research Projects (DARPA)."

EHA is a reference to EcoHealth Alliance, a nonprofit research group based in New York City that has received more than $118 million in grants and contracts from federal agencies. WIV, or the Wuhan Institute of Virology, is a Chinese research organization that collaborated with EcoHealth Alliance in the past and was listed as a subcontractor on the DARPA grant. UNC is mentioned because Ralph Baric, a molecular biologist at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, was to have conducted part of the work pitched to DARPA. The grant proposal touted Baric's "two-decade track record of reverse engineering [coronavirus] and other virus spike proteins."

The intent of the DARPA proposal was to prevent emerging

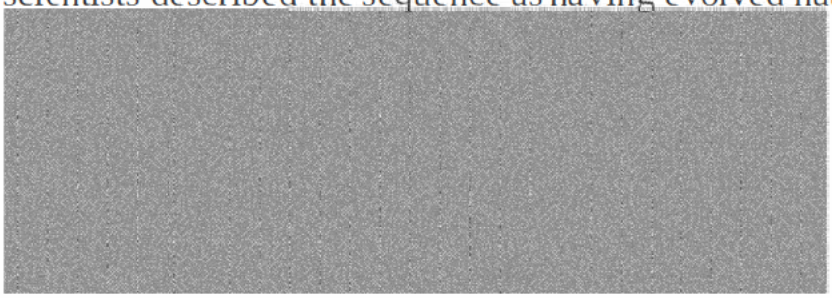
pathogenic threats, but the work, if conducted, could have created a novel virus capable of infecting humans. "We will introduce appropriate human-specific cleavage sites and evaluate growth potential in [a type of mammalian cell commonly used in microbiology] and [human airway epithelial cell] cultures," the proposal stated.

Several scientists interviewed about the DARPA proposal in September told The Intercept that scientists often begin research before seeking funding and thus that some of the experiments described in the proposal could have already been completed. But when asked about that possibility in an interview, Peter Daszak, the president of EcoHealth Alliance, rejected it: "The DARPA proposal was not funded. Therefore, the work was not done. Simple."

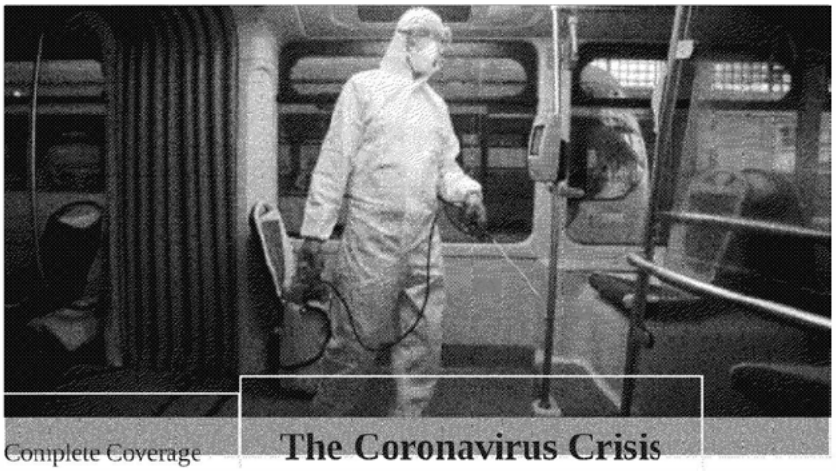
A Rational Choice

As Sachs and Harrison note, the part of a protein on the cell membrane that shares its amino acid sequence with the bat coronavirus is critical for lung function. Known as an epithelial sodium channel-alpha, or ENaC-alpha, it is found in human airway cells, as well as in human kidneys and colons. Intriguingly, like SARS-CoV-2, ENaC-alpha, which facilitates the absorption of fluid in cells, is also activated by the unusual furin cleavage site. Harrison, a physiologist affiliated with Columbia's Department of Molecular Pharmacology and Therapeutics, studies ion channels, the larger category to which ENaC-alpha belongs.

Other scientists have already pointed out the match between the amino acid series in the furin cleavage site of SARS-CoV-2 and the ENaC-alpha found in human airways. In 2020, a team from the biomedical company Nference suggested that the overlap between the virus and the sequence found in human lungs is part of the reason that Covid-19 is so damaging to the respiratory system. Those scientists described the sequence as having evolved naturally.



MORENS_SUBPOENA_004817
MORENS_NIH_011858
REL0000482369

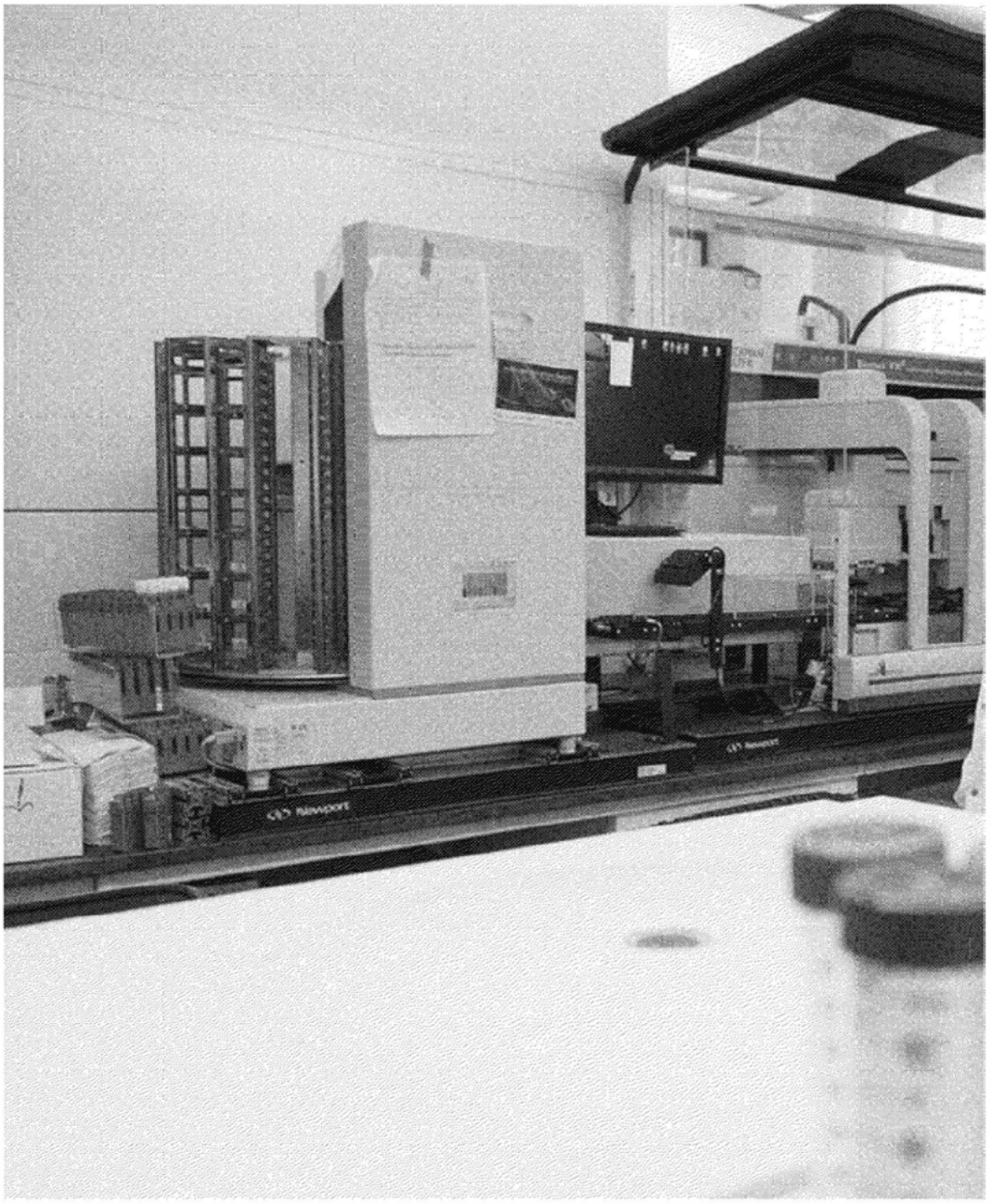


Complete Coverage **The Coronavirus Crisis** Read Our

Sachs and Harrison, in contrast, suggest that researchers may have inserted the string of amino acids into a bat coronavirus precisely because of its known importance to lung function. "For a research team assessing the pandemic potential of SARS-related coronaviruses, the FCS of human ENaC — an FCS known to be efficiently cleaved by host furin present in the target location (epithelial cells) of an important target organ (lung), of the target organism (human) — might be a rational, if not obvious, choice of FCS to introduce into a virus in order to alter its infectivity, in line with other work performed previously," they write.

Such a choice, they point out, would have been in keeping with another viral research project on which EcoHealth Alliance, the Wuhan Institute of Virology, and UNC's Baric collaborated: a 2014 grant from the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases that involved increasing the transmissibility and pathogenicity of bat coronaviruses.

MORENS_SUBPOENA_004818
MORENS_NIH_011859
REL0000482369



Ralph Baric, a researcher at the University of North Carolina's Gillings School of Global Public Health, in Chapel Hill, N.C., on Feb. 14, 2020.

Photo: Christopher Janaro/Bloomberg via Getty Images

Growing List of Coincidences

The intriguing theory of viral engineering hinges on two observations: that the amino acid sequences match and that experts in both the ENaC-alpha furin cleavage site and the insertion of genetic

MORENS_SUBPOENA_004819
MORENS_NIH_011860
REL0000482369

sequences into bat coronaviruses happen to work at the same academic institution: the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill.

Baric, whose work aims to prevent and create treatments for viral outbreaks, has previously inserted segments of DNA and RNA into viruses and created an infectious clone of SARS using his own patented "No See'm" method of inserting genetic materials without a trace. He has also collaborated on coronavirus research with scientists from a center for lung studies at UNC-Chapel Hill who are knowledgeable about ENaC-alpha. In one 2016 study, the scientists created a new virus using the spike of a bat coronavirus that had been isolated and characterized by the Wuhan Institute of Virology. The experiment found that the new virus "replicated efficiently" in human airway cells that were cultured in a lab.

In another paper, published a year earlier, Baric, along with the Wuhan Institute of Virology's Shi Zhengli and a lung expert UNC-Chapel Hill's lung institute, described creating a hybrid virus using a SARS-like virus from a bat and a "mouse-adapted" coronavirus. The new virus caused mice to get sicker than those exposed to the original virus. The goal of these experiments was to prepare for the possibility that a virus might jump naturally from animals to humans, as SARS had in 2003. But even before the pandemic, the experiment drew criticism from other scientists, who were concerned because the researchers had created a virus that was able to spread in humans.

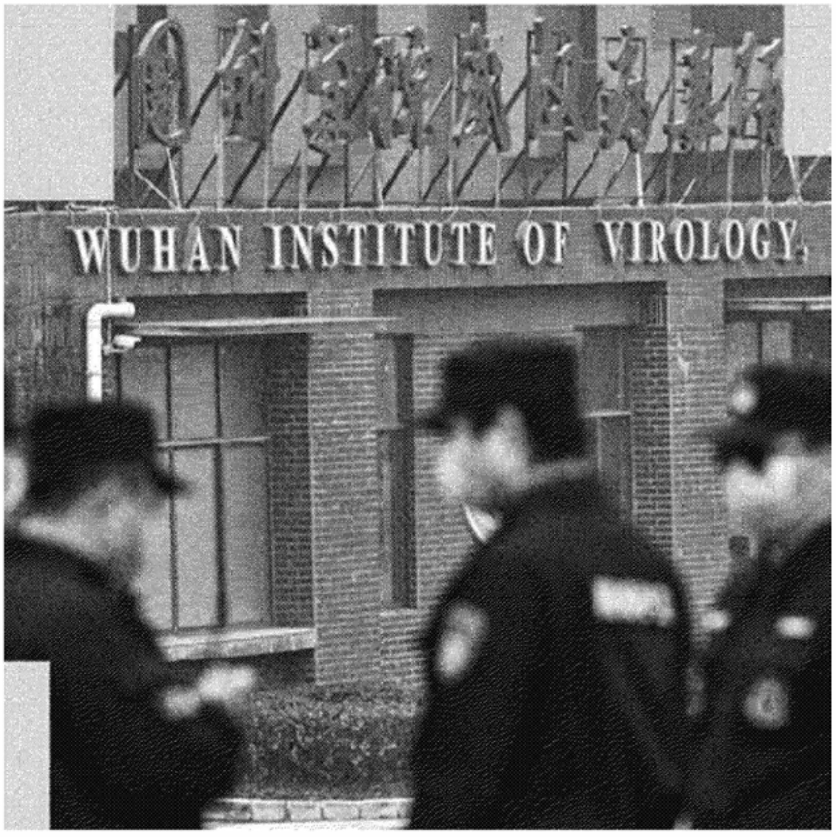
Sachs and Harrison note that the scientists who co-authored the DARPA grant proposal would have been aware of research on coronavirus furin cleavage sites, including one 2006 experiment in which a furin cleavage site was inserted into a coronavirus. "The research team would also have some familiarity with the FCS sequence and the FCS-dependent activation mechanism of human ENaC, which was extensively characterized at UNC," they write.

"The list of coincidences is getting verrrrrrrrrrry long."

Still, both the overlap in the amino acid sequence and the fact that experts in the furin cleavage site of the ENaC-alpha and insertion of genetic material into bat coronaviruses work at the same university could be coincidental, as Harrison and Sachs acknowledge. Some virologists, though, say that the coincidence strains credulity.

"Could be," Richard Ebright, a molecular biologist at Rutgers University, wrote in an email to The Intercept when asked about the possibility that these things are both chance occurrences. "But the list of coincidences is getting verrrrrrrrrry long."

