**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
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)
**Sent:** Friday, April 12, 2024 1:37 PM
**To:** Peter Daszak (b) (6) >; Keusch, Gerald T (b) (6) e(b) ; Jeff Sturchio < ( Roberts, Rich (b) (6) m>; Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6) : h (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…



MORENS_NIH_047349
REL0000476142

Cheers,

Peter

**Peter Daszak**
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**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*

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*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 (b) (6)
>
> Cheers,
>
> Peter
>
> **Peter Daszak**
> *President*



MORENS_NIH_047351
REL0000476142

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*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 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*

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MORENS_NIH_047352
REL0000476142

**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 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



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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.



MORENS_NIH_047354
REL0000476142

Cheers,

Peter

**Peter Daszak**
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MORENS_NIH_047355
REL0000476142

Date: Tue, 23 Feb 2021 12:04:00 PM -0500
Subject: Briefing Tony
From: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] < (b) (6)
To: Peter Daszak < (b) (6) >;
CC: Keusch, Gerald T < (b) (6)
Attachments: image001.gif; image002.jpg

Peter, Tony just asked me to provide our staff with your contact info, so they can schedule a briefing from you to him, possibly with one or more other staff in the OD, as he decides, or not.

I just sent them your email address.

I recall that you and the team briefed him in person a few years back, and that went quite well.

In his current state of being stressed on all sides, it might be helpful if I give you some heads ups beforehand.

He will want things to be brief, with you giving minimal info and him asking the questions and controlling things. If there are images or videos, you might ask the staff in advance about them, and in any case keep presentation materials brief and very simple, no technical stuff unless he asks.

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)
- (b) (6)

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MORENS_SUBPOENA_012433
MORENS_NIH_023634
REL0000476150

**Date:** Wed, 10 Jun 2020 7:01:13 PM -0400
**Sent:** Wed, 10 Jun 2020 7:01:11 PM -0400
**Subject:** Re: Follow up
**From:** David Morens < (b) (6)
**To:** Keusch, Gerald T < (b) (6)
**CC:** Peter Daszak < (b) (6)

---

Jerry, i don't know Lauer either but you as a former IC director know that he is undoubtedly a minor paper pusher used as a puppet in This awful action. I doubt he is any more the villain than the executioner who guillotined the French king and queen. Just a "useful idiot" as the Russians say. What must have gone on behind the scenes between Azar, Collins, and Tony is totally unknown to me, but i wonder whether a high level call to Tony might at the Least reveal useful clues About what he might be able to do to help, without incurring risk to him. Alot of uncertainties here, but you have done a HUGE amount to move the ball forward, so i hope u will keep pushing on all fronts. I have a feeling that this is a prolonged struggle that science, and specifically Peter, can and will win. David

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

On Jun 10, 2020, at 18:42, Keusch, Gerald T < (b) (6) wrote:

Very sensible. I will think more and deeper, and I can discuss it with the 91 other NAM members as I have created a forum for doing that, both to keep them engaged and to get input from some very smart people. I could see using the Nobel Laureate letter to Azar and Collins and the NAM statement as the focus of our follow up and that keeps it above NIAID and Tony. I don't have a grudge against Lauer but he is the instrument and maybe should be part of the focus since I could easily site from his letter. Thanks again for sage input. Jerry

Sent from my iPhone

On Jun 10, 2020, at 5:20 PM, David Morens < (b) (6) > wrote:

Jerry, I am not sure what is the best way to proceed. Yes, I am in a position to speak to Tony, and will do so if that is the best way, and yes, I can give you contact info for Hilary, but first let us think this through.

To my knowledge Tony has not spoken to anyone in NIAID about this, including me and including our Deputy Director. That is, aside from the comments he made a few weeks ago at the Town Hall meeting, which I shared with you. I suspect he sees this as a delicate issue, not to be discussed even with his own staff. Therefore, I am thinking the best way to approach him might be from someone at a very high level, perhaps you or someone else he considers an equal. This could be done by a phone call to him, asking him to return the call about a delicate matter when convenient. He is naturally very cautious about sticking his neck out, although he has begun to do so on several issues

recently. I am not sure how he would respond. Perhaps negatively, but letting it be known he is on our side. Even that would be important info. In the end, he might be able to do as much or more behind the scenes than leading the charge. Whoever calls him should be someone he respects and trusts, and at a "senior" level. What do you think?

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

3) (work)
(b) (6) (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, Jun 10, 2020 at 2:33 PM Keusch, Gerald T (b) (6) > wrote:

I am in discussion with the 91 other signatories of the letter from NAM members to the three NASEM Presidents on how to follow up on the tepid statement released by Victor, without the endorsement of the other two Presidents.

One suggestion is that now we can build on that statement and redraft the letter we sent to NASEM and redirect it to Azar and Collins. A couple say we should include Tony, as it was an NIAID grant. I am planning to redo the letter and this time send it to Azar and Collins and use some press connections to get it into the public domain. I am hesitant to include Tony unless he feels he has sufficient distance and firewall from the action taken. Maybe he would like an opportunity to respond to press coverage and further distance himself. So, David, are you in a position to ask Tony about this? I know that you have told us his communications in are monitored, and what goes out is also monitored. I have an alternative strategy and that would be through Hilary Marston. I was in touch with her as Nicki Lurie and I were writing a brief on the R&D Preparedness Ecosystem for Victor to submit to the Global Preparedness Monitoring Board. That could be the subject of an email; I think I also have her phone (do they bug the phones of Institute OD professional staff?) so that would be an alternative, as I don't know if I have a non .gov email address for her.

Let me know. The goal is relentless pressure. Just when they think its quieted down we



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ratchet up again. I have to note that Harold Varmus tells me they won't listen to anything but on day 1 of the new administration the NIH Director will be replaced and Peter's grant will be restored. I'm not sure about the first (but you dismiss Varmus's opinions at your own peril), or the day 1 timeline, but I am convinced the grant will be restored.

Jerry

Gerald T. Keusch, M.D.

Professor of Medicine and Global Health

Associate Director

National Emerging Infectious Diseases Laboratory

Boston University, Boston MA

**Date:** Fri, 21 Jul 2023 1:33:05 PM -0400
**Sent:** Fri, 21 Jul 2023 1:32:17 PM -0400
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Fwd: The new NIH Director nomination
**From:** David Morens (b) (6)
**To:** Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b) (6)

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

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

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

--------- Forwarded message --------
From: Keusch, Gerald T (b) (6)
Date: Sat, May 20, 2023 at 4:42 PM
Subject: RE: The new NIH Director nomination
To: Roberts, Rich (b) (6) >, Peter Daszak (b) (6) >, Aleksei Chmura (b) (6) >
Cc: Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6) (b) (6) >, Jeffrey Sturchio (b) (6) >

Hi Rich,

Totally agree with the need to get rid of the slogan for attacks on science that GOF has become. The question is how. That would be something a new advocacy organization that engages the scientific societies to fight back against the attacks on science and scientists could pick up and pursue.

More immediate is the issue of EHA and what Bertagnolli will experience in the hearings. Ordinarily what Harold suggests would be fine, however in the current circumstances Building 1 remains hostile to EHA and too reticent with the republican congressmen. I don't trust them to prep her in a manner that we would consider both rational and reasonable. Maybe the other way to get her attention is to get something in Science (? via and editorial from you and Harold, or prod Holden Thorpe to take a proactive stance) providing the


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MORENS_NIH_008989
REL0000476160

background including the suspensions, terminations, reversals, reimpositions etc in a way that has stopped the important work EHA does for all this time. Jocelyn Kaiser has a nice news report in Science; what is needed now is an editorial that Bertagnolli will see and hopefully ask lots of questions to the legal office at NIH and HHS.

Peter, is there anybody in that office who has been willing to both listen and to hear the message? I don't know how to get more information to that person, that office, without stepping over red lines for influencing (rather than informing) decision making. What is needed is some sort of amicus brief. Is there any precedent for something like that outside the courts?

I'm just verbally mulling over where this issue is and what can be legitimately be done proactively in defense.

Jerry

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) ; 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



MORENS_SUBPOENA_002474
MORENS_NIH_008990
REL0000476160

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: Harold E. Varmus (b) (6)
Sent: Saturday, May 20, 2023 1:30 PM
To: Roberts, Rich (b)
Subject: Re: The new NIH Director nomination

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



MORENS_SUBPOENA_002476
MORENS_NIH_008992
REL0000476160

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email: (b) (6)

Executive Assistant: (b) (6)
Tel: (b) (6)
Fax: (978) 412 9910
email: (b) (6)
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| | |
|---|---|
| **Date:** | Wed, 7 Feb 2024 9:28:14 AM -0500 |
| **Subject:** | Fwd: Science: Virologists and epidemiologists back natural origin for COVID-19, survey suggests |
| **From:** | David Morens < (b) (6) |
| **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) |
| **Attachments:** | image001.jpg; image001.jpg |

From the cell phone of David Morens

--------- Forwarded message --------
From: **Folkers, Greg (NIH/NIAID) [C]** (b) (6) >
Date: Tue, Feb 6, 2024, 19:50
Subject: Science: Virologists and epidemiologists back natural origin for COVID-19, survey suggests
To:

# Virologists and epidemiologists back natural origin for COVID-19, survey suggests

## First large scientific opinion poll about "lab leak" causes fresh furor on social media

- 6 Feb 2024
- 5:10 PM ET
- By Martin Enserink



Most respondents in a global survey of experts said it was unlikely the COVID-19 pandemic originated from the Wuhan Institute of Virology.HECTOR RETAMAL/AFP via Getty Images

No scientific dispute has ever been resolved by an opinion poll, and plenty of famous researchers have been on the wrong side of scientific history. But a group of risk experts has found a new angle on one of the most hotly contested science issues of our time—where the SARS-CoV-2 virus behind the COVID-19 pandemic came from—by conducting what it calls the first systematic survey of scientific opinion on the matter.



MORENS_SUBPOENA_011278
MORENS_NIH_022059
REL0000476176

The report, posted online on Friday, suggests virologists and other scientists with relevant expertise favor the view that the pandemic began when a natural virus jumped from an animal to a human, not because of an accident in a research lab studying or manipulating coronaviruses. The survey, like every other morsel of information around the pandemic's origin, triggered a fierce debate on social media, where the report was both praised as "an important global survey" and panned as a "fake study."

Here are some key things to know about the survey.

## Who organized this poll, and why?

The idea came from John Halstead, a political philosopher and filmmaker based in Oxford, England, who's making a documentary about COVID-19's origin. "There were lots of claims and counterclaims about what most experts think about this, but no hard data to back it up," Halstead writes in an email to *Science*.

To carry out the survey, he turned to the Global Catastrophic Risk Institute (GCRI), a nonpartisan U.S.-based think tank that studies "events that could significantly harm or even destroy human civilization at the global scale." GCRI staff helped draw up the questions and enlisted Nemesys Insights, a company in Albany, New York, to produce the survey and email it to scientists who, based on a predetermined protocol, were deemed to have expertise in the matter. The goal was to poll a much larger and more geographically diverse group than the few scientists usually seen discussing the issue in the media.

## Who were the respondents?

Of the 1138 experts invited to participate, 168 provided usable data—a pretty low response rate, but that's not uncommon in this type of survey. Among them were epidemiologists (44%), virologists (46%), and a couple of biosafety experts and evolutionary geneticists, from 47 countries. Excluded were scientists in 60 countries and territories—including China—listed as "not free" by the pro-democracy organization Freedom House. Although the survey was anonymous, the team worried researchers there might feel uncomfortable expressing their opinions, or that doing so might put them in legal or physical danger. (More details on the survey are in an annex to the report.)

## What did the survey find?

Respondents were asked to put a probability on each of three scenarios: that the pandemic was the result of a natural zoonosis; that a biomedical research-related accident was to blame; or that there was another cause. (The three probabilities had to add up to 100%.) On average, respondents assigned a 77% probability to a zoonosis, 21% to the lab-leak scenario, and 2% to the "other" category. One-quarter of respondents seemed to be very sure about a zoonotic origin, giving it a probability between 96% and 100%.

That hardly means respondents believe the matter is settled, however. One in five researchers gave a probability of 50% or more to a scenario other than a natural zoonosis.

## Were virologists more firmly in favor of a zoonotic scenario?

That's what you might expect; after all, if a lab accident killed millions, it would be a stain on virology that could lead to new restrictions on research. But the study found no statistically significant differences in the views of virologists and epidemiologists. (Nor were there significant differences between respondents from developing and developed countries.) There were other differences between the two groups, however. For example, asked to rate the probability that the next pandemic will be caused by a lab accident, virologists on average said it was 8%, and epidemiologists 21%.

## Any caveats?

The survey itself casts some doubts on the experts' expertise. It asked whether they were familiar with a series of hotly debated documents pertaining to the coronavirus' origin, including the report of a World Health Organization mission to China, papers in *Nature* and *Science*, and a 2021 U.S. Department of State fact sheet. Also on that list was "Hanlen *et al* (2022)," a fictional paper in the *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences* included to check whether the respondents were being truthful and paying attention. One in three respondents said they were familiar with the nonexistent paper.

By contrast, only 22% of respondents said they were familiar with a research proposal known as DEFUSE, which was submitted to the U.S. Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA) in 2018 by the nonprofit EcoHealth Alliance and partnering labs in the United States and at the Wuhan Institute of Virology. The latter is the Chinese facility where some believe SARS-CoV-2 originated, and many lab-leak proponents see DEFUSE—which DARPA rejected—as an example of risky virology and evidence that there was a "blueprint" for creating the virus.

"At least 78% of experts are very badly informed (not aware of one key document)," Gilles Demaneuf, a data scientist and member of a group called DRASTIC that defends the lab-origin hypothesis, tweeted in a comment on the study. "33% of experts are either lying or easily confused. Basically, these experts are no better than the Delphic Pythia, hallucinations included."

"I agree that the responses in this part of the study are curious, especially on the fake study, though we also note that it is possible for someone to have significant expertise on a topic without necessarily being familiar with every study on that topic," says GCRI co-founder and Executive Director Seth Baum, who along with Halstead is an author on the survey report. But, "Regardless, we did not find any significant correlation between the responses on familiarity with prior studies and responses to questions on COVID-19 origins," he adds.

Some also took issue with the fact that some potential respondents were identified using "snowball sampling," in which experts already invited could recommend others—a procedure that could skew the sample if scientists preferentially recommended like-minded people.

## Many respondents seem to have made up their minds. Does that mean they think no further origin research is needed?

Not at all. Only 12% of respondents said no further studies are necessary. Thirty-seven percent said "some" additional research is needed, and more than half—including 43% of virologists—said studies should continue because "major gaps" remain in the investigations done so far.

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doi: 10.1126/science.zz3ed3v



MORENS_SUBPOENA_011280
MORENS_NIH_022061
REL0000476176

**Date:** Tue, 23 Aug 2022 6:19:57 PM -0400
**Sent:** Tue, 23 Aug 2022 6:18:02 PM -0400
**Subject:** RE: More political harrassment for EcoHealth
**From:** Peter Daszak (b) (6)
**To:** David Morens <(b) (6)>
**CC:** Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6)>; Keusch, Gerald T (b) (6); Roberts, Rich (b) (6) (b) (6) peter hotez <(b) (6)>; Jeffrey Sturchio <(b) (6)>
**Attachments:** image001.gif; image002.jpg

---

Amen to that David!

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 23, 2022 5:31 PM
**To:** Peter Daszak (b) (6)
**Cc:** Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6)>; Keusch, Gerald T (b) (6); Roberts, Rich < (b) (6) (b) (6) peter hotez <(b) (6)>; Jeffrey Sturchio <(b) (6)>
**Subject:** Re: More political harrassment for EcoHealth

Sounds like the usual bullshit to me. My sense is that outside this small group of Republican idiots, almost everyone in govt, including most Republicans, realize this is just shameless grandstanding by a bunch of clowns. It may be more embarrassing for them than it is harmful to you, because every time they do things like this it makes them look worse than they were the day before.

Since there is no "there" there, the longer this charade goes on the more desperate and stupid it looks. All of Tony's emails? Good luck. He is too smart to leave anything for them to find. Not gonna happen. Waste of everyone's time, and most of the world is catching on.... d



MORENS_SUBPOENA_011555
MORENS_NIH_022368
REL0000476180

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, Aug 23, 2022 at 4:36 PM Peter Daszak (b) (6) wrote:

> It's probably just bluster, but today Sen. Rand Paul and Sen. Marshall demanded NIH preserve all records of Dr. Fauci and Collins so they can continue their investigations.
>
> Sen. Marshall's letter is particularly aggressive for us, citing EcoHealth Alliance repeatedly as their rationale for needing to get hold of all of Tony Fauci's emails, texts, notes, and even "burner phones" as he states it.
>
> Bizarre and a little bit worrying…
>
> 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_011556
MORENS_NIH_022369
REL0000476180

**Sent:** Monday, August 22, 2022 4:16 PM
**To:** 'David Morens' [redacted]; 'Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E]' [redacted]; Chmura [redacted]; 'Keusch, Gerald T' [redacted]; 'Roberts, Rich' [redacted]; 'peter hotez' [redacted]; 'Jeffrey Sturchio' [redacted]
**Subject:** Nasty hit piece today on Fox News about me and EcoHealth from Rep. Comer
**Importance:** High

Here's Representative Comer, Republican on House Oversight Committee repeatedly attacking me and EcoHealth Alliance by name on Fox News today.

Disgusting level of fake anger, with a series of lies and falsehoods to back it up.

Here's the video (you don't need Twitter to watch it).

https://twitter.com/i/status/1561736412885651457

I've already got journalists calling my home now, harrassing us.

Cheers,

Peter

**Peter Daszak**
*President*

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

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

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

**From:** David Morens [redacted]
**Sent:** Monday, August 22, 2022 12:04 PM
**To:** Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] [redacted]; Peter Daszak [redacted]; Aleksei Chmura [redacted]; Keusch, Gerald T [redacted]; Roberts, [redacted]; peter hotez [redacted]; Jeffrey Sturchio [redacted]
**Subject:** Re: FW: Sharing Statements from President Joe Biden and HHS Secretary Xavier Becerra on Dr. Fauci's Announcement

David M. Morens, MD
[redacted]



MORENS_SUBPOENA_011557
MORENS_NIH_022370
REL0000476180

(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, Aug 22, 2022 at 12:00 PM Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b) (6) wrote:

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:** owner-nih-all-staff@list.nih.gov <owner-nih-all-staff@list.nih.gov> **On Behalf Of** NIH Executive Secretariat
**Sent:** Monday, August 22, 2022 11:54 AM



MORENS_SUBPOENA_011558
MORENS_NIH_022371
REL0000476180

**To:** List NIH-ALL-STAFF <NIH-ALL-STAFF@LIST.NIH.GOV >
**Subject:** Sharing Statements from President Joe Biden and HHS Secretary Xavier Becerra on Dr. Fauci's Announcement

## Statement from President Joe Biden on the announcement of Dr. Anthony Fauci's Departure from NIAID

During my time as Vice President, I worked closely with Dr. Anthony Fauci on the United States' response to Zika and Ebola. I came to know him as a dedicated public servant, and a steady hand with wisdom and insight honed over decades at the forefront of some of our most dangerous and challenging public health crises. When it came time to build a team to lead our COVID-19 response – in fact, in one of my first calls as President-elect – I immediately asked Dr. Fauci to extend his service as my Chief Medical Advisor to deal with the COVID-19 crisis our nation faced. In that role, I've been able to call him at any hour of the day for his advice as we've tackled this once-in-a-generation pandemic. His commitment to the work is unwavering, and he does it with an unparalleled spirit, energy, and scientific integrity.

Dr. Fauci has served under seven Republican and Democratic Presidents during his career, beginning with Ronald Reagan. He was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 2008 under President George W. Bush. For almost four decades, he has served as Director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, helping our country navigate health crises ranging from HIV/AIDS to COVID-19. Because of Dr. Fauci's many contributions to public health, lives here in the United States and around the world have been saved. As he leaves his position in the U.S. Government, I know the American people and the entire world will continue to benefit from Dr. Fauci's expertise in whatever he does next. Whether you've met him personally or not, he has touched all Americans' lives with his work. I extend my deepest thanks for his public service. The United States of America is stronger, more resilient, and healthier because of him.

## Statement by HHS Secretary Xavier Becerra on Upcoming Departure of Dr. Anthony S. Fauci

Today, Anthony S. Fauci, M.D. announced he is stepping down in December 2022 from the positions of Director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID) and Chief of the NIAID Laboratory of Immunoregulation, as well as Chief Medical Advisor to the President. U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Secretary Xavier Becerra issued the following statement:

"This is a decision we all knew would eventually come but hoped never would. As HHS Secretary, I am privileged to know Dr. Fauci professionally and personally and deeply admire his decades of public service that have undoubtedly improved the health of millions of people globally. When I arrived at HHS, the world was one year into the COVID-19 pandemic. I quickly came to rely on Dr. Fauci's wisdom and counsel in our response, and along with his scientific acumen, I treasure his ability to break down complex science in simple terms to the American people to save lives.

"His selfless passion to bring hope and healing to people fighting for their health knows no bounds. In fact, Dr. Fauci's pioneering approach to tackle public health decades ago included a critical role in our nation's domestic and international response to HIV/AIDS, ultimately helping create the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief.

"I will be sorry to see Dr. Fauci depart in December, but I wish him all the best in his future endeavors and look forward to witnessing his next chapter."


MORENS_SUBPOENA_011559
MORENS_NIH_022372
REL0000476180

Date: Thu, 19 May 2022 3:00:34 PM -0400
Sent: Thu, 19 May 2022 3:00:29 PM -0400
Subject: FW: FactCheck.org: Navarro Falsely Links Fauci to Pandemic Origin https://bit.ly/3wvGKB8
From: "Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E]" < (b) (6) >
To: David Morens ( (b) (6) < (b) (6) >;

**From:** Folkers, Greg (NIH/NIAID) [E] < (b) (6)
**Sent:** Thursday, May 19, 2022 1:19 PM
**Subject:** FactCheck.org: Navarro Falsely Links Fauci to Pandemic Origin https://bit.ly/3wvGKB8

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# Navarro Falsely Links Fauci to Pandemic Origin

By Jessica McDonald
Posted on May 19, 2022

## SciCheck Digest

The U.S. indirectly funded some bat coronavirus research at a lab in Wuhan, China. But those experiments could not have led to the coronavirus that causes COVID-19, because the viruses used were very different. Yet former White House trade adviser Peter Navarro repeated a false claim that Dr. Anthony Fauci "killed a lot of people" by funding the lab.

## Full Story

It's not known how SARS-CoV-2, the coronavirus that causes COVID-19, originated. But many scientists suspect the virus "spilled over" into humans from an animal. There is no evidence the virus was created in a lab, let alone as part of any U.S.-funded research.

For over a year, politicians and others have misleadingly cited certain grants awarded to a group collaborating with a lab in Wuhan to incorrectly suggest that National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases Director Dr. Anthony Fauci is responsible for the COVID-19 pandemic.

While there is a debate about whether some of the research should have been funded or performed, the experiments did not produce SARS-CoV-2, as the National Institutes of Health and others have explained.

The latest iteration of these claims comes from Peter Navarro, former President Donald Trump's trade adviser, who in a May 16 interview with the conservative outlet Newsmax blamed Fauci for the pandemic and called for his imprisonment.

Navarro began by responding to a clip of Fauci telling CNN on May 15 that he would not serve under Trump if the former president were elected in 2024.

"Tony, you're fired, dude. There's no way you're ever getting back into the Trump White House," Navarro said, adding that as soon as Republicans take back the House, Fauci would sit in Congress and "confess to creating the virus that's killed almost a million Americans now."

"We're going to fit you for an orange jumpsuit, Tony, you can count on that," he continued. "So don't be smug on CNN, dude, okay. You're fired. And if that's the only thing that happens to you, Tony, you'll be lucky because you killed a lot of people by funding this Wuhan lab. You got in bed with the Chinese Communist Party, you lied to the American people."

Fauci, who has been head of NIAID since 1984 and is one of the most distinguished living scientists, has served under seven presidents, including three Democrats and four Republicans. At age 81, Fauci has said he is thinking of retirement, but has no immediate plans to depart and would not do so until the country is firmly out of danger from COVID-19's pandemic phase.

Later, Navarro, who has previously misled the public about hydroxychloroquine as a COVID-19 treatment and shared inaccurate information about COVID-19 vaccines, baselessly stated as fact that the pandemic began at the Wuhan Institute of Virology.

"This is where the virus started," he said, pointing to an image of the facility. "This was funded by Tony Fauci. Gain-of-function research is what he went behind the back of Donald Trump and the White House to get going here in 2017 with the Chinese communists. And now we have a pandemic that's killed almost a million people. I don't know how this guy is still in public office, he really ought to have a jumpsuit."

Newsmax shared its interview with Navarro on Facebook, where it received more than 30,000 views in two days.

## Fauci Has No Connection to Pandemic Virus

Navarro's statements are reminiscent of those from other Republicans, including Florida Rep. Matt Gaetz and Sen. Rand Paul of Kentucky, who have at times also falsely insinuated that NIH-funded research at the Wuhan Institute of Virology could have led

to the creation of SARS-CoV-2.

As we have explained before, NIAID did fund some experiments at WIV as part of a multiyear $3.7 million grant that began in 2014 to the U.S.-based nonprofit EcoHealth Alliance. The research was aimed at understanding the risk of the future emergence of coronaviruses from bats, and a small portion of the money — $600,000 — went to an EcoHealth collaborator at the Wuhan Institute of Virology.

But those experiments, which mixed and matched certain elements of bat coronaviruses, couldn't have produced SARS-CoV-2 because the viruses used were very different.

"Analysis of published genomic data and other documents from the grantee demonstrate that the naturally occurring bat coronaviruses studied under the NIH grant are genetically far distant from SARS-CoV-2 and could not possibly have caused the COVID-19 pandemic," NIH Director Dr. Francis Collins said in an Oct. 20, 2021, statement, referring to an analysis posted to the NIAID's website. "Any claims to the contrary are demonstrably false."

As we've written, the NIH analysis shows that the WIV viruses share only about 80% of their genomes with SARS-CoV-2, which is a tremendous difference. Even much more similar viruses — those 96% identical — still differ from SARS-CoV-2 by more than 1,000 nucleotides, and could not have plausibly been the ancestral virus, David Robertson, the head of viral genomics and bioinformatics at the University of Glasgow, told us for a previous story.

There is simply no basis to claim that Fauci, via this NIAID grant, has anything to do with the origin of the coronavirus.

Moreover, there is no evidence that SARS-CoV-2 came from WIV or any lab, and many experts say the virus almost certainly was not bioengineered. Indeed, despite continued speculation, largely because of the proximity of certain research institutions to the city of Wuhan, where the first COVID-19 cases were identified, there is no credible evidence of a lab leak.

In contrast, while there is still no proof, multiple lines of evidence, including geolocation and genetic analyses, suggest the pandemic began with a natural spillover at the Huanan market, which sold a variety of live animals for human consumption.

Much of the debate about the WIV experiments has focused on whether they were so-called gain-of-function experiments and whether NIH should have funded them. Paul has an ongoing feud with Fauci over this issue, and each man has accused the other of lying.

Fauci has said the experiments do not count as gain-of-function, which the agency defines in a specific way and refers to research involving "enhanced pathogens of pandemic potential," or ePPPs. Paul has insisted they do.

In February, the NIH said it had ordered a review of its ePPP policies, which have been controversial.

Regardless of whether certain potentially risky research should be funded or not, it's inaccurate for Navarro to claim Fauci had a role in starting the pandemic.

*Editor's note: SciCheck's COVID-19/Vaccination Project is made possible by a grant from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. The foundation has no control over FactCheck.org's editorial decisions, and the views expressed in our articles do not necessarily reflect the views of the foundation. The goal of the project is to increase exposure to accurate information about COVID-19 and vaccines, while decreasing the impact of misinformation.*

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MORENS_NIH_020006
REL0000476183

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MORENS_NIH_020007
REL0000476183

**Date:** Thu, 27 Apr 2023 8:52:05 AM -0400
**Sent:** Thu, 27 Apr 2023 8:52:00 AM -0400
**Subject:** RE: New York Times Magazine Interview With Dr. Fauci: Science Fiction | by Donald G. McNeil Jr. | Apr, 2023 | Medium
**From:** Jeffrey Sturchio (b) (6)
**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)

Peter: Thanks for sharing this piece by Don McNeil – it's one of the sanest and most helpful articles I've read on the subject in some time.

Peter D:

Here's a paragraph that you'll find interesting!

"Let me say this bluntly: supporting the bat research done by EcoHealth Alliance and the Wuhan Institute of Virology was the right thing to do. Bat viruses, like bird viruses, are very dangerous. Not hunting for them is like not having satellites and radar detect missile launches from North Korea or Russia. We support such research everywhere from California to Congo. Is it dangerous? Yes. Should biosafety protocols be high? Yes. Is working in China problematic? Yes. But it's where the bats, birds and mixing vessels like civets, raccoon dogs and pigs are. Many pandemics, from the Asian flu of 1957 to the Hong Kong flu of 1968 to Covid, started in China. So, possibly, did the 1918 flu and the Black Death. Should we be helping China do better? Yes, and we have, from John D. Rockefeller to many of China's top scientists studying here. On this issue, for all our sakes, we need partnership, not enmity, just as we cooperated with the Soviets on smallpox and polio despite the Cold War."

JLS

**From:** Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6)
**Sent:** Thursday, April 27, 2023 8:31 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:** New York Times Magazine Interview With Dr. Fauci: Science Fiction | by Donald G. McNeil Jr. | Apr, 2023 | Medium

https://donaldgmcneiljr1954.medium.com/new- york-times-magazine-interview-with-dr-fauci-science-fiction-ba715def4470

**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

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iPhone



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| | |
|---|---|
| Date: | Mon, 31 Oct 2022 11:36:21 AM -0400 |
| Sent: | Mon, 31 Oct 2022 11:34:42 AM -0400 |
| Subject: | Re: Forbes: Is New Senate GOP Covid-19 Pandemic Origin Report More About Politics Than Science? https://bit.ly/3t1BJhb |
| From: | "Hotez, Peter Jay" < (b) (6) |
| To: | David Morens < (b) (6) >; |
| CC: | Keusch, Gerald T < (b) (6) Peter Daszak < (b) (6) >; Aleksei Chmura < (b) (6) >; Rich Roberts < (b) (6) Jeff Sturchio < (b) (6) >; |

Attachments: image001.jpg; image002.jpg; image003.jpg; image001.jpg; image002.jpg; image003.jpg

That's amazing, thank you for the update!


**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

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**Senior Coordinator & Executive Support:** Douglas Soriano
(b) (6) (b) (6) | Phone: (b) (6) | Fax: 713-798-2299

**Media Inquiries:**
(b) (6)


iPhone

> On Oct 31, 2022, at 10:25 AM, David Morens < (b) (6) > wrote:
>
> Peter, sorry you are not here! It's like an emotional homecoming after 2 virtual years and, shockingly, there are as of yesterday mid day, BEFORE the opening plenary, over 4,000 in attendance plus over 600 virtual, perhaps to be an all time record.
>
> Two of the awardees were nominated by you and they gave you a shout out and deep thanks
>
> Bill Petri got the Walter Reed medal, truly well deserved, he is one of my favorite people. (You might remember that in 2003 his presidential address he combed the UVA archives to give an unforgettable historical talk on how Walter Reed and James Carroll and their team solved the yellow fever mystery).

There is a saying that sometimes all of life's events arrange themselves to maximize irony. The opening plenary speaker, selected months in advance was a trop med researcher from Brasil whose work had focused on the effects of poverty and social ills on disease and mortality. All day in the ACAV and other sessions people kept checking the updated voting tallies in the Brasil elections. In the morning Bolsanaro was far ahead but hour by hour Lulu da Silva started creeping up. By 530 Lulu was slightly ahead. Then at 530 came the plenary in which the speaker reviewed data from a 100 million person study of the relationship between the social reforms enacted 1985-2015, their undoing between 2015 and now, during the Bolsanaro Thugocracy, and the effects on morbidity and mortality outcomes. The data were persuasive and powerful, the impact of social justice and targeted health care made a huge difference

Anyway, as the guy was closing his talk they interrupted to inform him that Lulu had been declared the winner, which he announced to the crowd. Everyone went wild with cheers and applause!

The Trump-clone Bolansro lost, providing some hope that we, too, will eventually get over this insanity

Peter D: if it can happen in Brasil, there may also be light at the end of the tunnel here! d

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

On Oct 31, 2022, at 06:43, Keusch, Gerald T < (b) (6) wrote:

Kidney week? Are you in a pissing contest with somebody????

**From:** Hotez, Peter Jay < (b) (6)
**Sent:** Sunday, October 30, 2022 6:17 PM
**To:** David Morens < (b) (6)
**Cc:** Keusch, Gerald T < (b) (6) Peter Daszak < (b) (6) Aleksei Chmura < (b) (6) Rich Roberts < (b) (6) Jeff Sturchio < (b) (6)
**Subject:** Re: Forbes: Is New Senate GOP Covid-19 Pandemic Origin Report More About Politics Than Science? https://bit.ly/3t1BJhb

I'm not unfortunately, I've been invited to keynote at Kidney Week in Orlando FL of all things 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)

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**Senior Coordinator & Executive Support:** Douglas Soriano
(b) (6) u | Phone: (b) (6) | Fax: 713-798-2299

**Media Inquiries:**
(b) (6)

iPhone

> On Oct 30, 2022, at 5:15 PM, David Morens (b) (6) > wrote:
>
> Amen, thanks! Are you here at the ASTMH meeting? d
>
> Sent from my iPhone
> David M Morens
> OD, NIAID, NIH
>
> > On Oct 30, 2022, at 14:07, Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6) u> wrote:
> >
> > My take:
> >
> > https://twitter.com/peterhotez/status/1586722053167714304?s=46&t=4XkfQxcGoMQM6ya6lHG-mQ
> >
> > **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
> >
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> > **Senior Coordinator & Executive Support:** Douglas Soriano
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> > **Media Inquiries:**
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> >
> > iPhone



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MORENS_NIH_008717
REL0000476189

On Oct 30, 2022, at 10:37 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.**

---

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

> **From:** "Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E]" (b) (6) v>
> **Date:** October 30, 2022 at 08:36:03 PDT
> **To:** David Morens (b) (6)
> **Subject: Fwd: Forbes: Is New Senate GOP Covid-19 Pandemic Origin Report More About Politics Than Science?** https://bit.ly/3t1BJhb
>
> Sent from my iPhone
> David M Morens
> OD, NIAID, NIH
> Begin forwarded message:
>
> > **From:** "Folkers, Greg (NIH/NIAID) [E]" (b) (6)
> > **Date:** October 30, 2022 at 06:52:42 PDT
> > **Subject: Forbes: Is New Senate GOP Covid-19 Pandemic Origin Report More About Politics Than Science?** https://bit.ly/3t1BJhb
> >
> > # Is New Senate GOP Covid-19 Pandemic Origin Report More About Politics Than Science?
> >
> > Bruce Y. Lee
> > Senior Contributor
> > I am a writer, journalist, professor, systems modeler, computational and digital health expert, avocado-eater, and entrepreneur, not always in that order.
> > Oct 29, 2022,10:49pm EDT



Sen. Richard Burr (R-N.C.), seen here on August 6, 2022 in Washington, DC., and his office came out ... [+]

Getty Images

These days anytime any politician makes any claims about Covid-19, you've got to wonder whether it's more about politics than real science. After all, throughout the pandemic, politics has infiltrated Covid-19 decision-making like botox in a reality TV star. So when the office of Senator Richard Burr (R-N.C.) dropped "An Analysis of the Origins of the COVID-19 Pandemic Interim Report," just two weeks before the midterm election, you've gotta wonder whether this report was more about politics than actually determining what really happened.