Ebright, a vocal proponent of the lab-leak theory whom Harrison and Sachs thank "for helpful commentary on the manuscript," spelled out some of the other Covid coincidences that he considers questionable, including its initial outbreak in a city that, well before 2019, had already been pegged as a biosafety risk. Ebright also noted Wuhan's 1,000-mile distance from the nearest wild bats that carry the type of SARS-related coronaviruses that caused the pandemic. And he pointed to the particular coding of the amino acids in the furin cleavage site of SARS-CoV2.



Related

The Lab-Leak Theory Is Looking Stronger by the Day. Here's What We Know.

"The sequence encoding the FCS of the pandemic virus contained two consecutive CGG arginine codons," Ebright explained in his email. (A codon, or a combination of three nucleotides, supplies the genetic code for a single amino acid, though most amino acids can be

represented by multiple different codons. Each nucleotide is represented by a letter for RNA, either A, C, U, or G.) "This codon usage is unusual for a natural bat SARS-related coronaviruses (for which fewer than 1 in 30 arginine codons are CGG) but is optimal for humans (for which most arginine codons are CGG codons)."

Still, Ebright said that at first he didn't see the identical amino acid sequences as particularly suspicious. "I had known for more than a year that there was a perfect match to an eight-amino acid sequence present in human ENaC. What I had not known was that the sequence was known to be a functional furin cleavage site and that it was a sequence extensively studied at UNC," he said. "The crucial point that the ENaC sequence was a known functional site, not just that there happens to be a match to a protein that happens to be in humans. … That suddenly turned it from what I thought to be largely irrelevant to being a logical and obvious choice to proceed."

Ralph Baric and the University of North Carolina did not immediately respond to requests for comment.



The Wuhan Institute of Virology in Wuhan, China, on June 24, 2021.

Photo: Kyodo via AP Images

Name Calling

Other scientists dismiss the idea that the ENaC sequence might have been purposefully inserted into a coronavirus. Scientists who are already convinced that the new coronavirus emerged naturally are unlikely to be persuaded by Sachs and Harrison's article, which appears in the opinion section of the esteemed journal. Over the past year, many scientists involved in the debate over the origins of the

MORENS_SUBPOENA_004823
MORENS_NIH_011864
REL0000482369

pandemic have settled into an increasingly acrimonious, coarse, and unyielding opposition.

Some proponents of the natural origin theory became particularly dismissive of those open to the possibility of a lab leak after the February release of two pre-print studies mapping the early spread of the virus at the Huanan market in Wuhan. Angela Rasmussen, one of a team of virologists who worked on the project, described it on Twitter as "dispositive evidence of a zoonotic origin" that will "drive those with personal interest in the lab leak hypothesis out of their goddam minds." In another tweet, Rasmussen referred to proponents of the lab-leak theory as a "pack of ghouls, who through gullibility, stupidity, & conspiracist thinking have decided this is their thing despite zero expertise."

Although the pre-prints had not been peer-reviewed and may have simply illustrated the spread of the virus rather than its original outbreak, the New York Times ran a front-page story about them that quoted an epidemiologist as saying that the origins debate "has been settled with a very high degree of evidence." The story, which was announced by a push notification from the paper, also noted a lack of direct evidence for a lab leak.

Meanwhile, Kristian Andersen, another co-author of the pre-prints and a virologist at the well-regarded Scripps Research Institute, used the "poop" emoji to criticize a deeply researched article by Katherine Eban about EcoHealth Alliance. On Twitter, Andersen tarred Eban, New York Times columnist Zeynep Tufekci, and others reporting on biosafety issues that could have led to the release of SARS-CoV-2 as "deep in conspiracy theories" and on the other side of "a clear split" from journalists who dismiss the possibility of a lab origin, whom Andersen referred to as "science-based."

Even some scientists who have been vocal about the possibility that the pandemic may have been sparked by research have expressed skepticism about the theory suggested by Harrison and Sachs. "I'm sure that these authors believe in their own hypothesis and arguments, but to me, it's not one that is particularly convincing," said Alina Chan, a scientist who laid out a number of possible routes for how the coronavirus might have emerged through research-related incidents in her recent book "Viral: The Search for the Origin of Covid-19."

MORENS_SUBPOENA_004824
MORENS_NIH_011865
REL0000482369

“There’s no need for them to go hunting inside the human protein catalogue to look for cleavage sites to put into viruses.”

While she is open to the possibility that the furin cleavage site might have been purposefully inserted into the coronavirus, Chan said there was no reason to think that researchers would mine humans for such material. “These scientists literally had access to hundreds of SARS-like viruses and sequences,” said Chan, referring to the vast collection of coronaviruses from bats and other animals that researchers amassed at the Wuhan Institute of Virology. “There’s no need for them to go hunting inside the human protein catalogue to look for cleavage sites to put into viruses.”

Jack Nunberg, a virologist at the University of Montana, was also not immediately persuaded by the theory of engineering suggested by Sachs and Harrison. “It’s possible,” Nunberg said of the idea that the ENaC segment was inserted into a bat coronavirus as part of research designed to gauge the pandemic potential of a virus. “But I don’t find their evidence on ENaC compelling because furin cleavage sites have a lot of common amino acids, and therefore it may just have happened by chance.”

Others say that the article adds noteworthy information to the public conversation about the origins of the pandemic. “The defenders of the natural origin indicate that the virus on which this type of experiment could have been done — the backbone — has never been published and that specialists in the furin cleavage sites would have chosen a more commonly used furin cleavage site like RARR rather than PRRAR. The Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences article contradicts this argument and indicates that specialists knew that the RRAR’SVAS site was efficiently cleaved by furin,” Etienne Decroly, director of virology research at the Aix-Marseille Université in France, wrote in an email to The Intercept.

Decroly added, “It is impossible to decide on the basis of the information currently available and it is urgent that the WHO Special Advisory Group for the Origins of Novel Pathogens investigate this question.”

MORENS_SUBPOENA_004825
MORENS_NIH_011866
REL0000482369

On the suggestion of an investigation, Nunberg is in agreement. "You can't argue with that," he told The Intercept. "Who's going to argue for burying one's head in the sand?"

For their part, Sachs and Harrison emphasize that they're not saying laboratory manipulation was involved in the emergence of the pandemic virus, only "that it could have been." They also give a nod to other possibilities, including that an airborne virus might have infected a laboratory worker. Rather than argue that any of these conceivable scenarios happened, they present the clues of the matching amino acid sequences to argue for an independent and transparent scientific investigation of the U.S.-based evidence related to the origins of the virus.

Among the institutions that Sachs and Harrison list as possibly having "knowledge of the detailed activities that were underway in Wuhan and in the United States" are the National Institutes of Health; the Defense Threat Reduction Agency, which has provided grant funding to EcoHealth Alliance; the Department of Homeland Security; DARPA; the U.S. Agency for International Development, which funded the $200 million PREDICT program that catalogued potential pandemic viruses; and the University of California, Davis, which participated in that program.

The authors suggest that EcoHealth Alliance and UNC may have particularly important untapped resources. "The exact details of the fieldwork and laboratory work of the EHA-WIV-UNC partnership, and the engagement of other institutions in the US and China, has not been disclosed for independent analysis," they write. "The precise nature of the experiments that were conducted, including the full array of viruses collected from the field and the subsequent sequencing and manipulation of those viruses, remains unknown."



Peter Daszak, one of the members of the World Health Organization team investigating the origins of the Covid-19, on a balcony at a hotel in Wuhan, China, on Feb. 6, 2021.

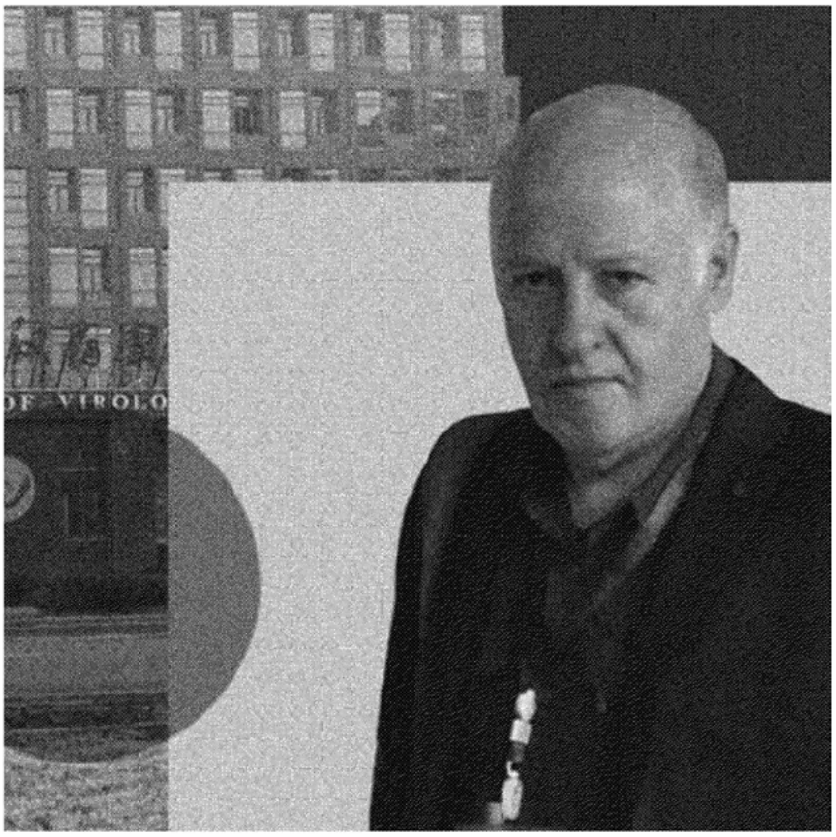
Photo: Hector Retamal/AFP via Getty Images

A Reversal

The publication in the prestigious Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences marks a reversal of sorts for Sachs, the chair of the Lancet Covid-19 Commission who, in November 2020, appointed Daszak, the EcoHealth Alliance president, to lead a task force to investigate the origins of the pandemic. Earlier that year,

MORENS_SUBPOENA_004827
MORENS_NIH_011868
REL0000482369

Daszak had signed on to a public statement published in The Lancet on behalf of scientists who said they "condemn conspiracy theories suggesting that COVID-19 does not have a natural origin."



Related

Peter Daszak Answers Critics and Defends Coronavirus Research

Yet that early certainty about the pandemic's origins — and the sense of shared civic responsibility among members of the Lancet task force — soon disintegrated. In February 2021, emails revealed that Daszak coordinated the public statement in The Lancet tamping down suspicions of a lab leak. And by June 2021, Sachs was expressing his openness to the possibility of a lab origin, writing that NIH-funded research at the Wuhan Institute of Virology "deserves scrutiny under the hypothesis of a laboratory-related release of the virus." Three months later, he disbanded the task force that had been organized to "carefully scrutinize the origin of the SARS-CoV-2 virus" in the hopes of preventing future disease outbreaks, explaining that he had concerns that several members of the commission had conflicts of interest because of their ties to EcoHealth Alliance.

After leading the mainstream scientific inquiry into the origins of the

MORENS_SUBPOENA_004828
MORENS_NIH_011869
REL0000482369

pandemic, Sachs is now skewering it. “A steady trickle of disquieting information has cast a darkening cloud over the agency,” he and Harrison write of the NIH, going on to accuse the entire federal government of not doing enough to explore the possible role of its grantees in the emergence of SARS-CoV-2 and investigate “overlooked details” such as the matching amino acid sequences.

Noting that the NIH has insisted that “the pandemic virus could not have resulted from the work sponsored by” the agency, Sachs and Harrison write that “blanket denials from the NIH are no longer good enough.”

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: (b) (6)
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

From: Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6)
Sent: Wednesday, May 11, 2022 8:15 PM
To: David Morens (b) (6)
Cc: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >; Keusch, Gerald T (b) (6) Jeffrey Sturchio <(b) (6) >; Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) Roberts, Rich (b) (6)
Subject: Re: NY Post: NIH director confirms agency hid early COVID genes at request of Chinese scientists

It’s all so convoluted I can even understand it. We’ll see if they pick Mary Klotman from Duke to be next NIH Director. I know her quite well, her husband is Baylor

MORENS_SUBPOENA_004829
MORENS_NIH_011870
REL0000482369

President and my boss.

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP
Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine
Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology
Health Policy Scholar
Baylor College of Medicine

Texas Children's Hospital Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics
Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development

University Professor, Baylor University

Faculty Fellow, Hagler Institute for Advanced Study
Senior Fellow, Scowcroft Institute of International Affairs
Texas A&M University
Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty and Adjunct Professor of Bioengineering, Rice University
Adjunct Professor, University of Texas, School of Public Health

Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

E-mail: (b) (6)
Twitter: @peterhotez
Skype: (b) (6)
Linkedin Peter Hotez

Amazon Author Center: https://www.amazon.com/Peter- J.-Hotez/e/B001HPIC48
Daily Beast Contributor https://www.thedailybeast.com/author/peter- j-hotez
Like us on Facebook
https://www.facebook.com/BCMNationalSchoolOfTropicalMedicine/

Senior Coordinator / Executive Support: Douglas Soriano
(b) (6)
Phone: (b) (6)
Fax: 713-798-2299

iPhone

On May 11, 2022, at 6:39 PM, David Morens (b) (6) wrote:

*****CAUTION:*** This email is not from a BCM Source. Only click links or open**

attachments you know are safe.