After all, in the report, Burr did indicate that last Summer he and Senator Patty Murray (D-Washington) "announced a bipartisan Health, Education, Labor and Pensions (HELP) Committee oversight effort into the origins of SARS-CoV-2, the virus that caused the COVID-19 pandemic as part of our effort to address pandemic preparedness and response programs." *Dictionary.com* defines bipartisan as "representing, characterized by, or including members from two parties or factions," and not "screw it, why don't I just issue a report myself?" It's also interesting why such a interim report would be issued so quickly now before it's been properly vetted by the scientific community. Why the rush? And why wasn't there more of a heads up to everyone that this would be on its way? Was this designed to be a Halloween scare? Or maybe just maybe the midterm elections had something to do with it?

Plus, this interim report drew some pretty strong conclusions that usually would require a lot more supporting scientific evidence than the report actually provided. What's a strong conclusion? How about, "Based on the analysis of the publicly available information, it appears reasonable to conclude that the Covid-19 pandemic was, more likely than not, the result of a research-related incident." Yeah, that statement certainly has drawn headlines and attention on social media. The phrase "more likely than not" sounds fairly definitive. For example, if you were to tell your significant other that "based on analysis of publicly available information, it appears reasonable to conclude that you are more likely than not a cheater," you had better more likely than not provide enough specific concrete evidence to justify such a claim. Otherwise all of your possessions including your butt would more likely than not end up on the street. Similarly, this report seemed to be claiming that the evidence is already strong enough to conclude that a lab leak started the Covid-19 pandemic. But what evidence did the report then provide? Well, here's a hint.

It rhymes with "Not a troll bot." Yes, not a whole lot.

## Did any real scientists develop, vet, and support the findings of this Interim Report?

Let's take a look at what some real scientists who have real expertise in this area said on Twitter about this report. Spoiler alert: some expletives more likely than not emerged. For example, Kristian G. Andersen, PhD, a Professor of Immunology and Microbiology at Scripps Research, used the phrase "Flood the zone with bull [bleep]" when referring to what's going on with this report: And Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, Dean of the National School of Tropical Medicine, wrote, "My view: a total load of antiscience [bleep]," in the following tweet:

To adapt the words from that song in the movie *Bring It On*, Burr, it's cold in here— with here being real scientists' reaction to the report. Bull-bleep and antiscience bleep weren't exactly words of endorsement. Hotez also provided some real scientific papers describing how the severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) may have jumped from other animals to humans and the evidence supporting such a natural jump:

Speaking of real scientists. Were any real scientists involved in developing and reviewing Burr's interim report? Well, the cover of the report bore the names Minority Oversight Staff, Senate Committee on Health Education, Labor and Pensions, which was a fancy way of saying that it was compiled by the office of Burr. The report didn't really list any other authors or contributors other than Burr. So, assuming that Burr himself didn't compile and write everything like a high schooler doing a book report, it's unclear who actually did the research and writing for this report. The report didn't really clearly delineate what process was used to assemble and review the available evidence, who determined what should and shouldn't considered, or how the report was vetted either.

## What counterarguments did this Interim Report provide against evidence that the SARS-CoV-2 had jumped from other animals?

That being said did the report at least provide some strong arguments to support its conclusions? Well, the first of the four sections attempted to offer some kind of counter to the existing evidence of a natural animal original of the SARS-CoV-2 without even mentioning that evidence. That was sort of the "I'm going to ignore what you have said and provide only my side of the story" tactic. This section basically presented six arguments that were weak at best. The first two arguments were essentially the same: that the intermediate host animal species—meaning the intermediate between bats and humans—for SARS-CoV-2 hasn't yet been found. That argument would hold water about as well as a fish net thong.

It's been only about three years since the Covid-19 pandemic first broke. Science rarely can move that quickly, especially when Congress isn't providing nearly enough funding to support the needed studies. It can be challenging to find such a intermediate animal host species. It's not as if you can post a message on Twitter or Facebook saying, "hey all animals, come by and get tested for SARS-CoV-2 or some virus similar to it" or "hey, did you host this virus before passing it along to us humans? Come one, you can tell us." Plus, scientists around the world have been kind of busy with something called, you know, the Covid-19 pandemic. So unless Burr and his Senate colleagues want to provide much more support and funding to help find the intermediate host species, "you haven't found it yet," really isn't a very strong



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argument.

The third argument provided was that the "SARS-CoV-2's high binding affinity for human ACE2 receptors suggests that it is possible for it to directly infect humans without needing a period of adaptation in an intermediate host." In other words, the virus took to humans so well, it couldn't have jumped from other animals. That's a bit like saying, "hey, that velour track suit fits you so well that it was probably tailored specifically for you." Such an argument doesn't pass much muster because it wasn't clear what the virus was doing before the start of 2020. Weaker versions of the virus could have very well been spreading between other animals and humans long before late 2019 and early 2020. The world didn't have much of a surveillance system in place to really track what every possible viral threat was doing before 2020. It still doesn't have such a system.

The section's fourth argument was that Wuhan, China, seemed to be the only place where the virus may have jumped from non-humans to humans. The claim was that if the virus had jumped from other animals to humans, why didn't such jumps occur elsewhere as well. Again, all of this assumes that the world already had great global surveillance systems in place that could readily determine exactly where and how everyone had gotten infected with the SARS-CoV-2. Yeah try doing that when there's been well over 630 million Covid-19 cases around the world so far. And that's not even counting those folks who never ended up getting tested.

The fifth argument was similar to the fourth, claiming that "After the unidentified source transmitted SARS-CoV-2 to humans, it stopped transmitting SARS-CoV-2." Again, this has never been established. With so many cases emerging every day, it's difficult to say who caught the virus from where. The Covid-19 pandemic is not the same situation as the 2002-2004 SARS and the 2013 avian influenza A (H7N9) outbreaks where there were a lot fewer cases so that infections and transmission chains were a lot easier to track.

The sixth argument was that "The low genetic diversity of the earliest SARS-CoV-2 samples suggests that the COVID-19 pandemic is most likely the result of a single successful spillover of SARS-CoV-2." That's not exactly true. Plus, once again, the lack of a comprehensive surveillance system means that cases may have been missed early on in 2020 and before that time. Moreover, even if the pandemic had started with a single spillover event, how exactly would that prove that it was lab-leak rather than a natural spillover event that triggered the whole pandemic? All of these arguments didn't seem to be that scientific, which raises the question again, what specific scientists contributed to this interim report.

## Did the Wuhan Institute of Virology actually have major safety concerns as the Interim Report claimed?



This aerial view shows the P4 laboratory (L) on the campus of the Wuhan Institute of Virology in ... [+]

AFP via Getty Images

The second section of the report tried to paint a picture of the Wuhan Institute of Virology (WIV) as a place with numerous safety concerns and incidents. It did include brief descriptions of events and items that you probably normally wouldn't find at your home, assuming that you don't regularly sleep and shower at a Biosafety Level (BSL) 3 or 4 laboratory. So all of these could have sounded ominous and scary to the general public or anyone else who doesn't conduct virology experiments on regular basis.

So, assuming that Burr and his staff aren't running enzyme linked immunosorbent assays in their Congressional offices, wouldn't it have been better to ask a real laboratory scientist who regularly works with viruses to put together that section?Angela Rasmussen, PhD, a virologist at the Vaccine and Infectious Disease Organization at the University of Saskatchewan in Canada, would qualify as such an expert. So let's turn to Rasmussen's tweet thread about this section of the Burr report:

As you can see, Rasmussen's tweet stated that the report "claims to show evidence of multiple biocontainment breaches. That sounds very bad! But how reliable is this evidence?" Her tweet thread went on to review each thing listed in this section of Burr's report and explain how much of it seemed pretty normal for such a lab to her:

For example, Rasmussen explained how procuring a vaporized hydrogen peroxide system to disinfect air coming from the lab and renovating the HVAC system were not evidence of biosafety failures but instead business-as-usual:

A little later in the tweet thread, Rasmussen concluded, "No evidence of a breach or biosafety failure, but lots of evidence that they were operating a containment lab in a pretty standard way, with one exception: WIV was more innovative than many others and patented some of the bespoke systems they developed," as you can see here:

Rasmussen went on to assess what was written in the report about the working conditions, training, and management at WIV and determined that "No evidence of a biocontainment breach or a biosafety failure, other than lab leak fan fiction invented by people with no clue about how biosafety actually works reading documents that reflect the daily considerations & challenges of operating a containment lab," at the conclusion of her tweet thread:

Remember you can make anything sound scary when describing it in a certain way to people not familiar with the situation. Imagine relating the details of a high school football practice to someone who has never ever seen football. You could talk about high speed collisions, violence, things getting intercepted, jock straps, and people slapping each other on their butts in a manner that could prompt someone to say, "what the bleep is going on? Call the authorities."

## Is it relevant that China developed Covid-19 vaccines faster than the U.S. did with Operation Warp Speed?

The third section presented a rather weird argument. It pointed out that teams in China were able to develop and start administering Covid-19 vaccines faster than Operation Warp Speed could in the U.S. The section tried to suggest that the only way the teams in China were able to move more quickly was if they had access to genomic sequences of the SARS-CoV-2 much earlier.

Hmm, that sounds a little like the "they beat us, therefore, they must have cheated" argument. While Operation Warp Speed did result in Covid-19 vaccines at the end of 2020, it was by no means a perfectly run operation. For example, it July 2020, Jon Cohen wrote for *Science* magazine an article entitled "Operation Warp Speed's opaque choices of Covid-19 vaccines draw Senate scrutiny." And in December 2020, I covered for *Forbes* a range of supply chain and distribution missteps made by Operation Warp Speed. In general, the word well-oiled machine didn't seem to apply the Trump Administration's response to the Covid-19 pandemic in 2020. Moreover, it's not clear what shortcuts the teams from China may have taken in order to get Covid-19 vaccines out there sooner. For example, did they do the same about of human testing as Pfizer-BioNTech and Moderna did before rolling out vaccines to the general public.

One thing's clear. The government of China wasn't as open and transparent to the rest of the world as they could have and probably should have been about the SARS-CoV-2 outbreak in late 2019 and early 2020. The first reports of this

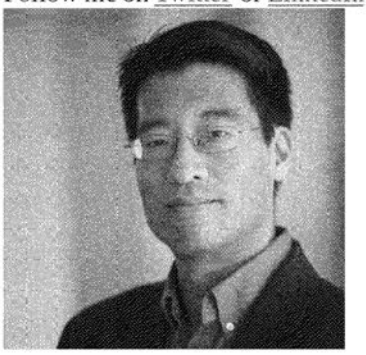
"mysterious pneumonia" emerged late in December 2019 and very early in January 2020, as I reported for *Forbes* on January 3, 2020. The government of China likely knew more about the virus and its deadly nature at the time. If that were indeed the case, then China's government chose poorly and should have been more forthcoming to get help from the international community. It is very fair to criticize China's government for withholding information and not being more cooperative. But again all of this does not necessarily mean that the Covid-19 pandemic started with a lab leak.

## Did the development and release of the Interim Report follow a scientific process?

All in all, this so-called "Analysis of the Origins of the COVID-19 Pandemic Interim Report" didn't seem to follow many of the steps and criteria needed for a truly scientific report. It didn't even fulfill basic criteria such as clearly describing the methods employed or identifying the people who did the analyses and wrote the report. Whenever you don't transparently describe how you chose what evidence to consider and not consider, you've gotta wonder how much cherry-picking happened. While cherry-picking may be great when you are making a pie, selectively choosing what evidence to follow and not follow is just not appropriate scientifically.

If Congress really wants to shed more light on the actual origins of the Covid-19 pandemic, it would commission and fund a panel of real and most importantly independent scientific experts to compile the report. At the same time, Congress members would then stay clear of this panel to avoid the perception that they are applying any political pressure to see a particular outcome. The U.S. has been leading the world in Covid-19 cases and deaths throughout the pandemic in big part of its failure to consistently follow science and instead defer to politics. And in the end, while politics may cover up to a degree what the virus does, only real science will be able to work against the SARS-CoV-2 and any future viral threats.

Follow me on Twitter or LinkedIn. Check out my website.



Bruce Y. Lee

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**Date:** Wed, 13 Oct 2021 2:02:53 AM -0400

**Subject:** Fwd:(NYT) W.H.O. Will Announce New Team to Study Coronavirus Origins

**From:** "Jason Gale (BLOOMBERG/ NEWSROOM:)" < (b) (6)

**To:** (b) (6) (b) (6) (b) (6) (b) (6) (b) (6) (b) (6) (b) (6) (b) (6) (b) (6)

JFYI

.....more than 700 people have applied for spots on a new committee charged with breathing life into the World Health Organization's stalled inquiry into the origins of the coronavirus pandemic.

The committee, expected to be announced this week, represents an attempt by the embattled global health body to reset its approach to determining how the pandemic began.

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BN 10/12 20:27 *W.H.O. WILL ANNOUNCE NEW TEAM TO STUDY CORONAVIRUS ORIGINS: NYT

---

W.H.O. Will Announce New Team to Study Coronavirus Origins
2021-10-12 20:27:00.604 GMT

By Benjamin Mueller

(New York Times) -- "This new group can do all the fancy footwork it wants, but China's not going to cooperate," one expert said.

The position is unpaid. The world's scientists and internet sleuths will scrutinize every move. Completing the first assignment with the available tools, and to everyone's satisfaction, will be nearly impossible.

Despite those considerable obstacles, more than 700 people have applied for spots on a new committee charged with breathing life into the World Health Organization's stalled inquiry into the origins of the coronavirus pandemic.

The committee, expected to be announced this week, represents an attempt by the embattled global health body to reset its approach to determining how the pandemic began. Nine months after sending a team of international experts to China, only for its findings to become entangled in geopolitics and trailed by concerns over Beijing's influence, the W.H.O. is trying to inoculate its latest efforts from the slightest hints of undue deference toward China.

Its new advisory team will include specialists in fields like laboratory safety and biosecurity, a step that analysts say may help placate Western governments pressing for consideration of whether the virus emerged from a lab. And, crucially, the committee will have a mandate to weigh in on the emergence of any new pathogens beyond this novel coronavirus, giving it a permanence that could help insulate it from political squabbling and strengthen the W.H.O.'s hand for future outbreaks.

Maria Van Kerkhove, the W.H.O.'s Covid-19 technical lead, said the group — comprising some two dozen virologists, geneticists, animal experts and safety and security specialists — would help the organization return to its roots amid the rancor and partisanship of the coronavirus origins debate.

"Especially in light of the politicization of this particular aspect," she said in an interview, "we want to take this back to the science, take this back to our mandate as an organization to bring together the world's best minds to outline what needs to be done."

What most needs doing in the hunt for Covid's origins, many scientists believe, is something that the new advisory group will be powerless to achieve: persuading China to release evidence about the first infections and to let researchers inspect virology labs, bat caves and wildlife farms within its borders.

China has reacted angrily to the idea that the virus may have emerged from a lab, pushing instead for investigations into early cases in other countries, like Italy, or into American research facilities.

"This new group can do all the fancy footwork it wants, but China's not going to cooperate," said David Fidler, a senior fellow for global health at the Council on Foreign Relations, a research institute. "For them, all of this continues to look like an attack on China's response to the pandemic, and there it's a zero-sum game."

Since the beginning of the pandemic, the W.H.O. has been caught in the middle of a tug of war between China and the United States — first over China's response in the early days of the pandemic, and more recently over the question of how the virus emerged.

Even as China has resisted deeper studies of the virus's origins, the Biden administration has pressed the W.H.O. for a renewed investigation. The State Department pointedly questioned the results of a joint study by the W.H.O.-chosen scientists and Chinese researchers from March that said a leak of the coronavirus from a lab, while possible, was "extremely unlikely."

That W.H.O. team, too, struggled to coax the data it needed from Chinese scientists. Members of the team, which has been disbanded, warned in August that time was running out to recover crucial evidence about the beginning of the pandemic. But it is unclear whether China has taken up the team's recommendations for future studies, including analyzing blood banks for evidence of early coronavirus infections, testing workers on wildlife farms and assessing wild bats and farmed animals for signs of exposure.

Some scientists have said that studies of Chinese animal markets, and of bats harboring close relatives of the virus behind Covid-19, have strengthened their belief that the coronavirus spilled naturally from animals into humans.

The W.H.O. has said that Chinese researchers were conducting new studies but that it had not been kept abreast of any findings. "I don't have any detail on what was done, or is being done," Dr. Van Kerkhove said of the Chinese research.

President Xi Jinping said last month that China would support "science-based origins tracing," but would oppose "political maneuvering in whatever form."

The new committee, known as the Scientific Advisory Group for the Origins of Novel Pathogens, will differ in several respects from the team that the W.H.O. sent to China. Because that team visited Wuhan, China had considerable influence over its membership. That is not the case for the new committee, a permanent panel that Dr. Van Kerkhove said would begin with frequent, closed-door meetings on the coronavirus.

In soliciting applications, the W.H.O. asked potential committee members for a statement about any conflicts of interest, in addition to a cover letter and résumé. That appeared to be an attempt to head off critics who complained that a member of the previous team, Peter Daszak, an animal disease specialist, was too closely tied to a Wuhan virology institute at the center of lab leak theories to offer a dispassionate assessment. Dr. Daszak has said that his expertise on China and coronaviruses made him well-suited to participate in the earlier trip.

"Conflicts of interest of members of the last group put a huge cloud over the head of the World Health Organization," said Lawrence Gostin, who directs the O'Neill Institute for National and Global Health Law at Georgetown University. Of the new advisory group, he added: "It's a committee with a proper charge, and a proper global mandate — none of that happened before."

For the W.H.O., Professor Gostin said, the new committee serves several purposes. In choosing a larger group reflecting a wider range of expertise and geographic regions, the organization can try to amass widespread international support for its work and underscore China's intransigence, he said.

Crucially, forming the new group could also help shore up the W.H.O.'s standing with its key Western backers, none more important than the United States. Despite the agency's attempt to act deferentially toward China during the pandemic, Professor Gostin said, China had repeatedly stonewalled the organization and concealed crucial information.

Now, he said, the organization needed to pay heed to the desires of Europe and the United States — not least because Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, the W.H.O. director-general, is counting on their support as he seeks re-election in May.

"It was one thing to lose America under Donald Trump, where there was a great deal of sympathy for the W.H.O.," Professor Gostin said. "It's quite another thing to do it with President Biden, who is an internationalist and who does support the W.H.O."

Despite the eventual avalanche of applications, recruiting for the new committee was no simple task. In some cases, scientists rebuffed the W.H.O.'s pleas to apply.

"We did have some people say to us, 'No, we really don't want to get engaged, because it's just too politicized,'" Dr. Van Kerkhove said.

The composition of the committee remains under tight wraps. Members of the



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W.H.O. team that traveled to Wuhan were allowed to apply. Dr. Van Kerkhove declined to say whether any Chinese scientists would be selected. She said that some countries had nominated participants, but that the internal W.H.O. selection group had not taken countries' backing into account.

She said the new committee would meet for the first time roughly two weeks after it is named, following a public comment period that is standard for the global health body's advisory groups.

"It will be a relief to have the first couple of meetings," Dr. Van Kerkhove said. "But, you know, any time I feel like I've reached some kind of finish line, it's really just a start."

Click Here to see the story as it appeared on the New York Times website.

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-0- Oct/12/2021 20:27 GMT

To view this story in Bloomberg click here:
https://blinks.bloomberg.com/news/stories/R0VST0A30ZR4



MORENS_SUBPOENA_013910
MORENS_NIH_026401
REL0000476193

Date: Mon, 10 Oct 2022 3:37:02 PM -0400
Sent: Mon, 10 Oct 2022 3:36:41 PM -0400
Subject: RE: Wpost/Gerson: Why Anthony Fauci is the greatest public servant I have known https://wapo.st/3MiKLPv
From: Jeffrey Sturchio <(b) (6)
To: David Morens <(b) (6)>; Gerald Keusch <(b) (6)>; Peter Daszak <(b) (6)>; Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6)>; Peter Hotez <(b) (6)>; Rich Roberts <(b) (6)>
Attachments: image001.jpg; image002.png

David: Thanks for sharing this piece – so true and so powerful!

Best regards,
Jeff

---

**From:** David Morens <(b) (6)
**Sent:** Monday, October 10, 2022 3:03 PM
**To:** Gerald Keusch <(b) (6)>; Peter Daszak <(b) (6)>; Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6)>; Peter Hotez <(b) (6)>; Rich Roberts <(b) (6)>; Jeff Sturchio <(b) (6)>
**Subject:** Fwd: Wpost/Gerson: Why Anthony Fauci is the greatest public servant I have known https://wapo.st/3MiKLPv

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

> **From:** "Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E]" <(b) (6)
> **Date:** October 10, 2022 at 15:02:43 EDT
> **To:** David Morens (b) (6)
> **Subject: Fwd: Wpost/Gerson: Why Anthony Fauci is the greatest public servant I have known**
> **https://wapo.st/3MiKLPv**
>
> Sent from my iPhone
> David M Morens
> OD, NIAID, NIH
> Begin forwarded message:
>
> > **From:** "Folkers, Greg (NIH/NIAID) [E]" <(b) (6)
> > **Date:** October 10, 2022 at 13:29:20 EDT
> > **Subject: Wpost/Gerson: Why Anthony Fauci is the greatest public servant I have known**
> > **https://wapo.st/3MiKLPv**
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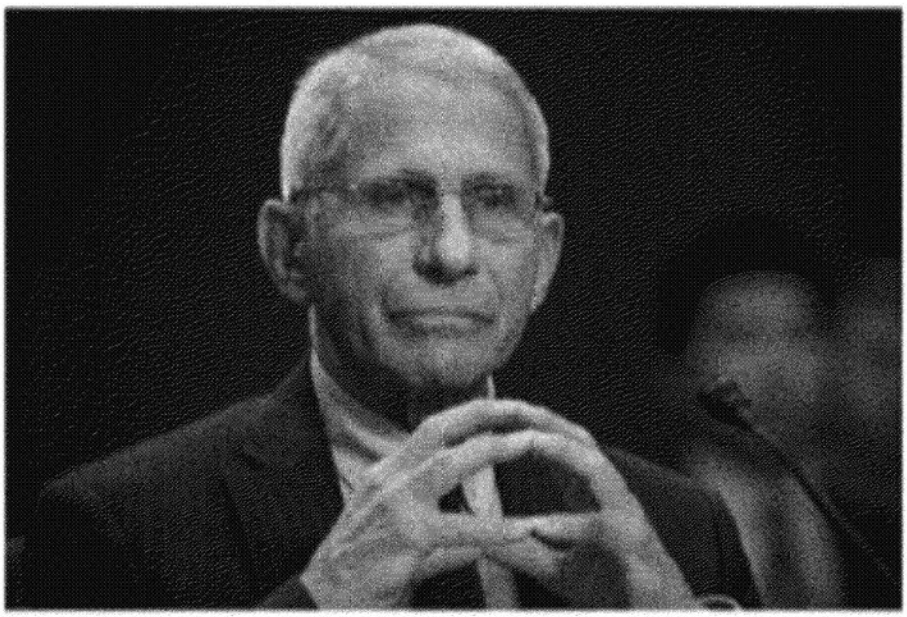
> > # Opinion
> > # Why Anthony Fauci is the greatest public servant I have known



By Michael Gerson
Columnist |
October 10, 2022 at 1:08 p.m. EDT



American political disagreements have often come down to us in the form of vivid dyads. Alexander Hamilton vs. Thomas Jefferson. Stephen A. Douglas vs. Abraham Lincoln. Franklin D. Roosevelt vs. Arthur H. Vandenberg. One such conflict over the past few years has been Sen. Rand Paul (R-Ky.) vs. Anthony S. Fauci, the longtime head of the department of infectious diseases at the National Institutes of Health.

I am not referring here to any moral or intellectual equivalence between the figures. Their inequality, in fact, is a central part of the story. Paul's contempt for expertise, his spread of conspiracy theories, his use of oversight as ambush — all this indicates a performative approach to governing. Reality does not ultimately count; the play is the thing. And Paul has found an audience among ideologues who demonstrate their fidelity by taking some extra poison in their pudding.

The single most shocking fact to come out of the recent pandemic has been the unfair self-apportionment of pain and death. People in majority-Republican counties experienced 73 more deaths from covid-19 per 100,000 people than those in majority-Democratic counties. There are a variety of explanations. One is certainly the use of high office to discourage the most basic means of self-preservation during a deadly disease outbreak. Imagine if it had been Democratic public authorities encouraging Republican self-victimization. But it was Republican officials who did it — and found it an effective method of self-publicization.

On the other side has stood Fauci. In more than 50 years at the NIH, Fauci has been accustomed to scientific debates in which disagreements emerge as the result of seeking different methods in the pursuit of the same goals. But Paul and his co-ideologues have left the assumption of shared objectives in tatters. And this has constituted an attack on the very idea of public service — the notion that true experts can make a career in seeking the common good.

For Fauci, it has been a professional and moral commitment that politics should stop at the human biome's edge. This does not imply that scientific experts are perfect. To the contrary, the purpose of the scientific method is to organize failure into deeper insight. But it does mean that scientific truth is not relative — or determined in the political realm.

In attempting to demonize Fauci, his critics gained a fundraising target. And that, by their own lights, is the definition of political success. But seldom has the choice of an attack been more of a self-indictment. Fauci is not only a symbol of public health orthodoxy; he has done as much as any scientist to turn medical innovation into humanitarian progress.

For generations, Fauci has applied a low-key excellence to fighting domestic AIDS, tropical infectious diseases,



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global AIDS and Ebola. His role in the creation of the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief has helped save tens of millions of lives and built medical infrastructure across the developing world. His focus and public investment have brought us to the verge of vaccines against malaria, one of the world's deadliest parasites.

Fauci is a symbol of sorts. He demonstrates what can happen when a nation at the height of its power employs the finest scientific minds of their generation to the pursuit of public health goals few believed were possible. The result has been a golden age of public health, motivated by an American belief in human dignity.

This is not the kind of reputation to be dented by political attacks or internet rumors. It is a legacy praised each day by the chorus of millions of breaths that would otherwise be silent. A vast chorus of the nearly lost.

As someone who worked for a few years with Fauci during George W. Bush's administration, I saw how he pushed for new ideas and new funding: by expressing his passion for the scientific project itself. He is the ultimate explainer. In briefings, he did not conspire to make himself seem smart. He made those he briefed feel they had spent a few minutes looking out on a vast landscape of innovation.

Robin Givhan: Fauci carried all our angst and anger with patience and decency

Fauci assumes that everyone is rational and thus persuadable. That is not quite true. But when he described to me the shifting shell of sugars that surround and protect the AIDS virus, or how mRNA vaccines work, it left a few impressions. First, how something that can kill you can be so fascinating. But also how much Fauci's friendship felt like mentorship. The greatness of his calling rubbed off a bit. And one was left with the infection of his mission.

Fauci's forthcoming retirement as director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases will cost Americans, and people around the world, far more than they realize. But he will ever remain the greatest public servant I have known.

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**Date:** Wed, 3 Aug 2022 11:58:02 AM -0400
**Sent:** Wed, 3 Aug 2022 11:57:56 AM -0400
**Subject:** RE: Jeff Sachs is at it again!
**From:** "Keusch, Gerald T" (b) (6)
**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

Agree with that assessment of him. But I think I know him well enough to at least put it in front of him, and there is no risk in doing so. I know that he is not a fan of Sachs and doesn't think very much of him as an economist.

I also heard right back from Ian who says let's talk. I have a Zoom coming up in 3 minutes so I said lets find a time for later today.

Jerry

**From:** Roberts, Rich (b) (6)
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 3, 2022 11:55 AM
**To:** Keusch, Gerald T (b) (6) >; Peter Daszak (b) (6) >; Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6)
**Cc:** David Morens (b) (6) >; Aleksei Chmura (b) (6) >; Jeff Sturchio
( >
**Subject:** RE: Jeff Sachs is at it again!

Jerry:

I have been in touch previously about other matters with Joe Stiglitz, but don't know him well enough to raise this issue and hope for any action. He is always loathed to get involved in too many things.

Rich

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**From:** Keusch, Gerald T (b) (6)
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 3, 2022 11:50 AM
**To:** Roberts, Rich (b) (6) ; Peter Daszak (b) (6) ; Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6)

**EXTERNAL SENDER**

seems to be the case. Sure contact Ian. I will forward the note I just sent to him, and I am planning something similar to Wafaa (ID and global health) and to the Nobel laureate economist Joe Stiglitz, who I know pretty well. If you know Joe that would another one to double


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ping, and hope for at least one pong.

Jerry

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**From:** Roberts, Rich (b) (6)
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 3, 2022 11:42 AM
**To:** Keusch, Gerald T (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!

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

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**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**

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

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**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:



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"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

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**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



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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-covid-19-commission-thinks-the-us-government-is-preventing-a-real-investigation-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



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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.



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**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.


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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



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MORENS_NIH_019513
REL0000476199

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.

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Current Af

Cheers,

Peter

**Peter Daszak**
*President*

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Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

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



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MORENS_NIH_019515
REL0000476199

Date: Thu, 15 Sep 2022 3:03:13 PM -0400
Sent: Thu, 15 Sep 2022 3:03:07 PM -0400
Subject: RE: Publication of Angie Rasmussen article
From: "Roberts, Rich" (b) (6)
To: Jeffrey Sturchio (b) (6) >; Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6) >; Keusch, Gerald T (b) (6)
CC: Peter Daszak (b) (6) ; David Morens (b) (6) om>; Aleksei Chmura (b) (6)

Very true!

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:** Jeffrey Sturchio (b) (6) >
**Sent:** Thursday, September 15, 2022 1:30 PM
**To:** Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6) ; Keusch, Gerald T (b) (6)
**Cc:** Roberts, Rich (b) (6) ; Peter Daszak (b) (6) ; David Morens (b) (6) >; Aleksei Chmura (b) (6) g>
**Subject:** RE: Publication of Angie Rasmussen article

**EXTERNAL SENDER**

Peter: Thanks for sharing this. Rasmussen and Worobey do a masterful job of showing how groundless and pernicious Sachs's opinions are. Their commentary deserves wide distribution.

Jeff

Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy smartphone

-------- Original message --------
From: "Hotez, Peter Jay" (b) (6)
Date: 9/15/22 12:49 PM (GMT-05:00)
To: "Keusch, Gerald T" (b) (6)
Cc: "Roberts, Rich" (b) (6) ; Jeffrey Sturchio (b) (6) >, Peter Daszak < (b) (6) >, David Morens (b) (6) Aleksei Chmura (b) (6) >
Subject: Publication of Angie Rasmussen article

https://foreignpolicy.com/2022/09/15/conspiracy- theories-covid-19-commission/

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

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

**Media Inquiries:**
(b) (6)

iPhone

On Sep 15, 2022, at 11:49 AM, Keusch, Gerald T (b) (6) wrote:

FYI, Srinath Reddy in discussing the epidemiology of the pandemic did not get into the Sachs framework and stayed pretty much at a higher level as a public health professional.

**From:** Keusch, Gerald T
**Sent:** Thursday, September 15, 2022 11:31 AM
**To:** Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6)
**Cc:** Roberts, Rich (b) (6) m>; Jeffrey Sturchio (b) (6) >; Peter Daszak < (b) (6) David Morens (b) (6) >; Aleksei Chmura <
**Subject:** RE: Another attack from Republican Senators

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, September 15, 2022 11:27 AM
**To:** Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6) >
**Cc:** Roberts, Rich (b) Jeffrey Sturchio (b) (6) Peter Daszak < (b) (6) >; David Morens <(b) (6) >; Aleksei Chmura <
**Subject:** Re: Another attack from Republican Senators

I can't bring myself to watch

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

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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:

It's just
(b) (6)

I can tell you what he'll likely say, About how well behaved Jeff was at the press event, but no mentions or apologies for past horrors

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

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iPhone

On Sep 15, 2022, at 9:10 AM, Roberts, Rich (b) (6) wrote:

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: (978) 412 9910
email: (b) (6)

---

**From:** Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6)
**Sent:** Thursday, September 15, 2022 7:57 AM
**To:** Jeffrey Sturchio (b) (6)
**Cc:** Peter Daszak (b) (6) g >; Keusch, Gerald T (b) (6) >; David Morens (b) (6) >; Roberts, Rich (b) (6) >; Aleksei Chmura < (b) (6) >
**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

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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 (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

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iPhone

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-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*

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

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Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak



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MORENS_NIH_007392
REL0000476200

*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)
**Cc:** Peter Daszak (b) (6) Morens <
(b) (6) Rich Roberts (b) (6) >; Aleksei Chmura <
(b
**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

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iPhone

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

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**Media Inquiries:**
(b) (6)

iPhone



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MORENS_NIH_007394
REL0000476200

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, 17 Jun 2020 6:26:15 PM -0400
**Sent:** Wed, 17 Jun 2020 6:26:14 PM -0400
**Subject:** Re: More progress
**From:** David Morens < (b) (6)
**To:** Keusch, Gerald T < (b) (6)
**CC:** Peter Daszak < (b) (6)

---

Interesting interview with former defense seCretary Gates, who said that allowing usaid and other such us agencies to wither was a big mistake. D

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

On Jun 17, 2020, at 11:18, Keusch, Gerald T < (b) (6) wrote:

In my chats with Richard Roberts yesterday I asked him to contact Steven Chu and ask him to mobilize the AAAS Board in support of integrity in the stewardship of science. Chu immediately wrote to the Board and is asking them to support a "principled stand" on the issue. Since Chu signed the Nobel Laureate statement we can be assured what that means. Its amazing how a simple suggestion to the right person results in rapid response compared to the several weeks I have been urging Peggy Hamburg to do the same thing.

I have just sent Jon Cohen at Science a brief note to tell him where to look for the ACD statement and that Chu is mobilizing the AAAS Board so maybe he (Jon) can dig around a bit and prepare a news item in Science – which would be a big deal.

Finally I am sending the draft Op-Ed aiming for the Washington Post to the NAM members who signed the letter to Victor and colleagues. I titled it " Speaking "truth to power" trumps speaking "power to truth": The integrity of science in the US". Its clear that the post won't list 92 names (if everybody agrees to sign off on this commentary) so I will target a few former NIH IC Directors who signed off on the earlier letter and ask that they cosign the op-ed with me on behalf of however many others agree. That might be a good optic for the opinion editors and if it is printed for Francis to see.