Yes, i know. I fail to understand why our nih leaders keep forming circular firing squads. one thing is for sure: in recent times nih has suffered abysmal leadership

It wasn't like that in the Varmus years. He didn't suffer any political fools no matter how high up, and was comfortable giving them all a big middle finger.
d

Sent from my iPhone
David M Morens
OD, NIAID, NIH

> On May 11, 2022, at 18:37, Peter Daszak (b) (6)
> > wrote:
>
> This is an utterly ridiculous set of BS. Jesse Bloom is the person driving it – he buys into the lab leak theory and found that some folks from WIV uploaded partial genomes early on, then added a bunch of more complete ones, and asked for the partial sequences to be removed. Absolutely normal, but he's trying to turn it into a 'mystery'.
>
> Of course, NIH makes it all worse b y not releasing emails, redacting critical parts of them, and failing to explain why they follow the wishes of the submitter re. Genbank. It's perfectly logical really – if NIH now starts releasing sequences you as a submitter asked them to remove for whatever reason, submitters will think twice about using Genbank. We already have China working with its own database and all this BS will make them twice-shy about submitting.
>
> Even worse, Tabak now says that 'don't worry, we still have the data on back up tapes' so everyone now knows that NIH keeps the stuff you thought they agreed to delete, and no doubt has already handed it over to the FBI and the CIA.
>
> It's a conspiracy, wrapped within an enigma, encapsulating a riddle….
>
> PS – heres a cracker of an email from an NIH press office (?) person at O/D ripping into a journalist (Carl Zimmer) who wanted information on the 'missing' china sequences. Now it turns out that US submitters also deleted early COVID genomes…even more reason for the public to not trust scientists…:

From: Myles, Renate (NIH/OD
To: Carl Zimmer; Wojtowicz
Cc: Fine, Amanda (NIH/OD
Subject: RE: FW: Query from Ne
Date: Wednesday, June 23, 2

Hi Carl:

I saw your story. Just noting that it was withdrawn. Also, it didn't disa I know that Dr. Bloom is making th reporters not hype language.

Also, just to clarify, NLM conducte packages were withdrawn upon re included one requested by the sub the U.S.

Thanks,
Renate

Cheers,

Peter

MORENS_SUBPOENA_004832
MORENS_NIH_011873
REL0000482369

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: (b) (6)
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

From: David Morens (b) (6)
Sent: Wednesday, May 11, 2022 5:47 PM
To: Peter Daszak (b) (6) ; Keusch, Gerald T < (b) (6) Jeffrey Sturchio (b) (6) Aleksei Chmura < (b) (6) peter hotez (b) (6) Roberts, Rich <

Subject: Fwd: FW: NY Post: NIH director confirms agency hid early COVID genes at request of Chinese scientists

David M. Morens, MD
(b) (6)

(b) (6) (work)
(cell)

IMPORTANT: My gmail frequently sends incoming messages to Trash, which is apparently not correctable. If you don't hear from me in a reasonable time, please try again, call, or use my NIH email address

IMPORTANT: For US Government-related email, please also reply to my NIAID address

---------- Forwarded message ---------
From: **Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E]** (b) (6)
Date: Wed, May 11, 2022 at 4:54 PM
Subject: FW: NY Post: NIH director confirms agency hid early COVID genes at request of Chinese scientists
To: David Morens (b) (6)

From: Folkers, Greg (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b) (6)
Sent: Wednesday, May 11, 2022 4:12 PM
To: NIAID COGCORE <COGCORE@mail.nih.gov >; NIAID OCGR Leg <NIAIDOCGRLeg@mail.nih.gov >; NIAID OD AM < NIAIDODAM@niaid.nih.gov >
Subject: NY Post: NIH director confirms agency hid early COVID genes at request of Chinese scientists

NIH director confirms agency hid early COVID genes at request of Chinese scientists

By
Steven Nelson
May 11, 2022 3:47pm



National Institutes of Health acting director Lawrence Tabak confirmed to lawmakers Wednesday that US health officials concealed early genomic sequences of COVID-19 at the request of Chinese scientists — but insisted the data remains on file.

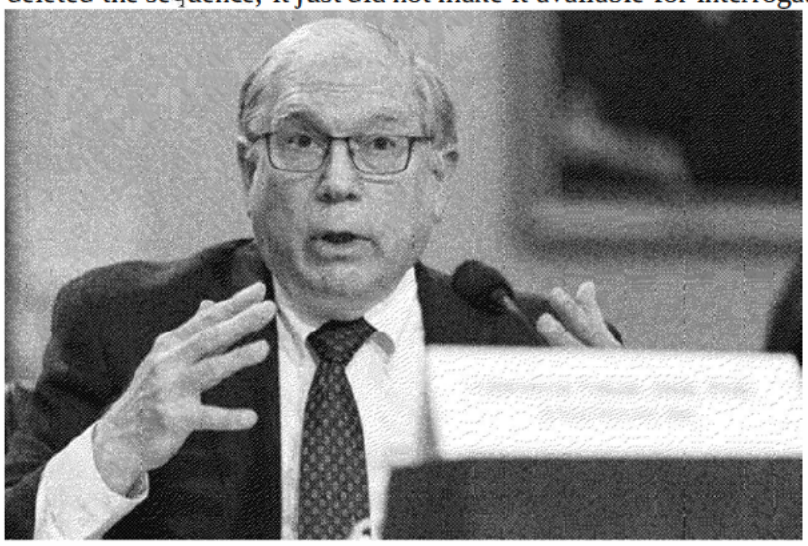
Tabak told a House Appropriations subcommittee that the NIH "eliminated from public view" the data from the pandemic epicenter in Wuhan, China, before adding that researchers can still access it via an archaic "tape drive."

Vanity Fair recently reported that the information was hidden in response to a request from Chinese scientists, despite potentially resolving whether the virus leaked from the Wuhan Institute of Virology or passed naturally from animals to humans.

MORENS_SUBPOENA_004834
MORENS_NIH_011875
REL0000482369

Rep. Jaime Herrera Beutler (R-Wash.) asked Tabek to explain why US officials would comply with such a request.

"There's no question that the communication that we had about the sequence archive — Sequence Read Archive — could have been improved. I freely admit that," Tabek said. "If I may, the archive never deleted the sequence, it just did not make it available for interrogation."



Lawrence Tabak, acting director of the National Institutes of Health, testifies on May 11. Jacquelyn Martin/AP

"So wait, you have the information still?" Beutler followed up.

"We have the information … Anybody who submits to the Sequence Read Archive is allowed to ask for it to be removed," Tabak explained. "And that investigator did do that. But we never erase it."

"So you don't have the information anymore?" Beutler asked.

"We do. We never erase the information. We keep it," Tabak clarified.

"So they were able to withdraw public viewing of it?" the congresswoman followed up.

"That's correct," he said.

"OK, so researchers can apply to the NIH and get the information from you?" Beutler asked.

"In the way that it was originally eliminated from public view, it was withdrawn, and that's the most difficult for people to access," Tabak replied. "The error that was made, and we found this out after a review of all of our processes, was it should have been suppressed. The distinction being that if it's withdrawn, it is kept archivally on a tape drive — old technology, but that's how it's done. But when it is withdrawn, it can still be accessed by accession number, and so researchers are able to access that information."



Security personnel keep watch outside Wuhan Institute of Virology during the visit by the World Health Organization on Feb. 3, 2021. Thomas Peter/REUTERS

"So the information is still there?" Beutler summed up.

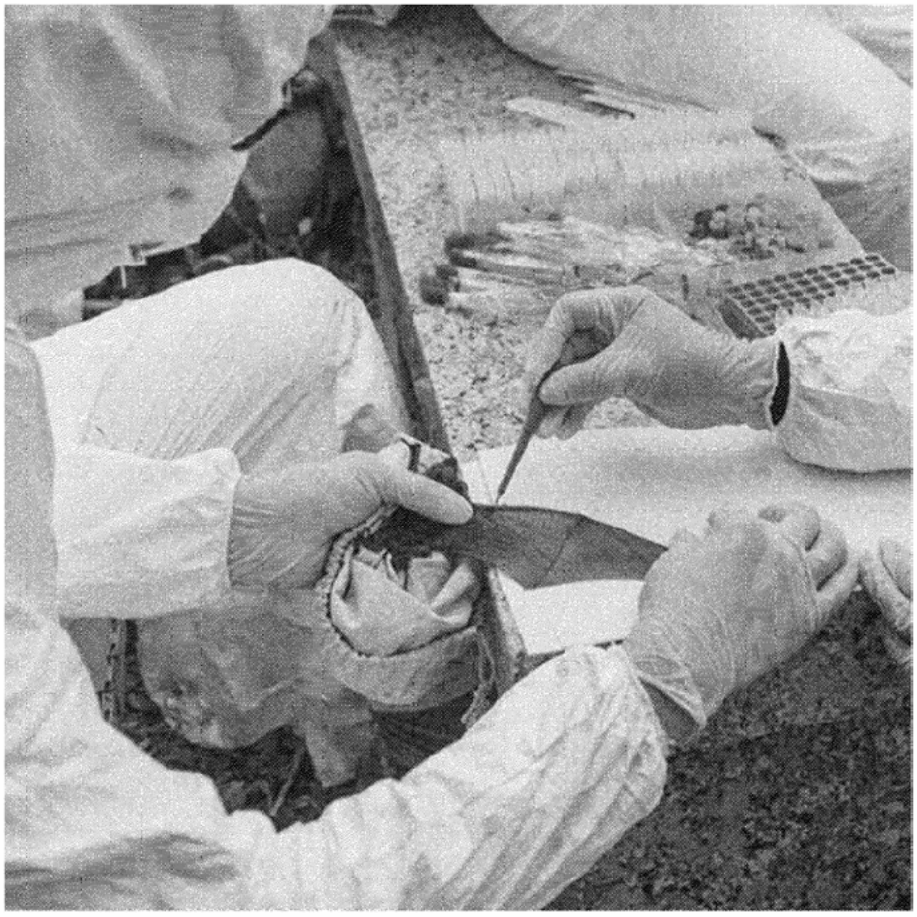
"That's correct. The information was never lost," Tabak repeated.

In a March 31 article, Vanity Fair reported that evolutionary biologist Jesse Bloom discovered last year that early COVID-19 sequences had disappeared from a federally run data repository.

When Bloom raised the issue, he was reportedly ganged up on by a group of researchers assembled by then-NIH Director Francis Collins and infectious disease institute head Dr. Anthony Fauci.

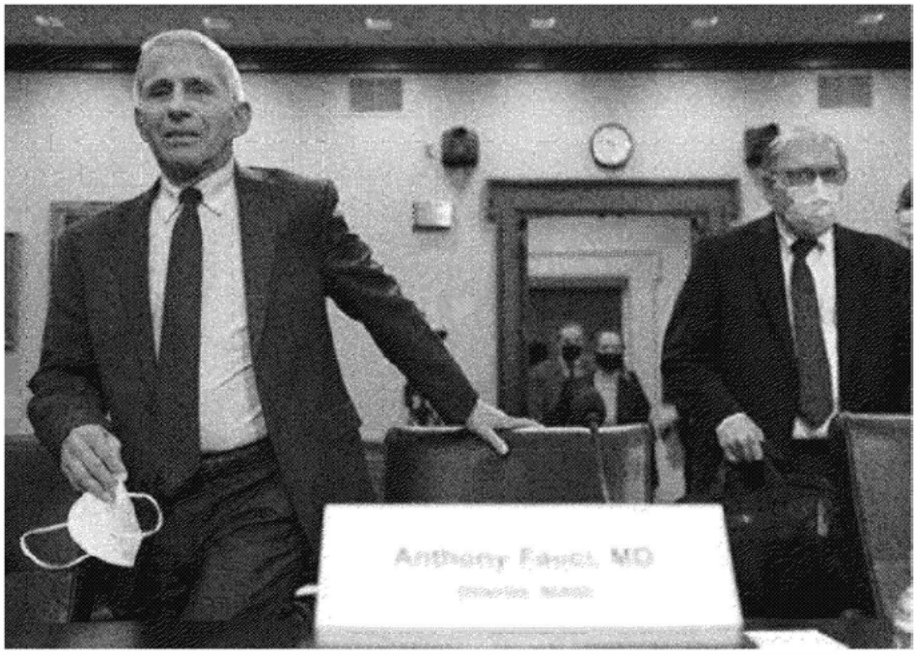
Bloom shared a draft academic paper with Collins and Fauci, who allegedly objected on a June 2021 Zoom video conference to Bloom's description of Chinese scientists "surreptitiously" removing the sequences. Fauci said the word was "loaded" and implied a coverup, the report said.

Evolutionary biologist Kristian Andersen, who was selected to participate on the call by Collins, allegedly told Bloom that the Wuhan team had a right to claw back early pandemic information and that it was unethical for Bloom to question it.



Tabak noted that while the request for information to be removed was honored, it was not erased fully.ECOHEALTH ALLIANCE
Andersen allegedly went so far as to offer to delete Bloom's article from a "preprint" server "in a way that would leave no record that this had been done."
China's government has refused to cooperate with an international investigation of the origins of the pandemic. The COVID-19 virus has killed about 1 million Americans since March 2020 and caused massive social, economic and educational disruptions.
The US intelligence community said in an August report that it's possible the virus leaked from the Wuhan Institute of Virology, calling the theory one of two "plausible" explanations along with natural transmission from animals.

MORENS_SUBPOENA_004837
MORENS_NIH_011878
REL0000482369



Lawrence Tabak confirmed Wednesday that early genomic sequences of COVID-19 were concealed at the request of Chinese specialists.
Jacquelyn Martin/AP

President Biden rarely speaks publicly about wanting China to be transparent about the origins of the pandemic. Former President Donald Trump, by contrast, has demanded that China pay $10 trillion in reparations.

The Biden administration is considering undoing some of Trump's tariffs on Chinese goods "separately" from US pressure for coronavirus transparency, White House press secretary Jen Psaki told The Post on Monday.

Documents published in September by The Intercept revealed that US health officials indirectly funded so-called "gain of function" research at the Wuhan lab — including the modification three bat coronaviruses distinct from COVID-19 and the discovery that they became much more infectious among "humanized" mice when human-type receptors were added to them.

Disclaimer: Any third-party material in this email has been shared for internal use under fair use provisions of U.S. copyright law, without further verification of its accuracy/veracity. It does not necessarily represent my views nor those of NIAID, NIH, HHS, or the U.S. government.