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

**Date:** Wed, 3 Aug 2022 4:44:55 PM -0400
**Sent:** Wed, 3 Aug 2022 4:41:12 PM -0400
**Subject:** RE: Jeff Sachs is at it again!
**From:** Peter Daszak <(b) (6)
**To:** Keusch, Gerald T (b) (6) >; David Morens (b) (6) >; Roberts, Rich (b) (6) >
**CC:** Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6) >; Aleksei Chmura (b) (6) >; Jeff Sturchio (b)

Unfortunate response from Ian, but nonetheless not surprising - he's been damaged by this and is trying to disassociate himself from the paper he co-authored with Kristian Andersen and others in Nature Medicine debunking the lab leak story at the time.

It's also extremely disingenuous for Ian to say I shouldn't have served on either the Lancet or WHO committee, and that he would have refused. I was told by the WHO staff that one of the American scientists who applied to be part of the WHO team (original Wuhan group) was none other than Ian Lipkin! Methinks his memory has lapsed.... In any case, I've publicly stated that my first response to WHO asking me to serve was to say 'no'. They then spent a week persuading me that they needed my input, and eventually I agreed to the request as any honorable scientist would when the World Health Organization asks for their help. How ridiculous.

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)



MORENS_SUBPOENA_009220
MORENS_NIH_019627
REL0000476206

Sent: Wednesday, August 3, 2022 2:39 PM
To: David Morens (b) (6) >; Roberts, Rich (b) (6) >
Cc: 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!

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



MORENS_SUBPOENA_009221
MORENS_NIH_019628
REL0000476206

(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 Wed, Aug 3, 2022 at 11:42 AM Roberts, Rich (b) (6) > wrote:
>
> Jerry:
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>
>
> 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
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> USA
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> Tel: (b) (6)
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>
>
> 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)



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REL0000476206

> Cc: David Morens (b) (6) >; Aleksei Chmura
> (b) (6) >; Jeff Sturchio (b)
> Subject: RE: Jeff Sachs is at it again!
>
>
>
> EXTERNAL SENDER
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>
>
> 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
>
>



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MORENS_NIH_019630
REL0000476206

> Richard J. Roberts
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> 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.
>
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>
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> 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
>
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>
> 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



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> 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



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> 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



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> 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



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> 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?
>



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> 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.



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>
> 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.
>
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> Cheers,
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> Peter
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> EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent
> pandemics and promote conservation



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Date: Mon, 13 Feb 2023 8:39:07 PM -0500
Sent: Mon, 13 Feb 2023 8:38:27 PM -0500
Subject: RE: New letter from the House Select Subcommittee on COVID-19 Pandemic
From: Jeffrey Sturchio (b) (6) >
To: Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6) >; Peter Daszak (b) (6)
CC: Roberts, Rich (b) (6) >; Keusch, Gerald T (b) (6) >; David Morens (b) (6) >; Aleksei Chmura (b) (6) >;

Peter: Terrific thread!

As ever,
Jeff

---

**From:** Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6)
**Sent:** Monday, February 13, 2023 8:28 PM
**To:** Peter Daszak (b) (6)
**Cc:** Roberts, Rich (b) (6) >; Keusch, Gerald T (b) (6) Jeffrey Sturchio (b) (6) >; David Morens (b) (6) >; Aleksei Chmura < (b) (6)
**Subject:** Re: New letter from the House Select Subcommittee on COVID-19 Pandemic

My response

https://twitter.com/peterhotez/status/1625303410802040833?s=46 &t=pP2bWfOlKt40fW7D26sGeg

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

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On Feb 13, 2023, at 6:28 PM, Peter Daszak (b) (6) wrote:

They've finally re-upped their letters from December, now that they're actually in power.

We've already responded to confirm receipt, tell them we'll comply with information, and explain we need an extension and reduction in scope (their deadline is 1 week!).

Fox News asked for comment 30 mins after we received the letter, so there will be the usual BS in the press.

They've also asked for similar docs and testimony from Francis Collins, Xiaver Beccara, Avril Haines from "Intelligence" (they can't be that intelligent if they're still buying into the lab origin BS) and Tony Fauci (just testimony): https://oversight.house.gov/release/wenstrup- comer-launch-first-select-subcommittee-investigation-into-covid-origins-and-u-s-taxpayer-dollars-funneled-to-the-wuhan-lab%EF%BF%BC/

Seems like EcoHealth (and me specifically) will be the unfortunate scapegoat in their political theater!

Cheers,

Peter

**Peter Daszak**
*President*

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

---

**From:** Roberts, Rich (b) (6)
**Sent:** Friday, February 10, 2023 10:51 AM
**To:** Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6)
**Cc:** Keusch, Gerald T (b) (6); Jeffrey Sturchio (b) (6); Peter Daszak < (b) (6); David Morens (b) (6); Aleksei Chmura <
**Subject:** RE: Follow up from our call

Peter:

Nancy would be a good source. I am a member too and can discuss with David Oxtoby.

Rich

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**From:** Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6)
**Sent:** Friday, February 10, 2023 10:41 AM
**To:** Roberts, Rich (b) (6) >
**Cc:** Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6) ; Jeffrey Sturchio (b) (6) Peter Daszak <(b) (6) David Morens (b) (6) >; Aleksei Chmura <

**Subject:** Re: Follow up from our call

**EXTERNAL SENDER**

Yes I'm a member, and they do have some science and public engagement outreach. Probably the best person to discuss this with is Nancy Andrews MD PhD who is on their board as exec VP and also CSO at Boston Children's Hospital. We were undergrads at Yale together 100 years ago, https://www.amacad.org/person/nancy- c-andrews

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

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iPhone

On Feb 10, 2023, at 9:20 AM, Roberts, Rich (b) (6) wrote:

One organization that might be very helpful would be the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. They have many members who are not scientists including some quite well known people like Yo Yo Ma and John Lithgow. They might be able to help.

Rich

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**From:** Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6)
**Sent:** Thursday, February 9, 2023 5:50 PM
**To:** Keusch, Gerald T < (b) (6)
**Cc:** Roberts, Rich < (b) (6) >; Jeffrey Sturchio (b) (6) >; Peter Daszak < (b) (6) David Morens (b) (6) >; Aleksei Chmura <

**Subject:** Re: Follow up from our call

**EXTERNAL SENDER**

So far Ann Moscona from ASV seems on board we can start with her? And the two names she suggested?

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

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On Feb 9, 2023, at 4:35 PM, Keusch, Gerald T (b) (6) wrote:

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



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**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.

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*
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*Safiya Noble*
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*Frank Pasquale*
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Adler University

*Judith Tanur*
Stony Brook University



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*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.

Many thanks Rich!

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

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iPhone

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

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**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); 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)



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- OSTP
- ASV – Anne Moscona (President-Elect)

Cheers,

Peter

**Peter Daszak**
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*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)
**Cc:** David Morens (b); Roberts, Rich (b) (6) Keusch, Gerald T (b) (6) Jeffrey Sturchio (b(b) (6) ) Aleksei Chmura < (b)
**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

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**Senior Coordinator & Executive Support:** Douglas Soriano

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**Media Inquiries:**
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---

**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)
(b) (6)



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Meeting ID: (b) (6)
Passcode: (b) (6)
One tap mobile
(b) (6) US (New York)
US

Cheers,

Peter

**Peter Daszak**
*President*

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

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**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



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**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

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iPhone

On Jan 31, 2023, at 1:44 PM, Peter Daszak <daszak@ecohealthalliance.org > 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]



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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



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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



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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,



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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



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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.



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REL0000476213

Cheers,

Peter

**Peter Daszak**
*President*

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

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**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

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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

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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)
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Executive Assistant: (b) (6)
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**From:** Peter Daszak (b) (6)
**Sent:** Friday, January 27, 2023 3:30 PM
**To:** Roberts, Rich (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!

**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*

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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*

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**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 <
(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
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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 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

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.

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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-



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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.

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"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.

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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


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"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?"

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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 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*

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*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_018798
MORENS_NIH_038281
REL0000476213

**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 MinerFlux 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

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**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

(b) (6)

E-mail | Twitter | LinkedIn | Skype: )

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

**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) >; Aleksei Chmura < (b) (6) >; Keusch, Gerald T < (b) (6) >; Rich Roberts (b) (6) (b)
**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

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MORENS_NIH_038283
REL0000476213

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

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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*

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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 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 (b) (6) . 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



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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)
> 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 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

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iPhone

On Jan 25, 2023, at 9:47 AM, Peter Daszak (b) (6)
wrote:

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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*

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Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

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---

**From:** Jeffrey Sturchio <(b)
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 24, 2023 9:08 PM
**To:** Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6)



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MORENS_NIH_038289
REL0000476213

Peter Daszak <
(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

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
Jeffrey Sturchio <
Rich Roberts (b) (6) >
**Subject:** Tweet by Miner Flux on Twitter




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**Media Inquiries:**
(b) (6)

iPhone

**Date:** Fri, 21 Jul 2023 1:24:08 PM -0400
**Subject:** Fwd: angie rasmussen on pbs newshour now discussing viral origins
**From:** David Morens < (b) (6)
**To:** David Morens < (b) (6)

---

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

(b) (6)
(b) (6) (work)
(b) (6) (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) Daszak (>, Rich Roberts < (b) (6) Aleksei Chmura (b) (6) Greg Folkers < (>, 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

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Senior Coordinator / Executive Support: Douglas Soriano
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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



MORENS_SUBPOENA_003931
MORENS_NIH_010864
REL0000476216

**Date:** Tue, 1 Nov 2022 8:38:01 PM -0400
**Sent:** Tue, 1 Nov 2022 8:37:50 PM -0400
**Subject:** Re: Jeff Sachs moderated a Lancet Commission webinar on COVID-19 origins this morning
**From:** "Hotez, Peter Jay" (b) (6)
**To:** Roberts, Rich (b) (6)
**CC:** Jeffrey Sturchio (b) (6), Keusch, Gerald T (b) (6), Peter Daszak (b) (6), Aleksei Chmura (b) (6), David Morens (b) (6)

Their only common denominators: they have no training in virology and as far as I can tell, they have never conducted an experiment with an actual live virus.


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

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**Media Inquiries:**
(b) (6)


iPhone

On Nov 1, 2022, at 7:28 PM, Roberts, Rich (b) (6) > wrote:


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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

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Tel: (b) (6)
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email: (b) (6)

Executive Assistant: (b) (6)
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**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) m >; 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 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: Mon, 6 Feb 2023 10:42:41 PM -0500
Sent: Mon, 6 Feb 2023 10:42:27 PM -0500
Subject: RE: Notes from our call
From: Jeffrey Sturchio (b) (6)
To: Peter Daszak (b) (6) >; Keusch, Gerald T (b) (6) >; Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6) >;
CC: David Morens (b) (6) >; Roberts, Rich (b) (6) >; Aleksei Chmura (b) (6)
Attachments: image001.jpg; image002.jpg; image003.jpg

Peter:

This is exactly why we need to continue our effort to create a coalition to advocate for protecting the future of scientific research. "Protect Our Future" starts from a questionable premise intended to create fear. We should do some research to find out how they're funding this effort. BTW, I know Amir Attaran – he's a lawyer who loves to take contrarian positions. But I can't believe he's bought into this.

As ever,
Jeff

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**From:** Peter Daszak (b) (6) >
**Sent:** Monday, February 6, 2023 4:39 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



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

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**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

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) ; 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)



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Cheers,

Peter

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

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**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) m>; 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



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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)

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**From:** Peter (b)
**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) JS (New York)
JS

Cheers,

Peter



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

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**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

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**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



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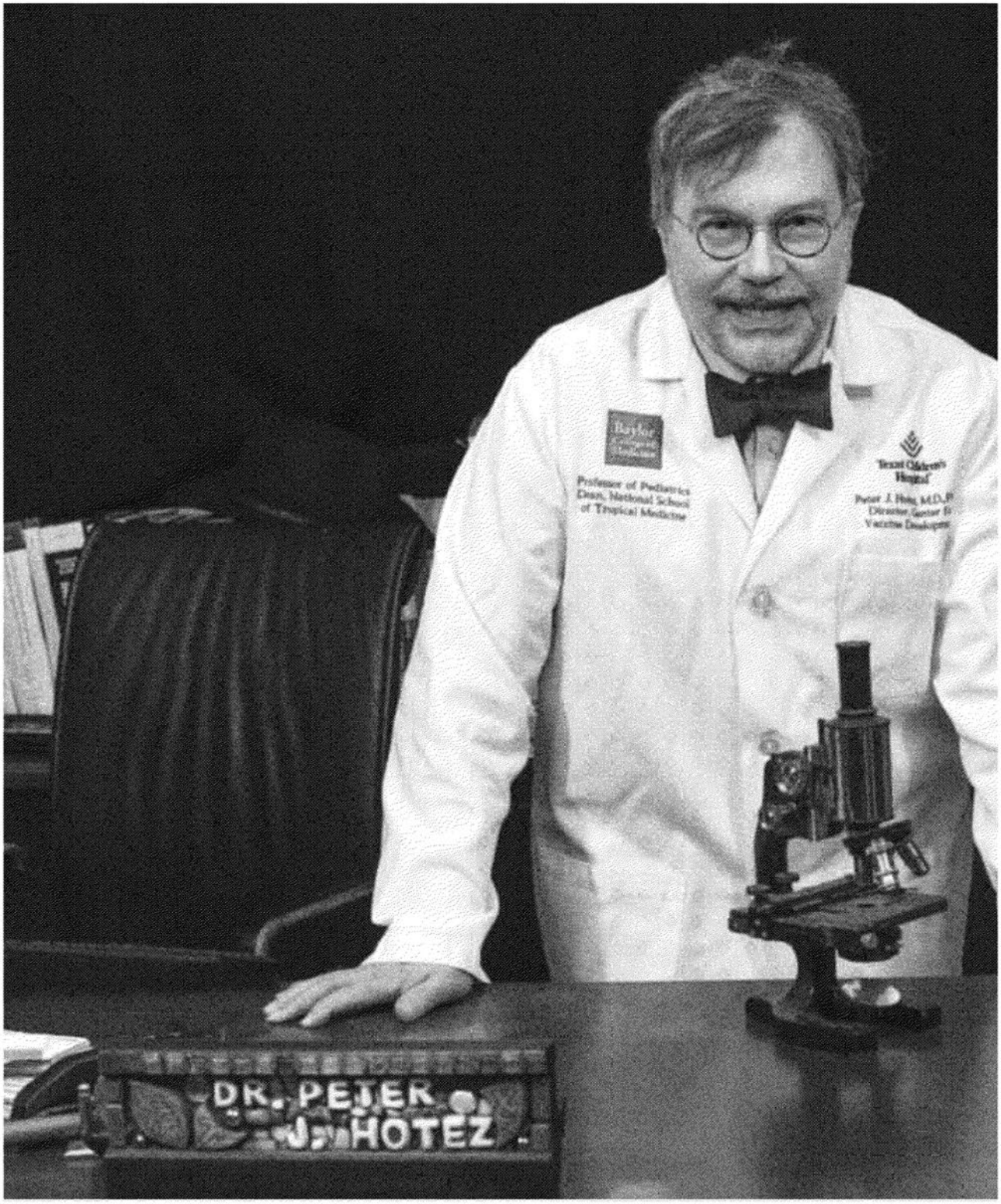


Peter Hotez (Image courtesy of Agapito Sanchez, Baylor College of Medicine)

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,



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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.



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**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



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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



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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



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

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**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

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**Baylor College of Medicine:** Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine | Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology | Health Policy Scholar

**Baylor University**, University Professor

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iPhone

On Jan 30, 2023, at 5:22 PM, David Morens <(b) (6) m> 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/

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**Baylor University**, University Professor

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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



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---

**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)
**Cc:** David Morens (b) (6) Sturchio (b) (6) Aleksei Chmura (b)
**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

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**From:** Roberts, Rich (b) (6) >



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**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
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email: (b) (6)

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---

**From:** Peter Daszak (b) (6)
**Sent:** Friday, January 27, 2023 8:39 AM
**To:** Keusch, Gerald T (b) (6); Hotez, Peter (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



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# officials eye more oversight of risky experiments



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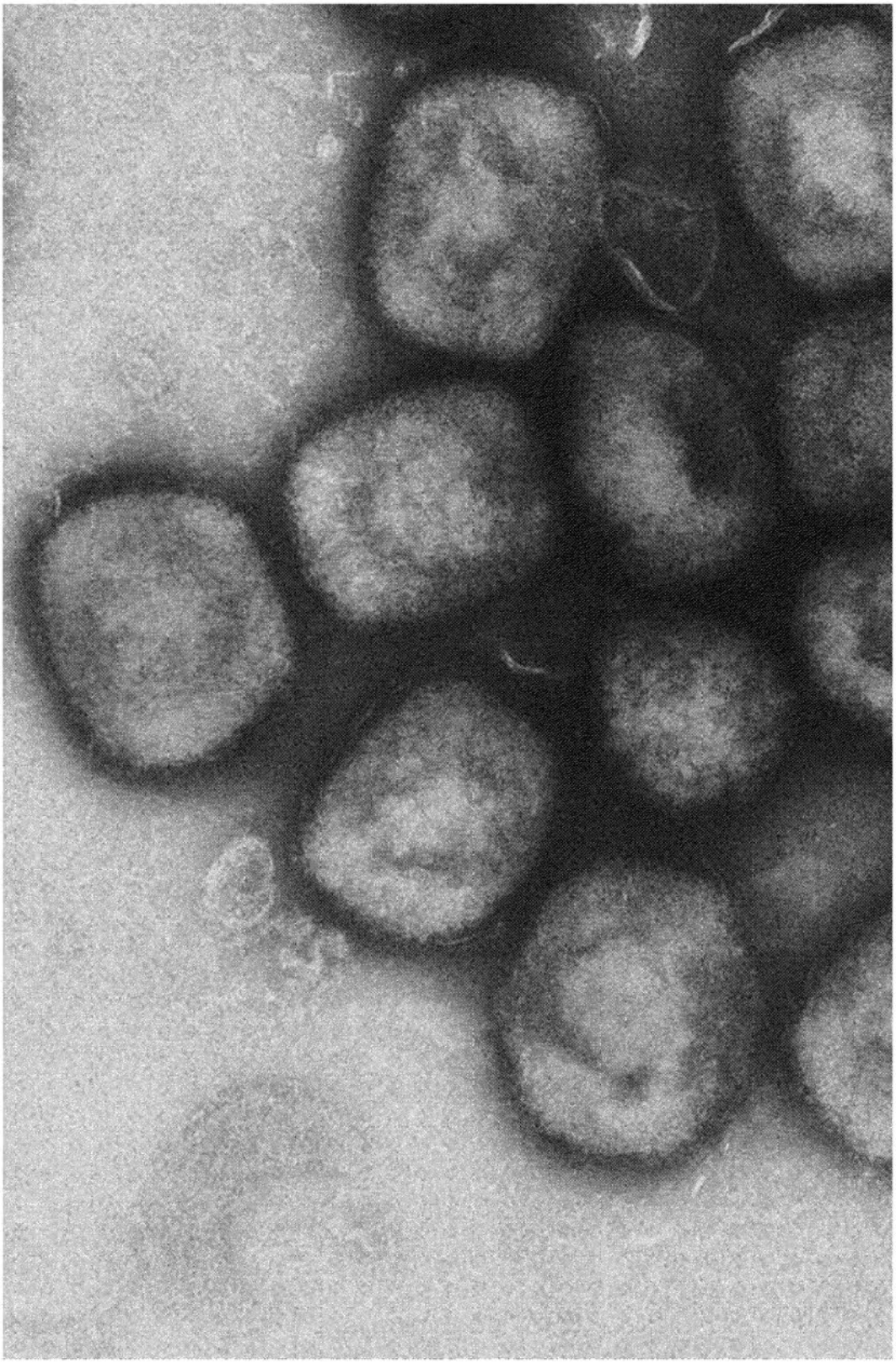

This image shows purified particles of mpox virus, formerly called monkeypox. Viruses like these can be genetically altered in the lab in ways that might make them more dangerous.

*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



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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.
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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.

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"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


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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.

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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?"

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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



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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**
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**Email**

Cheers,

Peter

**Peter Daszak**
*President*

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**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

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**From:** Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6)



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MORENS_NIH_035781
REL0000476232

**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 MinerFlux 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

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**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

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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) ; Aleksei Chmura (>; Keusch, Gerald T (b) (6) ; Rich Roberts (b) (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

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**Texas A&M University**, Faculty-Senior Fellow, Hagler Inst for Advanced Study & Scowcroft Institute of Intl Affairs

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(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)



MORENS_SUBPOENA_017574
MORENS_NIH_035784
REL0000476232

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) (b) >; 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 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 (b) (6) . 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


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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) 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)



MORENS_SUBPOENA_017576
MORENS_NIH_035786
REL0000476232

**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 <
**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

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**Senior Coordinator & Executive Support:** Douglas Soriano

] (b) (6) | Phone: (b) | Fax: (b)

**Media Inquiries:**
(b) (6)

(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*

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---

**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 <
; David Morens <
(b) (6); Gerald Keusch (b) (6); Rich
(b) (6) 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,



MORENS_SUBPOENA_017578
MORENS_NIH_035788
REL0000476232

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



MinerFlux
@randy_hoebee

#Hotez pic.twitter.com/eOPpHym0Rw

1/24/23, 4:04 PM


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

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**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

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**Media Inquiries:**

(b) (6)

iPhone



MORENS_SUBPOENA_017580
MORENS_NIH_035790
REL0000476232

**Date:** Fri, 26 Apr 2024 3:54:37 PM -0400
**Sent:** Fri, 26 Apr 2024 3:54:15 PM -0400
**Subject:** Re: More harrassment from Michael Lauer Today!!
**From:** Hotez, Peter Jay < (b) (6)
**To:** Peter Daszak < (b) (6)
**CC:** Keusch, Gerald <(b) (6) Roberts, Rich < (b) (6) (b) (6) < (b) (6) Jeff Sturchio < (b) (6) (b) (6) Aleksei Chmura < (b) (6) John Feigelson < (b) (6)

---

How awful. As Churchill once said about civil servants, "neither civil, neither servants"

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

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**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

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**Media Inquiries:**
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(b) (6)
iPhone

On Apr 26, 2024, at 2:42 PM, Peter Daszak <(b) (6) > wrote:

Speaking of Michael Lauer – interesting and telling side bar with him re. the WIV lab notebooks. Remember, NIH terminated our grant, then reinitiated it with an instant suspension, pending a series of conditions be met – including getting a vial of virus from China etc.

In Jan 2022, while the grant was still suspended, they wrote to us and asked us to supply the lab notebooks and raw data from WIV, and if we didn't have them, to request them from WIV we explained we didn't have them, and passed on their letter to WIV, who never responded (of course!). WIV was then debarred by HHS, in part because when NIH directly asked for the lab notebooks via a UPS letter, the letter didn't even make it past the gate and was marked 'return to sender'!

Now the SSCP has demanded all correspondence from EHA with WIV whereby we tried to get their lab notebooks. There is only one email where we forward the demand from NIH. Cue Michael Lauer, who has seen the SSCP letter to EHA and now demands we share everything with NIH also, given "ongoing concerns over EcoHealth Alliance's compliance". Truly outrageous, however we took the high road and shared the email.



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Of course Michael Lauer hasn't stopped at that, he now wants to provide (I believe) a foiable trail of emails that show how dogged he is in pursuit of the nefarious EcoHealth Alliance, and how negligent we are. Today, we got the following email from him, demanding all sorts of answers to questions about a grant that was terminated, and about an organization that is debarred. If this isn't overreach, I don't know what is. I believe he realizes that the Intel agencies can't even get this information, but wants to show that EcoHealth has likely continued to work with WIV, but hasn't done its patriotic duty in demanding their lab notebooks.. Of course, at the same time, NIH is fully aware that we're aiming to publish work from our prior award in China, and get hold of critical genomic information that WIV has generated from 15,000 NIH samples in their freezers. Talk about being stuck between a rock and a hard place…

Here's the brunt of Lauer's email:

By the way – we just received a response from Michael Lauer re. the lab notebooks. We voluntarily shared the email from us to WIV that the SSCP has asked for, that shows we forwarded NIH's demand for us to get WIV's notebooks. As is typical for Lauer, rather than say 'thanks' and move on, he's come back with further questions and demands, written in the style of a suspicious NKVD operative under Stalin. He knows these will be foiad at some point, and has written them in a way that once again implies we're either hiding information or didn't' fully comply with their request 2 yrs ago. They're also designed to make a point – if we are still communicating with WIV (which we have to if we're going to publish papers from our prior work), why aren't we demanding the notebooks? This, even though NIH has specifically told us no work in China, and HHS has debarred them from federal funding. It's a massive overreach from NIH and more like the sort of work a CIA operative would do…

Dear Dr. Chmura,

Thank you for your response. We have some follow-up questions:

- When you (EHA) received no response from WIV, did you follow-up with WIV to confirm receipt of the email, or did you otherwise follow-up with them after not hearing back?
- Did you communicate with or attempt to communicate with WIV after NIH sent a follow-up letter in January 2022 (3rd attachment)?
- Did you ever explicitly request that WIV send the lab notebooks and electronic files to you? All we see is that you forwarded the NIH email to WIV and stated, "I will write to NIH and explain that I've forwarded it to WIV, because I don't have that information."
- Were there any other EHA communications with WIV during the period of November 15, 2021, and February 1, 2022?

Sincerely,
Michael S Lauer, MD

Cheers,

Peter



MORENS_NIH_047578
REL0000476235

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---

**From:** Keusch, Gerald (b) (6) >
**Sent:** Friday, April 26, 2024 3:24 PM
**To:** Peter Daszak (b) (6) g >
**Cc:** Roberts, Rich <(b) (6) Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6) >; (b) (6) <(b) (6) >; Jeff Sturchio (b) Aleksei Chmura (b) (6) John Feigelson (b) (6) >
**Subject:** Re: Interview with Michael Hiltzik of the LA Times

I did put him on to Lauer and the Thousand Talents purge, including Lauers glee over the number of US and Chinese scientists caught in the web. I also notedand the shock Collins and Tabak exhibited when the ACD members read their statement and how quickly they ended the day one meeting after that. He has now seen the transcript and asked Lauer and Tabak to comment on it but of course no real response on that either.

I met my former fellow Claire Panosian Donavan for breakfast this morning. She just interviewed Peter Hotez for ASTMH which will be published soon in the journal. She said Phil Rosenthal would be very positive if some of us wrote an updated perspectives piece although I know that takes to time to write well and credibly. Claire suggested we be in touch with Don McNeil who recently left The NY Times due to rather flimsy racist allegations to talk about the current situation as he might have some ideas about how to get attention to our perspective. She offered to introduce me if that would be helpful. We should consider it as a group or I could just do it myself.

I must say I am looking forward to what Michael Hiltzik puts out after the hearing because there may some really wacky stuff coming out of some of the committee members.

Jerry

Sent from my iPhone

> On Apr 26, 2024, at 11:35 AM, Peter Daszak (b) (6) > wrote:
>
> Really appreciate your email Rich – it's pretty ugly right now, but I'm so busy dealing with this garbage that in a weird way you don't have time to get upset about it.
>
> I'll probably be crying into my cornflakes on the morning of May 2nd after my Salem Witch Trial.



MORENS_NIH_047579
REL0000476235

Cheers,

Peter

**Peter Daszak**
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Twitter: @PeterDaszak

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---

**From:** Roberts, Rich (b) (6) >
**Sent:** Friday, April 26, 2024 2:14 PM
**To:** Peter Daszak (b) (6) ; Keusch, Gerald (b) (6) >; Hotez, Peter Jay <
(b) (6)
**Cc:** (b) (6) >; Jeff Sturchio <j (b) (6) (b) (6) Aleksei Chmura
(b) (6) Feigelson (b) (6) >
**Subject:** RE: Interview with Michael Hiltzik of the LA Times

Peter:

I'm glad he is doing this. I feel very upset about what is happening to you and your family. The sooner these Republicans are voted out of office the better. It is quite unconscionable what they are doing.

Rich

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

Executive Assistant: (b) (6)
Tel: (978) (b) (6)
Fax: (978) 412 9910
email: (b) (6) m

---

**From:** Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >
**Sent:** Friday, April 26, 2024 1:56 PM



MORENS_NIH_047580
REL0000476235

**To:** Keusch, Gerald <(b) (6) >; Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6) u>
**Cc:** (b) (6) Jeff Sturchio (b) (6) Roberts, Rich (b) (6) >;
(b) (6) ; Aleksei Chmura (b) (6) >; John Feigelson <
(b) (6)
**Subject:** Interview with Michael Hiltzik of the LA Times

**EXTERNAL SENDER**

Hi all, I Just had a good call with Michael Hiltzik, mainly off the record, but I gave him some quotes at the end along the lines of "It seems that NIH's actions are continuing the de facto blocking of our funding via administrative overreach.." or something less eloquent. He will allow me to check quotes. I also gave him the go ahead to excerpts from the emails and even publish the whole emails that detail the onerous oversight that NIH have been using to block our work, should he wish to. These have already been FoIA'd and are likely to be public very soon in any case.

He told me he will probably wait until after the hearing to see what happens there that can add to his story, but It does seem that he will be doing a story that directly critiques NIH's actions against EcoHealth, and that he believes are part of them trying to rationalize their initial termination under Collins, which I reminded him, our legal team contend was an illegal move. He asked for comment from Tabak and Lauer, and they responded with a single line along the lines "because this is the subject of ongoing compliance oversight, we cannot comment" or similar.

I spoke to Michael Hiltzik about what seems to be a sort of Troika at NIH – Francis Collins, Lawrence Tabak and Michael Lauer. Collins and then Tabak clearly have given the go-ahead on a number of issues to Lauer to do what he can with EcoHealth in a way that benefits NIH and avoids harassment from congress. This seems to mirror what Lauer has done with some Chinese American scientists who were accused of illicit financial activities, never shown to have committed any, but lost their jobs or privileges once Lauer called their Deans (see story in *Science* https://www.science.org/content/article/pall- suspicion-nihs-secretive-china-initiative-destroyed-scores-academic-careers).

He mentioned he had a good conversation with you also Jerry…

Cheers,

Peter

**Peter Daszak**
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REL0000476235

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---

**From:** Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >
**Sent:** Friday, April 26, 2024 11:37 AM
**To:** 'Keusch, Gerald' (b) (6) >; 'Hotez, Peter Jay' (b) (6) >
**Cc:** ; 'Jeff Sturchio' (b) (6) >; 'Roberts, Rich' (b) (6) >; (b) (6) Aleksei Chmura (b) (6) >; John Feigelson (b) (6)
**Subject:** RE: Security concerns re. upcoming Public Hearing

Thanks for the kind words Jerry.

Talking with Michael Hiltzik at 1pm and will be ready to fill him in on some of this, and point him to the Troika at the top of NIH (Collins, Tabak, Lauer) who's weak-willed kow-towing to the former president began all this with the termination of my grant 4 years and 2 days ago (not that I'm counting!!)…

I'll avoid the phrase "four more years" at this point, because I really think we do have another 4 years of crap to wade through…

Cheers,

Peter

**Peter Daszak**
*President*

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USA

Tel.: +1-212- (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:** Friday, April 26, 2024 11:10 AM
**To:** Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6)
**Cc:** Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >; (b) (6) <(b) (6) >; Jeff Sturchio < (b) (6) Roberts, Rich (b) (6) ; Aleksei Chmura <



MORENS_NIH_047582
REL0000476235

(b) (6) John Feigelson (b) (6)
**Subject:** Re: Security concerns re. upcoming Public Hearing

It is absolutely awful Peter. But I expect your bravery in the face of adversity, and your insistence on clarity and truth, as David and Tony will echo it as well, will remain strong and in the end be the authentic and true of the fictional story they are trying to manufacture.

Jerry
Sent from my iPhone

On Apr 26, 2024, at 8:04 AM, Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6) wrote:

As they indicated on official twitter they want to "sell popcorn"

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

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**Texas A&M University**, Faculty-Senior Fellow, Hagler Inst for Advanced Study & Scowcroft Institute of Intl Affairs

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**Media Inquiries:**
(b) (6)

iPhone

On Apr 26, 2024, at 9:47 AM, Peter Daszak <(b) (6) > wrote:

I agree with that – the media are otherwise occupied.

That said, we're now hearing that the SSCP are considering sending us a subpoena today. We've spent the last few days turning over emails and documents, but they still want to get their 'angry letter/subpoena' story, so looks like more garbage coming our way.

Cheers,

Peter

**Peter Daszak**
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**From:** Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6) >
**Sent:** Friday, April 26, 2024 10:37 AM
**To:** Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >
**Cc:** (b) (6) <(b) (6) >; Keusch, Gerald T < (b) (6) Jeff Sturchio < (b) (6) ; Roberts, Rich (b) (6) ; Aleksei Chmura < (b) (6) >; John Feigelson (b) (6) >
**Subject:** Re: Security concerns re. upcoming Public Hearing

It's just awful Peter, I'm so sorry, but if it's any consolation the press is busy with Trump hearings and the culture wars playing out on college campuses so there's a good chance that it won't be highlighted much in the mainstream media

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

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**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

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**Media Inquiries:**
(b) (6)

iPhone

On Apr 26, 2024, at 9:25 AM, Peter Daszak (b) (6) wrote:

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Dear all,

Just letting you know some of the damage that these political attacks on science have. As soon as the SSCP announced my hearing a few weeks ago, I noticed a significant increase in online death threats, both the number and severity of the threats. On Tuesday this week I received a death threat by mail at my house, and while I was in DC yesterday for a mock hearing, the local police received a notice that someone had killed a scientist and had his wife tied up in the basement at my house. It was a fake call but we ended up with 4 police cars, and detectives searching the house, and staying for the afternoon. We're expecting more of this and are tightening up security for the next couple of weeks at my house and in the office. We also have security lined up in DC where there is a real chance for harassment because they know I have to enter the building that morning. It's also a public building and people will be in the corridors as I enter the room.

In the meantime the SSCP seem happy to gin up their base with a Twitter 'countdown' to my hearing date, just like the buildup to the next season of "Game of Thrones" (below). This time they didn't use the popcorn icon – meaning 'bring your popcorn for this fun show' – as they did on previous countdowns to testimony. I wonder if that's because Peter Hotez called them out repeatedly?

Anyway – it looks like we're in for a rough couple of weeks. Sometime today or over the weekend, the SSCP tells us they'll release a (no doubt damning) report about EcoHealth Alliance, as well as the transcripion from my 9.5 hours interview I did with them in November. That will keep the Right wing press busy and get their supporters frothing at the mouth up to Wednesday..

**Post**

See new posts

**Conversation**

<image003.jpg>

**Select Subcommittee on the Coronavirus Pandemic**

@COVIDSelect

In less than one week, EcoHealth Alliance President Dr. Peter Daszak will appear before
@COVIDSelect
for a public hearing
<image001.png>
COVID-19 origins
<image001.png>
Gain-of-function research
<image001.png>
Wuhan Institute of Virology
<image001.png>
Dr. Anthony Fauci ...and more are on the table

✔COVID-19 origins
✔Gain-of-function research
✔Wuhan Institute of Virology
✔Dr. Anthony Fauci

May 1, 2024 | 10:00am 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:** Peter Daszak (b) (6)
**Sent:** Thursday, April 25, 2024 11:34 PM
**To:** '(b) (6) (b) (6) >; 'Keusch, Gerald T' <(b) (6) 'Jeff Sturchio' (b) (6) 'Roberts, Rich' (b) (6) >; 'Hotez, Peter Jay' < (b) (6) < (b) (6) g>
**Cc:** Aleksei Chmura (b) (6) >; John Feigelson < (b) (6)
**Subject:** Details and a link to my upcoming Public Hearing
**Importance:** High



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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.

###



MORENS_NIH_047587
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Cheers,

Peter

**Peter Daszak**
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*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) (6) >; Roberts, Rich (b) (6) >; Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6)
**Cc:** Aleksei Chmura (b) (6) >; (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?



MORENS_NIH_047588
REL0000476235

Cheers,

Peter

**Peter Daszak**
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*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) (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*

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---

**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*

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Twitter: @PeterDaszak

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

**From:** (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) (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
>
> <image001.png>
> <image001.png>
> <image001.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
> <image001.png>
> <image001.png>



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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*

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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) 'Keusch, Gerald T' (b) (6)
'Jeff Sturchio' (b) (6) >; 'Roberts, Rich' (b) (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*

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

**From:** (b)
**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) (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

<image001.png>
BREAKING
<image001.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*

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

**From:** (b) (6)
**Sent:** Friday, April 12, 2024 1:37 PM
**To:** Peter Daszak (b) (6) >; Keusch, Gerald T (b) (6) ; Jeff Sturchio (b) (6) ; Rich (b) (6) Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6) (b) (6) g
**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
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MORENS_NIH_047595
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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)
(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



MORENS_NIH_047596
REL0000476235

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*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 (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) <
(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**
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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 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



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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



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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*

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MORENS_NIH_047602
REL0000476235

**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)

(b) (6) (work)
(b) (6) (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 (>
Cc: David Morens <(b) (6) Peter Daszak (b) (6) Rich Roberts <
(b) (6) >, Aleksei Chmura (b) (6) Folkers <
(>, Jeffery Taubenberger (b) (6)
b

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) 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

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.



MORENS_SUBPOENA_002526
MORENS_NIH_009042
REL0000476238

| | |
|---|---|
| Date: | Tue, 11 Oct 2022 10:30:25 PM -0400 |
| Sent: | Tue, 11 Oct 2022 10:30:19 PM -0400 |
| Subject: | RE: another awful Sachs youtube video |
| From: | "Roberts, Rich" (b) (6) |
| 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) >; |
| Attachments: | image001.jpg |

Peter:

Just awful. He admits he has no evidence, but that doesn't stop him.

Rich

Richard J. Roberts
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Fax: (978) 412 9910
email: (b) (6)

Executive Assistant: (b) (6)
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---

**From:** Peter Daszak (b) (6) >
**Sent:** Monday, October 10, 2022 10:40 PM
**To:** Roberts, Rich (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:** another awful Sachs youtube video

**EXTERNAL SENDER**

From 15mins on he talks about how I lied, our group lied, and how we're a small group with the "inside track" to NIH etc.

It's delusional and pretty offensive, frankly.

I didn't watch much of it, I have to write a grant application – unlike Jeff Sachs, I don't make my money from talking to the press and trashing other people…

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=morj- 3rdWwM&t=73s

Cheers,

Peter

**Peter Daszak**
*President*

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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, October 5, 2022 1:28 AM
**To:** 'Roberts, Rich' <(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:** A barrage of attacks against EHA in last week
**Importance:** High

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…



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..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-safety-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/KlyqU6NOK7zjvYio.mp4?tag=12

Cheers,

Peter

**Peter Daszak**
*President*

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Twitter: @PeterDaszak

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

---

**From:** Roberts, Rich (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
**Subject:** RE: Jeff Sachs accuses US of blowing up the Nordstream pipelines last week....

Jerry et al.

I am at a meeting in (b) (6) and have been talking with (b) (6) his wife (b) who knows Jeff well. (b) (6) (b) (6) . I will be meeting with them later today and this is one of several items we will discuss.

Rich

Richard J. Roberts
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Fax: (978) 412 9910
email: (b) (6)



MORENS_SUBPOENA_001781
MORENS_NIH_008188
REL0000476239

**From:** Keusch, Gerald T (b) (6)
**Sent:** Monday, October 3, 2022 6:18 PM
**To:** Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6) (b) ; Peter Daszak (b) (6)
**Cc:** David Morens (b) (6) ; Aleksei Chmura (b) (6) ; Roberts, Rich (b) (6) ; Jeff Sturchio (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 Morer (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

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**Media Inquiries:**
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iPhone



MORENS_SUBPOENA_001782
MORENS_NIH_008189
REL0000476239

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*

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USA

Tel.: (b) (6)
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
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*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); Aleksei Chmura < (b) (6) Peter Hotez (b) (6); Rich Roberts (b) (6) Jeff Sturchio <
**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 (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



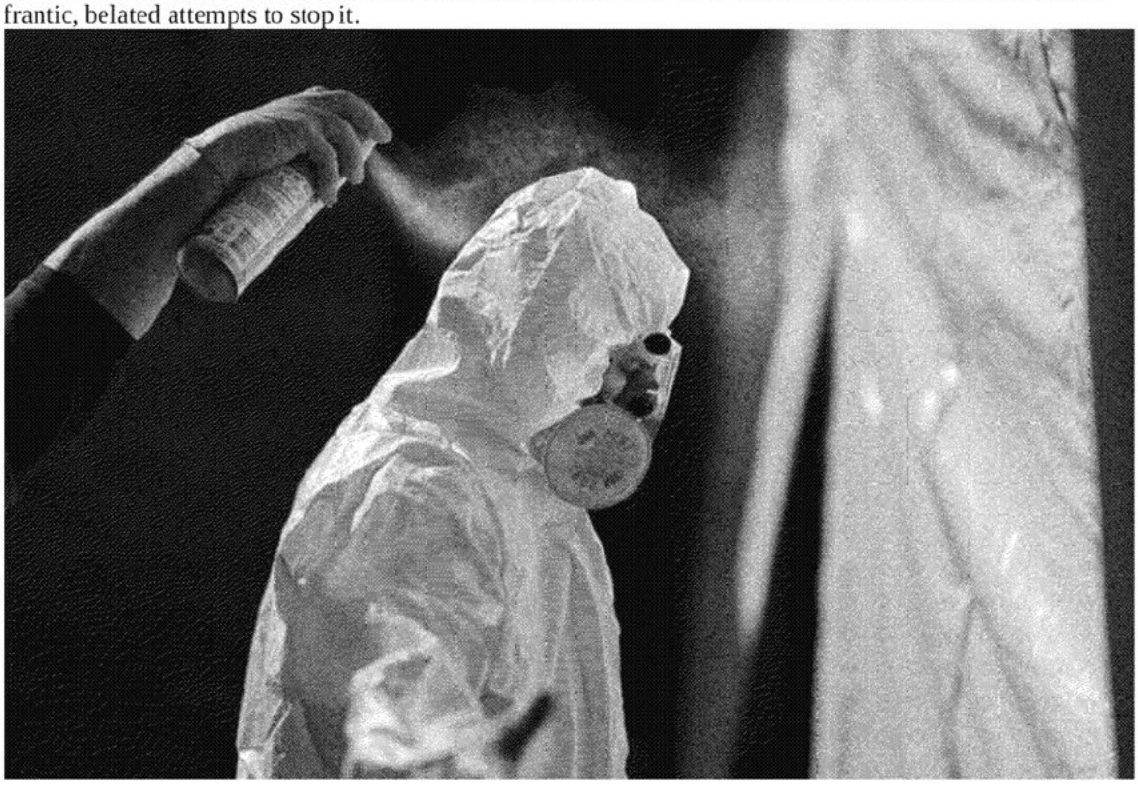
MORENS_SUBPOENA_001783
MORENS_NIH_008190
REL0000476239

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

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"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



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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 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.'"



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"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."*

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**BREATHLESS: The Scientific Race to Defeat a Deadly Virus** | By David Quammen | 406 pp. | Simon & Schuster | $28.99

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MORENS_SUBPOENA_001786
MORENS_NIH_008193
REL0000476239

Date: Mon, 6 Feb 2023 10:21:20 PM -0500
Sent: Mon, 6 Feb 2023 10:21:00 PM -0500
Subject: RE: Notes from our call
From: "Roberts, Rich" (b) (6) >
To: David Morens (b) (6) >;
CC: Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6) >; Peter Daszak (b) (6) >; Keusch, Gerald T (b) (6) >; Jeffrey Sturchio (b) (6) (b) (6) >; Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6)
Attachments: image001.jpg; image002.jpg; image003.jpg

David:

My doctors knew better than to try and warn me off alcohol. I am enjoying a nice glass of red wine right now.

In addition to biomedical research, luck also plays a role. I am one of the luckiest people you know.
The last major act of the Unabomber was to send 5 letters out, one with a bomb. I didn't get the bomb.
Also I was booked on the first plane that went into the World Trade Tower on 9/11. The meeting I was going to got moved forward by a day and I ended taking the flight the day before. There's lots more, but that's enough for now.

Rich

Richard J. Roberts
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email: (b) (6)

**From:** David Morens (b) (6) (b)
**Sent:** Monday, February 6, 2023 8:39 PM
**To:** Roberts, Rich (b) (6)
**Cc:** Hotez, Peter Jay (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, You should definitely celebrate. I am not sure you realize how incredibly lucky u are to live in this era of medical miracles. It is folks like us, boring old biomedical scientists working under the radar screen, who are incrementally improving life, health, and longevity.

My dad, born in 1910, had 7 or 8 siblings but only 3 survived infancy. That was NOT unusual for poor folks 123 years ago, with no vaccines except for smallpox and diphtheria antitoxin.

But my dad, who grew up in orphanages and foster homes lved to the age of 88 and got to see the first person in his family go to college (me) and the first to see his grandchildren (my sons) go to college. To him that seemed miraculous

So, our increments medical advances have changed the experience of living

Two years ago i had 2 experiences, 4 days apart, in which very close friends, in full health, suddenly without warning fell over n complete cardiopulmonary arrest due to what turned out to be "double widowmaker" coronary blockages. They essentially died. And yet, two miracles took over: in the first, they happened to keel over right in front of experts who knew cpr that could keep them alive until they could get to an operating room. And secondly we now have mechanisms to artificially keep them going until their hearts and lungs can be revived by surgery

True, aortic valve replacement is nowadays not quite that dramatic, but it is still miraculous, for average folks, for folks with hereditary aortic valve disease, and for folks with bacteremic aortic valve damage. My cousin Ricky who had Downs syndrome but was a really sweet kid had aortic valve disease considered inoperable in the 1960s, and he died a horrible death at age 12. It still haunts me....

But you now have a "pass" to live a full life into very old age. (i don't need to say that both aortic stenosis and insufficiency/prolapse will sooner or later kill you)... That's alot to celebrate and to recommit to the things that you and biomedical science colleagues do. Maybe there is an arc of biomedical history that bends towards justice

Sorry, this is just a long winded excuse to say: embrace miracles that come your way and translate them into new and hopefully transformative knowledge

This is our most important "job" as scientists

Your docs probably told you to avoid a alcohol for awhile, but i am right now pouring a single malt to your health.

Get better soon, dmm

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

On Feb 6, 2023, at 19:26, Roberts, Rich (b) (6) m> wrote:

David:

Thanks

I'm doing my best to celebrate!

Rich

Richard J. Roberts
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email: (b) (6)

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email: (b) (6)

---

**From:** David Morens (b) (6) >
**Sent:** Monday, February 6, 2023 6:22 PM
**To:** Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6)



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MORENS_NIH_035712
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**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) :

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

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**Media Inquiries:**
(b) (6)

iPhone



MORENS_SUBPOENA_017509
MORENS_NIH_035713
REL0000476240

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

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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 5:15 PM
**To:** Roberts, Rich (b) (6)
**Cc:** Peter Daszak (b) (6) g >; Keusch, Gerald T (b) (6) David Morens (b) (6) Jeffrey Sturchio (b) (6) >; Aleksei Chmura < (> (b)
**Subject:** Re: Notes from our call

**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

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**Media Inquiries:**
(b) (6)

iPhone

On Feb 6, 2023, at 4:10 PM, Roberts, Rich (b) (6) > wrote:

Peter:

Sorry, there is no God. I wanted him last week after (b) (6) to perform his miracle of turning water into wine. No luck though.

We have to help ourselves!

Rich

Richard J. Roberts
New England Biolabs
240 County Road
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**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)
**Subject:** 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



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**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/



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Cheers,

Peter

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

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**From:** Keusch, Gerald T (b) (6)
**Sent:** Thursday, February 2, 2023 4:58 PM
**To:** Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >; Hotez, Peter Jay (t(b) (6)
**Cc:** David Morens (b) (6) >; Roberts, Rich (t(b) (6) Jeffrey 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

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**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) Keusch, Gerald T (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,



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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



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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*

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**From:** Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6)
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 1, 2023 6:21 PM
**To:** Peter Daszak (b) (6)



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**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

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**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) 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)
(b) (6) US

Cheers,

Peter

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

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**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) (b) Jeffrey Sturchio <J (b) (6) Aleksei Chmura <



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(b) (6)
**Subject:** Re: Two great articles!

Many thanks Peter! Appreciate the support!

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

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**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

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iPhone



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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



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Peter Hotez (Image courtesy of Agapito Sanchez, Baylor College of Medicine)



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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;



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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


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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


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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



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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



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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?



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**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,



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Peter

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*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) ; 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

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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/

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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
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240 County Road
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Fax: (978) 412 9910
email: (b) (6)

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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) 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

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---

**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 <
(b) (6)
**Subject:** RE: Finally - virologists fight back!

Peter:

In the interests of compete disclosure, I was a member of the



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"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

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email: (b) (6)

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---

**From:** Peter Daszak (b) (6)
**Sent:** Friday, January 27, 2023 8:39 AM
**To:** Keusch, Gerald T (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



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# science as officials eye more oversight of risky experiments



NELL GREENFIELDBOYCE



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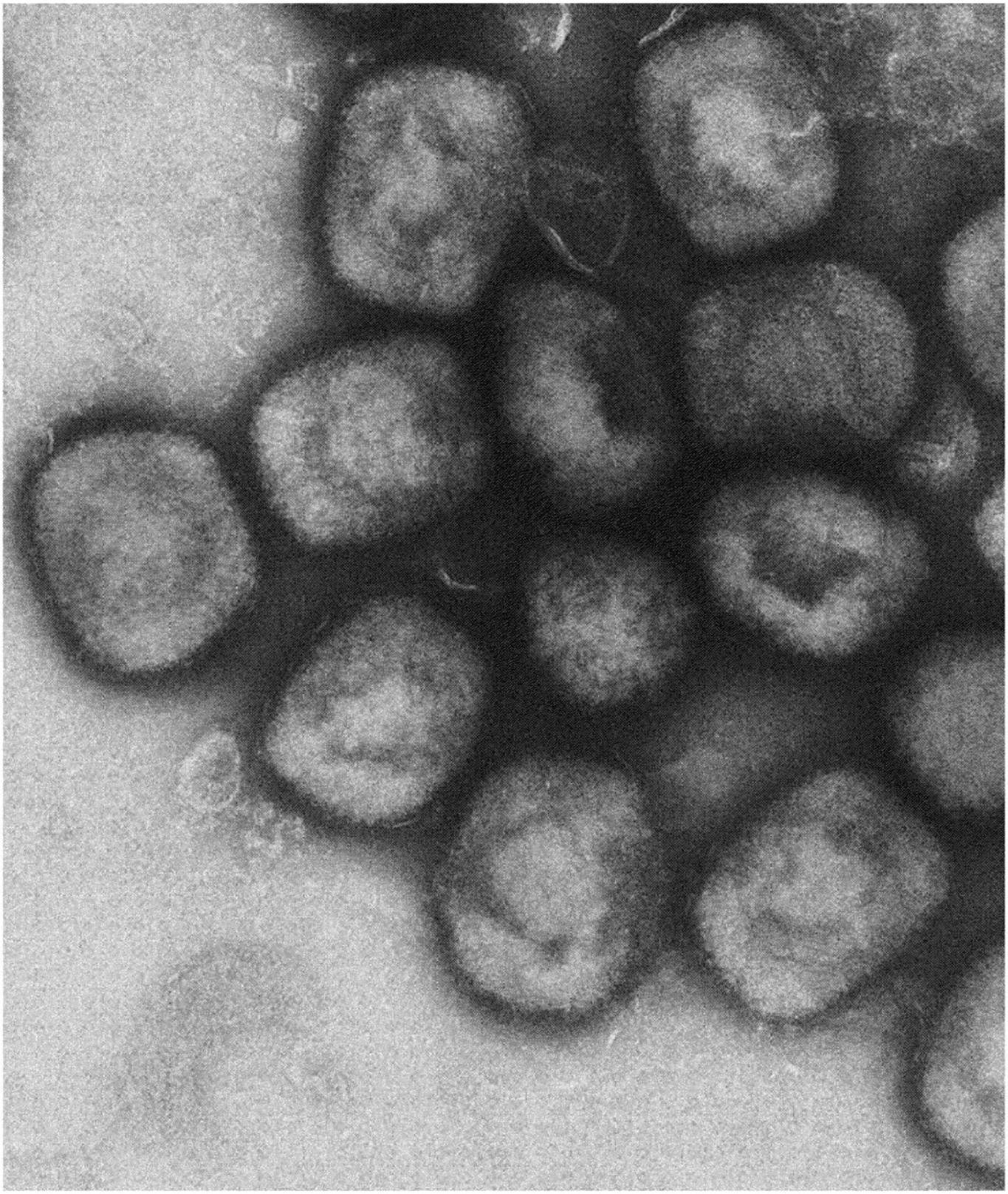

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This image shows purified particles of mpox virus, formerly called monkeypox. Viruses like these can be genetically altered in the lab in ways that might make them more dangerous.

*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.

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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.

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"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



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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.

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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?"

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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 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

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---

**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)
**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) Äleksei Chmura (b) (6) g >; Rich Roberts < (b) (6)
**Subject:** Re: Tweet by MinerFlux 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

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**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

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(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) (b) (6) Jeffrey Sturchio (b) (6) >; Aleksei Chmura < (b) (6) >; Keusch, Gerald T < (b) (6) Rich Roberts <(b) (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

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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

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REL0000476240

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*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 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 (b) (6) 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?



MORENS_SUBPOENA_017543
MORENS_NIH_035747
REL0000476240

Cheers,

Peter

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---

**From:** Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6)
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 25, 2023 10:55 AM
**To:** Peter Daszak <
(>
b
**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)

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**Senior Coordinator & Executive Support:** Douglas Soriano

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**Media Inquiries:**

(b) (6)

(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 (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



MORENS_SUBPOENA_017546
MORENS_NIH_035750
REL0000476240




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

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**Baylor University**, University Professor

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

**Media Inquiries:**

(b) (6)

(b) (6)

iPhone



MORENS_SUBPOENA_017548
MORENS_NIH_035752
REL0000476240

**Date:** Fri, 7 Jun 2024 6:13:17 PM -0400
**Sent:** Fri, 7 Jun 2024 6:13:02 PM -0400
**Subject:** FW: NASEM service
**From:** Peter Daszak <(b) (6)
**To:** Gerald Keusch <(b) (6) Rich Roberts <(b) (6) David Morens <(b) (6) Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6) Jeff Sturchio <(b) (6) Keith Martin <(b) (6)
**CC:** Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6)
**Attachments:** image003.png; image004.png

Just letting you all know that the NASEM COO wrote back to me today and still wants 'a brief call', see his email below. I'll set this up and let you all know what happens.

To be honest, with this level of 'cancel culture' going on, you end up feeling guilty even if you haven't done anything wrong.

Cheers,

Peter

**Peter Daszak**
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Twitter: @PeterDaszak

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

---

**From:** Symmes, Gregory (b) (6)
**Sent:** Friday, June 7, 2024 11:47 AM
**To:** Daszak, Peter (b) (6)
**Cc:** Wood, Tasha <(b) (6) >; Alison Andre <(b) (6) >; Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6)
**Subject:** RE: NASEM service

Hi Peter,

Thank you for your response. I recognize and greatly appreciate your extensive service to the National Academies over many years.

I still would appreciate an opportunity to talk with you. I will be on travel overseas next week. Perhaps we can find a time for a brief phone or zoom meeting the week of June 17?

My executive assistant (b) (6) will follow up with your colleagues to find a convenient time for us to talk.
Best,



MORENS_NIH_047190
REL0000476250

Greg

Gregory H. Symmes, Ph.D.
Chief Program Officer
Acting Chief Operating Officer
(b) (6)
(b) (6)

NATIONAL ACADEMIES Sciences Engineering Medicine

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---

**From:** Peter Daszak (b) (6) g >
**Sent:** Monday, June 3, 2024 7:43 PM
**To:** Symmes, Gregory (b) (6) >
**Cc:** Wood, Tasha (b) (6) >; Alison Andre (b) (6) >; Aleksei Chmura <
(b) (6)
**Subject:** NASEM service
**Importance:** High

Dear Dr. Symmes,

Thank you for your email of May 31st and for the reminder of our meeting as part of the Committee to Advise the USGCRP, which I trust is doing well. My understanding is that the HHS letters to EcoHealth Alliance and myself are the initial step in a process during which we will have an opportunity to refute allegations, present evidence that our organization is a good steward of federal funding, and that debarment is not appropriate in this case. EcoHealth Alliance intends to contest debarment vigorously on behalf of the organization and myself. We have already amassed substantial evidence to refute the baseless allegations against us, and to show clearly that EcoHealth Alliance has 'present responsibility' to manage federal awards. There has been a rush to judgment by the House Select Subcommittee on the Coronavirus Pandemic and HHS, with a conspicuous lack of due process.

As you know, I have served the NASEM on numerous committees and in other roles over the past two decades, working hard on behalf of the Academies, both before and after becoming a member of the NAM. These duties were already disrupted when I was asked to suspend activities while being investigated for around 12 months, following a spurious politically-motivated letter from politicians bent on undermining science. I was completely exonerated by the NAM investigation and rapidly picked up my activities. There is nothing about the HHS process that should or does affect my ability to perform my duties to the NASEM to their fullest capacity. I therefore intend to continue with my duties until due process has been given an opportunity to play out.

Cheers,

Peter

**Peter Daszak**
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USA

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

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

---

**From:** Symmes, Gregory (b) (6)
**Sent:** Friday, May 31, 2024 3:57 PM
**To:** Daszak, Peter (b) (6) >
**Cc:** Wood, Tasha (b) (6) >
**Subject:** meeting request

Dear Dr. Daszak,

My name is Greg Symmes and I'm the Chief Program Officer of the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine. You may remember meeting me years ago during your service on the Committee to Advise the US Global Change Research Program, when I was executive director of the Academies' Division on Earth and Life Studies.

I'm reaching out to schedule a zoom call with you to discuss potential impact of the recent HHS decision on your service to the National Academies.

My executive assistant Tasha Wood will be in touch with your office to arrange a time for us to meet. Please let me know if there is someone in your office Tasha should work with to help with your schedule.

I look forward to meeting with you.

Best,
Greg Symmes

Gregory H. Symmes, Ph.D.
Chief Program Officer
Acting Chief Operating Officer
(b) (6)
(b) (6)

NATIONAL ACADEMIES Sciences Engineering Medicine

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**Date:** Sat, 5 Nov 2022 5:59:46 PM -0400
**Sent:** Sat, 5 Nov 2022 5:59:35 PM -0400
**Subject:** Tweet by Prof Peter Hotez MD PhD on Twitter
**From:** "Hotez, Peter Jay" < (b) (6)
**To:** Gerald T Keusch <(b) (6) < (b) (6) < (b) (6) Aleksei Chmura < (b) (6) Jeffrey Sturchio < (b) (6) Rich Roberts < (b) (6) Peter Daszak David Morens

**Prof Peter Hotez MD PhD**
@PeterHotez

Depressing @nytopinion from @maureendowd. My particular concern is a takeover of House/Senate could spell trouble for American biomedical science. Oppressive hearings over phony baloney GOF Covid origins conspiracies, fake news on vaccines
nytimes.com/2022/11/05/opi…

11/5/22, 4:11 PM


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

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**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

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**Media Inquiries:**
(b) (6)


iPhone

**Date:** Fri, 21 Jul 2023 1:04:02 PM -0400
**Subject:** Fwd: Sachs and Relman quoted again today
**From:** David Morens (b) (6)
**To:** David Morens (b) (6)
**Attachments:** image004.png; image001.jpg; image008.png; image003.png

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: Fri, Jul 1, 2022 at 9:46 AM
Subject: Re: Sachs and Relman quoted again today
To: Peter Daszak (b) (6) >
Cc: Roberts, Rich (b) (6) >, Gerald T Keusch (b) (6) Aleksei Chmura <
(b) (6) >, David Morens <(b) (6) >, Jeffrey Sturchio <
(b) (6)

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

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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
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Fax: 713-798-2299

iPhone

On Jul 1, 2022, at 8:37 AM, Peter Daszak <(b) (6) 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".



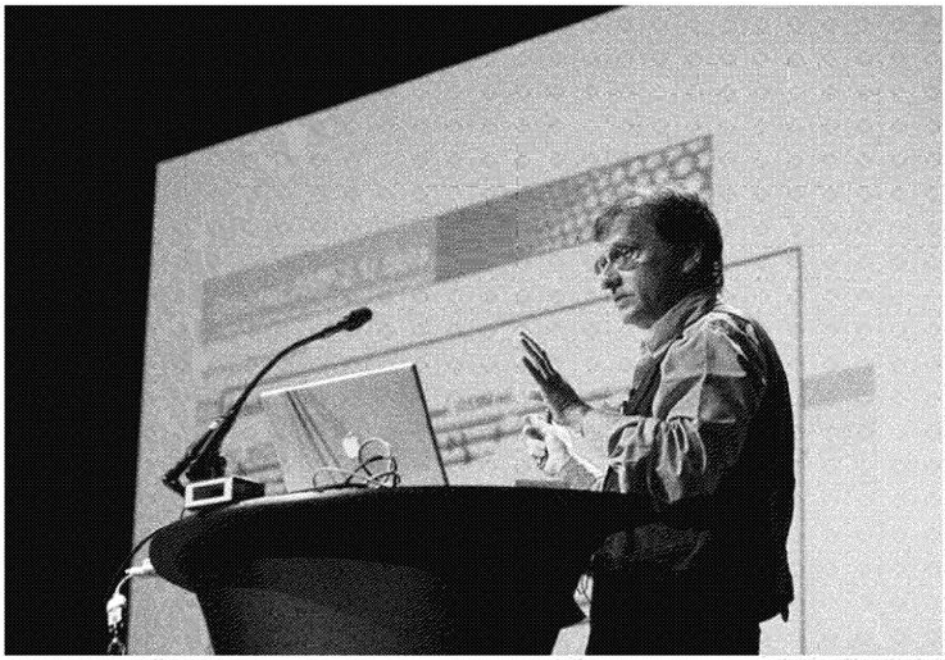
MORENS_SUBPOENA_004284
MORENS_NIH_011264
REL0000476282

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

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.



MORENS_SUBPOENA_004285
MORENS_NIH_011265
REL0000476282

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

0

Cheers,

Peter

**Peter Daszak**

*President*

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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 30, 2022 11:21 AM
**To:** Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6) Peter Daszak (b) (6)
**Cc:** Gerald T Keusch < (b) (6) Aleksei Chmura (b) (6) David Morens < (b) (6) >; Jeffrey Sturchio (b) (6)
**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



MORENS_SUBPOENA_004288
MORENS_NIH_011268
REL0000476282

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:** Thursday, June 30, 2022 10:50 AM
**To:** Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >
**Cc:** Gerald T Keusch (>; Aleksei Chmura (b) (6) David Morens <
(b) (6) >; Jeffrey Sturchio (b) (6) >; Roberts, Rich (b) (6)
**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://twitter.com/skmorefield/status/1542497337[illegible]496961?s=21 &t=6w48UFQHdjizswS_RXhHfQ

**Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP**
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Health Policy Scholar
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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

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Daily Beast Contributor https://www.thedailybeast.com/author/peter- j-hotez
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Senior Coordinator / Executive Support: Douglas Soriano
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Fax: 713-798-2299

iPhone

On Jun 28, 2022, at 10:54 AM, Peter Daszak (b) (6) > 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://blog.whitecoatwaste.org/2022/06/24/progress- congress-defunds-wuhan-animal-lab-ecohealth-alliance/



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MORENS_NIH_011270
REL0000476282

# PROGRESS! CONGRESS DEFUNDS WUHAN

POSTED BY



MORENS_SUBPOENA_004291
MORENS_NIH_011271
REL0000476282

**Date:** Thu, 31 Mar 2022 5:36:16 PM -0400
**Sent:** Thu, 31 Mar 2022 5:35:31 PM -0400
**Subject:** Re: fyi you should read this
**From:** "Hotez, Peter Jay" < (b) (6)
**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)

---

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

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


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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 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.**

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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-



MORENS_SUBPOENA_006067
MORENS_NIH_014820
REL0000476289

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

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==========

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MORENS_SUBPOENA_006068
MORENS_NIH_014821
REL0000476289

**Date:** Thu, 23 May 2024 10:28:50 AM -0400
**Subject:** Re: RE: Fact check re. emails of ours that were cited in today's public hearing
**From:** (b) (6) < (b) (6)
**To:** Keusch, Gerald T < (b) (6) Peter Daszak < (b) (6)
**CC:** Aleksei Chmura < (b) (6) Jeff Sturchio < (b) (6)

Dear David and Peter,

You are both exemplars of what science is all about, the search for knowledge in an objective and self-correcting manner, by asking questions, getting information, analyzing it, forming conclusions subject to new questions and new investigation in a never ending process.

You are both extremely brave in facing the attacks you are enduring. You both, as we all do, have rights to your own opinions and decisions and I do not think the US Constitution bans humor, whether dark, cynical, or biting, or even goofy. It does not even ban obscenities.

Your obligation as a federal employee was to keep government business out of private conversation and you cannot be faulted for keeping private conversations out of government business. All of this was in the midst of a deadly pandemic when the US endured the greatest death rate per capita than any other advanced wealthy nation in my opinion primarily because of wrong decisions made by its leadership at the time. Humor of any shade is a way to deal with such terrible events unfolding in front of you and out of your control. It was worse to me than the other pandemic I faced in my professional career, the early days of AIDS, because then we had nothing available to address the underlying problem but only band-aids for its consequences. For COVID we quickly learned what public health measures would reduce the impact of infection and it was possible to quickly create vaccines based on decades of prior basic research and field surveillance. The game changer vaccines worked for those who were accepting. Those who didn't, in large part due to the strange twist of privacy over public good in the media and social media and the lasting influence of the anti-vaccine movement, suffered from greater complications and more death in every age group assessed.

Stay strong and ever cognizant that the only issues I believe were behind all of these conversations were to protect the American people (and so people everywhere in the world) from this deadly virus at the same time protecting the integrity of science itself from politically and ideologically driven attacks. Those are not illegal motivations underlying frank conversations among long time friends and colleagues.

Jerry

**From:** (b) (6) < (b) (6)
**Sent:** Thursday, May 23, 2024 8:12 AM
**To:** Peter Daszak < (b) (6) Keusch, Gerald < (b) (6)
**Cc:** Aleksei Chmura < (b) (6) Jeff Sturchio < (b) (6)
**Subject:** Re: Fact check re. emails of ours that were cited in today's public hearing

Peter. thanks for looking into this, as it was one of the most indefensible charges against me, and when told I had helped you write this letter I told them I don't remember doing so and if I did it i was wrong, as you saw if you watched the show yesterday.

Uncovering this item won't have any impact on clearing my name, but as I am really depressed this morning, it cheers me up a bit. Thank you for being a true friend and for taking the time to cheer me up in the midst of your far worse troubles



MORENS_NIH_044737
REL0000476297

Whatever mistakes I made, and however poor my judgment and understanding of nih do's and don'ts, I was trying to do the right thing to help you. One of the reasons i made what turned to be a very bad choice to not take the 5th, was so that i could push back against accusations based on incorrect interpretations. i am sure there are many other items like this. I know you know that on many occasions I explained to you all of the many things I couldn't do to help you directly, and also the things that I could do. But I will never get a chance to correct or explain them.

My worst mistake was writing jokey emails that will be used against Tony. I wish there was something I could do to help him at this point, but there isn't. Hopefully the harm to him will be minimal. My foolishness has harmed at least two people I consider innocent, which is actually worse than losing my job and facing prosecution.

But once I become retired, I will be able to do whatever I can to help friends such as you and to defend and speak up for science. And, being a historian myself, I fully expect we all will eventually be substantially if not completely vindicated

In the meantime, Hang in there and look for light at the end of the tunnel. Also, please give my best to rhe many fine and honorable people who work with you at EHA, and particularly Billy, Jon, and Kevin
d
Sent from Proton Mail Android

-----Original Message -----
On 5/22/24 23:25, Peter Daszak wrote:

> Jerry and David,
>
> Today in David Morens' hearing, the SSCP asked questions about an email wherein David allegedly assisted me with the reinstatement of my R01. They refer to an email on Oct 24th 2021 in their report here: https://oversight.house.gov/release/new- covid-select-memo-details-allegations-of-wrongdoing-and-illegal-activity-by-dr-faucis-senior-scientific-advisor/
>
> It didn't sound correct to me, so I went through my email records and have located a chain that I began on 10/24/2021, that was me drafting a response to Michael Lauer's questions about the late year 5 report for the grant. This was NOT related to reinstating the grant – at that point, the grant was suspended and we were getting repeated questions about it, and there was not the slightest hint that it would be reinstated.
>
> As you'll see by looking at the 1st email attached above – I send an email to both of you asking for advice on how to word the response to Michael Lauer, because you both are knowledgeable on issues of virology and both have experience with the type of bureaucratic questions I was being asked by NIH Office of the Director. I didn't consider this a conflict for David, because he's not part of the official decision making on this grant – by that time all decisions since 2020 had been overseen by O/D NOT NIAID, and I was under clear instructions to communicate with NIH O/D. I don't think that even Dr. Fauci had any capacity to decide on this.
>
> Despite what's said in the SSCP report, and in David's hearing, I remembered, and it's shown in the email chains above, that David said he would suggest some 'wordsmithing', but in fact DID NOT. The emails clearly show that you spoke with others at NIAID, and that they suggested you should not be involved in this, and in fact you did not edit the letter, or even suggest edits. It's all there in the emails above.
>
> I don't know what value this has now, considering that the public hearing has been and gone, but I felt it was important to share these, in case any of us are asked about them – from what I see, you checked with your superiors and then diplomatically cut yourself out of the editing chain.