Disclaimer

This communication, together with any attachment, may contain confidential and/or proprietary information (including without limitation copyright material and/or other intellectual property) and is intended only for the person(s) and/or entity(ies) to whom it is addressed. If you are not the intended recipient of this communication, or if you received it in error, you should not disseminate, distribute or copy this communication and you are asked to kindly delete it and promptly notify us. Any copying, use, disclosure or distribution of any part of this communication or taking any action in reliance on the contents of this communication, unless duly authorized by or on behalf of EcoHealth Alliance, is strictly prohibited and may be unlawful.

Disclaimer

This communication, together with any attachment, may contain confidential and/or proprietary information (including without limitation copyright material and/or other intellectual property) and is intended only for the person(s) and/or entity(ies) to whom it is addressed. If you are not the intended recipient of this communication, or if you received it in error, you should not disseminate, distribute or copy this communication and you are asked to kindly delete it and promptly notify us. Any copying, use, disclosure or distribution of any part of this communication or taking any action in reliance on the contents of this communication, unless duly authorized by or on behalf of EcoHealth Alliance, is strictly prohibited and may be unlawful.

Disclaimer

This communication, together with any attachment, may contain confidential and/or proprietary information (including without limitation copyright material and/or other intellectual property) and is intended only for the person(s) and/or entity(ies) to whom it is addressed. If you are not the intended recipient of this communication, or if you received it in error, you should not disseminate, distribute or copy this communication and you are asked to kindly delete it and promptly notify us. Any copying, use, disclosure or distribution of any part of this communication or taking any action in reliance on the contents of this communication, unless duly authorized by or on behalf of EcoHealth Alliance, is strictly prohibited and may be unlawful.

Disclaimer

This communication, together with any attachment, may contain confidential and/or proprietary information (including without limitation copyright material and/or other intellectual property) and is intended only for the person(s) and/or entity(ies) to whom it is addressed. If you are not the intended recipient of this communication, or if you received it in error, you should not disseminate, distribute or copy this communication and you are asked to kindly delete it and promptly notify us. Any copying, use, disclosure or distribution of any part of this communication or taking any action in reliance on the contents of this communication, unless duly authorized by or on behalf of EcoHealth Alliance, is strictly prohibited and may be unlawful.

Disclaimer

This communication, together with any attachment, may contain confidential and/or proprietary information (including without limitation copyright material and/or other intellectual property) and is intended only for the person(s) and/or entity(ies) to whom it is addressed. If you are not the intended recipient of this communication, or if you received it in error, you should not disseminate, distribute or copy this communication and you are asked to kindly delete it and promptly notify us. Any copying, use, disclosure or distribution of any part of this communication or taking any action in reliance on the contents of this communication, unless duly authorized by or on behalf of EcoHealth Alliance, is strictly prohibited and may be unlawful.

Disclaimer

This communication, together with any attachment, may contain confidential and/or proprietary information (including without limitation copyright material and/or other intellectual property) and is intended only for the person(s) and/or entity(ies) to whom it is addressed. If you are not the intended recipient of this communication, or if you received it in error, you should not disseminate, distribute or copy this communication and you are asked to kindly delete it and promptly notify us. Any copying, use, disclosure or distribution of any part of this communication or taking any action in reliance on the contents of this communication, unless duly authorized by or on behalf of EcoHealth Alliance, is strictly prohibited and may be unlawful.

Disclaimer

This communication, together with any attachment, may contain confidential and/or proprietary information (including without limitation copyright material and/or other intellectual property) and is intended only for the person(s) and/or entity(ies) to whom it is addressed. If you are not the intended recipient of this communication, or if you received it in

error, you should not disseminate, distribute or copy this communication and you are asked to kindly delete it and promptly notify us. Any copying, use, disclosure or distribution of any part of this communication or taking any action in reliance on the content sof this communication, unless duly authorized by or on behalf of EcoHealth Alliance, is strictly prohibited and may be unlawful.

Disclaimer
This communication, together with any attachment, may contain confidential and/or proprietary information (including without limitation copyright material and/or other intellectual property) and is intended only for the person(s) and/or entity(ies) to whom it is addressed. If you are not the intended recipient of this communication, or if you received it in error, you should not disseminate, distribute or copy this communication and you are asked to kindly delete it and promptly notify us. Any copying, use, disclosure or distribution of any part of this communication or taking any action in reliance on the contents of this communication, unless duly authorized by or on behalf of EcoHealth Alliance, is strictly prohibited and may be unlawful.

Date:	Wed, 11 Aug 2021 1:33:05 PM -0400
Sent:	Wed, 11 Aug 2021 1:32:28 PM -0400
Subject:	RE: FW: For Review by 2 PM Tomorrow (8/12): Letter to Dr. Fauci from Sens Graham and Paul
From:	"Keusch, Gerald T" <(b) (6)
To:	Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b) (6) Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >; Robert Kessler <(b) (6) >;
Attachments:	image001.gif; image002.jpg; Draft Graham Paul WSJ Response_NIAIDreview GTK edit suggestions.docx

Good letter. I had two suggestions to offer as comments in the attached file.

I didn't think an ophthalmologist could be as blind as Paul is or as destructive to his own people as Assad is.
Jerry

From: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] <(b) (6)
Sent: Wednesday, August 11, 2021 12:49 PM
To: dasz >> Peter Daszak <(b) (6) Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6) Robert Kessler <(b) (6) >
Subject: Fwd: FW: For Review by 2 PM Tomorrow (8/12): Letter to Dr. Fauci from Sens Graham and Paul

strictly CONFIDENTIAL, please. I fixed a few things in this but it seems like Tony is conveying the right message here.... d

-------- Forwarded Message --------
Subject: FW: For Review by 2 PM Tomorrow (8/12): Letter to Dr. Fauci from Sens Graham and Paul
Date: Wed, 11 Aug 2021 15:28:18 +0000
From: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] <(b) (6)
To: David Morens (b) (6) >

David

David M. Morens, M.D.
CAPT, United States Public Health Service
Senior Advisor to the Director
Office of the Director
National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases
National Institutes of Health
Building 31, Room 7A-03
31 Center Drive, MSC 2520
Bethesda, MD 20892-2520
(b) (6) (assistant: Whitney Robinson)

(b) (6)

Disclaimer: **This message is intended for the exclusive use of the recipient(s) named above. It may contain information that is PROTECTED, PRIVILEGED, and/or CONFIDENTIAL, and it should not be disseminated, distributed, or copied to persons not authorized to receive such information. All sensitive documents must be properly labeled before dissemination via email. If you are not the intended recipient, any dissemination, distribution, or copying is strictly prohibited. If you have received this communication in error, please erase all copies of the message and its attachments and notify us immediately.**



From: Hastings, Andrew (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b) (6)
Sent: Wednesday, August 11, 2021 8:52 AM
To: Erbelding, Emily (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b) (6) >; Hauguel, Teresa (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b) (6) Stemmy, Erik (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b) (6) >; Ford, Andrew (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b) (6) v >; Mulach, Barbara (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b) (6) ; Fenton, Matthew (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b) (6) v >; Linde, Emily (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b) (6) Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] <(b) (6) NIAID DIR-OCGR <NIAIDDIR-OCGR@mail.nih.gov>; NIAID BUGS <BUGS@niaid.nih.gov>
Cc: Harper, Jill (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b) (6) Billet, Courtney (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b) (6) v >; Embry, Alan (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b) (6) NIAID OCGR Leg <NIAIDOCGRLeg@mail.nih.gov >
Subject: For Review by 2 PM Tomorrow (8/12): Letter to Dr. Fauci from Sens Graham and Paul

Good morning,

Background:
Dr. Fauci received the attached Exec Sec letter on June 10th from Senators Lindsey Graham (R-SC) and Rand Paul (R-KY) regarding COVID-19 origins and, specifically, assertions raised in a *Wall Street Journal* commentary by Drs. Steven Quay and Richard Muller (the article is attached here for your reference). OCGR-Leg has used previously cleared documents to draft the attached response letter. We would appreciate your review and input.

Action:
By 2 PM Tomorrow, Thursday, August 12th, please review the attached draft response letter and provide any edits in tracked changes.

Please note that the audience for this letter are non-scientists and explanations of scientific concepts should be very high-level.

Let me know if you have any questions.

Thanks,
Drew

Cell # (b) (6)

Andrew K. Hastings, Ph.D.
Public Health Analyst
Legislative Affairs and Correspondence Management Branch
Office of Communications and Government Relations

NIAID/NIH/DHHS
Bldg. 31, Room 7A17, MSC 2520
Bethesda, MD 20892-2520
(b) (6)

Disclaimer:
The information in this e-mail and any of its attachments is confidential and may contain sensitive information. It should not be used by anyone who is not the original intended recipient. If you have received this e-mail in error please inform the sender and delete it from your mailbox or any other storage devices. National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases shall not accept liability for any statements made that are sender's own and not expressly made on behalf of the NIAID by one of its representatives.

MORENS_SUBPOENA_021404
MORENS_NIH_042274
REL0000482370

Date:	Mon, 14 Mar 2022 10:44:54 PM -0400
Sent:	Mon, 14 Mar 2022 10:44:48 PM -0400
Subject:	RE: Interview in the press
From:	"Keusch, Gerald T" <(b) (6)
To:	David Morens <(b) (6) >;
Attachments:	image001.jpg; image002.jpg; image003.jpg; image004.jpg; image005.jpg; image006.jpg; image007.jpg

I will draft something to Bruce Gellin right now.

Jerry

From: David Morens <(b) (6)
Sent: Monday, March 14, 2022 9:43 PM
To: Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6)
Subject: Re: Interview in the press

No, no reprieve yet

As of this past Saturday I am no longer an NIH employee, although there is a plan afoot to rehire me within the next 1-2 months at much lower salary

Tony seems in denial and completely denies that at this moment I no longer work for NIAID. He sent me a couple hours of work this morning, and plans to have our weekly face to face meeting. Pretty bizarre....

A friend at the Sabin Vaccine Institute reached out to me about a VP position there. You mentioned some weeks ago, i think, about mentioning me to Bruce Gellin, and if that is still possible I'd welcome that

Otherwise, my time is consumed with PHS out-processing stuff and trying to sell my condo

I will be glad when this madness is over, if it ever is. d

Sent from my iPhone
David M Morens
OD, NIAID, NIH

> On Mar 14, 2022, at 18:04, Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6) u> wrote:
>
> Can I take anything away from your comment about discussing things in "the office" and "our next face to face"? Did they come to there senses about your position?
>
> On the other hand, you got it right about Rand Paul, a real beacon of wisdom to be sure.
>
> Jerry
>
> ---
>
> **From:** David Morens <(b) (6)
> **Sent:** Monday, March 14, 2022 3:00 PM
> **To:** Peter Daszak (b) (6) a rg>
> **Cc:** Roberts, Rich (b) (6) >; Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6) >; Keusch, Gerald T (b) (6) >; Dennis Carroll <(b) (6) Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) >
> **Subject:** Re: Interview in the press
>
> Peter, yes, thanks, I did see it as soon as it came out, and we have been discussing it in "the office". Tony has seen it too but hasn't commented to me. Perhaps he will at our next face to face. The overwhelming

MORENS_SUBPOENA_005944
MORENS_NIH_014561
REL0000482372

sense I get in reading it is that this is such a sad, unnecessary story. Not only for you, but for all of us. For science. And today that beacon of wisdom Rand Paul introduced, yet again, a bill to have Tony Fauci removed from his job. The lunatics really are running the asylum.

David M. Morens, MD
(b) (6)

(b) (6) work)
cell)

IMPORTANT: My gmail frequently sends incoming messages to Trash, which is apparently not correctable. If you don't hear from me in a reasonable time, please try again, call, or use my NIH email address

IMPORTANT: For US Government-related email, please also reply to my NIAID address

On Mon, Mar 14, 2022 at 11:44 AM Peter Daszak (b) (6) wrote:

> Dear all (cc'ing Dennis Carroll who I spoke with at the weekend),
>
> Not sure if you've already seen this, but after multiple harassing, innuendo-filled articles in this journal *The Intercept*, we decided to respond to them and try to explain that all of the minutiae they have been reporting on for the last few months are not evidence of corrupt science that led to a pandemic, but just the opposite – they're part of the normal process of doing science to help prevent pandemics.
>
> The result is an interview they published last week that is a bit combative, but at least helps explain to those who are bothered, that all of the allegations these guys have been pushing can be easily addressed, albeit that the answers are 1) boring, and 2) not the narrative that they want.
>
> David – you'll be interested in the bit where I explain that the NIH Office of the Director has been cruelly holding us over a barrel to deflect from their political and erroneous decision to defund us.
>
> Here's the link: https://theintercept.com/2022/03/11/covid- nih-ecohealth-peter-daszak-interview/
>
> And here's the story pasted in the email:
>
> # PETER DASZAK ANSWERS CRITICS AND DEFENDS CORONAVIRUS RESEARCH
>
> "Scientists disagree over an issue where there's no definitive proof," said the EcoHealth Alliance president on the origins of the Covid-19 pandemic.



Sharon Lerner, Mara Hvistendahl
March 11 2022, 9:50 a.m.

SINCE THE EARLY days of the Covid-19 pandemic, Peter Daszak has been at the center of a heated, and at times vicious, debate over the origins of the SARS-CoV-2 virus. The parasitologist helms the New York-based nonprofit EcoHealth Alliance, a wildlife conservation organization that aims to understand and prevent infectious diseases; the organization has received more than $118 million in grants and contracts from U.S. agencies, much of which Daszak distributes to labs around the world. Starting in 2005, he worked closely with Shi Zhengli of the Wuhan Institute of Virology, who was a key partner on a 2014 National Institutes of Health grant to research bat coronaviruses in China. The Intercept has published over 2,500 pages of documents and communications from the grant following a Freedom of Information lawsuit — information that has transformed public understanding of the research conducted under the grant.