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_044739
REL0000476297

Date: Fri, 29 Sep 2023 5:42:53 PM -0400
Sent: Fri, 29 Sep 2023 5:42:42 PM -0400
Subject: Re: Clarifying Foreign Subaward Policy, Early Career Researchers, Cephalopod Welfare
From: David Morens < (b) (6) >
To: Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6)
Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >; Roberts, Rich <(b) (6) Jeffrey
CC: Sturchio < (b) (6) peter hotez <(b) (6) Aleksei Chmura
<(b) (6) >;
BCC: (b) (6)

true but it seems they might have made some small face saving concessions. My sense is that they know the overstepped their bounds. Better than nothing. Perhaps. But this fors feel like death by a thousand cuts...., d

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

On Sep 29, 2023, at 16:22, Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6) wrote:

Its more smoke and mirrors stuff from Lauer, trying to make it appear that NIH has been responsive to critical inputs and has made significant changes, even implying that ignoring the comments made to the first Federal Register posting and simply making cosmetic changes was engaging with the scientific community. I have tried to get Science to address the failure to address the issues and obvious propagandizing this represents, but so far to no avail. I will try once more and write directly to Holden Thorpe, but frankly I don't think there will be any response as he will most likely echo the response I have so far that it is not news and they don't do advocacy reporting.

Jerry

**From:** David Morens < (b) (6)
**Sent:** Friday, September 29, 2023 12:33 PM
**To:** Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >; Keusch, Gerald T < (b) (6) Roberts, Rich < (b) (6) Jeffrey Sturchio < (b) (6) peter hotez < (b) (6) Aleksei Chmura < (b) (6) >
**Subject:** Fwd: FW: Clarifying Foreign Subaward Policy, Early Career Researchers, Cephalopod Welfare

morning news
***David Morens***
(b) (6)

(b) (6) (mobile)

**IMPORTANT: For US Government-related email, please use my publicly available NIAID contact information**

--------- Forwarded message ---------
From: **Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E]** (b) (6)
Date: Fri, Sep 29, 2023 at 12:31 PM



MORENS_NIH_004237
REL0000476304

Subject: FW: Clarifying Foreign Subaward Policy, Early Career Researchers, Cephalopod Welfare
To: David Morens(b) (6)

**From:** List EXTRAMURALSTAFF <EXTRAMURALSTAFF@list.nih.gov> **On Behalf Of** NIH Extramural Nexus
**Sent:** Thursday, September 28, 2023 1:05 PM
**To:** List EXTRAMURALSTAFF <EXTRAMURALSTAFF@list.nih.gov >
**Subject:** Clarifying Foreign Subaward Policy, Early Career Researchers, Cephalopod Welfare



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Late September 2023 View as a Webpage



# Open Mike

## Further Clarifying NIH's Foreign Subaward Agreement Policy: Addressing Community Feedback

By Mike Lauer

We released our final Guide Notice clarifying NIH's long-standing policy on foreign subaward and consortium written agreements. Here, we talk about the origins of this notice, consideration of and changes made in response to public comment, the final oversight and compliance requirements, and how these efforts will ensure NIH remains a proper steward of taxpayer support.

Read More

## Feedback Sought on Cephalopod Care and Use



MORENS_NIH_004238
REL0000476304

By Mike Lauer

Earlier this month, we released a Request for Information seeking public input on the humane care and use of laboratory cephalopods at Assured institutions. The proposed guidance acknowledges the evidence suggesting these animals would benefit from oversight, but also that there are not yet specific care and use standards to allow them to be regulated under the Public Health Service Policy for the Humane Care and Use of Laboratory Animals.

Read More

## Rethinking Population Descriptors in Genetics and Genomics Studies

By Vence L. Bonham, Jr. and Sheri Schully

Assuming that biological or genetic differences relate directly to racial or ethnic categories can lead to false scientific conclusions and perpetuate bias. Misuse of population descriptors has harmed marginalized groups and promoted scientific racism. These limitations in existing population descriptors in genetics and genomics led 14 NIH Institutes, Centers, and Offices to sponsor the National Academies of Science, Engineering, and Medicine (NASEM) to establish an interdisciplinary committee of experts and explore the issue.

Read More

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# Top Stories

## Reminder: NIH Natural Disaster Policies

NIH has issued a reminder notice identifying policy exceptions for impacted organizations to relieve short-term administrative, financial management, and audit requirements.

Read More



MORENS_NIH_004239
REL0000476304

## All About NIH Subaward Agreements: Webinar on Oct. 17

Whether you are a principal investigator considering a subaward arrangement with either a domestic or foreign institution, or a research administrator eager to deepen your understanding of the prerequisites and regulations governing compliant subaward agreements, mark your calendar for October 17 and virtually accompany us as we provide invaluable insights during an engaging event.

Read More

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# New Resources

## NIH All About Grants Podcast: What Early Career Researchers Should Know (Part 1) – the Hidden Curriculum

NIH podcasters Dr. Oliver Bogler, host of National Cancer Institute Inside Cancer Careers, and Dr. Lauren Ullrich, co-host of National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke Building Up the Nerve, will relay experiences and lessons learned on finding the right mentor, importance of open communication, networking, career progression and opportunities, and much more.

Read More

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# Tips Before You Submit



MORENS_NIH_004240
REL0000476304

## Tool Tip: Human Subjects System (HSS) Quick Guide for Warnings and Errors

Have you encountered warnings or errors when working in the Human Subjects System (HSS)? Not to worry, a guide is now available to help Principal Investigators and Signing Officials who enter data into HSS resolve common warnings and errors.

Read More

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## Calendar

| | |
|---|---|
| **Oct. 3** | Review Accuracy of Grant Information Before October 3, 2023 |
| **Oct. 9** | NIH Closed for the Federal Holiday |
| **Oct. 11** | Deadline for Comments to Request for Information (RFI) on Flexibilities for Streamlining IACUC Review of Protocols and Significant Changes |
| **Oct. 17** | Webinar: NIH Subaward Requirements: Domestic and Foreign |
| **Oct. 22** | Deadline for Comments to Request for Information (RFI) on an Update to the Current OLAW Guidance Disclaimer |

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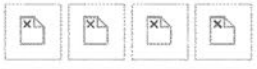
## Connect with the NIH Office of Extramural Research



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MORENS_NIH_004241
REL0000476304

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MORENS_NIH_004242
REL0000476304

Date: Thu, 9 Feb 2023 10:28:39 PM -0500
Sent: Thu, 9 Feb 2023 10:28:34 PM -0500
Subject: RE: Connected Tweet by Prof Peter Hotez MD PhD on Twitter
From: Jeffrey Sturchio (b) (6)
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) >;

Excellent!

JLS

**From:** Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6)
**Sent:** Thursday, February 9, 2023 7:40 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:** Connected Tweet by Prof Peter Hotez MD PhD on Twitter

**Prof Peter Hotez MD PhD**
@PeterHotez

These key points should have been made:
1. Overwhelming evidence for zoonotic origins of Covid.
2. Just like 2 previous epidemics/pandemics SARS & MERS
3. Just like the 4th major CoV emerging because we're wasting time/resources chasing GOP conspiracies
nytimes.com/2023/02/08/us/…

2/9/23, 6:32 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

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**Senior Coordinator & Executive Support:** Douglas Soriano
(b) (6) | Phone: (b) (6) | Fax: 713-798-2299

**Media Inquiries:**
(b) (6)

iPhone



MORENS_SUBPOENA_018427
MORENS_NIH_037415
REL0000476322

**Date:** Wed, 25 Jan 2023 12:35:09 PM -0500
**Sent:** Wed, 25 Jan 2023 12:34:56 PM -0500
**Subject:** RE: Tweet by MinerFlux on Twitter
**From:** Peter Daszak < (b) (6)
**To:** David Morens < (b) (6)
**CC:** Hotez, Peter Jay < (b) (6) Jeffrey Sturchio < (b) (6) Aleksei Chmura < (b) (6) Gerald Keusch < (b) (6) Rich Roberts < (b) (6)

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
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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 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

(b) (6)

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) > 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_015317
MORENS_NIH_032150
REL0000476325

**Peter Daszak**
*President*

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Tel.: + (b) (6)
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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 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)

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**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 (t(b) (6) Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >; Aleksei Chmura < (b) (6) g >; David Morens (b) (6) >; 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 (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






MORENS_SUBPOENA_015319
MORENS_NIH_032152
REL0000476325

**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

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

**Media Inquiries:**
(b) (6)

(b) (6)
iPhone

**Date:** Sun, 10 Jul 2022 11:41:43 AM -0400
**Sent:** Sun, 10 Jul 2022 11:41:33 AM -0400
**Subject:** RE: Federal judge dismisses Missouri AG Eric Schmitt lawsuit blaming China for COVID-19
**From:** Peter Daszak < (b) (6)
**To:** Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6) David Morens < (b) (6)
**CC:** Gerald Keusch < (b) (6) Aleksei Chmura < (b) (6) Rich Roberts < (b) (6) Jeff Sturchio < (b) (6)
**Attachments:** image001.jpg

Thanks very much for sharing Peter. I've forwarded it to our pro bono lawyers who are dealing with a suit against EHA, me and even my wife (who's never worked for EHA, and doesn't work on COVID) accusing us of starting the pandemic and causing the COVID that the lawyer who's suing us caught. It's ridiculous, but unfortunately you have to take it seriously and we've been dealing with this for months now.

I hope that this rejection doesn't get too much publicity because they're looking for political gain when they do this sort of action and who knows who they'll lash out against next.. Won't be surprised if there are follow up suits against NIH, NIAID, EHA etc. now that the lab leak narrative is being amplified so much, and following Jeff Sachs comments.

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, July 10, 2022 7:45 AM
**To:** David Morens (b) (6) >
**Cc:** Peter Daszak (b) (6) >; Gerald Keusch (b) (6) ; Aleksei Chmura < (b) (6) Rich Roberts (b) (6) ; Jeff Sturchio (b) (6) >
**Subject:** Re: Federal judge dismisses Missouri AG Eric Schmitt lawsuit blaming China for COVID-19

A political stunt from the beginning

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

iPhone

On Jul 10, 2022, at 5:27 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.**

---

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

**From:** "Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E]" (b) (6)
**Date:** July 10, 2022 at 05:52:14 EDT
**To:** David Morens <(b) (6)



MORENS_SUBPOENA_008233
MORENS_NIH_018069
REL0000476338

**Subject: Fwd: Federal judge dismisses Missouri AG Eric Schmitt lawsuit blaming China for COVID-19**

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

**From:** "Folkers, Greg (NIH/NIAID) [E]" <(b) (6)
**Date:** July 9, 2022 at 14:49:48 EDT
**Subject: Federal judge dismisses Missouri AG Eric Schmitt lawsuit blaming China for COVID-19**

# Federal judge dismisses Missouri AG Eric Schmitt lawsuit blaming China for COVID-19

Missouri Independent | By Rudi Keller
Published July 9, 2022 at 8:00 AM CDT

- Facebook
- Twitter
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MORENS_SUBPOENA_008234
MORENS_NIH_018070
REL0000476338




Missouri Attorney General's Office

A federal judge on Friday dismissed Missouri Attorney General Eric Schmitt's lawsuit blaming China for COVID-19.

Attorney General Eric Schmitt's lawsuit blaming China for COVID-19 was dismissed Friday when a federal judge ruled his court has no jurisdiction over foreign governments.

U.S. District Judge Stephen Limbaugh, in a 38-page ruling, wrote that a federal law setting rules for when a sovereign foreign entity could be sued in U.S. courts doesn't allow any part of the lawsuit filed by Schmitt in April 2020 to continue.

"All in all, the court has no choice but to dismiss this novel complaint for lack of subject matter jurisdiction," Limbaugh wrote.

Schmitt's office filed a notice of appeal immediately after Limbaugh made his ruling.

When Schmitt filed the lawsuit, he claimed China was responsible for allowing the novel coronavirus to cause a global pandemic by covering up the initial infections in Wuhan.

"The Chinese government lied to the world about the danger and contagious nature of COVID-19, silenced whistleblowers, and did little to stop the spread of the disease," Schmitt said in a news release when the lawsuit was filed. "They must be held accountable for their actions."

It took more than a year to get any of the nine defendants served with notice of the lawsuit and $12,000 to translate the complaint into Chinese.

The lawsuit was the first of its kind in the U.S. attempting to hold the Chinese government and the Chinese Communist Party liable for COVID-19, Chris Nuelle, a spokesman for Schmitt's office, said in an email statement to The Independent.

"The office disagrees with the court's decision to let China off the hook, and today promptly filed a notice of appeal in this case to continue Attorney General Schmitt's efforts to hold China accountable – we look forward to prevailing on appeal," Nuelle wrote. "Our fight continues on to make China pay."

Schmitt, attorney general since 2019, is a candidate in the Republican primary for U.S. Senate and has touted the lawsuit as an example of his willingness to confront Chinese power if elected.

Soon after it was filed, legal experts predicted that it would fail.

Chimène Keitner, an international law professor at the University of California at Hastings College of Law, told the Washington Post in April 2020 that she did not "see any portion of this lawsuit succeeding under the law as it currently stands."

Along with the Chinese government and the Communist Party, the lawsuit named three national Chinese government agencies, the governments of Hubei Province and Wuhan, the Wuhan Institute of Virology and the Chinese Academy of Sciences.

"After the complaint was filed, plaintiff attempted Hague Convention service, but China posted notice on its web site that it was refusing service under Article 13 of the Convention, which allows signatories to refuse service that would violate sovereignty," Limbaugh wrote.

The Hague Convention is an international agreement that creates a central agency in each signatory nation for accepting service of court papers on behalf of its citizens and entities. By refusing service, the government agencies are immune from being held liable, Limbaugh wrote.

The only remaining question, Limbaugh wrote, was whether Schmitt was correct in describing the Communist Party, the Wuhan Institute of Virology and the Chinese Academy of Sciences as non-government entities.

Schmitt's complaint alleges that the Communist Party controls everything in China. While it is technically a separate legal entity in China, it has effective total control, making it part of the government, Limbaugh wrote.

Limbaugh listed the allegations – failure to contain the virus within China, lying about transmissibility and delaying, censoring, or withholding critical information and noted it is "not the type of conduct by which a private party engages in 'trade and traffic or commerce' and thus it is not commercial activity."

Schmitt's argument that the actions of the institute and the academy fit commercial activity exceptions in the law, is not convincing, Limbaugh wrote. The alleged conduct has to have a "direct effect" on commercial activity, he wrote.

"The court cannot conclude that the core misconduct had an immediate consequence – a 'direct effect' – in the United States," Limbaugh wrote. "Many intervening events would necessarily have occurred before the mishandling and coverup resulted in COVID cases inside the United States."

*Missouri Independent is part of States Newsroom, a network of news outlets supported by grants and a coalition of donors as a 501c(3) public charity. Missouri Independent maintains editorial independence.*

# Tags

Government, Politics &

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| | |
|---|---|
| Date: | Mon, 6 Jul 2020 7:21:00 PM -0400 |
| Sent: | Mon, 6 Jul 2020 7:20:59 PM -0400 |
| Subject: | Coronavirus commentary |
| From: | Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b) (6) |
| To: | Keusch, Gerald T < (b) (6) |
| CC: | Peter Daszak ( (b) (6) < (b) (6) >; |
| Attachments: | AJTMH to Phil R 07 03 2020.docx |

Dear Jerry,

See the form letter below that Jeff and I are sending out to several key folks, hoping you'll agree to sign on. david

We are asking you to consider joining as a co-author the attached commentary/review concerning the US Government's abrupt termination of one of NIH's most important coronavirus prevention research grants. Undoubtedly you have read about this in the press (e.g., https://www.sciencemag.org/news/2020/04/nih- s-axing-bat-coronavirus-grant-horrible-precedent-and-might-break-rules-critics-say), including strong reactions from the general scientific community, from many members of the National Academy of Medicine, from 77 Nobel laureates, and from numerous professional societies.

This commentary will be published in the Journal of the American Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene beside a rather hard hitting "go-with" editorial that calls for reversal of the termination, refunding of the grant, and strengthening of safeguards from political interference of peer-reviewed science.

We are NOT asking you to sign or endorse the editorial (still being crafted), just this commentary/review of relevant coronavirus research issues, emphasizing why research in this area is too important to censor.

Thanks for considering this request,

Sincerely,

Jeff Taubenberger and David Morens

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)
(b) (6)

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MORENS_SUBPOENA_011782
MORENS_NIH_022822
REL0000476339

**Date:** Sun, 24 May 2020 8:20:56 PM -0400
**Sent:** Sun, 24 May 2020 8:20:41 PM -0400
**Subject:** Re: To take your mind off of Francis Collins
**From:** David Morens < (b) (6)
**To:** Dennis Carroll < (b) (6)
**CC:** Keusch, Gerald T < (b) (6) Peter Daszak < (b) (6)
**Attachments:** YMCA.mov; Untitled attachment 07483.htm

---

Bizarre!Hilarious! i love it! D

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

On May 24, 2020, at 19:11, Dennis Carroll < (b) (6) wrote:

--

Dr Dennis Carroll
President, Global Virome Project
Senior Fellow, Scowcroft Institute of International Affairs at the Bush School of Government and Public Service, Texas A&M University
Counselor and Advisor to the Faculty of Tropical Medicine at Mahidol University, Bangkok, Thailand

mobile: (b) (6)
email: (b) (6)

Date: Wed, 25 Jan 2023 2:33:20 PM -0500
Sent: Wed, 25 Jan 2023 2:33:15 PM -0500
Subject: RE: Tweet by Miner□Flux on Twitter
From: "Keusch, Gerald T" <(b) (6)
To: Hotez, Peter Jay < (b) (6) Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >;
CC: David Morens < (b) (6) >; Jeffrey Sturchio < (b) (6) >; Aleksei Chmura < (b) (6) >; Rich Roberts < (b) (6)

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) Aleksei Chmura < (b) (6) Keusch, 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

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**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) m >
**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 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 (b) (6) . 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.



MORENS_SUBPOENA_015447
MORENS_NIH_032310
REL0000476346

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) - 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


MORENS_SUBPOENA_015448
MORENS_NIH_032311
REL0000476346

**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) g >; 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
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**Texas A&M University**, Faculty-Senior Fellow, Hagler Inst for Advanced Study & Scowcroft Institute of Intl Affairs

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**Media Inquiries:**
(b) (6)

iPhone

On Jan 25, 2023, at 9:47 AM, Peter Daszak <daszak@ecohealthalliance.org> wrote:



MORENS_SUBPOENA_015449
MORENS_NIH_032312
REL0000476346

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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)
**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!

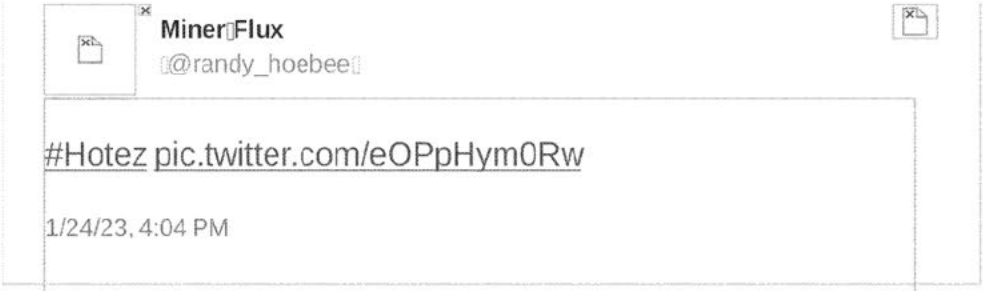
As ever,
Jeff

**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





MORENS_SUBPOENA_015450
MORENS_NIH_032313
REL0000476346




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

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**Media Inquiries:**
(b) (6)

iPhone



MORENS_SUBPOENA_015451
MORENS_NIH_032314
REL0000476346

**Date:** Wed, 27 Apr 2022 12:07:01 PM -0400
**Sent:** Wed, 27 Apr 2022 12:06:47 PM -0400
**Subject:** RE: Jerry's letter to Victor Dzau
**From:** "Keusch, Gerald T" < (b) (6)
**To:** David Morens < (b) (6)

I take your comment "as a government employee" that Tony found a way to get you back into his office? If so that's great.

And given my not so veiled threat to Victor to rev up protests among NAM members, I'd like to get Tony involved but I have stayed away from it. Any advice for me on whether or not to get in touch with him? In any event, I don't think I would do that before it is time to revolt and march on the NASEM building.

-----Original Message-----
From: David Morens < (b) (6) >
Sent: Wednesday, April 27, 2022 11:29 AM
To: Peter Daszak < (b) (6) >
Cc: Keusch, Gerald T < (b) (6) Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6) Roberts, Rich <(b) (6) Jeff Sturchio < (b) (6)
Subject: Re: Jerry's letter to Victor Dzau

Peter, and colleagues, although as a government employee I can't speak publicly about this without HHS and often WH approval, which is unlikely to come, it is worth keeping in mind that if government officials (e.g., the decent members of Congress and the Senate) ask me to meet with them or their staffs, or to testify, then I can't be blocked.

Just saying, if push comes to shove.....

david

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

(b) (6)
(b) (6) (work)
(b) (6) (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, Apr 26, 2022 at 3:29 PM Peter Daszak < (b) (6) > wrote:
>
> Yes – I agree and will be sending an email to them later today commenting that it's a breach of the confidentiality assurances from them and their request for me to keep the process confidential. I'll also urge them to resist this political witch hunt, lest it drag in other NASEM members and do considerable damage to the reputation of the NAM. Jeff will help me get the language right.
>

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> I'll forward to you all later.
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> Cheers,
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> Peter
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> Peter Daszak
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> President
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> EcoHealth Alliance
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> 520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
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> New York, NY 10018-6507
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> USA
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> Tel.: + (b) (6)
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> Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
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> Twitter: @PeterDaszak
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>
> EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent



MORENS_SUBPOENA_000473
MORENS_NIH_004766
REL0000476355

> pandemics and promote conservation
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>
> From: Keusch, Gerald T < (b) (6)
> Sent: Tuesday, April 26, 2022 12:39 PM
> To: Peter Daszak < (b) (6) >; Hotez, Peter Jay
> < (b) (6) Roberts, Rich <(b) (6) David Morens
> < (b) (6) Jeff Sturchio < (b) (6)
> Subject: RE: Jerry's letter to Victor Dzau
>
>
>
> You might consider (ask Jeff and the lawyer) forwarding those to Victor without comment. Did you hear from any legitimate reporters? Should I (you stay out of it) ask Jon Cohen to get on it? Betsy McKay?
>
>
>
> Jerry
>
>
>
> From: Peter Daszak < (b) (6) >
> Sent: Tuesday, April 26, 2022 12:33 PM
> To: Keusch, Gerald T < (b) (6) >; Hotez, Peter Jay
> < (b) (6) Roberts, Rich <(b) (6) David Morens
> < (b) (6) Jeff Sturchio < (b) (6)
> Subject: Jerry's letter to Victor Dzau
>
>
>
> Re. your letter below, Jerry, and the comment to Victor that the news is now public re. the NAM investigation – in my inbox this morning are requests from journalists from the Washington Examiner, Bloomberg Law, and Epoch Times. They want me to comment on the allegations from McMorris Rodgers, and the letter last week requesting the HHS secretary to investigate EcoHealth for unethical behavior and get us debarred from federal funding.
>
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>
> Does Victor really want the NAM to be a party to this anti-science political witchhunt? Because that's exactly what's happening right now.
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> Cheers,
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> Peter
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>
> Peter Daszak
>
> President
>
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>
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> Tel.: + (b) (6)
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> Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
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> Twitter: @PeterDaszak
>
>
>
> EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent
> pandemics and promote conservation
>
>
>
> From: Keusch, Gerald T < (b) (6)
> Sent: Monday, April 25, 2022 9:38 PM
> To: Peter Daszak < (b) (6) >; Hotez, Peter Jay
> < (b) (6) Roberts, Rich < (b) (6)
> Subject: FW: Investigation of Peter Daszak
>
>
>
> I sent the note below to Victor, now that the internal investigation at NAM is in the public domain.
>
>
> Rich, it is time to mobilize the Nobel laureates. This is going too far and there must be pressure, all the pressure possible from the scientific community, and applied to Victor and NAM to stop it now.
>
>
>
> Jerry
>
>



MORENS_SUBPOENA_000475
MORENS_NIH_004768
REL0000476355

>
> From: Keusch, Gerald T
> Sent: Monday, April 25, 2022 9:35 PM
> To: Victor J Dzau ( (b) (6) < (b) (6)
> Cc: Vermund, Sten < (b) (6) >; (b) (6)
> Subject: Investigation of Peter Daszak
>
>
>
> Dear Victor,
>
>
>
> I am surprised to see the Republican members of the House Energy and Commerce Committee providing information to Fox News about supposedly confidential procedures at NAM. They of course are repeating the baseless accusations we discussed previously, but there is the uncomfortable reality that when lies are repeated time after time people begin to believe them. But now this is in the public domain. NAM no longer has the luxury of working through this in protected space. You are in the spotlight, and like it or not you and the Academy are being dragged into this dreadful episode in the history of science.
>
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>
> I would hope NAM has the courage to stop this in its tracks by issuing a brief memo to them saying the initial investigation has revealed no violation by Peter Daszak of the code of conduct and their request is denied. Period. The stakes are high, certainly for Peter and his career and his organization which has generated so much critical science for the past 20 years. But beyond Peter it is the very integrity of science and the stewardship of science and separation of politics away from science that is so threatened by these accusations.
>
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>
> I am convinced there will be an uproar at NAM if there is any adverse judgement passed on Peter and his integrity. Please stop it in its tracks while you can.
>
>
>
> Jerry
>
>
>
> Disclaimer
>
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> Disclaimer
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**Date:** Wed, 1 May 2024 3:33:21 PM -0400
**Sent:** Wed, 1 May 2024 3:30:03 PM -0400
**Subject:** RE: Vanity Fair: Ralph Baric, Whose Virology Techniques Were Used in Wuhan, Testified That Lab Leak Was Possible
**From:** Peter Daszak < (b) (6)
**To:** Roberts, Rich < (b) (6) David Morens < (b) (6) Jeffrey Sturchio < (b) (6) peter hotez < (b) (6) Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6)

---

His testimony is full of similar comments. I think he's basically covering his ass, protecting himself from the harassment I've gone through.

It's ugly, and a shame he joined in throwing us under the bus with some of his comments.

Brave, honest, noble people are hard to come by, and often vilified themselves when they stand up against bullying, but all of you already know that!

I pushed back hard today against him saying that the biosafety standards in China were below the US – they weren't and they aren't – it's written into the mandatory rules in China and the BMBL - I tried to read chapter and verse, and I hope it helped in some way…

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*

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**From:** Roberts, Rich <(b) (6)
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 1, 2024 10:26 AM
**To:** David Morens <(b) (6) Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >; Jeffrey Sturchio < (b) (6) >; peter hotez <(b) (6) >; Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) >
**Subject:** RE: Vanity Fair: Ralph Baric, Whose Virology Techniques Were Used in Wuhan, Testified That Lab Leak Was Possible

Wow – this is quite a devastating article that could easily cause a great deal of trouble. Baric is not much of a friend and collaborator.



MORENS_NIH_047714
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Rich

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

Executive Assistant: (b) (6)
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Fax: (978) 412 9910
email: (b) (6)

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**From:** David Morens (b) (6) >
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 1, 2024 8:47 AM
**To:** Peter Daszak <d(b) (6) g >; Roberts, Rich (b) (6) ; Jeffrey Sturchio < (b) (6) >; peter hotez (b) (6) >; Aleksei Chmura (b) (6)
**Subject:** Fwd: Vanity Fair: Ralph Baric, Whose Virology Techniques Were Used in Wuhan, Testified That Lab Leak Was Possible

**EXTERNAL SENDER**

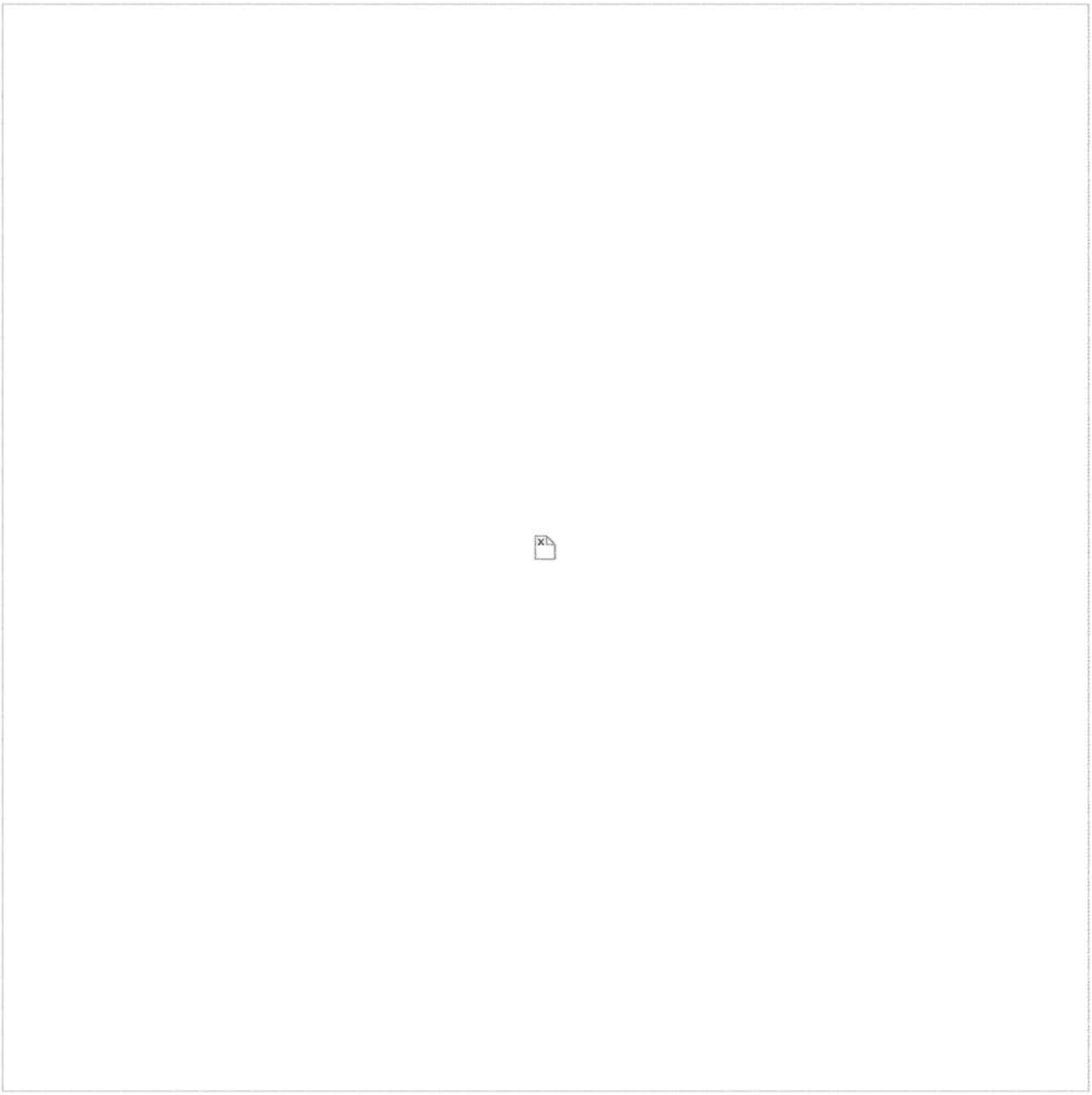
From the cell phone of David Morens

--------- Forwarded message ---------
From: **Folkers, Greg (NIH/NIAID) [C]** (>
b
Date: Wed, May 1, 2024, 08:26
Subject: Vanity Fair: Ralph Baric, Whose Virology Techniques Were Used in Wuhan, Testified That Lab Leak Was Possible
To:

# Ralph Baric, Whose Virology Techniques Were Used in Wuhan, Testified That Lab Leak Was Possible

The UNC coronavirologist who has collaborated on gain-of-function research with the Wuhan Institute of Virology's Shi Zhengli, told congressional investigators that he has long worried about biosafety protocols inside China. Though he thinks it's far more likely COVID-19 originated in nature, he said of a possible laboratory escape, "You can't rule that out."

By Katherine Eban
May 1, 2024



Ralph Baric, researcher and lab leader at North Carolina's Gillings School of Global Public Health, sits for a photograph in Chapel Hill, North Carolina, U.S., on Friday, Feb. 14, 2020.ILLUSTRATION BY PAMELA WANG. Photo by Christopher Janaro/Bloomberg/Getty Images.

In 2015, **Ralph S. Baric,** arguably the world's most accomplished coronavirologist, published groundbreaking research with **Shi Zhengli,** the leading coronavirus researcher at the Wuhan Institute of Virology.

They had mixed components of different coronaviruses and created an artificial virus, or chimera, that could infect human cells. The research helped crystallize the threat posed by bat coronaviruses lurking in nature. But the experiments were dangerous too. In 2014, while their research was underway, the Obama administration enacted a pause on so-called gain-of-function research that could increase the virulence or transmissibility of certain viruses. Baric and Shi even flagged the dangers of the research themselves, writing, "Scientific review panels may deem similar studies…too risky to pursue."

The experiments were done in Baric's well-secured laboratory in Chapel Hill, North Carolina. Afterward, however, Shi's team at the WIV continued to utilize Baric's cutting-edge research techniques. Their work was funded in part with a US research grant.

Baric testified that he had specifically warned Shi Zhengli that the WIV's critical coronavirus research was being conducted in labs with insufficient biosafety protections.



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Amid competing theories about the origins of SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19—including whether it could have originated in a Wuhan laboratory—Baric has become a figure of intense interest. After all, he had pioneered techniques the WIV was using, including one that allows researchers to invisibly splice components of viruses together without leaving a trace.

For the last three years, as the COVID-19 origins debate has grown increasingly toxic, a small army of global sleuths and Freedom of Information petitioners have taken aim at Baric's emails and research documents, hoping to uncover information about the true genetic-engineering capabilities of the WIV scientists, the ongoing research they were pursuing, and the viral genome sequences they had in their possession prior to the pandemic.

Through it all, Baric has kept mostly silent—until now. On January 22, he gave a six-hour interview to investigators from two Republican-led House committees: the Oversight and Accountability's Select Subcommittee on the Coronavirus Pandemic, and Energy and Commerce's Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations. Though the committees have not yet made his testimony public, *Vanity Fair* has exclusively reviewed his statements. While not formally under oath, Baric was required by federal law to answer truthfully. (Through a University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill spokesperson, Baric declined to comment for this article.)

While there is little in the 212-page transcript that is likely to markedly shift the debate on how COVID-19 originated, the picture that emerges is of an American scientist who is deeply wary of his Chinese counterparts and has no way of knowing if or how they may have made use of the groundbreaking research techniques he developed.

Perhaps most notably, Baric testified that he had specifically warned Shi Zhengli that the WIV's critical coronavirus research was being conducted in labs with insufficient biosafety protections. When he urged her to move the work to a more secure biosafety level 3 (BSL-3) lab, he testified that she did not heed his recommendation. Because the WIV continued to perform coronavirus research at what he considers an inappropriately low biosafety level, Baric said of a laboratory accident, "You can't rule that out…. You just can't."

"Clearly, the market was a conduit for expansion," Baric testified. "Is that where it started? I don't think so."

In an email turned over to the Select Subcommittee as part of its investigation, Baric told **Peter Daszak,** president of the scientific nonprofit EcoHealth Alliance, that it was "a load of BS" to suggest that the WIV conducted coronavirus research in labs with sufficient biosafety protocols.