Those documents have shown that in its efforts to head off and prepare for a pandemic, EcoHealth Alliance oversaw an experiment in which researchers intentionally made coronaviruses more pathogenic and transmissible. One grant report contained evidence that the research group also did an experiment with infectious clones of MERS, another deadly virus. While none of the experiments described in the grant materials released so far could have sparked the current pandemic, the documents raise serious questions about biosafety and oversight at NIH. Early in the grant, research on certain coronaviruses was subject to a U.S. government ban, but notes on communications between NIH staffers and EcoHealth Alliance obtained by The Intercept showed that the federal agency allowed Daszak to take the lead in shaping a plan to evade that moratorium.

Meanwhile, a grant proposal published by the internet research group DRASTIC last September showed that in 2018 EcoHealth Alliance applied for funding from the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency, or DARPA, to look for novel furin cleavage sites in bat coronaviruses. According to the proposal, which was not funded, EcoHealth planned to insert furin cleavage sites into the spikes of SARS-related viruses — an idea that drew attention because scientists had already noted that such a site is unique in the subclass of viruses to which SARS-CoV-2 belongs.

The Intercept repeatedly sought comment from EcoHealth Alliance on these revelations. EcoHealth initially responded. In September 2021, a spokesperson denied that the organization had conducted the research on the deadly MERS virus that was described in the NIH proposal. After documents obtained via FOIA later

MORENS_SUBPOENA_005946
MORENS_NIH_014563
REL0000482372

showed that such research had in fact been done, Daszak stated that the spokesperson had been misinformed. EcoHealth Alliance then stopped responding to The Intercept's questions. In late February, Daszak replied to email inquiries and offered to talk. He spoke with us on March 1. In a wide-ranging interview conducted over Zoom, he addressed questions that have swirled around EcoHealth Alliance for the past two years, defended his organization against what he characterized as unjust accusations, and railed against the questioning he has faced from congressional Republicans, the NIH, and news organizations, including The Intercept.

This interview has been edited for length and clarity.

Responding to the Outbreak

We're curious when you first heard about the outbreak in Wuhan.

If you look at my Twitter account, you'll see a tweet on New Year's Eve of 2019 —

But before the tweet, what was the moment when you first learned about it?

It was a couple of days before that. We heard from our contacts in China that something was going on, that there were cases of a disease in Wuhan. I think it was December 30. We looked on Chinese social media and found the rumors about it there. But we heard from many scientists in China.

Many of the virologists and other scientists we speak to say that we don't have enough information to determine whether Covid-19 emerged from natural spillover or as a result of research. Do you agree with that?

Do I agree that it's possible that Covid-19 emerged through a lab leak? Of course. It's been widely reported that we shut down discussion on that. But in the WHO report, which I was part of — and in fact I led the animal environmental side for the WHO side — we state that it's extremely unlikely. We don't state that it's impossible it came from the lab. Of course it's possible.

One of the many reasons that the origin of Covid-19 became such a sensitive and divisive issue was the sense, based on your communications about the Lancet letter, that you orchestrated a response among scientists and then made an effort to distance yourself from that effort. Do you want to say anything about that episode?

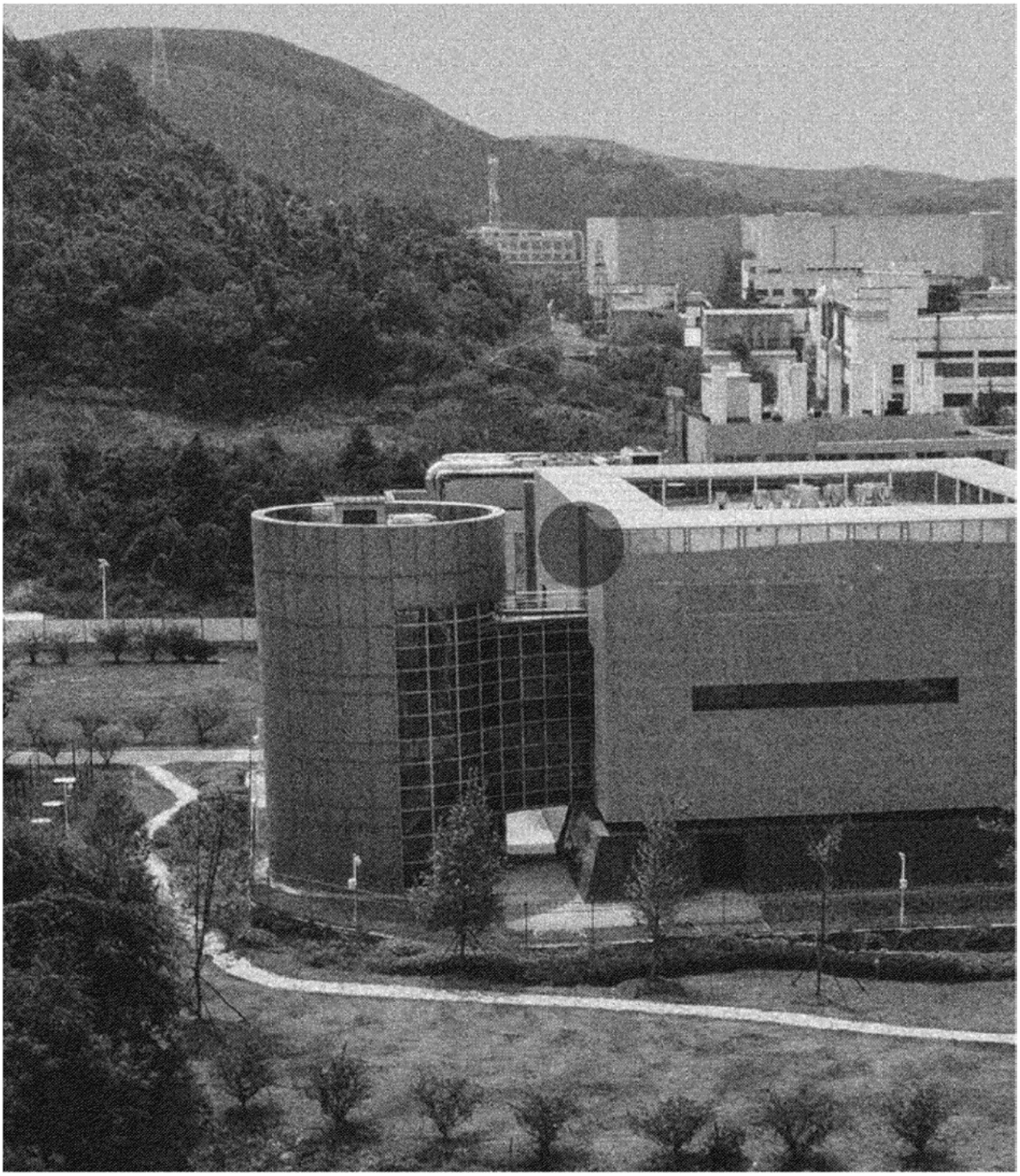
You said, "One of the reasons why this has become so divisive is because of the

MORENS_SUBPOENA_005947
MORENS_NIH_014564
REL0000482372

Lancet thing." You could say that about many things. It's because we didn't release the DARPA proposal. It's because we didn't release our emails. It's because, early on, we said very strongly that this came from nature, and that this lab leak stuff is preposterous. The real reason this has become so divisive is because it's being used politically. That's it.

Scientists disagree over an issue where there's no definitive proof. And for this issue, there's no definitive proof. And there may never be. But what we do know is the weight of evidence points strongly to emergence from farmed wildlife in China.

Since the WHO report even, there are something like 12 scientific papers that have been published or put up online from good scientists pointing towards that origin. And I've looked at every single document that's come out of the folks who are trying to show it came out of the lab, and there is no evidence yet for that. It's all about implied motives, databases that were taken offline, people that aren't on a website, or innuendo around something. Any one of those things can be explained by the normal process of doing science.



An aerial view of the P4 laboratory at the Wuhan Institute of Virology in China's central Hubei province on April 17, 2020.

Photo illustration: Soohee Cho for The Intercept; Getty Images

Controversial Research

Did EcoHealth Alliance or the Wuhan Institute of Virology, through its partnership with EcoHealth Alliance, ever insert a furin cleavage site into a

MORENS_SUBPOENA_005949
MORENS_NIH_014566
REL0000482372

bat coronavirus genetic sequence?

Of course we did not do that. I really don't understand how that could be a question at this point — it's beyond the pale. That's not in our plans and it's not any of our reports, so of course we didn't do that.

But isn't it the case that you submitted a grant proposal to DARPA to do so?

We did submit a proposal to DARPA. I've not checked through the one that's online that it's the correct document. What I do know is it was widely reported that DARPA rejected that because there were concerns about safety issues. That is absolutely untrue. The document that allegedly is DARPA's response, their review of our proposal, I've never seen that before. It was never sent to us. I don't know if it's real.

DARPA had a process by which people who didn't get funded could do an interview with them to find out why they didn't get funded. So I did that. Never once did they mention any concerns or issues around safety; never once did they mention gain-of-function. The reason they told us it was rejected was because the amount we asked for was too much for them. They couldn't afford it. They actually encouraged us to resubmit in different ways. We then had protracted conversations with them about funding specific parts of it. They liked the proposal.

Was any of the work described in that proposal completed prior to its submission? We were told by multiple sources that when you submit a grant, that at least some of the work would have been done.

When you write a grant proposal and propose to do a new line of research, which is what we did, we would not be doing that research before we submit the proposal. That's not how it works.

When we asked if you had ever inserted a furin cleavage site to a coronavirus, you responded with outrage. But that is what was described in the DARPA proposal.

No. What you said is, did we insert a furin cleavage site? And what I said was, of course not! If we had done that work with the Wuhan Institute of Virology, it would have been published by now. It would have been made public in our reports to the NIH. The DARPA proposal was not funded. Therefore, the work was not done. Simple.

But you acknowledge that you proposed to DARPA to insert a furin cleavage site?

I refute that that was the goal of the DARPA proposal. The idea was not to insert a furin cleavage site in a virus to see what happens. That's not what was proposed. The proposal was to look for those polybasic cleavage sites in nature because we knew that that was the potential to make a virus more able to infect people and move from person to person. If we found mutations around that polybasic cleavage site that looked like it could be evolvable, the idea was then that Ralph Baric's lab at UNC would do some work to see how evolvable that site was. So that work never happened. The proposal was not funded.

Did you find any of these cleavage sites in naturally occurring viruses that you collected?

The proposal was not funded so we didn't do that work. We've not found polybasic cleavage sites. However, they are in many coronaviruses from bats. Papers from Europe show mutations around that cleavage site that suggest strongly that that furin cleavage site could evolve very easily in nature. I'm sure there are viruses out there with it. I'm convinced that it could have easily evolved during the first stages of the pandemic, as the virus got from bats, perhaps into an intermediate host in a wildlife farm, or into people.

Did you resubmit the proposal?

We had conversations with them over many months about bits they would like to fund or they wanted to fund. We did not get funded. We did not do the work.

So you didn't think the DARPA proposal was relevant to the investigation into the origin of the pandemic?

A proposal that was not funded and work that was never done is not relevant to the origins of Covid. Of course not!

When asked if you had done this work with the furin cleavage site, you said no.

For the furin cleavage site, you should really ask Ralph Baric. He wrote that section of the DARPA grant.

So you're saying that that would be a good question for Ralph Baric, whether he has done any of these insertions?

I don't know what Ralph Baric has done. But I doubt that he would go ahead and do that work without the funding.

Some virologists were dismayed to see the insertion of furin cleavage sites in this proposal.

I don't know why anyone would be dismayed at that because furin cleavage sites were first researched in influenza viruses. And it's well known that that's something you should look for if you're interested in virulence factors. Second, there's actually a published paper from way before our proposal was submitted, way before the pandemic, where a group actually inserted a furin cleavage site into SARS-CoV-1. So we were right to look for that. And I think the proposal stands as a valid and actually quite predictive effort to understand the risk of viruses. You've got to look at the big picture of why we do this research. We're not doing it as a sort of academic interest, "what would happen if you put a cleavage site there?" No. This work is done to say: What viruses are there out there in the wild that have the potential to emerge in people? And can we do something to stop them? Develop vaccines, develop therapies, stop people making contact with those animals.

Your grant, "Understanding the Risk of Bat Coronavirus Emergence," included an experiment using humanized mice. Were other humanized mouse experiments conducted by you and/or WIV?

Not by us, no.

What about by WIV?

Well, you need to talk to WIV about what else they were doing. We were doing one line of work with them.

Were you aware of any?

No, of course. I'd tell you if I was aware.

Were there viruses from elsewhere in Southeast Asia that were sent to the WIV?

No. This is a commonly put about story that's simply not true. WIV did not receive viruses from all around the world.

How many actual viruses do they have?

WIV does not have the biggest collection of viruses from bats in the world. There's 20,000 bat samples, something like that, tiny fecal pellets from bats.

Right now I don't know exactly how many bat coronaviruses are in culture and freezers at the WIV. But from our work, I know that out of the SARS-related coronavirus, they were only ever able to culture a handful. I think three cultures. It's not easy to do.

In November 2019, you tweeted that you had identified over 50 novel SARS-related coronaviruses, including some that cause SARS-like signs in mice and didn't respond to monoclonal antibodies.

Yes.

What are these 50 viruses? And are they public?

This is a complex thing that's been widely misinterpreted. It's actually quite simple. What we had were hundreds of genetic sequences of coronaviruses from bats. We published them in that paper. They're not all new viruses. As we went through the sequence data and analyzed it, we refined what you might call a new virus versus a known virus. That's all. It's scientists refining and analyzing.

One ongoing point of contention between you and NIH is about lab notebooks and the communications around experiments.