Baric told congressional investigators that he believes it's far more likely that SARS-CoV-2 spilled over naturally from animals to humans, given the sheer abundance of viruses in nature. But he also said in his testimony that he disagrees with the most widely promulgated spillover argument: that the virus leapt from infected animals to people at the Huanan Seafood Wholesale Market, where it first burst into public view in December 2019. The argument does not hold up, he said, because genomic evidence suggests that COVID-19 was already circulating in the human population by mid-to-late October. "Clearly, the market was a conduit for expansion," he testified. "Is that where it started? I don't think so."

Baric also weighed in on a controversy that has pitted Dr. **Anthony Fauci** against Senator **Rand Paul** (R-KY), who has leveraged his credentials as an eye doctor to position himself as a crusader against America's scientific and medical establishments. In contentious Senate hearings, Fauci has repeatedly denied Paul's claims that the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, which Fauci led at the time, had funded gain-of-function research at the WIV. However, Baric told investigators that the experiment in dispute, in which technicians created a chimeric virus that made lab mice sicker, was "absolutely" gain-of-function research: "You can't argue with that." He also said he felt that the experiment's results should have triggered regulatory review.

The federal grant money for the experiment in question, which was conducted at the WIV sometime between 2018 and 2019, was funneled through EcoHealth Alliance. It was Daszak, EcoHealth's president, who organized an open letter in the *Lancet* medical journal early in the pandemic that helped paint the lab-leak hypothesis as a baseless conspiracy theory. Today, the Select Subcommittee is expected to release a report that calls for NIH to recommend that EcoHealth Alliance, and Daszak personally, be debarred from receiving federal funds. As part of its investigation into COVID-19's origins, the Select Subcommittee is holding a series of hearings. Daszak is scheduled to testify publicly today, and Fauci is set to do so on June 3.

America's intelligence agencies remain divided over whether SARS-CoV-2 came from a natural spillover or a

lab accident. US Health and Human Services Secretary **Xavier Becerra** recently said the question may "never" be answered "unless China opens up some more."

The single biggest issue to jump from the pages of Baric's testimony is his persistent concern over unsafe research practices at the WIV. Some of Shi's research papers, he said, "actually stated that they were doing the culturing work under BSL-2." BSL-3 labs typically require negative pressure air flow, HEPA air filtration systems, and full Tyvek suits for lab workers—all to protect against leaks. BSL-2 laboratories do not require specialized air filtration or full gowns.

Throughout his interview, Baric took pains to emphasize to congressional investigators that he had not simply turned over his research techniques to his colleagues at the WIV. Referring to his 2015 research with Shi, he said, "Although we published the approaches for how to build molecular clones of coronaviruses, we never had anyone from Dr. Shi's lab or any of the Wuhan Institute of Virology come to our lab and train. We never taught them."

His trust was violated on at least one occasion, he said. In order to test the ability of different viruses to infect humans, Baric had engineered mice with lungs that contained a human gene. He said he shared these mice with the WIV under a contractual agreement that they only be used there. Then, during the pandemic, he said he discovered that his mice were being offered for sale by a commercial company. The profiteering, he told investigators, was "infuriating."

As Baric recounted to congressional investigators, Shi's earlier work was "very vague about safety conditions. They said they followed Chinese regulations." But in two subsequent papers, said Baric, "They actually stated that they were doing the culturing work under BSL-2…. And then they continued that even into September of 2020, which I thought was irresponsible." (Neither Shi Zhengli nor a spokesperson for the Wuhan Institute of Virology responded to requests for comment.)

Baric told the committee that, from his earliest days working with zoonotic coronaviruses, he always understood there was a real if "rare" chance that one could prove infectious to humans. "And if that's your hypothesis, then you do it under BSL-3," he said. "So I kind of set the standard in the United States."

But the WIV, he said, operated under a looser set of biosafety protocols. "Their regulations state pretty clearly that they don't consider culturing bat viruses at BSL-2 as a biosafety concern," he said. "I also had that verbally confirmed by Zhengli Shi at a meeting in Harbin, when I was telling her she should move it all to BSL-3 and the reasons why." (Less than a year into the pandemic, the Chinese government passed legislation that tightened the nation's laboratory safety practices.)

The dispute over biosafety arose again in 2018, as Baric and Shi worked with Daszak on a grant proposal to collect SARS-like bat coronaviruses and insert a genetic component called a furin cleavage site that would enable them to more easily infect human cells. The proposal has since drawn attention because, when SARS-CoV-2 subsequently emerged in Wuhan, it possessed a furin cleavage site, making it unique among SARS-related coronaviruses. The 2018 proposal was submitted by Daszak to the Pentagon research and development agency DARPA.

Last December, a Freedom of Information research group called U.S. Right to Know released margin comments from an early draft of the grant proposal. In one, Peter Daszak tagged his collaborators and said, "Ralph. Zhengli. If we win this contract, I do not propose that all of this work will necessarily be conducted by Ralph, but I do want to stress the US side of this proposal so that DARPA are comfortable with our team. Once we get the funds, we can then allocate who does what exact work, and I believe that a lot of these assays can be done in Wuhan as well."

The early draft stipulated that the research would be done at a BSL-2 level, making it "highly cost-effective." Baric objected to this in a margin comment of his own: "IN the US, these recombinant SARS CoV are studied under BSL3, not BSL2, especially important for those that are able to bind and replicate in primary human cells. In china, might be growin these virus under bsl2. US researchers will likely freak out." In the finished proposal, BSL-2 was changed to BSL-3.

Baric told congressional investigators that he wrote the margin comment to Daszak "to make sure he pays attention." He added, "First, I'm informing him, just in case he doesn't know, that a lot of the virus discovery work and culturing work that the Chinese do with zoonotic coronaviruses is done at BSL-2…. I'm letting him know there's a difference."

After a congressional investigator observed, "It appears there may have been a willingness, not necessarily by you, to do some of this work in the BSL-2 in China," Baric responded, "There was no willingness on my part to

do any of this work…. Let me make that clear." He subsequently clarified, "My role was to study a couple of the viruses that the Wuhan Institute of Virology found that they were willing to share with me."

DARPA rejected the grant, but questions have persisted over whether WIV scientists carried out the proposed research anyway. Baric told congressional investigators that he doesn't know whether the WIV continued the research or got other funding for it. He added that he does not believe SARS-CoV-2 was engineered and discounted a 2022 paper making that argument as "biostatistical BS." **Alex Washburne,** one of the paper's authors, told *Vanity Fair,* "Baric doesn't provide any scientific evidence or reasoning that would lead us to revisit our results or change our theory."

In May 2021, Baric signed an open letter in the journal *Science* affirming that the lab and natural origin hypotheses are both viable and calling for further investigation. A fellow scientist, Columbia University virologist **Ian Lipkin,** questioned him about why he signed the letter. In response, Baric told the subcommittee, "I sent him a couple of papers that the Chinese had published where they were doing virus discovery work under BSL-2 conditions, which is one of the main reasons why I felt that the potential laboratory escape hypothesis shouldn't be, in essence, put under the rug."

"You believe this was appropriate containment if you want but don't expect me to believe it," Baric wrote Daszak. "Moreover, don't insult my intelligence by trying to feed me this load of BS."

Baric's signing of that letter also precipitated a testy email exchange with Daszak over the WIV's safety standards, obtained by *Vanity Fair.* Daszak enumerated to Baric the various ways in which China's lab safety standards did not lag far behind US standards. He added, "We checked with Zhengli, who let us know that she used 'BSL-2 with negative pressure and appropriate PPE.'"

This brought a withering response from Baric. "Bsl2 with negative pressure, give me a break." He pointed out that even Shi's most recent papers never defined the safety precautions used. "Yes china has the right to set their own policy. You believe this was appropriate containment if you want but don't expect me to believe it. Moreover, don't insult my intelligence by trying to feed me this load of BS."

Reached for comment, Daszak told *Vanity Fair* that the WIV performed its animal infection experiments "at BSL-3, as per work at Dr. Baric's lab in the USA." He also stated that the research rejected by DARPA was "never done," and said that the proposal called for only work that "did not involve any infectious materials" to be done in a BSL-2 facility at the WIV. Regarding the Subcommittee's call for the NIH to recommend debarring him and EcoHealth Alliance from receiving federal funds, he said he hadn't yet seen the report and couldn't comment on it. However, he stated that EcoHealth Alliance has "cooperated fully and expeditiously with the NIH on additional oversight measures since 2020" and shared a letter from last October in which the NIH deemed the nonprofit compliant with oversight requirements.

Another signatory to the May 2021 letter was Dr. **Michael Worobey,** who has since become a leading proponent of the theory that the virus spilled over from infected animals at the Huanan Seafood Wholesale Market.

In 2022, Worobey and a team of international scientists published an influential research paper that used a geospatial analysis of early infections in Wuhan to make a case for the market spillover theory. Using data collected by Chinese scientists, Worobey's team later also published evidence in a preprint that virus-susceptible mammals, such as raccoon dogs, were present at the market.

When prominent virologists state that the preponderance of evidence points to a natural origin, they are often referring to Worobey's research. Baric, for his part, told congressional investigators that Worobey's geospatial study has a "major problem" with its timeline. He told the subcommittee, "The only thing we have really solid data [for] is that the market was the site of amplification in late December, January. That's still two months from the origin date, based on a molecular clock, which means it was circulating somewhere before it got there. And the question is, where was it?"

Baric said the earliest cases are "almost impossible" to document because many were asymptomatic. "It's a fundamental problem with the papers that are reported to prove—they write it too strong, I think, but they're very passionate about their data. And to be fair to them, it is the best data that's out there." He went on to critique the papers' claim of two independent jumps from different infected animals at the market based on the presence of two different lineages of the virus. "It's a stretch," he said, adding that his view is shared by "a lot of virologists that look at that data and go, mmm."

Calling the evidence for a market origin "powerful," Worobey told *Vanity Fair* that he thinks the first jump from animals to humans happened in November. Baric, he said, "possesses essentially no expertise in the

subjects of the papers he is commenting on…. It is irresponsible for him to share these views with anyone without also making it clear that he is in no better position than the average educated person to judge this work."

In his testimony, Baric was equivocal on the question of whether WIV scientists could have possessed SARS-CoV-2, or a very close progenitor, prior to the pandemic. There "was evidence that they were building chimeras" and "doing some discovery work about the functions of spike genes of zoonotic strains that they discovered later on, but I don't know if they did any of the engineering or anything."

Without further disclosure from China, the answer may be unknowable. As Baric told congressional investigators, "If you had access to the laboratory notebooks, if you had access to the safety records of the Wuhan Institute of Virology, if you had access to the sequence databases, the level of assurance that you would have would be greater. No question."

"Which we didn't really have?" a congressional investigator asked.

"Which we don't really have," Baric responded. "That's very true."

More Reporting by Katherine Eban
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"This Shouldn't Happen": Inside the Virus-Hunting Nonprofit at the Center of the Lab-Leak Controversy

By Katherine Eban
SPECIAL REPORT
Secret Warnings About Wuhan Research Predated the Pandemic

By Katherine Eban
VIRAL INFLECTION
The Lab-Leak Theory: Inside the Fight to Uncover COVID-19's Origins

By Katherine Eban

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**Date:** Sun, 14 Apr 2024 3:35:46 PM -0400
**Sent:** Sun, 14 Apr 2024 3:35:34 PM -0400
**Subject:** Re:
**From:** "Hotez, Peter Jay" < (b) (6)
**To:** Jeffrey Sturchio < (b) (6)
**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)
**Attachments:** keyimage.jpg

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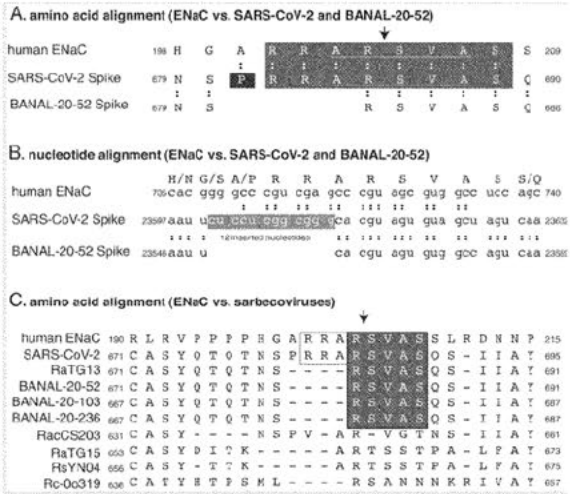
Furin cleavage was debunked long ago by Robert Garry




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)
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**Senior Coordinator & Executive Support:** Douglas Soriano
(b) (6) | Phone: (b) (6) | Fax: 713-798-2299

**Media Inquiries:**
(b) (6)



MORENS_SUBPOENA_022925
MORENS_NIH_043945
REL0000476366

(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.**

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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)
**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_022926
MORENS_NIH_043946
REL0000476366

**Date:** Thu, 27 Oct 2022 8:51:01 PM -0400
**Sent:** Thu, 27 Oct 2022 8:47:17 PM -0400
**Subject:** RE: The National Academy of Medicine has exonerated me of breaching their Codes of Conduct
**From:** Peter Daszak < (b) (6)
**To:** Hotez, Peter Jay < (b) (6)
**CC:** Roberts, Rich <(b) (6) < (b) (6) < (b) (6) Keusch, Gerald T < (b) (6) Aleksei Chmura < (b) (6) David Morens Jeff Sturchio
**Attachments:** image001.jpg

Well said on all counts Peter. This is pure politics all the way from the Republicans, and as you say the know it, they don't care, and they're condemning us to future pandemics, and silencing the scientists who can actually help assess the risk, and do something about it.

Writing this from my hotel in Bangkok getting ready to visit a Flying fox colony we're sampling, then off to Malaysian Borneo for work on insectivorous bats as part of our NIH funding. The distractions are serious – in each country we work I now have to spend days meeting with Ministers to explain I'm not a CIA agent, that I didn't cause COVID and that I'm not conspiring with the US DoD or China to send their DNA to Bill Gates etc. Then I have to meet with the US Ambassadors to explain why they should support our work in each country and not avoid meeting with us and pretending we're not here. Exasperating!

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, October 27, 2022 8:35 PM
**To:** Peter Daszak (b) (6) >
**Cc:** Roberts, Rich (b) (6) >; Keusch, Gerald T (b) (6) >; David Morens (b) (6) ; Aleksei Chmura (b) (6) >; Jeff Sturchio (b) (6) >
**Subject:** Re: The National Academy of Medicine has exonerated me of breaching their Codes of Conduct

It should never have gone this far Peter. The fact that it did speaks volumes. My comments on the lead WSJ article today

https://twitter.com/peterhotez/status/1585787210581819392?s=46 &t=kUd43b7O8M12YD3rwnpAwA

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

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**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)

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**Senior Coordinator & Executive Support:** Douglas Soriano
(b) (6) | Phone: (b) (6) (b) | Fax: 713-798-2299

**Media Inquiries:**
(b) (6)

iPhone

On Oct 27, 2022, at 8:31 PM, Peter Daszak (b) (6) > wrote:

Dear All,

I just wanted to thank you all in particular for your advice and support on this issue, which I found particularly upsetting given the pride I had in becoming a member of NAM.

Last week I got an email from the Home Secretary (Elena Fuentes-Afflick), cc'd to Victor and Kim Se, that the investigation was complete and **"There was no evidence that Dr. Daszak violated the National Academy of Medicine's Code of Conduct, and no further action is recommended."** It's a great relief considering the damage it would have done to me and EcoHealth and the way a negative decision would mean partisan politics can undermine science and scientists for pure political gain.

NAM have now notified all members and the Republicans who made the allegations (16 pages of them if you remember). Victor followed up last night with an email to me explaining that he had accepted the Council's recommendation and thanking me for my 'patience'. I responded graciously as follows, even though I believe he should have put a stop to it at the very beginning. I also want to mention that NAM's email to members has been leaked to Jon Cohen at Science, and that the Republicans will no doubt leak the decision and use it to accuse scientists of 'covering up' my crimes etc. I'm saying this just in case you get requests from reporters. Here's my exchange with Victor:

Dear Victor,

Thank you for your email. I'm sure you can imagine how difficult these last almost 3 years have been for me, my family, and our organization. I'm extremely grateful for the professionalism that you and The NAM have brought in dealing with this issue in particular and the challenges we've all faced through the pandemic.

I look forward to returning to NAM and NASEM duties as soon as possible and remain as enthusiastic, and optimistic as ever about our role in ensuring that science is understood by all, and serves us all.

Yours sincerely,

Peter

**Peter Daszak**
*President*

**From:** Dzau, Victor J. (b) (6)
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 25, 2022 12:12 PM
**To:** Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >
**Subject**: Re: confidential

Peter,
I have accepted the findings of the review committee which is thorough, fair and clear. Thanks for your patience.
Best,
Victor

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:** Tuesday, October 11, 2022 10:30 PM
**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: another awful Sachs youtube video

Peter:

Just awful. He admits he has no evidence, but that doesn't stop him.

Rich

Richard J. Roberts



MORENS_SUBPOENA_001952
MORENS_NIH_008405
REL0000476375

New England Biolabs
240 County Road
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USA
Tel: (978) 380-7405
Fax: (978) 412 9910
email: roberts@neb.com

Executive Assistant: (b) (6)
Tel: (978) (b) (6)
Fax: (978) 412 9910
email: (b) (6)

---

**From:** Peter Daszak (b) (6)
**Sent:** Monday, October 10, 2022 10:40 PM
**To:** Roberts, Rich (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:** another awful Sachs youtube video

**EXTERNAL SENDER**

From 15mins on he talks about how I lied, our group lied, and how we're a small group with the "inside track" to NIH etc.

It's delusional and pretty offensive, frankly.

I didn't watch much of it, I have to write a grant application – unlike Jeff Sachs, I don't make my money from talking to the press and trashing other people…

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=morj- 3rdWwM&t=73s

Cheers,

Peter

**Peter Daszak**
*President*

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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, October 5, 2022 1:28 AM
**To:** 'Roberts, Rich' <(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:** A barrage of attacks against EHA in last week
**Importance:** High

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-safety-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*

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USA

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Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

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

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**From:** Roberts, Rich (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) g>; 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 (b) (6) and his wife (b) , who knows Jeff well. She is quite convinced (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
(b) (6) m

---

**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 (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

---



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MORENS_NIH_008408
REL0000476375

**From:** Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6) >
**Sent:** Monday, October 3, 2022 3:22 PM
**To:** Peter Daszak (b) (6) g >
**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)

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



MORENS_SUBPOENA_001956
MORENS_NIH_008409
REL0000476375

**Peter Daszak**
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Twitter: @PeterDaszak

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

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**From:** David Morens (b) (6) >
**Sent:** Monday, October 3, 2022 6:43 AM
**To:** Gerald Keusch (t(b) (6) Peter Daszak (b) (6) >; 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) v >
> > **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.



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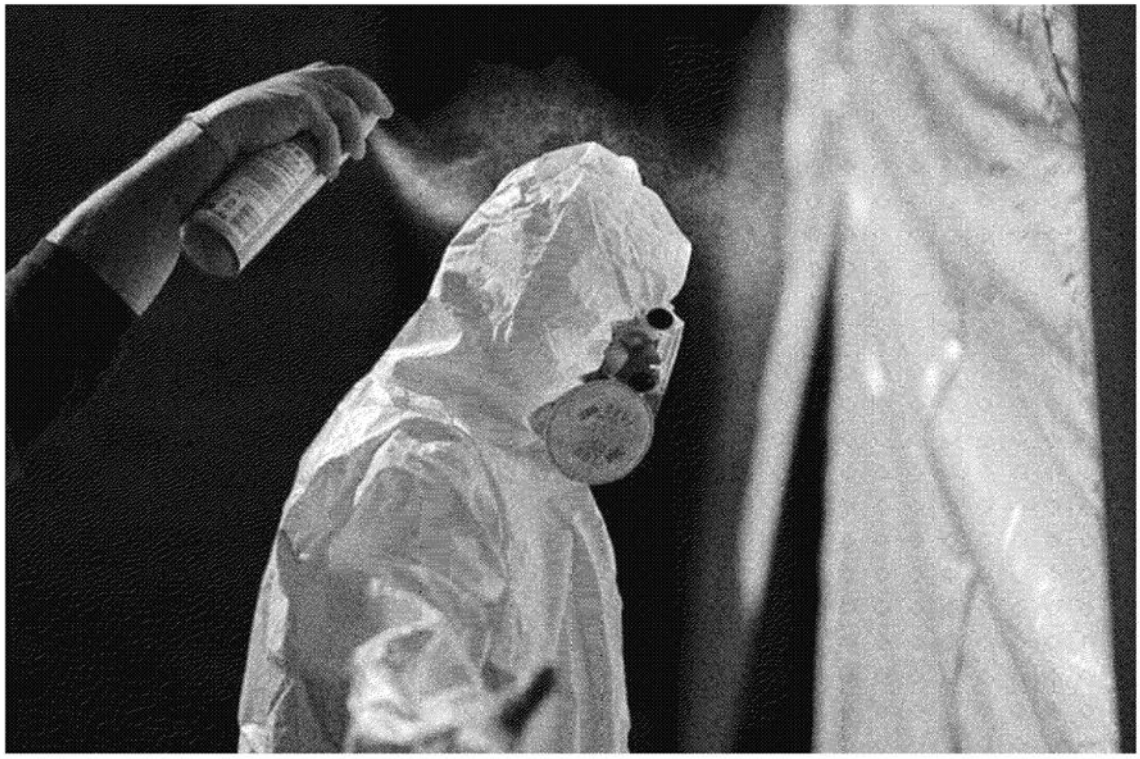
MORENS_NIH_008410
REL0000476375



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

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"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



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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."

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*Michael Sims's books include "Adam's Navel" and a companion volume to the National Geographic Channel series "In the Womb: Animals."*

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**BREATHLESS: The Scientific Race to Defeat a Deadly Virus** | By David Quammen | 406 pp. | Simon & Schuster | $28.99



MORENS_SUBPOENA_001959
MORENS_NIH_008412
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MORENS_SUBPOENA_001960
MORENS_NIH_008413
REL0000476375

**Date:** Fri, 21 Jul 2023 1:40:03 PM -0400
**Subject:** Fwd: Anti-Science Follow Up Meeting
**From:** David Morens < (b) (6)
**To:** David Morens < (b) (6)

---

David M. Morens, MD
(b) (6)
(b) (6)
|
(b) (6)
(b) (6) (work)
(b) (6) (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 < (b) (6) >
Date: Mon, May 8, 2023 at 3:52 PM
Subject: RE: Anti-Science Follow Up Meeting
To: Keusch, Gerald T < (b) (6) Roberts, Rich < (b) (6)
Hall, Mary Ann < (b) (6) >, Hotez, Peter Jay < (b) (6)
Aleksei Chmura < (b) (6) >, David Morens
< (b) (6) Jeffrey Sturchio < (b) (6)
Cc: Calo, Mary Andrea < (b) (6) >,
< (b) (6) >, Alison Andre
< (b) (6) >

Jerry, everyone, our FAO call proposed time is between 1 and 5pm Central European Time on the 19th June = 7am-11am Eastern Time

That means Jerry and I are prob able to do the 10 or 11am CST on the 19th = 11am or 12pm Eastern Time.

Jerry – you should just check and confirm.



MORENS_SUBPOENA_004061
MORENS_NIH_011021
REL0000476377

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak

President

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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 8, 2023 3:41 PM
To: 'Keusch, Gerald T' < (b) (6) 'Roberts, Rich' <(b) (6) >; 'Hall, Mary Ann' < (b) (6) >; 'Hotez, Peter Jay' < (b) (6) Aleksei Chmura < (b) (6) >; 'David Morens' < (b) (6) >; 'Jeffrey Sturchio' < (b) (6) >
Cc: 'Calo, Mary Andrea' < (b) (6) >; ' (b) (6) < (b) (6) >; 'Alison Andre ( (b) (6) < (b) (6) >
Subject: RE: Anti-Science Follow Up Meeting



MORENS_SUBPOENA_004062
MORENS_NIH_011022
REL0000476377

I'm available at the same times as Jerry – I'm on the same FAO call.
I'll pencil them in.

Just noting that these are Central Time…for those of us on the East Coast.

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_004063
MORENS_NIH_011023
REL0000476377

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

From: Keusch, Gerald T < (b) (6)
Sent: Monday, May 8, 2023 2:58 PM
To: Roberts, Rich < (b) (6) Hall, Mary Ann <Mary.Hall@bcm.edu >; Hotez, Peter Jay < (b) (6) >; Peter Daszak < (b) (6) >; Aleksei Chmura < (b) (6) >; David Morens < (b) (6) >; Jeffrey Sturchio < (b) (6) >
Cc: Calo, Mary Andrea < (b) (6) >; (b) (6)
Subject: RE: Anti-Science Follow Up Meeting

I'm OK at 10 or 11 on the 19th. I'm in an FAO briefing on COVID origins in the afternoon, potentially starting at 1 so that is problematic.

The 20th is OK.

So is the 21st but its best to pick a date when Rich is available to join. Jerry

From: Roberts, Rich < (b) (6)
Sent: Monday, May 8, 2023 2:48 PM
To: Hall, Mary Ann < (b) (6) >; 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) >
Cc: Calo, Mary Andrea < (b) (6) >; (b) (6)
Subject: RE: Anti-Science Follow Up Meeting

Mary:

The times on June 19 and 20 will all work for me. The 21st is not possible though.



MORENS_SUBPOENA_004064
MORENS_NIH_011024
REL0000476377

Rich

Richard J. Roberts

New England Biolabs

240 County Road

Ipswich, MA 01938-2723

USA

Tel: (978) (b) (6)

Fax: (978) 412 9910

email: (b) (6)

Executive Assistant: (b) (6)

Tel: (978) (b) (6)

Fax: (978) 412 9910

email: (b) (6)

From: Hall, Mary Ann < (b) (6) >
Sent: Monday, May 8, 2023 2:41 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)
Roberts, Rich < (b) (6) >
Cc: Calo, Mary Andrea < (b) (6) >; (b) (6)
Subject: Anti-Science Follow Up Meeting

EXTERNAL SENDER

Greetings all,

I'm including some additional dates to better encompass everyone's



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MORENS_NIH_011025
REL0000476377

schedule. Please let me know what works for best for you.

Monday, June 19th at 10, 11 or 1 pm CT

Tuesday, June 20th at 1 or 3 pm CT

Wednesday, June 21st at 11 am or 1 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) | www.bcm.edu

From: Hall, Mary Ann
Sent: Thursday, May 4, 2023 12:34 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) >; (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) | www.bcm.edu

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) | www.bcm.edu

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

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Amazon Author Center | Daily Beast Contributor

Senior Coordinator & Executive Support: Douglas Soriano

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

Media Inquiries:

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(b) (6)

(b) (6)

iPhone



MORENS_SUBPOENA_004069
MORENS_NIH_011029
REL0000476377

Date: Mon, 29 May 2023 5:31:42 PM -0400
Sent: Mon, 29 May 2023 5:31:35 PM -0400
Subject: FW: follow up from Nobel Summit
From: "Roberts, Rich" < (b) (6)
To: Peter Daszak < (b) (6) >; Keusch, Gerald T < (b) (6) David Morens ( (b) (6) < (b) (6) Jeffrey Sturchio < (b) (6) Hotez, Peter Jay < (b) (6)
Attachments: One-Pager CTHS 5.23.23 Final (1).pdf

Hi:

We should decide on a strategy to take advantage of this.
I travel to Europe on Thursday and return on June 14th.

Rich

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

Executive Assistant: (b) (6)
Tel: (b) (6) (b) (6)
Fax: (978) 412 9910
email: (b) (6)

---

**From:** Bill Novelli < (b) (6)
**Sent:** Monday, May 29, 2023 3:55 PM
**To:** Roberts, Rich < (b) (6)
**Cc:** Bernadette Yu < (b) (6)
**Subject:** Re: follow up from Nobel Summit

**EXTERNAL SENDER**

Hello, Rich. It was a pleasure to meet you and your wife at Evermay. I'd be pleased to discuss the defense of science with you and your colleagues. And yes, I did have a conversation with Peter Hotez.
Bernadette Yu can schedule from my end. Also, attached is the brief we handed out at the gathering when we met, in case you might find an online copy to be of use.
Regards.

On Mon, May 29, 2023 at 11:05 AM Roberts, Rich (b) (6) wrote:

> Bill:
>
> It was great to meet you in Washington. I would very much like to follow up with you at some point to discuss the defense of science. I will be traveling from this Thursday until June 13th. Perhaps, we could plan on speaking after that. I would like to include one or two friends who are supporting Peter Daszak and EcoHealth Alliance. One of the people is Peter Hotez, whom I think you have communicated with previously.
>
> Rich
>
> Sir Richard J. Roberts Ph.D. F.R.S.
> 1993 Nobel Laureate in Physiology or Medicine

Chief Scientific Officer
New England Biolabs
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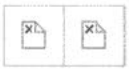
)
Executive Assistant: (b) (6)
Tel: (b) (6) ) (6)
Fax: (978) 412 9910
email: (b) (6)

--
**Bill Novelli**
*Professor and Founder, Business for Impact*
*Author, Good Business: The Talk, Fight, Win Way to Change the World*
*Georgetown University McDonough School of Business, Office 421*
*37th & O Street NW, Washington, D.C. 20057*





MORENS_SUBPOENA_005402
MORENS_NIH_013481
REL0000476379

Date: Mon, 13 Jun 2022 1:51:20 PM -0400
Sent: Mon, 13 Jun 2022 1:51:16 PM -0400
Subject: RE: confidential: Response to letter from NAM April 11th 2022
From: "Roberts, Rich" <(b) (6)
To: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) Jeff Sturchio < (b) (6) David Morens < (b) (6) Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6) Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6)
CC: Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) >;

Peter:

This is excellent! I'm sorry to be slow in responding, but "officially" I have been on vacation and unable to read all emails coming my way without alerting my wife to my "non-vacation" behaviour. I am not en route home and have had the chance to read through this response.

What is so annoying here is that politicians have the easy option of targeting would-be scapegoats to uphold a political agenda and ignore science.

I hope the NAM will finally decide to follow the science and tell the politicians to go to hell.

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:** Monday, June 13, 2022 12:34 AM
**To:** Jeff Sturchio < (b) (6) David Morens < (b) (6) Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6) Roberts, Rich < (b) (6) Hotez, Peter Jay < (b) (6)
**Cc:** Aleksei Chmura < (b) (6)
**Subject:** FW: confidential: Response to letter from NAM April 11th 2022
**Importance:** High

**EXTERNAL SENDER**

Dear all,

Thank you very much for your support dealing with this awful situation. Below is my email to NAM with an attached letter responding to the allegations, and a dropbox file with 28 appendices supporting each of the points I make (feel free to click on the link and sift through if you've got a spare few hours!).

Having been lucky enough to get a scholarship to one of those schools in the UK where we had to stand when the teachers (who we had to call "masters") came in the room, this brings back some powerful memories of the way institutions can be manipulated to make the lives of the people they're supposed to serve totally bloody miserable.

I only hope the committee is able to see beyond the political narratives, and their desire to save the NAM from attack, and do the right thing by one of their members. If not, I'll get ready with my appeal, and continue this tedious journey…

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, June 13, 2022 12:24 AM
**To:** 'Fuentes-Afflick, Elena' (b) (6) 'Dzau, Victor (b) (6) >; 'Kim, Se' (b) (6) >
**Cc:** 'Aleksei Chmura (b) (6) >
**Subject:** RE: confidential: Response to letter from NAM April 11th 2022
**Importance:** High

Dear Dr. Fuentes-Afflick,

I want to thank you and the NAM for granting me the extra time to respond to the allegations from the three Republican members of the Congress. I am attaching the original letter to the NAM (attachment A), the focused allegations (attachment B), your letter to me informing me of the intent to open an investigation ("Letter to Member…."), and my response to your letter refuting these allegations ("Dr. Daszak, response to NAM letter of April 11th 2022").

As you can see, I have provided a detailed refutation of each of the allegations, along with documentary evidence to support each point. This consists of 28 appendices (many are quite short consisting of specific email chains or short documents). However, because of their overall size, I have placed them in a secure dropbox folder that is available for you to download and circulate among the committee by clicking on the following link:

https://www.dropbox.com/sh/io8q3iq64g0tkum/AACvnf8IlwXX86sfDXUOPlMaa?dl=0

As you stated below, I appreciate that this process is confidential, and I would ask that you take particular care to ensure that my letter and the appendices are carefully shared so as not to be circulated more widely than necessary – some of these appendices contain information that has never been released publicly before.

I will await the decision of the committee, the NAM Council and Dr. Dzau in due course, but in the meantime, please do not hesitate to reach out to me of my Chief-of-Staff, Dr. Aleksei Chmura (cc'd) for any further information or clarification



MORENS_SUBPOENA_000856
MORENS_NIH_006534
REL0000476397

Sincerely,

Peter Daszak
*President*

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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:** Saturday, April 30, 2022 2:06 PM
**To:** Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >; Dzau, Victor J. (b) (6) >; Kim, Se < (b) (6)
**Subject:** confidential

Dr. Daszak,

Thank you for your note of April 22nd. I was traveling and apologize for my delayed response. I have reviewed your letter in detail and will respond to each point.

First, when the NAM receives any allegation of misconduct against a member, we have to follow an independent process that is outlined in the policy document you received. We have undertaken an initial evaluation by an assessment panel which eliminated many of the allegations but recommended a subset of the allegations to be further investigated by the conduct review committee. The list of allegations was shared with you.

I accept your request for a deadline extension to June 12th. You may enlist the assistance of others and I encourage you to request that they honor the confidentiality of the process.

Point 1: To date, the NAM has not conducted its own investigation of the allegations. We have identified a subset of materials for further investigation which were referenced in the April 11, 2022 letter.

Point 2: I apologize for not providing information about the conflicts evaluation. We conducted a thorough evaluation of the conflicts of the assessment panel and conduct review committee members and none were identified.

Point 3: We identified selected references from the list provided in the original letter with the allegations and added one reference that is publicly available on the NIAID's website. These materials and any response you provide are the only materials that the Conduct Review Committee will consider.

Point 4: I should have asked if you have the results of an external investigation related to the allegations under consideration. If you have any such results, please share them.

Point 5: You are correct that our policy does not include a provision to meet with the conduct review committee



MORENS_SUBPOENA_000857
MORENS_NIH_006535
REL0000476397

and I cannot offer you this option. I invite you to submit additional materials if you believe they are relevant.

I want to assure you, personally, that the confidentiality requirement and following our process are my top priorities. I have discussed this with all individuals involved and have not shared information with anyone other than the assessment panel and conduct review committee members. My communication with the representatives of those who wrote the original letter was to confirm receipt of the materials and explain that we would be following our conduct review process.

I would be happy to connect with you, by phone or Zoom, to discuss.