NIH has made a bunch of requests that are completely reasonable, that we've dealt with very quickly and sent them the information that they required. And in many cases, NIH had the information already. What's happening here is you've got an office of the director that's dealing directly with us and completely cutting out the program staff who've got all the data they need. NIH has also asked us for a number of things which to any balanced and independent reviewer are impossible for us to supply.

Clearly in coming up with Year 4 and 5 progress reports, EcoHealth Alliance had information and draft reports on these humanized mouse experiments. Did you share those with NIH?

Of course not. You don't share draft reports. You share the final report.

Here's what happens, it's a very standard procedure: We are subcontracting to a lab in China to do some work. Every year we have to file a report to NIH to tell them what we've done for the year, how we've spent the money, and whether we've achieved the goals of the grant. So, we contact our subcontractees and we say, "Send us the information. Let us know what successes you've had this year and whether you've had problems and issues. Put it all in a report and send it to us." And then we use that to produce a report for NIH. That's why there are some editing issues around that. We move them around a bit, and we send a final report. A draft report is just a worse written version of the final report. There's no special information that's got intelligence value or anything.

Then why not share them?

MORENS_SUBPOENA_005953
MORENS_NIH_014570
REL0000482372

We've not been asked for a draft report by anybody.

You've been colleagues with Shi Zhengli, the Chinese bat coronavirus expert who directs the Center for Emerging Infectious Diseases at the Wuhan Institute of Virology, since 2005?

Yes.

So is it the kind of relationship where you would be generally aware of all the work that she was involved in? Can you say a little bit about what your level of awareness of other stuff she was doing?

We were aware of most of the stuff she was doing. Of course. These people weren't hiding anything from us. They are scientists.

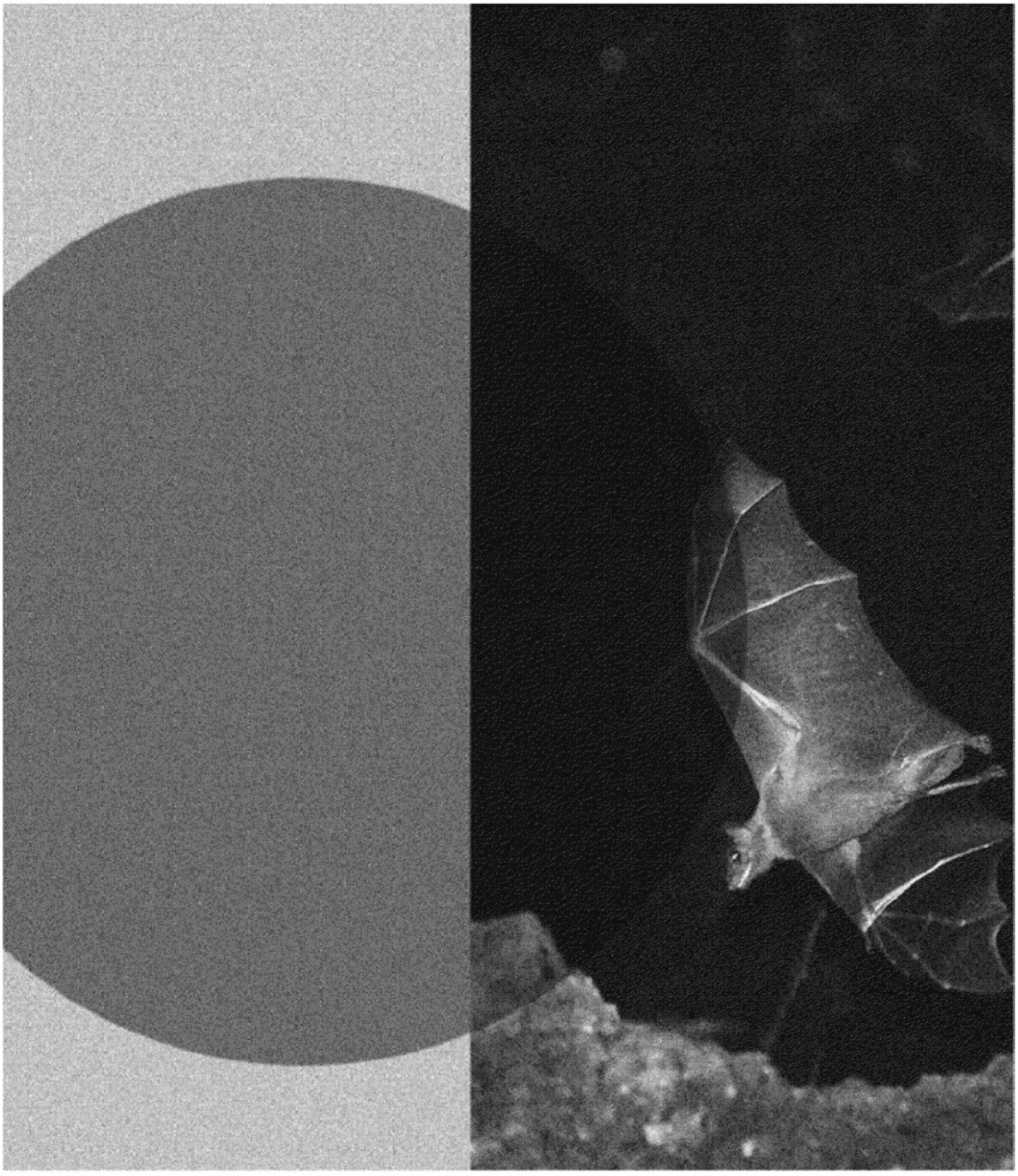
I've sat through dozens of meetings with people from Wuhan Institute of Virology, where they talk openly about unpublished work. And, by the way, RaTG13 was one of the sequences in a paper published — in I think 2015. So they weren't hiding anything from us.

Early on, after she learned about the outbreak, Shi said she was worried that somehow a virus might have leaked from her lab. A lot of people we speak to — virologists who do this kind of work — are the ones who seem most in touch with that possibility, that this stuff happens.

Very specifically, it happens when you have cultures of viruses in flasks, and you're then doing experiments with high concentrations of virus. It rarely happens if ever from an animal sample, especially a saliva sample from a bat. What Shi Zhengli was saying at that time was, "Oh, no, it's a coronavirus. I need to go back and check on those viruses that we've got and see: Is it one of them?" And she did, and it wasn't. That's what any reasonable person would do.

You implied in early 2020 that RaTG13 was not fully sequenced by WIV until late 2019 or later. And then afterwards, Shi revealed that it had actually been fully sequenced in 2018. When and how did you first learn about the true date that this virus was sequenced?

I don't actually know the true date of when this virus was sequenced. I didn't see an interview with Zhengli where she said, "We sequenced it in 2018." I don't know when and I don't think they ever got the full genome. There are parts of that virus that aren't correctly sequenced. Bear in mind, RaTG13 was not from a sample collected under the NIH grant. So we didn't have any oversight on that or any knowledge of it.



A colony of bats in a cave in the Maramagambo forest of Queen Elizabeth National Park, Uganda.

Photo illustration: Soohee Cho for The Intercept; Getty Images

Missing Data

Did you have access to the Wuhan Institute of Virology's database of viral samples and sequences that went offline in September 2019?

MORENS_SUBPOENA_005955
MORENS_NIH_014572
REL0000482372

I've never actually seen the database. I've seen pages of it from the internet, Twitter, chats. But I've never looked at the database.

Did your staff have access to it?

No. We didn't need to! We had all the data we needed. Some folks find this missing database indicative of a cover-up or something. When we were in Wuhan [with the WHO mission] in the Institute of Virology, I said, "Why did you take the database offline?" And their response was, "We took it offline before the outbreak. We were then getting hacking attempts, hundreds, thousands of hacking attempts. So we decided it wouldn't be wise to put it back up." Now, you may not believe them. But it is a perfectly reasonable explanation. And I think people should try and go for the most likely reasonable explanation for these things.

So why did they take it offline in September 2019?

They told us — and it's in the WHO report — that they were trying to update it to make it modern. WIV was trying to present itself like a globally significant virology institute, and it is. But when you look at Chinese websites, they can be really old and stuffy and clunky. What they were trying to do, they told us, was to make it interactive so that you can click on something and a map would show. They were trying to make it fit in with the national databases.

I find it quite ironic that the focus on the database of WIV is so intense, whereas what actually happened was we took the data and, with China, put the data into the NIH's own database to make it public. That's a great win for the U.S.

In April 2020, you wrote in an email, "It's extremely important that we don't have these sequences as part of our PREDICT release to Genbank at this point. As you may have heard, these were part of a grant just terminated by NIH. … Having them as part of PREDICT will being [sic] very unwelcome attention to UC Davis, PREDICT and USAID." Why did you think that publishing these sequences would bring unwelcome attention?

Because we just had our grant terminated by NIH.

So you didn't think it would be important to release this data, given that there was a pandemic?

Those sequences were released publicly by publishing them in a scientific paper, which is what scientists do. The email that you're reading out is not about whether sequences should be made public; it's about whether sequences should be made public via a USAID mechanism or via publishing through the NIH mechanism. And what I was saying to the UC Davis team that ran PREDICT was that these are

MORENS_SUBPOENA_005956
MORENS_NIH_014573
REL0000482372

NIH-funded sequences and should be reported through the NIH system. It's really that simple.

And which paper were they reported in?

Latinne et al, published in Nature Communications. We were struggling to get that paper out. It was very, very difficult, once the pandemic started, to keep communication with Chinese scientists. The utmost priority as a scientist is to get the data published, not to upload it into some database that's going to take months to go through. And by the way, that database is somewhere on the USAID government system. It's very difficult to find. The paper had already been submitted for publication, and the sequences were uploaded into GenBank, the NIH system. And then once the papers were accepted, they became public. And that's exactly what we did.

Are there sequences that have not been made public?

To my mind, there are no sequences of SARS-related coronaviruses that have not been made public. Some people think there are still viruses that are SARS-related that haven't been put in GenBank. That's not true. We've uploaded all of the SARS-related coronavirus sequences, or we've reported them to NIH, or we've published them in scientific papers. And in fact, for most of them, we've done all the above. We had them all uploaded before the pandemic. Most of them anyway.

You were on the WHO mission to investigate the origins of SARS-CoV-2. When the NIH grant documents were released, it was a surprise to many people that animal experiments were being done at Wuhan University. If you knew this information, did you share it?

It wasn't a surprise to NIH because the NIH knew about them.

Right. But did you share that information with the WHO committee or with others who were investigating the origins?

The Wuhan University BSL-3 facility is what we're talking about. They do humanized mouse work. That was not looked at by the WHO origins group. It's a BSL-3 lab that had humanized mice under BSL-3 conditions. It's highly unlikely to be the source of the Covid-19 outbreak.

Did you mention it to the committee?

I mentioned all my work to the committee, of course. We talked about it, for sure.

The Challenges of Public

MORENS_SUBPOENA_005957
MORENS_NIH_014574
REL0000482372

Scrutiny

Dr. Michael Lauer at the NIH has repeatedly asked you for biosafety records from the WIV and said that he has been unable to get some of them.

He says that, but it's not true. We've supplied everything we could possibly supply on the issues that they've asked for.

In one of his letters to you, Lauer asked about the biosafety oversight of the work at WIV. In your response to him, you wrote that it consisted of semiannual meetings with the lead investigator and assessments of compliance with all conditions of the award. Biosafety experts have said that this falls short of the level of oversight one would want for this kind of work. You mentioned in an exchange with Lauer that you were offering to pay from EcoHealth's own coffers for additional biosafety measures. Why did you offer to do this? Did you feel that the biosafety oversight was adequate?

We're talking about a world-class virology lab run by the Chinese government that is probably the best virology lab in China, and China is very good at virology. It's very efficiently run, and the biosafety conditions are very good. Just because people think that Covid-19 might have come from WIV doesn't mean that therefore our oversight of biosafety wasn't sufficient. We did everything normal in oversight of that lab.

Then why did you suggest these additional measures, if the others were already adequate?

Because I was worried that they were going to terminate our other grants. This is the key driving force for every action we've taken since April 24, 2020. I don't know why people don't realize that.

Once NIH shows you that it's willing to terminate your funding and kick people out of a job and put your whole organization under pressure simply because a single politician tells them to, then you start worrying about every other grant and contract that NIH controls. We live in fear that they're going to do similar abrupt terminations with no cause and no rationale and no logic.

What I was doing then was saying to Michael Lauer, please be reasonable. We're trying to do everything we can, within the normal bounds of what organizations do. We probably have the best biosafety and field teams in the world.

We're overcompliant and yet still being accused of lack of compliance.

MORENS_SUBPOENA_005958
MORENS_NIH_014575
REL0000482372

On February 24, House Energy and Commerce Committee Republicans sent a letter to NIH alleging that it is "highly suspicious" that EcoHealth reported the humanized mouse experiment results over two years, and suggesting that more work may have been done that was not reported. How would you respond to that?

This is a simple issue of Chinese nationals writing a report and then us drafting our report to NIH. So there's a word in there where they say we continued the studies. That doesn't mean they continued infecting mice with new viruses. No. What it means is they continued doing the research on the one experiment that they've done. And that continuation is a lot of work. So they did all the pathology, which means at the end of the experiment, you take all the mice, and you look at every organ in the body. You do detailed microscopical analysis. It takes months. So that's why it dragged on because you've got months of after-the-experiment analysis. And we included the mortality data as part of the pathology data. That's completely normal.

The House Energy and Commerce Republicans don't write to us, they write to NIH. Sometimes we hear about it, sometimes we don't. NIH doesn't copy us on their responses. Then eventually we get a letter from NIH asking questions, which we always respond to, always within the timeframe and always refuting any allegations with evidence. So that's what we've done.

The latest letter from the House Energy and Commerce Republicans accused us of being overfunded, effectively having two grants to do the same thing. It's simply not true. The USAID PREDICT grant has completely different goals to the NIH coronavirus grant. For instance, PREDICT looks for between seven and 18 different viral families within samples, not just coronaviruses. NIH is focused solely on coronaviruses. So the goals are different.

The agencies do, as a standard procedure, a review of a grantee's other proposals to see if there's overlap between them, because they don't want to fund the same thing twice. This is absolutely refutable with documentary evidence.

What's your understanding of the Republicans' motivation?

Any bipartisan requests for information from the House or the Senate, we've responded to. We've been working with the U.S. government since the pandemic began to get information to them about every single aspect of this pandemic, including unpublished data. The politicians who are attacking us probably don't realize or know or care, in some cases. When there's a request from one side of the political spectrum, we try not to respond to that. We've had hundreds of questions sent to us by letter, including requests for thousands of pages of documents. We

MORENS_SUBPOENA_005959
MORENS_NIH_014576
REL0000482372

don't have the staff to do that. And bear in mind our grant has been terminated and now suspended. We don't have access to funding. We don't have the staff to do this work. It's a horrible, cruel irony that, on the one hand, your funding is cut; and on the other hand, there are now outrageously huge number of demands for us to do work to show data from that funding that's been cut.

Don't you have ongoing funding for two other NIH projects?

Yes. Well, you can't use that money.

What have you been asked to get by NIH that you feel you can't get?

There are a whole series of things that we've been unable to get. A vial of virus. Information on a person that was removed from the website (I did ask them that, and they gave us an explanation, which is perfectly reasonable). NIH asked us for an inspection of the WIV. Every right-minded person on the planet realizes that the World Health Organization asked for an inspection of that lab, and we did go into the lab and ask questions and go around the facilities. For NIH to say that I should organize a U.S.-only, NIH-based or National Academy-based inspection of the lab facilities is a request that is way beyond what's possible. You know, you can't go into CDC as a foreigner and do an inspection of the lab.

NIH writing to us saying, "We demand that you do this," puts us in jeopardy and it's a security risk. If I was to take that letter from NIH and go to the Beijing airport and say, "I'm here to do this," I would be arrested and put in jail and probably put on trial, in the same way that scientists from China have come to the U.S. and tried to take vials of virus back to China and been arrested and convicted. NIH doing this is clearly a way for them to try to get the public behind a decision they made that was political about terminating our grant. Ever since that decision, we've been put under similar pressure over and over again. The Republicans write to NIH with some fairly outrageous accusations. NIH responds and says, "Don't worry, we will go and make EcoHealth do this, this, this, and this."



Read Our Complete Coverage

I don't think that those questions are posed to truly get to the bottom of the origins of Covid. While the House Republicans are putting pressure on NIH for tiny bits of administrative information, scientists are going out and finding that actually things are really pointing towards a natural origin. And meanwhile, we're left refuting each one of those allegations. They're all false. There's no substance to them at all.

A good proportion of the public have been pushed by misinformation to believe a narrative — and this narrative is repeated daily — that gain-of-function work was funded by Tony Fauci as a back channel to China, and EcoHealth funneled funds to China. Those stories are very beguiling, they sort of make you feel, "Ah! I knew it." But actually, there's not a grain of truth to them. Every single action that EcoHealth Alliance has taken has been things that scientists do in the normal course of doing their work.

Closing down that line of research means we lose eyes and ears on the ground in China. And it doesn't benefit us from a public health point of view or a national security point of view. It's a huge mistake.

CONTACT THE AUTHOR:



Sharon Lernersharon.lerner@theintercept.com@fastlerner

MORENS_SUBPOENA_005961
MORENS_NIH_014578
REL0000482372



Mara Hvistendahl mara.hvistendahl@theintercept.com @MaraHvistendahl

ADDITIONAL CREDITS:
ADDITIONAL ~~CREDITS~~:

Research: W. Paul Smith.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: +(b) (6)
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

Disclaimer

This communication, together with any attachment, may contain confidential and/or proprietary information (including without limitation copyright material and/or other intellectual property) and is intended only for the person(s) and/or entity(ies) to whom it is addressed. If you are not the intended recipient of this communication, or if you received it in error, you should not disseminate, distribute or copy this communication and you are asked to kindly delete it and promptly notify us. Any copying, use, disclosure or distribution of any part of this communication or taking any action in reliance on the contents of this communication, unless duly authorized by or on

Date: Mon, 20 May 2024 1:25:29 PM -0400
Sent: Mon, 20 May 2024 1:24:42 PM -0400
Subject: Dr. Francis Collins' on-the-record testimony is now released.
From: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >
To: Keusch, Gerald <(b) (6) Alison Andre <(b) (6) Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6) David Morens <(b) (6) Jeffrey Sturchio <(b) (6) Keith Martin <(b) (6) Rich Roberts <(b) (6)
CC: Soriano Osejo, Douglas (b) (6) Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) Kathy Chase-Gaudreau <(b) (6) >;
Attachments: Collins-Transcript-5.16-Release.pdf

It was released a few days ago by the SSCP, I believe. I haven't read it yet, but there's a (very-biased) news story about it here:

https://www.msn.com/en-us/news/politics/testimony-of-top-public-health-official-during-covid-is-made-public-undermining-everything-fauci-said/ar-BB1mIZto

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: +(b) (6)
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

From: Keusch, Gera (b) (6)
Sent: Monday, May 20, 2024 11:49 AM
To: Alison Andre <(b) (6) Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6) >; David Morens <(b) (6) >; Jeffrey Sturchio (b) (6) Keith Martin <(b) (6) >; Rich Roberts (b) (6)) (6)
Cc: Soriano Osejo, Douglas (b) (6) >; Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) >; Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >; Kathy Chase-Gaudreau <(b) (6) >
Subject: RE: Meeting Thursday or Friday this week

Thursday before 1 pm works. Friday is iffy and probably a no for me.

Jerry

From: Alison Andre (b) (6)
Sent: Monday, May 20, 2024 11:14 AM
To: Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6) Keusch, Gerald (b) (6) ; David Morens (b) (6) ; Jeffrey Sturchio (b) (6) Keith Martin (b) (6) Rich Roberts (b) (6)
Cc: Soriano Osejo, Douglas (b) (6) >; Aleksei Chmura (b) (6) ; Peter Daszak (b) (6) ; Kathy Chase-Gaudreau (b) (6)
Subject: Meeting Thursday or Friday this week

Dear All,

We'd like to schedule another meeting on Thursday May 23 or Friday May 24 this week. Could you please take a moment to indicate your availability below?

https://calendly.com/d/cp3y- mxp-j7h/small-group-meeting

Thank you,
Alison

--

Alison Andre

Executive Assistant to the President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Ave, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018

(b) (6) 2 (direct)
1.212.380.4465 (fax)
www.ecohealthalliance.org

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation.

Date: Mon, 20 Sep 2021 12:40:19 AM -0400
Sent: Mon, 20 Sep 2021 12:38:08 AM -0400
Subject: Re: Study from 2007 shows SARS-infected civets on farms in Hubei
From: Edward Holmes <(b) (6)
To: Jason Gale <(b) (6)
CC: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) (b) (6) (b) (6) (b) (6) (b) (6) Wang Linfa <(b) (6) (b) (6) (b) (6) (b) (6)
Attachments: healthcare-09-01132-v2.pdf

Just found this in an obscure journal.

Interesting it is Nanshan Zhong and interesting that there's a lot about the market….

PROFESSOR EDWARD C. HOLMES FAA FRS
ARC Australian Laureate Fellow

THE UNIVERSITY OF SYDNEY
Marie Bashir Institute for Infectious Diseases & Biosecurity,
School of Life & Environmental Sciences and School of Medical Sciences,
The University of Sydney | Sydney | NSW | 2006 | Australia
T (b) (6)
E (b) (6)

On 20 Sep 2021, at 10:52 am, Jason Gale (BLOOMBERG/ NEWSROOM:) <j.gale@bloomberg.net> wrote:

I did this podcast episode on bats and zoonoses at the start of 2020 with the help of Hume Field, Trevor Drew, Mark Schipp and Linfa. Still seems relevant today.
https://podcasts.apple.com/nz/podcast/how-it-all-started-rebroadcast/id1440051086?i=1000504072911

From: (b) (6) At: 09/20/21 10:17:32 UTC+10:00
To: Jason Gale (BLOOMBERG/ NEWSROOM:)
Cc: (b) (6) @g
(b) (6) (b) (6) (b) (6)
(b) (6) (b) (6) (b) (6)
Subject: Re: Study from 2007 shows SARS-infected civets on farms in Hubei

100% agree.

PROFESSOR EDWARD C. HOLMES FAA FRS
ARC Australian Laureate Fellow

THE UNIVERSITY OF SYDNEY
Marie Bashir Institute for Infectious Diseases & Biosecurity,
School of Life & Environmental Sciences and School of Medical Sciences,

The University of Sydney | Sydney | NSW | 2006 | Australia
T (b) (6)
E

On 20 Sep 2021, at 10:16 am, Jason Gale (BLOOMBERG/ NEWSROOM:) <j.gale@bloomberg.net> wrote:

Suspect geopolitics is the biggest impediment to finding an animal source in China, and the best remedy for this is to rebuild/strengthen r'ships with scientists in China.

From: (b) (6) At: 09/20/21 10:12:48 UTC+10:00
To: (b) (6)

Cc: Jason Gale (BLOOMBERG/ NEWSROOM:) , (b) (6) dmmorens@gmail.com, (b) (6) (b) (6) (b) (6) (b) (6) (b) (6) (b) (6) (b) (6)

Subject: Re: Study from 2007 shows SARS-infected civets on farms in Hubei

Just need to keep sampling, but that sampling ought to be broader.

We need something >99% similar across the whole genome.

PROFESSOR EDWARD C. HOLMES FAA FRS
ARC Australian Laureate Fellow

THE UNIVERSITY OF SYDNEY
Marie Bashir Institute for Infectious Diseases & Biosecurity,
School of Life & Environmental Sciences and School of Medical Sciences,
The University of Sydney | Sydney | NSW | 2006 | Australia
T (b) (6)
E (b) (6) (b) (6)

On 20 Sep 2021, at 9:59 am, Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b) (6) wrote:

Agree totally except your certainty that China is the ultimate source. Admittedly much data point in that direction but how can you be sure? d

Sent from my iPhone
David M Morens
OD, NIAID, NIH

On Sep 19, 2021, at 19:28, Edward Holmes <(b) (6) > wrote:

It's not phylogenetics.

MORENS_SUBPOENA_010435
MORENS_NIH_020953
REL0000482377

One thing is ascertainment bias which could be huge.

Second thing is to distinguish the long-term ecology of these viruses from the short-term emergence of the virus. These Laos viruses are the former. Clearly these viruses are commonplace in SE Asia. And I don't just think that bats and pangolins will be the only animals with SC2-like viruses. Virus ecology does not work like that. But this is not the same as determining the events that happened in Wuhan. To me, China still looks like the most likely source.

Third, I'm pretty certain that groups in China are sitting on more SC2-like viruses. If you sample bats you find them. It is striking to me that CCDC have published so little on this yet have supposedly sampled so many animals. That doesn't add up. Never discount the politics.

Professor Edward C. Holmes FAA FRS
The University of Sydney

> On 20 Sep 2021, at 9:00 am, Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] <
> (b) (6) wrote:
>
> Eddie, please clarify, i don't « get » all the phylogenetic asumptions you guys understand, but can you put it in lsyman's terms? As you know, i have said repeatedly to look past Yunnan to all of SE Asia, as i have bennunconconvinced of the Yunnan centrality of all this, suspecting thAt the universe of these viruses crosses borders to include not only SW and S China but all of SEA.
>
> If that is so, the implications ate huge: this is annintetnational problem demanding international cooperation. d
>
> Sent from my iPhone
> David M Morens
> OD, NIAID, NIH
>
> > On Sep 19, 2021, at 18:33, Edward Holmes <
> > (b) (6) > wrote:
> >
> > Yes, good idea.
> >
> > The receptor binding domain of some of these Laotian bats is so close to that of SARS-CoV-2 even some of the die-hard leakers are beginning to see the light...
> >
> > This also effectively excludes that virus-receptor relationship was generated through lab passage, that the pangolin sequences were faked, and that this outbreak had anything to do with the Mojiang mine as a virus from a different country is now closer. That mine will go down in history as the reddest of herrings.
> >
> > That said, I am a little worried about confirmation bias for the origin being bats from Yunnan/Laos/Cambodia. The more they find there, the more they sequence. But no doubt these Laotian samples are of huge significance. As are the Hubei civets.
> >
> > <Screenshot from 2021-09-19 17-04-25.png>
> >
> > ---
> > **PROFESSOR EDWARD C. HOLMES FAA FRS**
> > ARC Australian Laureate Fellow
> >
> > **THE UNIVERSITY OF SYDNEY**
> > Marie Bashir Institute for Infectious Diseases & Biosecurity,
> > School of Life & Environmental Sciences and School of Medical

MORENS_SUBPOENA_010436
MORENS_NIH_020954
REL0000482377

Sciences,
The University of Sydney | Sydney | NSW | 2006 | Australia
T (b) (6)
E

On 20 Sep 2021, at 7:52 am, Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] < (b) (6) wrote:

Yes, do it! This is important and i say modestly, game changing. The whole « origin » controversy needs to be rethought from the ground up

We have been too micro-focusing (as i have long said to hard push back) but the sarobecovirus and merbecovirus problems are geographically and virologically complex and require us to drop back and study the viral-host universe. Thst universe is huge, complicated , and holds surprises, in my view. d

Sent from my iPhone
David M Morens
OD, NIAID, NIH

On Sep 19, 2021, at 17:36, Jason Gale (BLOOMBERG/ NEWSROOM:) <j.gale@bloomberg.net> wrote:

I'm planning to pull the threads Peter has so eloquently laid out into a story. Bob, Stephen, Joel (and Kristian), if you have time/interest to get on Zoom today, let me know. Thanks a lot. Jason

From: (b) (6) At: 09/20/21 07:31:51 UTC+10:00
To: (b) (6)

Cc: Jason Gale (BLOOMBERG/ NEWSROOM:) , (b) (6) linfa.wang@duke-nus.edu.sg, (b) (6)
(b) (6) (b) (6)
(b) (6)
(b) (6)
(b) (6)
(b) (6)
(b) (6)
(b) (6)
(b) (6)

Subject: Re: Study from 2007 shows SARS-infected civets on farms in Hubei

nPeter, as i am perennially swamped with work that has nothing to do with COVID issues of importance, i am always catching up on reading the important stuff

MORENS_SUBPOENA_010437
MORENS_NIH_020955
REL0000482377

Just now i poured a martini and-read word for word your "A strategy…" paper with first author Sánchez. Also Kevin and Lin-fa were coauthors. Wow!!!