Best,
Elena Fuentes-Afflick, MD, MPH

Elena Fuentes-Afflick, MD, MPH

NAM Home Secretary

University of California, San Francisco

---

**From:** Peter Daszak (b) (6) >
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 26, 2022 5:14 PM
**To:** Dzau, Victor J. (b) (6) >; Fuentes-Afflick, Elena <(b) (6) >; Kim, Se (b) (6)
**Cc:** Aleksei Chmura (b) (6)
**Subject:** Reporter inquiries re. the confidential NAM process of dealing with alleged code of conduct violations

Dear Victor, Elena and Kim,

I was very concerned to have received three separate press inquiries today regarding a story in *Fox News* ( https://www.foxnews.com/politics/house- republicans-ecohealth-alliance-concealed-data). I am not planning to respond to these questions.

As you can see in the *Fox News* article, yet another partisan political letter has been made public with unsubstantiated and clearly politically motivated allegations against our organization and myself. In the article, an aide to Representative McMorris Rodgers states that "*After receiving our letter, NAM notified us they had opened an internal review of Daszak's behavior, per our request…We believe this letter about EcoHealth's potential false statements and fraud is relevant to the ongoing investigation the NAM is conducting into Peter Daszak, so we have sent NAM a copy of this letter as well.*"

In your letters to me, and by phone, you reassured me repeatedly that the process of deciding whether to investigate these allegations was confidential on the NAM side, and you urged me to also treat correspondence with NAM on this issue as confidential, which I have. However, it appears that this is not the case, in that NAM has informed the Republican staff of intent to review my 'behavior' and that this has now been made public, as I indicated could happen in my letter to you last week, April 22, 2022.

It seems rather evident that the letters you have received are part of an ongoing and systematic political campaign to destroy EcoHealth Alliance's reputation and my own, with the ultimate target of undermining the NIH, Dr. Fauci, and the Biden White House. They are hyper-partisan and disingenuous in their goals, in that the letters and the fact they are simultaneously made public on *Fox News* and *Twitter*, are clearly designed to push a false narrative. EcoHealth Alliance has repeatedly and publicly refuted such allegations in our responses to NIH that have since been made public (e.g. https://www.wsj.com/articles/coronavirus- study-of-bats-in-china-

met-nih-grant-requirements-ecohealth-says-11635441406) and in carefully given interviews with the press (e.g. https://www.science.org/content/article/we- ve-done-nothing-wrong-ecohealth-leader-fights-charges-his-research-helped-spark-covid-19 and https://theintercept.com/2022/03/11/covid- nih-ecohealth-peter-daszak-interview/).

Given the developments today, I urge you to reconsider your decision to investigate these allegations, which have nothing to do with my adherence to the rules of conduct of NAM members, and to respond to the Republican accusers to state that they do not rise to the level whereby an investigation is warranted. I believe this is justified by the one-sided political nature of the attacks, the lack of prima facie evidence for the allegations, and the fact that your communications have already been made public in defiance of the confidentiality of the matter that NAM and EcoHealth Alliance have maintained. I'm very concerned that this public witch hunt will be damaging not just for myself and our organization, which has consistently produced cutting edge research on emerging diseases that has been fundamental to a series of NAM publications, but that it will also be damaging to NAM and the Academies in general. If you do not stand up to these politicized attacks at this point, they will surely continue and drag in other members of the Academies who have been publicly criticized and accused by the same politicians for the last two years, and who are being continually attacked by various fringe groups espousing conjectural hypotheses about the origins of SARS-CoV-2, in spite of the increasing scientific evidence supporting the spillover from bats through an intermediary host to humans.

This active political interference with stewardship of science, the integrity of science, and the pursuit of knowledge by scientists, goes well beyond EcoHealth Alliance and threatens the integrity of the entire U.S. scientific enterprise. It is no different except in volume than the incontrovertible political interference by Donald Trump in the scientific enterprise at NIH in April 2020, which prompted you to issue a public statement about the separation of politics from science in response. Your words and those of Marcia McNutt ring even more true at this point: *"Any efforts to discredit the best science and scientists threaten the health and welfare of us all"* (https://www.nationalacademies.org/news/2020/09/nas- and-nam-presidents-alarmed-by-political-interference-in-science-amid-pandemic). EcoHealth Alliance, myself, the NIH, Tony Fauci, NAM and you are in the cross-hairs now because NIH failed to protect science and scientists from Trump's overtly political, and sadly successful, effort to close down research that was politically inconvenient. I worry that this is just the beginning of the goal of this anti-science agenda, and for that reason it demands brave, bold, and decisive action.

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



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MORENS_NIH_006538
REL0000476397

**Date:** Fri, 21 Jul 2023 1:34:26 PM -0400
**Sent:** Fri, 21 Jul 2023 1:33:40 PM -0400
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Fwd: Tweet by Pekka Kallioniemi on Twitter
**From:** David Morens < (b) (6)
**To:** Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] < (b) (6)

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

(b) (6) (work)
(b) (6) (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: Sun, Apr 30, 2023 at 3:45 PM
Subject: RE: Tweet by Pekka Kallioniemi on Twitter
To: Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6) >, Peter Daszak (>, Aleksei Chmura <
(b) (6) >, David Morens (b) (6) >, Jeffrey Sturchio <
(b) (6) >, Rich Roberts (b) (6)

What do you know about this guy? I have done my usual inept online search, and you must have a better sense of who he is and his (if any) connection to El Jeffo.

**From:** Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6) >
**Sent:** Sunday, April 30, 2023 2:31 PM
**To:** 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) >
**Subject:** Tweet by Pekka Kallioniemi on Twitter



In today's #vatniksoup, I'll introduce an American economist and academic and political commentator, Jeffrey Sachs ( @JeffreyASachs). He's best-known for his deep hate for the "US hegemony", and for his love for the totalitarian regimes in Russia, China and in Syria.

1/18 pic.twitter.com/4juwLL0ybq

4/30/23, 9:37 AM


**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

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**Senior Coordinator & Executive Support:** Douglas Soriano
(b) (6) | Phone: (b) (6) | Fax: 713-798-2299

**Media Inquiries:**
(b) (6)

(b) (6)
iPhone



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| | |
|---|---|
| **Date:** | Thu, 24 Feb 2022 4:21:01 PM -0500 |
| **Sent:** | Thu, 24 Feb 2022 4:20:46 PM -0500 |
| **Subject:** | Re: open letter: United States and the investigation of COVID origin—letter from American scientists and policy specialists |
| **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) Aleksei Chmura < (b) (6) |
| **Attachments:** | Scientific papers on COVID origins since the WHO trip.docx |

Is it ok if I share this document with Lancet Commission?


**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

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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_015843
MORENS_NIH_033552
REL0000476402

iPhone

On Feb 24, 2022, at 4:01 PM, Peter Daszak < (b) (6) > wrote:

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---

I'm glad you'll mention this to Randy. These particular politicians are willing to cast aspersions on anyone's character for political gain.

I'm also glad you're going to decline to sign the letter you attached. It seems Richard Ebright's dream is to have me up on the stand under oath with him doing the questioning. Of course, none of this would get to the bottom of anything, and it would just serve to drive more politics in the way of doing science.

The truth of all of this is that there is no real debate over the origins. A lab leak is a possible scenario, but extremely unlikely based on the zero evidence put forward by anyone. On the other hand, we now have 11 peer-reviewed or under-review papers (and counting) that point towards the natural origins. I've listed them out in the attached doc, as well as the lab leak papers I could find (all of which are opinion pieces of non-peer-reviewed).

The real debate is purely political - Republicans using this as a way to target NIH and just regurgitating fact-free innuendo-filled conspiracies with EcoHealth's work at the center. Richard Ebright, I hear, is working with Rand Paul and others to feed them these half-baked ideas and make them sound science-y enough to convince the public.

I can hear the villagers sharpening their pitchforks....

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
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Twitter: @PeterDaszak



MORENS_SUBPOENA_015844
MORENS_NIH_033553
REL0000476402

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

-----Original Message-----
From: Roberts, Rich <(b) (6) >
Sent: Thursday, February 24, 2022 2:17 PM
To: Peter Daszak < (b) (6) >; Hotez, Peter Jay < (b) (6) Keusch, Gerald T < (b) (6) David Morens < (b) (6) Aleksei Chmura < (b) (6) >
Subject: FW: open letter: United States and the investigation of COVID origin—letter from American scientists and policy specialists

Peter:

Sorry to hear about the latest attacks. Please don't let them get you down. Just recognize the loonies who send them for what they are.

I'll let Randy Schekman know he was included too. It is sad to see the lengths that people will go to for the sake of political points. Witness the latest nonsense in Ukraine.

I attach a document I just received from Ebright. Needless to say I won't be signing, but I hope to convince some others not to also.

Rich

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

-----Original Message-----
From: (b) (6) (b) (6) >
Sent: Thursday, February 24, 2022 1:15 PM
To: Bloom, Barry R. < (b) (6) >; Michael Imperiale < (b) (6) Silja Vöneky (b) (6) >; mooc demic < (b) (6) Nick Evans < (b) (6) >; Michael Osterholm < (b) (6) Lone Simonsen < (b) (6) Edward Hammond < (b) (6) >; David N. Fisman < (b) (6) >; Arturo Casadevall < (b) (6) >; Amir Attaran < (b) (6) Alison Galvani < (b) (6) Roberts, Rich < (b) (6) >; Peter Hale < (b) (6) >; Lipsitch, Marc < (b) (6) >; David Relman < (b) (6) (b) (6) Richard H. Ebright < (b) (6) >
Cc: Laura H. Kahn < (b) (6) >
Subject: open letter: United States and the investigation of COVID origin—letter from American scientists and policy specialists



MORENS_SUBPOENA_015845
MORENS_NIH_033554
REL0000476402

EXTERNAL SENDER

All--I am writing to you as founding members of the Cambridge Working Group,

Dr. Laura Kahn of Princeton has prepared an open letter entitled "United States and the investigation of COVID origin—letter from American scientists and science policy specialists" (see attached).

If you would like to sign the letter, please reply to Dr. Kahn at (b) (6) or to me at (b) (6) with your name and current affiliation.

Thank you in advance.

RHE

**Disclaimer**

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**Date:** Tue, 7 May 2024 11:21:51 AM -0400
**Sent:** Tue, 7 May 2024 11:21:40 AM -0400
**Subject:** More upsetting news for us at EcoHealth Alliance
**From:** Peter Daszak < (b) (6)
**To:** Hotez, Peter Jay < (b) (6) Jeffrey Sturchio < (b) (6)
**CC:** Roberts, Rich < (b) (6) Aleksei Chmura < (b) (6) Gerald Keusch <(b) (6) Keith Martin < (b) (6) David Morens < (b) (6)

Just heard today that a 5 year $2.5 million award to analyze disease dynamics in wildlife farms in Southeast Asia we were in the process of finalizing with USDA via the NSF/NIH Ecology and Evolution of Infectious Diseases program is now "impossible" for them to fund. We received a very high score on review, were told it was highly competitive, received notice from USDA that it was 'recommended for funding', and over the past few weeks met repeatedly with the program staff at USDA to finalize all the forms. They were communicating positively with us requesting further paper work as recently as last week, now suddenly we've been told the following:

"Good morning. I must bring you some unfortunate news. Due to unforeseen circumstances, it has become impossible for USDA NIFA to provide support for the project that we discussed. I have had to retract my recommendation. I apologize for the inconvenience this will have caused you."

We're trying to set up calls to find out more information, but it's well known that you don't have funding from an agency until the notice of award and that they can pull out for reasons like budget shortfalls etc. I doubt there's anything we can do. This is similar to an issue we had last year with an joint-PI NIH grant to Colorado State University with us having a substantial role and funding. The program officer spoke with the CSU PI and said they should reduce our budget because if we get 'debarred' NIH will lose its budget. We fought back, CSU scientists pushed back, and we got our Notice of Award.

It's just outrageous that the Republicans can de facto de-fund and organization on a whim. We are not debarred, and we're looking into the rules for debarment and this is normally for issues like fraud, criminal convictions related to grant management, tax evasion etc. I strongly doubt that we would be debarred over a late report that we have substantial evidence we tried to submit.

What worries me is that we are now going to have a multi-year impact on our organization, whether or not we are debarred, and whether or not we actually did anything wrong. I'm also devastated at the impact this will have on my reputation (already in tatters at this point) and my career.

Extremely upsetting and disappointing!

Cheers,

Peter

**Peter Daszak**
*President*

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

Tel.: + (b) (6)



MORENS_NIH_044931
REL0000476409

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 3, 2024 4:04 PM
**To:** Jeffrey Sturchio <(b) (6)
**Cc:** Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >; Roberts, Rich (b) (6) >; Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) >; Gerald Keusch (b) (6) >; Keith Martin (b) (6) >; David Morens <(b) (6) >
**Subject:** Re: Post by Prof Peter Hotez MD PhD on X

As far as I can tell, this hearing has received zero national attention. No one beyond our small circle is talking about this

**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)
(b) (6)
iPhone

On May 3, 2024, at 1:52 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.

All:

This is just Wenstrup and the Rs spiking the ball after a hearing in which they refused to let Peter answer the questions posed to him. All of the alleged "evidence" of EHA's supposed transgressions is based on misrepresentation and selective citation of the documentary evidence and false assumptions about the science

involved (e.g., since when does a Republican Congresswoman with an MBA and no scientific training get to decide what the definition of gain-of-function research should be?). The only people showing contempt for the American people on Wednesday were the members of Congress and staff who used this hearing as a vehicle to propagate a malicious political narrative that falsely and unfairly blamed Peter Daszak and EHA for research that never happened and outcomes that are chimerical figments of their imagination.

As ever,
Jeff

---

**From:** Peter Daszak (b) (6) >
**Sent:** Friday, May 3, 2024 1:12 PM
**To:** Roberts, Rich <(b) (6)
**Cc:** Hotez, Peter Jay (t(b) (6) Aleksei Chmura (b) (6) Jeffrey Sturchio <
( Keusch (t(b) (6) Keith Martin(b) (6) >; David Morens <
h
(b) (6) >
**Subject:** Re: Post by Prof Peter Hotez MD PhD on X

This is the most awful piece I've seen yet - they say:

" The Select Subcommittee will take further steps to address Dr. Daszak's contempt for the American people."

<image001.png>

Hearing Wrap Up: EcoHealth Alliance Should be Criminally Investigated, Formally Debarred - United States House Committee on Oversight and Accountability
oversight.house.gov

I am very worried for my future and the future of EcoHealth alliance right now. At best this will drive continued hate and death threats… at worst…

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak

President
EcoHealth Alliance



MORENS_NIH_044933
REL0000476409

520 8th Avenue, New York, NY10018-6507, USA

www.EcoHealthAlliance.org

On May 2, 2024, at 10:00 AM, Roberts, Rich (b) (6) wrote:

Excellent article!

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

Executive Assistant: (b) (6)
Tel: (978) (b) (6)
Fax: (978) 412 9910
(b) (6)

---

**From:** Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6)
**Sent:** Thursday, May 2, 2024 6:59 AM
**To:** Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >; Aleksei Chmura (b) (6) Jeffrey Sturchio (b) (6) Roberts, Rich (b) (6) Gerald Keusch (b) (6) Keith Martin (b) (6) ; David Morens (b) (6) >
**Subject:** Post by Prof Peter Hotez MD PhD on X

**EXTERNAL SENDER**

**Prof Peter Hotez MD PhD**
@PeterHotez

Important article on yesterday's disgusting Stalinist show trial in the House of Representatives: The politicization of the pandemic continues - great writing as always from @hiltzikm @latimes latimes.com/business/story…

5/2/24, 5:50 AM

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

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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

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**Media Inquiries:**
(b) (6)

iPhone



MORENS_NIH_044935
REL0000476409

**Date:** Thu, 23 May 2024 10:13:26 AM -0400
**Sent:** Thu, 23 May 2024 10:13:23 AM -0400
**Subject:** RE: Fact check re. emails of ours that were cited in today's public hearing
**From:** Keusch, Gerald < (b) (6)
**To:** (b) (6) < (b) (6) Peter Daszak < (b) (6)
**CC:** Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) Jeff Sturchio < (b) (6)

Dear David and Peter,

You are both exemplars of what science is all about, the search for knowledge in an objective and self-correcting manner, by asking questions, getting information, analyzing it, forming conclusions subject to new questions and new investigation in a never ending process.

You are both extremely brave in facing the attacks you are enduring. You both, as we all do, have rights to your own opinions and decisions and I do not think the US Constitution bans humor, whether dark, cynical, or biting, or even goofy. It does not even ban obscenities.

Your obligation as a federal employee was to keep government business out of private conversation and you cannot be faulted for keeping private conversations out of government business. All of this was in the midst of a deadly pandemic when the US endured the greatest death rate per capita than any other advanced wealthy nation in my opinion primarily because of wrong decisions made by its leadership at the time. Humor of any shade is a way to deal with such terrible events unfolding in front of you and out of your control. It was worse to me than the other pandemic I faced in my professional career, the early days of AIDS, because then we had nothing available to address the underlying problem but only band-aids for its consequences. For COVID we quickly learned what public health measures would reduce the impact of infection and it was possible to quickly create vaccines based on decades of prior basic research and field surveillance. The game changer vaccines worked for those who were accepting. Those who didn't, in large part due to the strange twist of privacy over public good in the media and social media and the lasting influence of the anti-vaccine movement, suffered from greater complications and more death in every age group assessed.

Stay strong and ever cognizant that the only issues I believe were behind all of these conversations were to protect the American people (and so people everywhere in the world) from this deadly virus at the same time protecting the integrity of science itself from politically and ideologically driven attacks. Those are not illegal motivations underlying frank conversations among long time friends and colleagues.

Jerry

**From:** (b) (6) < (b) (6)
**Sent:** Thursday, May 23, 2024 8:12 AM
**To:** Peter Daszak < (b) (6) Keusch, Gerald < (b) (6)
**Cc:** Aleksei Chmura < (b) (6) Jeff Sturchio < (b) (6)
**Subject:** Re: Fact check re. emails of ours that were cited in today's public hearing

Peter. thanks for looking into this, as it was one of the most indefensible charges against me, and when told I had helped you write this letter I told them I don't remember doing so and if I did it i was wrong, as you saw if you watched the show yesterday.

Uncovering this item won't have any impact on clearing my name, but as I am really depressed this morning, it cheers me up a bit. Thank you for being a true friend and for taking the time to cheer me up in the midst of your far worse troubles



MORENS_NIH_047058
REL0000476415

Whatever mistakes I made, and however poor my judgment and understanding of nih do's and don'ts, I was trying to do the right thing to help you. One of the reasons i made what turned to be a very bad choice to not take the 5th, was so that i could push back against accusations based on incorrect interpretations. i am sure there are many other items like this. I know you know that on many occasions I explained to you all of the many things I couldn't do to help you directly, and also the things that I could do. But I will never get a chance to correct or explain them.

My worst mistake was writing jokey emails that will be used against Tony. I wish there was something I could do to help him at this point, but there isn't. Hopefully the harm to him will be minimal. My foolishness has harmed at least two people I consider innocent, which is actually worse than losing my job and facing prosecution.

But once I become retired, I will be able to do whatever I can to help friends such as you and to defend and speak up for science. And, being a historian myself, I fully expect we all will eventually be substantially if not completely vindicated

In the meantime, Hang in there and look for light at the end of the tunnel. Also, please give my best to rhe many fine and honorable people who work with you at EHA, and particularly Billy, Jon, and Kevin
d
Sent from Proton Mail Android

------ Original Message ------
On 5/22/24 23:25, Peter Daszak wrote:

> Jerry and David,
>
> Today in David Morens' hearing, the SSCP asked questions about an email wherein David allegedly assisted me with the reinstatement of my R01. They refer to an email on Oct 24th 2021 in their report here: https://oversight.house.gov/release/new- covid-select-memo-details-allegations-of-wrongdoing-and-illegal-activity-by-dr-faucis-senior-scientific-advisor/
>
> It didn't sound correct to me, so I went through my email records and have located a chain that I began on 10/24/2021, that was me drafting a response to Michael Lauer's questions about the late year 5 report for the grant. This was NOT related to reinstating the grant – at that point, the grant was suspended and we were getting repeated questions about it, and there was not the slightest hint that it would be reinstated.
>
> As you'll see by looking at the 1st email attached above – I send an email to both of you asking for advice on how to word the response to Michael Lauer, because you both are knowledgeable on issues of virology and both have experience with the type of bureaucratic questions I was being asked by NIH Office of the Director. I didn't consider this a conflict for David, because he's not part of the official decision making on this grant – by that time all decisions since 2020 had been overseen by O/D NOT NIAID, and I was under clear instructions to communicate with NIH O/D. I don't think that even Dr. Fauci had any capacity to decide on this.
>
> Despite what's said in the SSCP report, and in David's hearing, I remembered, and it's shown in the email chains above, that David said he would suggest some 'wordsmithing', but in fact DID NOT. The emails clearly show that you spoke with others at NIAID, and that they suggested you should not be involved in this, and in fact you did not edit the letter, or even suggest edits. It's all there in the emails above.
>
> I don't know what value this has now, considering that the public hearing has been and gone, but I felt it was important to share these, in case any of us are asked about them – from what I see, you checked with your superiors and then diplomatically cut yourself out of the editing chain.

Cheers,

Peter

**Peter Daszak**
*President*

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Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

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



MORENS_NIH_047060
REL0000476415

Date: Mon, 22 Feb 2021 4:59:04 PM -0500
Sent: Mon, 22 Feb 2021 4:59:03 PM -0500
From: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] < (b) (6) >
To: Peter Daszak < (b) (6) >; Keusch, Gerald T < (b) (6)
Attachments: image001.gif; image002.jpg

Just had a long off the record talk about you and your work and the grant issue with Nick Shifrin of PBS Newshour. Not sure what he will do with the info, but he may be planning something in conjunction with WHO report and/or the Biden teams response to it….. By the way, he knows quite a bit about your work and grant situation….

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)
(b) (6)

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| | |
|---|---|
| **Date:** | Thu, 5 May 2022 12:02:13 PM -0400 |
| **Sent:** | Thu, 5 May 2022 12:00:37 PM -0400 |
| **Subject:** | Re: Article in Buzzfeed yesterday detailing political motivation behind Termination of EHA's grant |
| **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) Jeff Sturchio < (b) (6) Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) >; |
| **Attachments:** | image010.png; image011.jpg; image012.jpg; image013.jpg; image001.jpg; image004.jpg; image001.jpg; image004.jpg; image010.png; image011.jpg; image012.jpg; image013.jpg |

Nothing surprises me anymore


**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

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E-mail: (b) (6)
Twitter: @peterhotez
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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
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Senior Coordinator / Executive Support: Douglas Soriano
(b) (6)
Phone: (b) (6)
Fax: 713-798-2299

iPhone

On May 5, 2022, at 10:41 AM, Peter Daszak <(b) (6) > wrote:

Agreed Peter – a small but awful group (White Coat Waste). They are firmly linked with Anti-GMO groups (e.g. Organic Consumers Association, GMO Watch) and anti-vaxx groups that have been partnering with them to attack our work to get at Fauci. Here's an article on the anti-GMO link to the lab leak theory:

https://www.motherjones.com/politics/2021/06/inside- the-anti-gmo-movements-obsession-with-virology-research-and-lab-leaks/

They have a "gain of function" hall of shame that features me, even though EcoHealth has never conducted research that's classified as GoF (a point that's now largely forgotten in the media frenzy!). It also has a link to the "Great Reset" conspiracy theory with George Soros, Bill Gates, and the World Economic Forum etc. and its clear anti-semitic overtones:
https://www.organicconsumers.org/campaigns/covid- 19/gain-of-function-hall-of-shame

Here's an article on the US Right To Know, that's filed over 100 FoIAs for emails linking to EcoHealth, showing that they're linked back to Robert Kennedy's anti-vaxx movement:
https://www.thedailybeast.com/us- right-to-know-fave-mainstream-media-source-is-funded-by-anti-vaxxers

Wait a minute – am I looking at a "conspiracy" here!??

Cheers,

Peter

**Peter Daszak**
*President*

EcoHealth Alliance
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USA

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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 5, 2022 11:05 AM
**To:** Roberts, Rich <(b) (6)
**Cc:** Peter Daszak (b) (6) g >; Keusch, Gerald T < (b) (6) David Morens < (b) (6) >; Jeff Sturchio <j (b) (6) Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6)
**Subject:** Re: Article in Buzzfeed yesterday detailing political motivation behind Termination of EHA's grant

Until now I hadn't heard of the white coat project

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



MORENS_SUBPOENA_008643
MORENS_NIH_018716
REL0000476417

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

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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 5, 2022, at 9:15 AM, Roberts, Rich (b) (6) > wrote:

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Peter:

A good article, but hard to know how effective it might be.
It does continue to raise the need for scientists to fight back.

Rich

Richard J. Roberts



MORENS_SUBPOENA_008644
MORENS_NIH_018717
REL0000476417

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 5, 2022 9:27 AM
**To:** Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6) Roberts, Rich (b) (6) (b) ; David Morens < (b) (6) >; Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6) Jeff Sturchio (b) (6) (b) >
**Cc:** Aleksei Chmura (b) (6)
**Subject:** Article in Buzzfeed yesterday detailing political motivation behind Termination of EHA's grant
**Importance:** High

**EXTERNAL SENDER**

Dear All,

Peter Aldhous from Buzzfeed has done a deep dive on FoIA'd emails and put together a convincing account of how a pretty awful Animal Rights group (White Coat Waste) was behind much of the initial efforts to get our grant terminated by NIH. It shows that the campaign against EHA and myself was politically motivated and as Jeff Sturchio said in an email to me today 'cravenly opportunistic'. It shows clearly that Francis Collins, Michael Lauer, and a bunch of lawyers at NIH have been on a two-year long campaign to find justification for their actions so they can throw us under the bus to avoid political pressure.

https://www.buzzfeednews.com/article/peteraldhous/white- coat-waste-anthony-fauci-nih-ecohealth-alliance-lab

Note the following line, when Michael Lauer discovered that our Yr 5 report arrived late, so they could try to nail us for 'non-compliance' even though we'd already reported the experiment the year earlier.

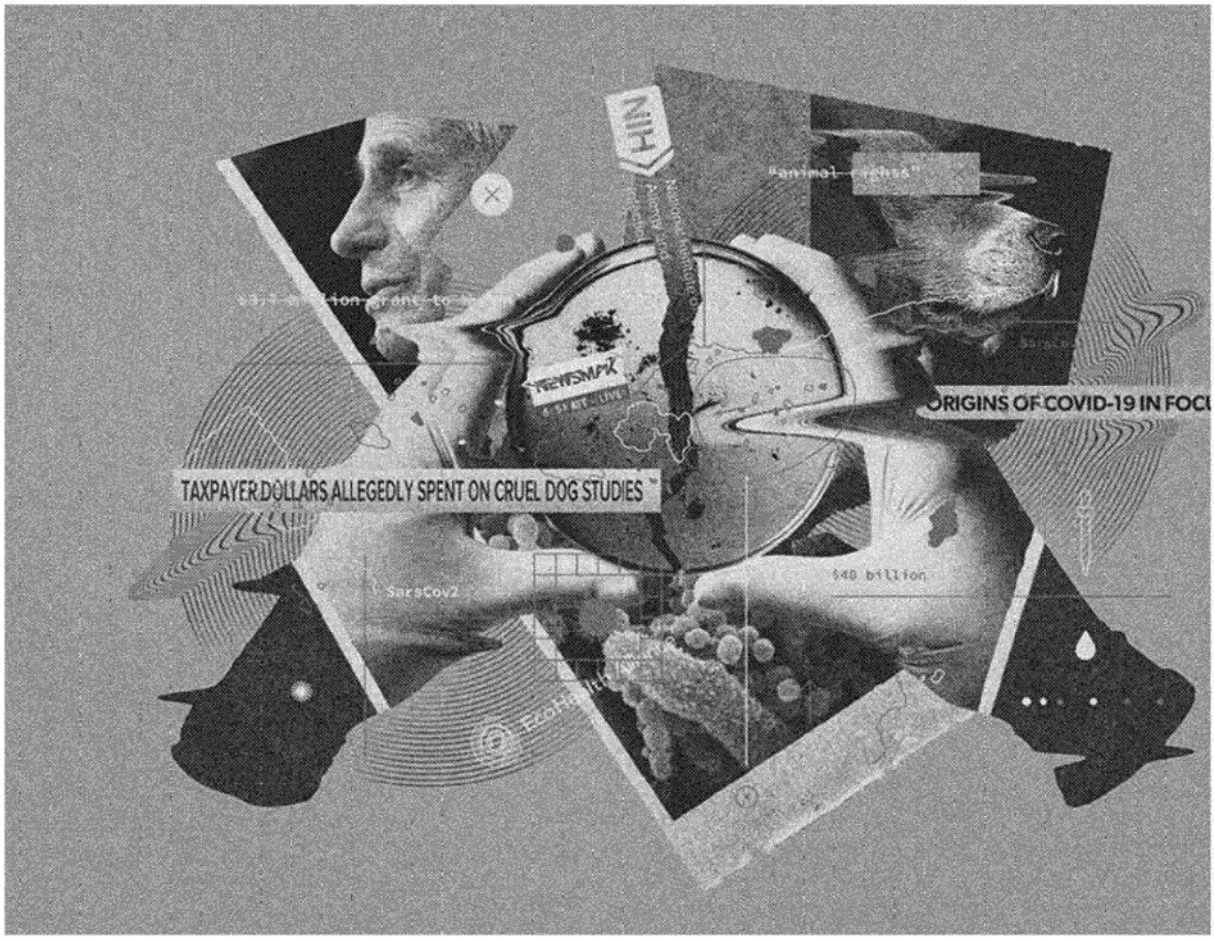
A heavily redacted series of emails from May 2021 centers on the July 2016 letter from the NIAID that had given EcoHealth permission to resume the chimera work. Accepting a suggestion made by Daszak himself, it stated that if any of the chimeric viruses showed unexpectedly rapid growth, he would "immediately 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."

What an awful bunch of disingenuous bureaucrats in the Office of the Director – a real rats nest – focused entirely on saving their own jobs, not caring about science or grantees…

Here's the text of the article:



MORENS_SUBPOENA_008645
MORENS_NIH_018718
REL0000476417




*Israel Vargas for BuzzFeed News*

**As much of the United States** entered COVID lockdowns in April 2020, a tiny group that campaigns against federal funding for animal experiments spotted an opportunity. Speculation was swirling in right-leaning media that the virus behind the pandemic had emerged from a lab in Wuhan, China, rather than from wildlife sold for food in the city's markets. As it happened, the White Coat Waste Project had been looking into taxpayer money going to labs in China, including in Wuhan. The group's founder had strong contacts with Republican politicians and had launched the group with the mission of getting conservatives into animal activism.

The White Coat Waste Project sprung into action, persuading DailyMail.com to run a story saying the US government had funded the lab. Then all hell broke loose.

Then-president Donald Trump, keen to blame China for the pandemic, was soon involved. After prodding from the conservative outlet Newsmax at a press conference, his administration terminated the grant from the National Institutes of Health, which had been awarded to a New York–based nonprofit called the EcoHealth Alliance.
Since then, the controversy over whether the COVID pandemic started with a "lab leak" has escalated into a ferocious fight, with conflicting narratives that paint EcoHealth and the Wuhan Institute of Virology either as out-of-control scientists who may have caused the pandemic through inherently risky research or as the victims of politically motivated conspiracy theories, unfairly vilified as the architects of a catastrophe that they worked for years to prevent by studying the risks posed by bat coronaviruses.



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Two years on, and with the scientific trail going cold, it's possible that the mystery of the origins of SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19, may never be conclusively solved. But thousands of pages of NIH emails and other documents released to BuzzFeed News through a Freedom of Information Act lawsuit show how the White Coat Waste Project rode the wave of partisan pandemic politics to serve its cause, and in the process triggered a storm that engulfed EcoHealth, one of the world's largest groups studying potentially dangerous animal viruses. They also show how the NIH, a behemoth that spends more than $40 billion annually on biomedical research, stumbled under the political pressure the White Coat Waste Project brought to bear.

The White Coat Waste Project has subsequently channeled right-wing anger toward Anthony Fauci, the public face of COVID policies including mask and vaccine mandates, accusing his National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, which is part of the NIH, of funding "beagle torture." The White Coat Waste Project is writing a controversial new activist playbook — and it's unclear whether anyone can control the forces that it has helped to unleash.

"They jumped on the bandwagon of how I have become public enemy number one of the far right," Fauci told BuzzFeed News. "If you engage and try and push back on that, it very often only gives it legs. And then it becomes even worse of a problem."



*White Coat Waste via YouTube / Via youtube.com*

Anthony Bellotti

**The White Coat Waste Project** was formed in 2013 by Anthony Bellotti, a campaign consultant who over the years had worked for Republican candidates including Arnold Schwarzenegger and Lisa Murkowski, and on efforts to defund Planned Parenthood and Obamacare. But Bellotti's real passion had long been animal protection, he told BuzzFeed News — an interest forged at the age of 17 when he worked as a summer intern in a lab doing research on pigs, studying ways to extend the time they could be kept under anesthesia during



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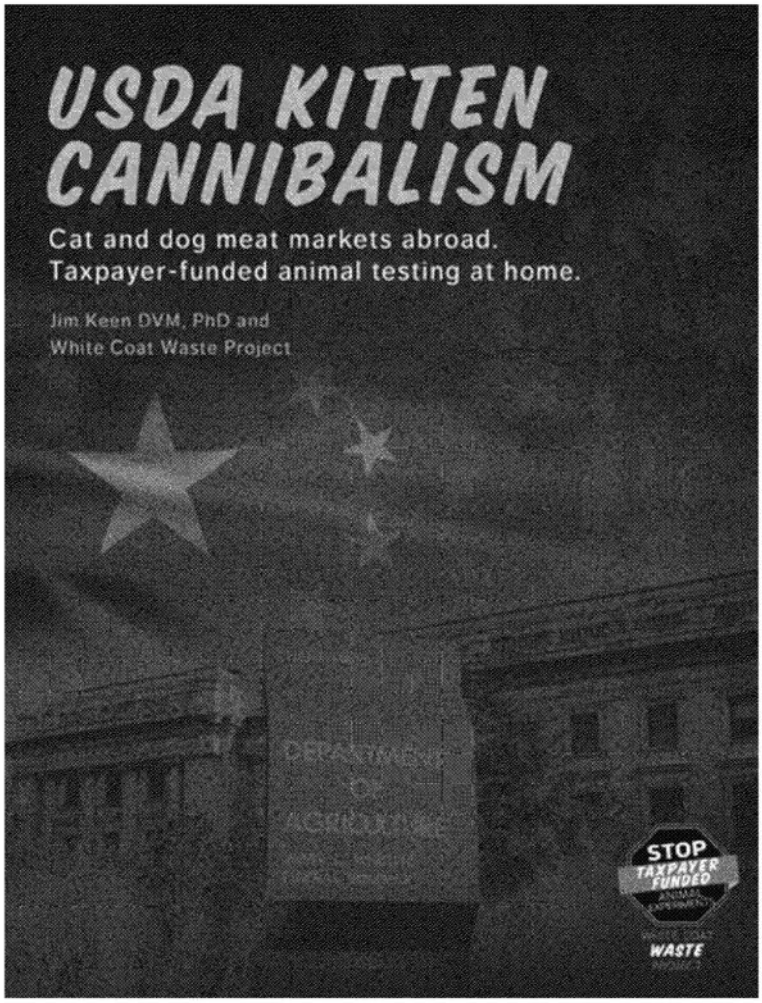
heart surgery. Bellotti said he was struck both by the animals' suffering and the "repugnant and callous attitude" of the experimenters. "It really made a mark on me," he said.
Poring over polling data, Bellotti could see that there was a big gap between Democrats and Republicans on the issue. Democrats were much more likely to support campaigns against animal experiments, which had often focused on corporate labs, and Republicans tended to back the research. So Bellotti crafted a message calculated to bring the missing Republicans on board, focusing on government spending. He avoids the label "animal rights," and has cast the White Coat Waste Project as a "taxpayer watchdog uniting liberty-lovers and animal-lovers."