This is dynamite and also beautifully written. I mean, Hemingway, Conrad, Nin, couldn't have written it better. Beautiful job and so important.

I think you need to promote this work, and emphasize that the conclusions are farreaching and a sort of call to arms.

Let us all keep pushing,
and keep our eyes on the
prize of getting to the bottom of it all
david

Sent from my iPhone
David M Morens
OD, NIAID, NIH

> On Sep 18, 2021, at 12:05, Peter Daszak (b) (6) wrote:
>
> I put it all in a twitter thread while drinking coffee in my local diner (Saturday is "full English breakfast" day for me).
>
> https://twitter.com/peterdaszak/status/1439236376776658945?s=21
>
> No doubt ill be attacked by multiple lab leak aficionados but so be it - at least eddie,
> Garry and Kristian won't see. The horrors of that…
>
> Cheers,
>
> Peter
>
> Peter Daszak
> (Sent from my iPhone)
>
> President
> EcoHealth Alliance
>
> 460 West 34th Street, New York,
> NY 10001, USA
>
> www.EcoHealthAlliance.org
>
> > On Sep 18, 2021, at 10:26 AM, Garry, Robert F < (b) (6) wrote:
> >
> > Of course, the momentum on the lab leak side will continue, with

books by Sharri Markison, Alina Chan/Matt Ridley, Op Eds that criticize scientists, 70+ FolAs by one organization alone, many other FolAs on their way, 900 pages of FolA'd grants and reports from EHA/NIAID showing zero evidence of lab leak.

Disclaimer

The information contained in this communication from the sender is confidential. It is intended solely for use by the recipient and others authorized to receive it. If you are not the recipient, you are hereby notified that any disclosure, copying, distribution or taking action in relation of the contents of this information is strictly prohibited and may be unlawful.

This email has been scanned for viruses and malware, and may have been automatically archived by Mimecast, a leader in email security and cyber resilience. Mimecast integrates email defenses with brand protection, security awareness training, web security, compliance and other essential capabilities. Mimecast helps protect large and small organizations from malicious activity, human error and technology failure; and to lead the movement toward building a more resilient world. To find out more, visit our website.

<Screenshot from 2021-09-19 17-04-25.png>

Date: Sun, 27 Jun 2021 3:12:28 PM -0400
Sent: Sun, 27 Jun 2021 3:11:53 PM -0400
Subject: RE: News from Eddie Holmes. Re: Confidential - Re. Jeff Sachs' article on the NIH-funded work, and the Lancet COVID Commission
From: Peter Daszak <(b) (6)
To: David Morens <(b) (6)
CC: peter hotez <(b) (6) Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6) Rich Roberts <(b) (6)

I think a letter to Science, Nature, or NEJM from you all would be very well received.

There's definitely room for an article that lays out succinctly why many scientists believe a natural origin is more feasible, and why exactly we can state that there is no verifiable evidence for a lab leak, and why that scenario is far less likely.

It might also include some of the issues of how this is being used politically to mobilize attacks on science, and on scientists, dragging in the anti-vaxxers and using tactics developed in the anti-climate change attacks (massive over-use of FoIAs, personal attacks, media targeting specific scientists etc.).

It could help start the messaging around how we mobilize against 'anti-science attacks'.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: (b) (6)
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

From: David Morens (b) (6)
Sent: Sunday, June 27, 2021 6:56 AM
To: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >
Cc: peter hotez <(b) (6) u>; Keusch, Gerald T (b) (6) >; Rich Roberts (b) (6) 6)
Subject: News from Eddie Holmes. Re: Confidential - Re. Jeff Sachs' article on the NIH-funded work, and the Lancet COVID Commission

Peter, i am traveling without computer until tomorrow but can't pull up the whole Sachs article on the phone, just the op ed. Maybe when i get to my computer….

In the meantime i have been corresponding with Eddie and he wants to have a zoom this Friday. He just sent me a draft of a new review on covid origins that is very good, but asked me not to share with anyone. He is aiming to have it up online by 9 July.

Not sure how this new review will be received or whether it will change minds, but having Eddie speak out is a good thing

MORENS_SUBPOENA_020694
MORENS_NIH_041406
REL0000482383

I am thinking this may be a time for others, some of us, to speak out again. The Trop Med piece last year was perhaps a bit too timid, in retrospect, and was in a well regarded but not high impact journal

What are your thoughts about where we might get published in a high impact journal with a commentary on some of the issues, perhaps not exclusively on just origins but on why the work must continue and why origins may never be known unless it does?
david

Sent from my iPhone
David M Morens
OD, NIAID, NIH

> On Jun 26, 2021, at 16:54, Peter Daszak <(b) (6) > wrote:
>
> Hi David – I attached it to the email as a word doc, with my comments inserted (track changes, comments).
>
> There's another Op Ed in the Times yesterday with similar innuendo and months old conspiracies. We're working on correcting some errors on that, but most of it is just hype and causes more reputational damage for EcoHealth and me. I've attached that also as a word doc with comments from me – angry and irritated of cour
>
> Cheers,
>
> Peter
>
> **Peter Daszak**
> *President*
>
> EcoHealth Alliance
> 520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
> New York, NY 10018-6507
> USA
>
> Tel.: +(b) (6)
> Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
> Twitter: @PeterDaszak
>
> *EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation*
>
> **From:** David Morens <(b) (6)
> **Sent:** Saturday, June 26, 2021 4:06 PM
> **To:** Peter Daszak (b) (6)
> **Cc:** peter hotez <(b) (6) Keusch, Gerald T (b) (6) >; Rich Roberts (b) (6)
> **Subject:** Re: Confidential - Re. Jeff Sachs' article on the NIH-funded work, and the Lancet COVID Commission
>
> peter, i seem unable to access the entire article. d
>
> Sent from my iPhone
> David M Morens
> OD, NIAID, NIH
>
> > On Jun 26, 2021, at 15:02, Peter Daszak (b) (6) wrote:
> >
> > Dear all,

MORENS_SUBPOENA_020695
MORENS_NIH_041407
REL0000482383

I'm talking with Peter Hotez in a bit about this article Jeff Sachs published, but as I read through it, I put in some comments about where and why it's flawed.

It may or may not be of interest to you all, but I thought I'd copy you anyway, in case you see it and wondered. I apologize for my ranting in places, but I'm disgusted on many levels that he's willing to throw EcoHealth under the bus like this. The article has errors or hyped up comments in just about every paragraph. It's also extremely cynical that on one day he removes me from the Commission because of my 'competing interests', then writes a piece on it and sells it to a media outlet. He's a regular monthly contributor to the place this was published, which means he has to come up with material each month and this month is was our organization that helped make him his $1000-2000. Of course, I can't be sure how much he gets paid, but an op ed in the times or guardian is $500 and these monthly deals pay better – my former boss had a similar one.

The article link is here: https://www.project-syndicate.org/onpoint/finding- the-origins-of-covid19-by-jeffrey-d-sachs-2021-06

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: (b) (6)
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

Disclaimer

The information contained in this communication from the sender is confidential. It is intended solely for use by the recipient and others authorized to receive it. If you are not the recipient, you are hereby notified that any disclosure, copying, distribution or taking action in relation of the contents of this information is strictly prohibited and may be unlawful.

This email has been scanned for viruses and malware, and may have been automatically archived by Mimecast, a leader in email security and cyber resilience. Mimecast integrates email defenses with brand protection, security awareness training, web security, compliance and other essential capabilities. Mimecast helps protect large and small organizations from malicious activity, human error and technology failure; and to lead the movement toward building a more resilient world. To find out more, visit our website.

Disclaimer

The information contained in this communication from the sender is confidential. It is intended solely for use by the recipient and others authorized to receive it. If you are not the recipient, you are hereby notified that any disclosure, copying, distribution or taking action in relation of the contents of this information is strictly prohibited and may be unlawful.

This email has been scanned for viruses and malware, and may have been automatically archived by Mimecast, a leader in email security and cyber resilience. Mimecast integrates email defenses with brand protection, security awareness training, web security, compliance and other essential capabilities. Mimecast helps protect large and small organizations from malicious activity, human error and technology failure; and to lead the movement toward building a more resilient world. To find out more, visit our website.

Disclaimer

The information contained in this communication from the sender is confidential. It is intended solely for use by the recipient and others authorized to receive it. If you are not the recipient, you are hereby notified that any disclosure, copying, distribution or taking action in relation of the contents of this information is strictly prohibited and may be unlawful.

This email has been scanned for viruses and malware, and may have been automatically archived by Mimecast, a leader in email security and cyber resilience. Mimecast integrates email defenses with brand protection, security awareness training, web security, compliance and other essential capabilities. Mimecast helps protect large and small organizations from malicious activity, human error and technology failure; and to lead the movement toward building a more resilient world. To find out more, visit our website.

Date: Tue, 25 Aug 2020 5:31:35 PM -0400
Sent: Tue, 25 Aug 2020 5:31:24 PM -0400
Subject: Re: Monday morning news from Wuhan & elsewhere...
From: Dennis Carroll <(b) (6)
To: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] <(b) (6)

David, looking forward to having you over tomorrow night. See you around 7. Call when you get to the (b) (6) and I ll meet you at the gate

My number is (b) (6)

d

On Wed, Aug 19, 2020 at 4:44 PM Dennis Carroll (b) (6) (6) > wrote:
Right. Week from today

d

On Wed, Aug 19, 2020 at 4:32 PM Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b) (6) m > wrote:

Sounds good, next Wednesday, a week from today, right? Looking

forward to it. My cell is (b) (6) . david

On 8/18/2020 7:27 PM, Dennis Carroll

wrote:

MORENS_SUBPOENA_015265
MORENS_NIH_032098
REL0000482384

Come by at 7:00 or so. The (b) (6) is closed to outsiders (you are well informed) but it's only open Th-Sat. No restrictions or (b) (6) The (b) (6) (b) (6) . Some parking on the street, otherwise in the garage. Call when you've arrived and I'll meet you at the (b) (6) . It'll be good to see you My number is (b) (6)

d

On Tue, Aug 18, 2020 at 6:45 PM David Moren (b) (6) > wrote:

> Dennis, sounds good! No significant other, i am divorced and pretty much on my own, not a great place to be st my age but it is what it is. Let me know time and details. As i recall the new (b) (6) is sirt of closed to non members, is that right? D
>
> Sent from my iPhone

MORENS_SUBPOENA_015266
MORENS_NIH_032099
REL0000482384

David M Morens

OD, NIAID, NIH

On Aug 18, 2020, at 18:23,

Dennis Carroll (b) (6) .>

wrote:

Next Wednesday forecast looks

great. Does that work for you? If you have a

significant other. Bring them along.

d

On Tue, Aug 18,

MORENS_SUBPOENA_015267
MORENS_NIH_032100
REL0000482384

2020 at 5:34 PM David Morens (b) (6) >

wrote:

Dennis, wow, this is the best
news i have heard in years. Three and a half
years to be precise. I hope you are telling
them to “go big”. I have opined on this
subject to several reporters, mostly off the
record or not for attribution, and also in a
few articles. I have said, among other
things, that pandemic prevention should be
given the same priority as nuclear and
chemical weapons prevention, and that it
should be an organized international
cooperative effort.

Yes, i can be free almost any time next
week except Monday, and would love to watch
the sun set over the yardarm with a toast or
two. David

Sent from my iPhone

MORENS_SUBPOENA_015268
MORENS_NIH_032101
REL0000482384

David M Morens

OD, NIAID, NIH

On Aug 18, 2020,

at 16:31, Dennis Carroll (b) (6)

wrote:

Good to hear from

you. Appreciate all your behind the

scenes efforts. Expect a Biden

administration will be far more in

synch with what is needed. The

campaign asked me to talk with the

NYTs last week about an embargoed

policy statement on what they will

do to make America safer from future

pandemics - reestablishing support

for viral discovery (Predict/GVP)

was one of the key policy points

If you're free one

evening next week let me know -

sundowners on Liberty (our boat) is

always a pleasure

d

On

Tue, Aug 18, 2020 at 4:23 PM

Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b) (6)

wrote:

MORENS_SUBPOENA_015270
MORENS_NIH_032103
REL0000482384

Dennis, it is great to hear

your are back and , better

yet,

living on a boat in the

harbor. How good does it

get?!?!

I have spent alot of time

over the last few months

working with

Jerry Keusch and many others

to try to undo the harm that

was done

to Peter's grant, PREDICT, and

related things. Lots is

happening

MORENS_SUBPOENA_015271
MORENS_NIH_032104
REL0000482384

behind the scenes and I

believe that the tides will

turn

eventually, and especially

after January 20. Given that

I work

for NIAID, and that Tony Fauci

is my boss, I have to be

careful

and generally talk to

reporters off the record, but

I think I can

say that NIAID, at least, is a

friend in these efforts, just

not

able at this time to be too

out front. But the time will

MORENS_SUBPOENA_015272
MORENS_NIH_032105
REL0000482384