In addition to mobilizing support from the political right, there was another reason to target government spending: Congress has the power to shut it down. "The goal isn't to change hearts and minds, it's to win the fight," Bellotti told BuzzFeed News. "We had to get to the root cause of the problem, which was the government spending."

The group didn't really take off until 2016, when Bellotti hired Justin Goodman, a former director of laboratory investigations with People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals, to head the White Coat Waste Project's advocacy efforts. Goodman started digging into government databases and filing FOIA requests to identify projects that the group could campaign to defund.
Even before the pandemic, the White Coat Waste Project scored some victories. An early campaign, launched in a report called "Spending to Death," highlighted experiments involving dogs in federal labs, including one studying the effects of blood transfusions in dogs with pneumonia in which some of the animals died. The group then turned up the heat on the Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center in Richmond, Virginia, focusing on experiments into heart disease in which dogs were run on treadmills after their heart rhythms were disrupted using implanted pacemaker devices. The White Coast Waste Project's multiyear effort to shut down Veterans Affairs dog research eventually led Congress to restrict spending on the work and demand explicit approval from the secretary for veterans affairs for new dog experiments by the agency.




*White Coat Waste*

The cover of the White Coat Waste Project's 2019 report titled "USDA Kitten Cannibalism"

But it was another campaign that sowed the seeds for the attack on EcoHealth and its collaboration with the Wuhan Institute of Virology. In 2018, the White Coat Waste Project began to target the US Department of Agriculture's Animal Parasitic Diseases Laboratory in Beltsville, Maryland, zeroing in on its research into toxoplasmosis, which can infect people exposed to cat feces and can cause brain or eye damage in those with compromised immune systems. The campaign culminated in a March 2019 White Coat Waste Project report called "USDA Kitten Cannibalism." Its cover featured the Chinese flag superimposed over a photo of USDA's headquarters in Washington, DC.

That framing drew on an experiment published in 2007 in which cats at the Maryland facility were fed meat from other cats purchased at a market in China to gauge its infectivity. Although the full report noted that these experiments were no longer being run, the association between this gruesome-sounding research and a nation seen as a major adversary to the US resonated with members of Congress from both parties and with the media. Within a couple of weeks, the USDA announced that the cat toxoplasmosis research would be shut down, stating that it had "reached its maturity."

After that win, Bellotti said that the White Coat Waste Project started to wonder about what else was being funded with taxpayer dollars outside of the US: "This is horrible stuff. What else is going on?" So Goodman started to look at research in foreign labs funded by the NIH, turning to a list of those given an "animal welfare assurance" needed to receive federal



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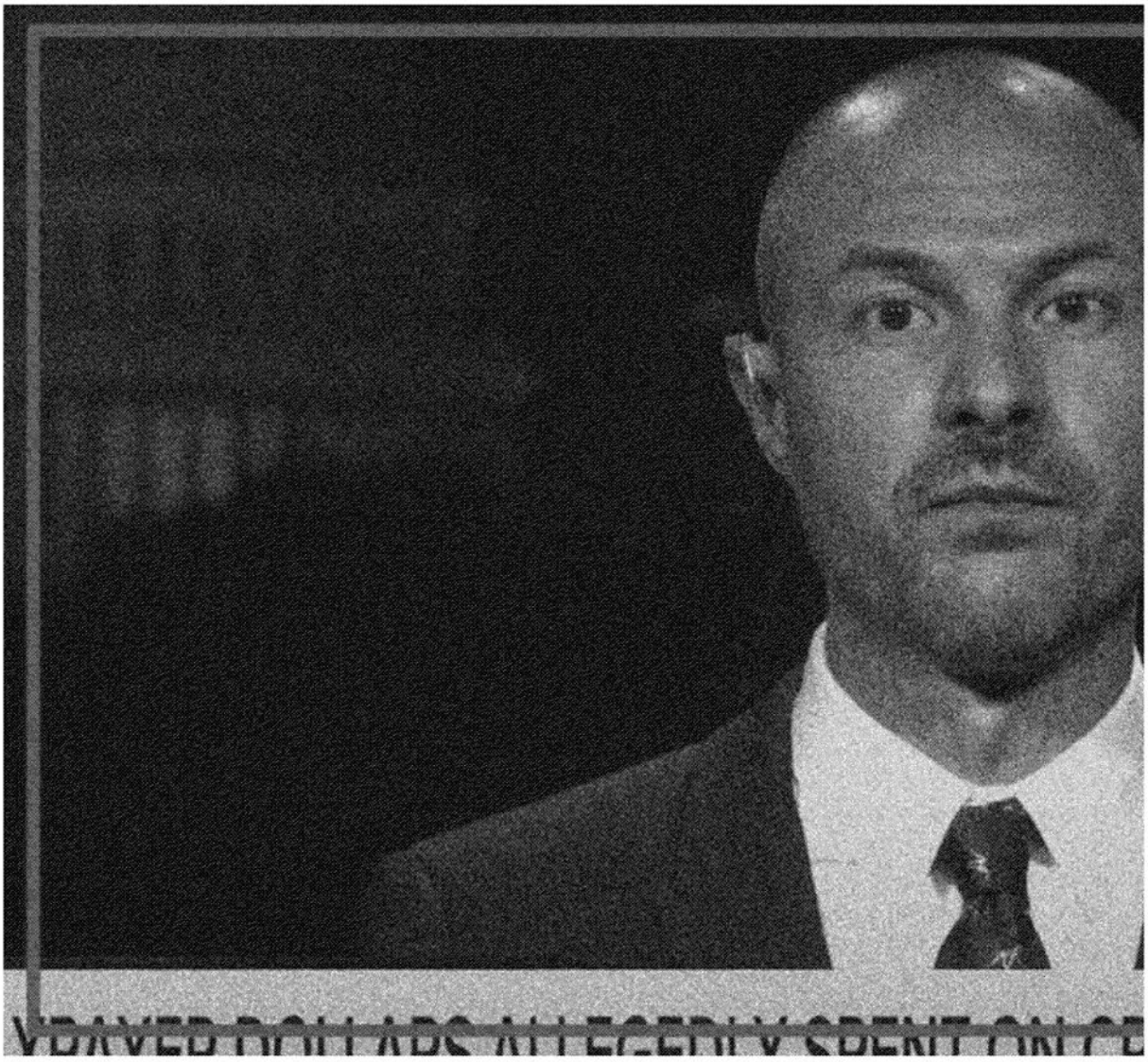
dollars for animal experiments. He focused particularly on labs in the US's two main geopolitical rivals. "One of the things that struck us was that there were at the time 31 labs in Russia and China," Goodman told BuzzFeed News.



*NewsNation via YouTube / Via youtube.com*
Justin Goodman

**Still, the White Coat Waste Project** remained a small player in the world of animal activism: Its total revenue in 2019 of around $1.4 million was dwarfed by the $60 million pulled in by Goodman's former employer PETA. And initial efforts to interest the Trump administration in Goodman's findings on the NIH's overseas animal research didn't gain much traction. In January 2020, as reports emerged of a dangerous new virus spreading in China, the White Coat Waste Project had a meeting with White House officials. Goodman recalls specifically mentioning the Wuhan Institute of Virology, but the Trump staffers didn't bite. "We gave them a bunch of information and never heard back," Goodman said. "We got a cursory 'thank you.'"

At that time, Peter Daszak, president of the EcoHealth Alliance, had never heard of the White Coat Waste Project and had no inkling of the storm that was brewing. "If you would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have told me that this chain of events was going to happen, I would have said, 'No way, this is absolutely impossible,'" he told BuzzFeed News.

Federal spending records show that EcoHealth has received almost $120 million from research grants and contracts since 2008, from agencies including USAID, the NIH, and the Defense Threat Reduction Agency. EcoHealth's emergence as a major player in assessing pandemic threats, working with labs across the world, was fueled in part by the "near miss" with SARS, another respiratory disease caused by a coronavirus that emerged in southern China in 2002 and killed nearly 800 people before its spread was brought under control. Indeed, in late January 2020, officials in Fauci's institute who were preparing talking points for their boss, due to appear at a Jan. 28 press conference on the US response to the new coronavirus, described Daszak's research into the risks posed by bat coronaviruses in glowing terms. The EcoHealth group was "among the biggest players in coronavirus research," wrote David Morens, senior adviser to Fauci, in an email obtained through the BuzzFeed News FOIA lawsuit. "In short, we have on our team … probably the world's experts in these non-human coronaviruses."

> "If you would have told me that this chain of events was going to happen, I would have said, 'No way, this is absolutely impossible.'"

Fast-forward to April 2020, and the White Coat Waste Project's findings about NIH funding for the Wuhan Institute of Virology were starting to find a receptive audience. On April 11, the group succeeded in getting DailyMail.com, the website of a British tabloid newspaper with a large online readership in the US, to run the story: "REVEALED: U.S. Government Gave $3.7 Million Grant to Wuhan Lab at Center of Coronavirus Leak Scrutiny." ($3.7 million was actually the total sum paid over six years to EcoHealth, gleaned by Goodman from the NIH's grants database; in fact, less than $600,000 went to the Wuhan institute.) The White Coat Waste Project started reaching out to Republicans in Congress — and the NIH was soon reeling. By April 13, NIH officials were scrambling to respond to a request for information from the office of Florida Sen. Marco Rubio, which had forwarded an email from Goodman noting the press coverage of the White Coat Waste Project's "troubling find" about the Wuhan institute. In that email, Goodman noted: "We're working with Rep. Matt Gaetz (R-FL) and others on a sign-on letter about this."

Two days later, the alarm bells were ringing at the very top of the NIH. Lawrence Tabak, deputy to Francis Collins, then director of the NIH, wrote to his boss and Fauci, whose institute had awarded the grant, emphasizing in bold that the Trump White House was on the warpath: "The **WH has strongly embraced concerns** raised by Congressman Gaetz who is publicly criticizing HHS/NIH for funding the Wuhan laboratory's bat research."

"I reached Tony, he is now informed," Collins replied, confirming Fauci was in the loop.

Then, on April 17, a Newsmax reporter asked Trump about the project, repeating the false claim that $3.7 million had gone to the Wuhan institute. "We will end that grant very quickly," Trump said.

**Michael Lauer, head** of the NIH Office of Extramural Research, part of Collins' central command, then took control. On April 19, Lauer wrote to inform EcoHealth that NIH was looking to suspend the Wuhan institute from receiving federal funds. Other spending could



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continue, but EcoHealth should send no more money to China. In an April 21 email, Daszak told Lauer that since the grant was renewed for a second five-year term in July 2019, no funds had gone to Wuhan "nor has any contract been signed."

But three days later, NIH terminated the entire grant, for "convenience." In a one-page letter to EcoHealth on April 24, Lauer wrote: "At this time, NIH does not believe that the current project outcomes align with the program goals and agency priorities."

Daszak was stunned. So too were many other scientists, disturbed that research that had been exceptionally highly rated in peer review, and which was directly related to the pandemic, could be canceled at a stroke. On May 21, 77 US Nobel Prize winners in science wrote to NIH director Collins and Alex Azar, secretary of health and human services, protesting the decision and describing the explanation given by Lauer about the NIH's priorities as "preposterous under the circumstances."

EcoHealth's response came on the day after the Nobelists' letter, when the group's pro bono lawyer wrote to Lauer contending that the NIH didn't have the legal authority to terminate a research grant in this way, without cause. The letter also argued that EcoHealth's goals were virtually identical to those laid out in the NIAID Strategic Plan for COVID-19 Research, released the day before the grant termination.

Later, in a congressional hearing, Fauci was asked why the grant was terminated. "It was canceled because the NIH was told to cancel it," he told the House Energy and Commerce Committee on June 23, 2020. "We got it from the highest office of the president: 'Cancel that grant,'" Fauci confirmed to BuzzFeed News.

The backlash against Lauer's initial letter seemed to prompt a rethink from the NIH. As first reported by the Wall Street Journal, Lauer came back to EcoHealth with a second letter on July 8. Abandoning the explanation about the NIH's priorities, Lauer wrote that the grant was reinstated, but immediately suspended because of concerns about biosafety at the Wuhan Institute of Virology. That tied the suspension directly to the lab leak theory, which posits that the pandemic may have started with the accidental release of a virus being studied in the lab, perhaps through a worker who became infected.

"We have concerns that WIV has not satisfied safety requirements under the award, and that EcoHealth Alliance has not satisfied its obligations to monitor the activities of its subrecipient to ensure compliance," Lauer wrote.

To lift that suspension, EcoHealth would have to respond to seven requests for information and materials. They included: "EcoHealth Alliance must arrange for WIV to submit to an outside inspection team charged to review the lab facilities and lab records, with specific attention to addressing the question of whether WIV staff had SARS-CoV-2 in their possession prior to December 2019." There was no way a US nonprofit could get the Chinese authorities to agree to such a request: Even the WHO team, including Daszak, that later visited the institute in February 2021 as part of its study of the origins of COVID-19 didn't get this unfettered access.

With Lauer's second letter, the grant entered a state of limbo from which it has yet to emerge — and seems unlikely to.




*Hector Retamal / AFP via Getty Images*

The Wuhan Institute of Virology on Feb. 3, 2021

**Since then, Republicans in Congress** have leaned hard into the lab leak theory and the related idea that the NIH funded EcoHealth and the Wuhan institute to conduct "gain-of-function" research — when scientists deliberately make viruses more dangerous in order to study pandemic risks. Internal correspondence obtained by BuzzFeed News shows NIH officials discussing at length how to respond to demands for information from congressional Republicans about the agency's funding for EcoHealth and the Wuhan institute.

The White Coat Waste Project once again entered the fray. In November 2021, it released 378 pages of documents obtained through FOIA, including a back-and-forth in 2016 between Daszak and two NIAID officials. Those officials were concerned that some experiments under EcoHealth's collaboration with the Wuhan institute might breach a pause the US government had imposed on gain-of-function work that could create a potentially pandemic



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virus. The experiments involved creating "chimeric" coronaviruses, engineered to combine genetic sequences from different viruses sampled from the wild.

Some proposed experiments involved chimeras based on the virus that causes MERS, a respiratory disease that first showed up in Saudi Arabia in 2012 and has since killed almost 900 people. EcoHealth wanted to replace the MERS virus's "spike" protein, used to enter animal or human cells, with those from these new viruses, to see whether they were also able to latch onto a molecule on cell surfaces targeted by the MERS virus. The NIAID officials also wanted to know more about two chimeras that had already been made, in which the genes for spike proteins from newly discovered bat coronaviruses had been put into another bat coronavirus called WIV1, named after the Wuhan Institute of Virology.

The NIAID officials accepted Daszak's explanation that these experiments didn't meet the US government's definition of gain-of-function research: He had argued that there was no reason to suppose the chimeric viruses would be any more dangerous than the viruses behind MERS and SARS. So the NIAID allowed the research to continue.

Daszak responded: "This is terrific! We are very happy to hear that our Gain of Function research funding pause has been lifted." The White Coat Waste Project later claimed that it had caught Daszak "red-handed, admitting to gain-of-function research" — omitting the context that this quote was part of an exchange in which he had argued that the research didn't meet the US government's definition of that term.

"We'll have to agree to disagree here," Goodman said, when BuzzFeed News questioned this claim. "We're not interested in debating the interpretation of these emails or the definition of gain-of-function. We're only interested in exposing and ending wasteful government spending on dangerous animal experiments."

Emails and other documents obtained by BuzzFeed News show that the chimera experiments had already been deepening EcoHealth's problems, as Lauer and other NIH officials looked for evidence that EcoHealth had breached the terms and conditions of its grant.

> "Because [Fauci] became a household name as the pandemic progressed, sure, it created an opportunity to go after him for animal testing in a way that would really make waves."

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."

In December 2021, the White Coat Waste Project claimed a win from its activism around the EcoHealth grant when President Joe Biden signed the 2022 National Defense Authorization Act into law. It contained specific wording blocking the Department of Defense — which over the years has provided almost $40 million to EcoHealth — from supporting the nonprofit's research in China.



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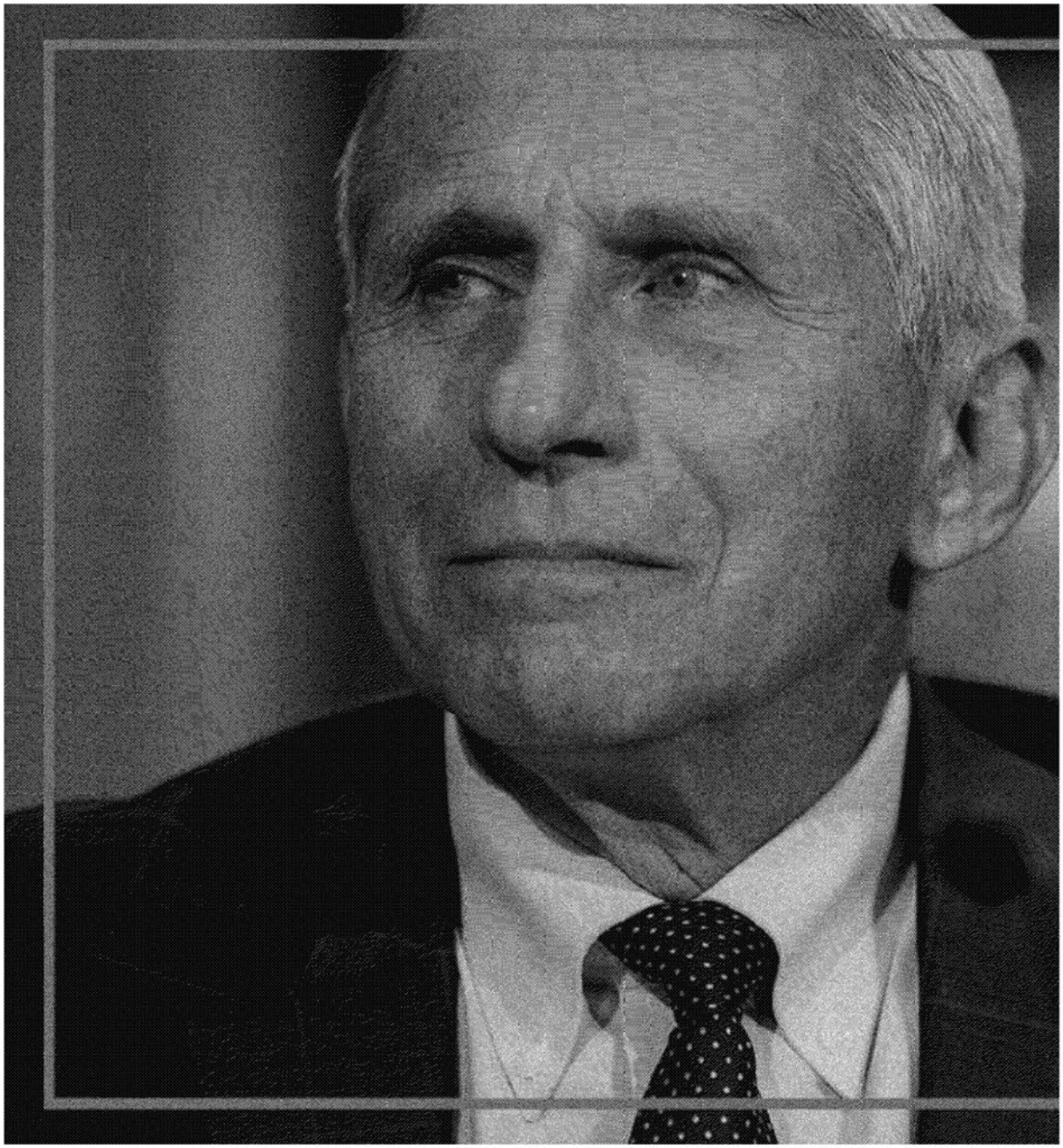

*Stefani Reynolds / POOL / AFP via Getty Images*
Anthony Fauci

**The gain-of-function** fight had also intensified the pressure on Fauci, who was by now a hate figure for many on the political right. In November 2021, he and Kentucky Republican Sen. Rand Paul clashed angrily in a Senate hearing, as Paul accused Fauci of changing the definition of gain-of-function and funding dangerous research in Wuhan. "He is egregiously incorrect," Fauci responded. In January, they locked horns in another hearing, featuring an extraordinary exchange in which Fauci accused Paul of jeopardizing his personal safety for political gain.

"What happens when he gets out and accuses me of things that are completely untrue is that all of a sudden that kindles the crazies out there, and I have threats upon my life, harassment



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of my family and my children," Fauci said.

By the time of these acrimonious exchanges, the White Coat Waste Project had embarked on another campaign that made Fauci its main focus. In July 2021, the White Coat Waste Project launched its "BeagleGate" campaign, highlighting research on dogs funded by the NIAID, with a blog post headlined: "WCW Exposé: Fauci Spent $424K on Beagle Experiments, Dogs Bitten to Death by Flies."

The next month, the White Coat Waste Project accused Fauci of funding "beagle torture" in Tunisia, referring to a paper published in July 2021 investigating whether the biting sand flies that spread visceral leishmaniasis, a potentially fatal disease, preferred to feed on dogs already infected with the parasites that cause the condition.

The story really took off on Oct. 24, 2021, when 24 members of Congress from both parties, led by Rep. Nancy Mace, a Republican from South Carolina, wrote to Fauci protesting "costly, cruel, and unnecessary taxpayer-funded experiments on dogs." Fauci's nemesis, Rand Paul, wasn't among the signatories, but weighed in with a tweet touting the White Coat Waste Project's original blog post:

The Washington Post later reported that Fauci's office received 3,600 calls in 36 hours, causing his assistant to stop answering the phone for two weeks. The newspaper linked the onslaught to "a campaign by a little-known animal rights group called the White Coat Waste Project."

The NIAID tried to address the controversy, stating that it didn't actually fund the Tunisian beagle research paper — which in November 2021 was corrected to remove reference to a grant from the institute, which had been awarded to a researcher at Ohio State University for related work. "NIAID was listed as a courtesy because it had supported other leishmaniasis research in the past," a spokesperson for the university told BuzzFeed News. But that correction seemed only to give the White Coat Waste Project more ammunition. "Once again…color us unconvinced," it wrote in a later blog post disputing the NIAID's denial of funding the work.

The White Coat Waste Project's critics argue that its demonization of Fauci, seemingly calculated to channel existing right-wing anger with the government scientist seen as the public face of mask and COVID vaccine mandates, has taken animal activism into scary territory.

"They take a tiny sliver of truth, and then around that they build this highly emotional somewhat fictional narrative to build their case," Jim Newman, director of strategic communications with Americans for Medical Progress, which argues that animal experiments are essential to develop new treatments and vaccines, told BuzzFeed News. Animal activists have long been accused of cherry-picking facts and ignoring the goals of research to present animal experiments in the worst possible light. But portraying individuals as cruel villains in the current febrile political climate is "a very dangerous direction to be headed," Newman said.

"Of course, the pro-animal experimentation lobby hates that we hold government bosses accountable for funneling tax dollars to cruel and wasteful animal tests," Goodman said. "We generally don't run campaigns targeting individual taxpayer-funded animal experimenters to respect their privacy and because we question the approach's effectiveness, but federal agency bosses are public figures and fair game."

Threats to Fauci's life, which began well before the White Coat Waste Project's BeagleGate campaign, have been widely documented. Daszak, too, has faced security scares, including an incident in August 2020 when an envelope containing a mysterious white powder

reportedly turned up at his home. "I get death threats regularly and we get crank calls at home trying to keep us awake at night," Daszak told BuzzFeed News.

The White Coat Waste Project stresses that it opposes violence and issued a statement in October 2021 saying it had no quarrel with Fauci over his advice on COVID policies. "You could stand shoulder-to-shoulder with him on COVID response and go toe-to-toe with him on other issues," said Goodman, who makes no apology for the group's decision to make Fauci the focus of the BeagleGate campaign. "Because he became a household name as the pandemic progressed, sure, it created an opportunity to go after him for animal testing in a way that would really make waves."

As the White Coat Waste Project has seized its opportunities and gained a higher public profile, the group has itself come under scrutiny. In February, the Campaign for Accountability filed a complaint with the IRS and the Federal Election Commission, alleging that the White Coat Waste Project had coordinated with the White Coat Waste Political Action Committee, founded in 2017, in breach of regulations prohibiting tax-exempt nonprofits from engaging in political campaign activities.

In an interview with BuzzFeed News, Bellotti declined to answer questions about the political action committee, which he said was a separate organization. Goodman later sent a statement describing the Campaign for Accountability's complaint as a "politically-motivated, baseless, and frivolous attack," noting: "The WCW Project *does not* fund activities of the distinct, all-volunteer WCW PAC."

Despite the partisan dynamics that have driven the White Coat Waste Project's campaign against funding for the Wuhan Institute of Virology, Bellotti told BuzzFeed News that his group's goal remains finding ways to unite Democrats and Republicans on defunding animal experiments backed by the US government. "We didn't know when we launched this that it would get partisan in the way it did," he said.

The White Coat Waste Project's latest campaign, again tapping into concern about US taxpayer dollars going to the nation's most powerful adversaries, might just have broader political appeal. Less than a week after Russia's invasion of Ukraine, it published a new blog post: "Breaking: WCW Discovers NIH Pays For Cruel Kitten Experiments…in Russia!" ●

Cheers,

Peter

**Peter Daszak**
*President*

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

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Date: Sun, 20 Feb 2022 11:14:14 PM -0500
Sent: Sun, 20 Feb 2022 11:14:10 PM -0500
Subject: RE: Francis Collins to be nominated to replace Eric Lander
From: "Keusch, Gerald T" <(b) (6)
To: David Morens < (b) (6) Hotez, Peter Jay < (b) (6)
CC: Peter Daszak < (b) (6) >; Rich Roberts < (b) (6) >; Aleksei Chmura < (b) (6) >;
Attachments: image001.jpg

I was in touch with Michael Eisen at Berkeley per Peter H's suggestion regarding the possible appointment of Collins to see what he thought might be done to impede it if it was for real. The only thing I could think of was to write to our two Massachusetts senators regarding the concerns I have about Collins' integrity. I will do that.
I wonder if this is time for Rich to gear up his Nobel friends and get something out there in the public realm. I have not been able to make that happen for the past 4 months, but not for not trying.
Whatever is to be done now is the time. I will focus on this in the morning. As Peter D knows I have been doing Task Force work this weekend while chilling out in the Berkshires. I also mean literally as it was 7 degrees (Rich, that's F and not C) this morning at 7:30 am, although it's now a balmy 25. It was so cold I couldn't get in to the hot tub until late this afternoon when it had warmed up a bit.

If anybody has any ideas I can help pursue please let me know.

Jerry

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**From:** David Morens < (b) (6) >
**Sent:** Sunday, February 20, 2022 8:08 PM
**To:** Hotez, Peter Jay < (b) (6)
**Cc:** Peter Daszak < (b) (6) Keusch, Gerald T < (b) (6) Rich Roberts < (b) (6) Aleksei Chmura < (b) (6)
**Subject:** Re: Francis Collins to be nominated to replace Eric Lander

kind of bizarre. d

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

> On Feb 20, 2022, at 18:49, Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6) > wrote:
>
> Looks real, Jerry and I were discussing this week
>
> **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



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

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

iPhone

On Feb 20, 2022, at 5:37 PM, Peter Daszak (b) (6) > wrote:

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Am I just reading another conspiracy theory, or is this real?

https://www.statnews.com/2022/02/16/biden- to-tap-francis-collins-ostp-deputy-to-split-the-role-of-his-ousted-science-adviser/

POLITICS

# Biden to tap Francis Collins, OSTP deputy to split the role of his ousted science adviser

By Darlene Superville — Associated Press Feb. 16, 2022
Reprints



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Biden is expected to tap Francis Collins and OSTP deputy Alondra Nelson to split the role of his ousted science adviser, Eric Lander. *MATT ROURKE/AP*

WASHINGTON — President Joe Biden is replacing a top science adviser who resigned under a cloud with two individuals who will split his duties on an interim basis.

Biden is tapping a deputy in the White House science and technology office along with the recently retired director of the National Institutes of Health, according to a personal familiar with the president's plans.

Related:

The fall of Eric Lander and the end of science's 'big ego' era



MORENS_NIH_033322
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Biden was expected to elevate Alondra Nelson, currently the deputy director for science and society in the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy, to become the temporary director of the office.

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Biden was also expected to name Francis Collins, who retired in December from his job as longtime director of the NIH, to be the president's top science adviser, according to the person, who requested anonymity to discuss the plans before a formal announcement, likely this week.

Eric Lander, who had served in the dual roles of Biden's chief science adviser and head of the science and technology office, resigned last week after the White House confirmed that an internal investigation had found credible evidence that he mistreated staff.

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Lander was the first Cabinet-level departure of the Biden administration.

About the Author Reprints

Darlene Superville — Associated Press

Cheers,

Peter

**Peter Daszak**
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MORENS_NIH_033324
REL0000476423

**Date:** Tue, 21 May 2024 9:52:28 AM -0400
**Sent:** Tue, 21 May 2024 9:51:45 AM -0400
**Subject:** RE: Disappointing tweet from Amy⅕ Maxmen re. a disappointing article in Nature.
**From:** Peter Daszak < (b) (6)
**To:** (b) (6) < (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*

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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) g >; Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6) >; Alison Andre <(b) (6) >; Jeff Sturchio (b) (6) ; (b) (6) u ; Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) >;(b) (6)
**Subject:** Re: Disappointing tweet from Amy⅕ Maxmen re. a disappointing article in Nature.



MORENS_NIH_046776
REL0000476426

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: (b) (6)
>
> **Media Inquiries:**
> (b) (6)
>
> iPhone
>
> > On May 21, 2024, at 7:10 AM, (b) (6) <(b) (6) (> wrote:
> > b
> >
> > 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:



MORENS_NIH_046777
REL0000476426

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: (978) (b) (6)
Fax: (978) 412 9910
email: (b) (6)

Executive Assistant: (b) (6)
Tel: (978) (b) (6)
Fax: (978) 412 9910
email: (b) (6)

---

**From:** (b) (6) < (b) (6)
**Sent:** Monday, May 20, 2024 8:12 PM
**To:** Peter Daszak (b) (6) Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6) , Gerald T (b) (6) Alison Andre (b) (6) >; Jeff Sturchio < (b) (6) Roberts, Rich <(b) (6) (b) ; Aleksei Chmura (b) (6) (b) (6)
**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



MORENS_NIH_046778
REL0000476426

Cheers,

Peter

**Peter Daszak**
*President*

EcoHealth Alliance
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Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

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---

**From:** Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6)
**Sent:** Monday, May 20, 2024 4:22 PM
**To:** Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >; Keusch, Gerald (b) (6) Alison Andre <(b) (6) >; David Morens (b) (6) (b) Jeffrey Sturchio < (b) (6) >; Keith Martin (b) (6) >; Rich Roberts <(b) (6) m>
**Cc:** Soriano Osejo, Douglas <(b)(b) (6) (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 amaxmen@gmail.com

**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) u | 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) g >; 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) u >; Aleksei Chmura < (b) (6) g >; 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*

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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' <(b) (6)
**Cc:** 'Soriano Osejo, Douglas' (b) (6) g >; 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**
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---

**From:** Keusch, Gerald <(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)
**Cc:** Soriano Osejo, Douglas (b) (6) Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) g >; 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 <D(b) (6) u >; 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

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1.212.380.4465 (fax)
www.ecohealthalliance.org

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MORENS_NIH_046783
REL0000476426

**Date:** Tue, 26 Apr 2022 12:17:23 PM -0400
**Sent:** Tue, 26 Apr 2022 12:17:20 PM -0400
**Subject:** RE: Investigation of Peter Daszak
**From:** "Keusch, Gerald T" < (b) (6)
**To:** Peter Daszak < (b) (6) Roberts, Rich <(b) (6) Hotez, Peter Jay < (b) (6) David Morens < (b) (6)
**CC:** Aleksei Chmura < (b) (6)

Maybe, just maybe, an email I sent to Victor with the not entirely veiled threat to rouse the rabble of the NAM membership to publicly protest if they move forward with this specious investigation will have an impact. I am talking to a few colleagues about engaging the more powerful voices at the Academies and NAM in particular to stiffen Victor's spine. And I am sure Jon Cohen at Science would be very interested in it.

Jerry

**From:** Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 26, 2022 12:13 PM
**To:** Roberts, Rich < (b) (6) Keusch, Gerald T < (b) (6) Hotez, Peter Jay < (b) (6) David Morens < (b) (6)
**Cc:** Aleksei Chmura < (b) (6)
**Subject:** RE: Investigation of Peter Daszak

No – not yet. I'll forward it as soon as I hear from them. No doubt they're going through multiple levels of decision making and debate before they respond. Same story as NIH – likely all focused on how they can manage this to get the best outcome for their organization's reputation, and not on how they can defend scientists and science that are under attack.

As an almost-amusing aside, I looked up Cathy McMorriss Rodgers on the web and found out that she 1) doesn't believe in evolution, and 2) when asked about the age of the earth, responded that the answer to that is in the bible. I just can't believe that someone of her obvious anti-science persuasion is being taken seriously by the NAM, but of course their actual allegations are extremely detailed and based on layers of false premises, so the narrative works in many people's eyes.

Cheers,

Peter

**Peter Daszak**
*President*

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520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
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Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

**From:** Roberts, Rich <(b) (6)
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 26, 2022 9:38 AM
**To:** Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >; Keusch, Gerald T (b) (6) >; Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6) >; David Morens (b) (6)
**Cc:** Aleksei Chmura (b) (6) >
**Subject:** RE: Investigation of Peter Daszak

Peter:

Did you receive a response to this letter?

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:** Tuesday, April 26, 2022 9:28 AM
**To:** Keusch, Gerald T (b) (6) , Rich <(b) (6) Hotez, Peter Jay < (b) (6) David Morens (b) (6) m >
**Cc:** Aleksei Chmura (b) (6) >
**Subject:** RE: Investigation of Peter Daszak

**EXTERNAL SENDER**

I really appreciate your email to Victor Jerry.

Since this is all in the public domain, I've attached the response I sent to NAM on Friday re. their decision to do a full investigation of some of these allegations against me and EcoHealth. It's much weaker and wimpier than I'd like, but just as with the NIH situation, I'm in no position to fight back since my future is entirely in the hands of a small group behind closed doors.

I'm extremely worried that Victor doesn't have the mettle to stand up to this political pressure. I believe he's just hoping that he can walk the line of least resistance between the political attacks – which are coordinated and relentless – and any protests from scientists (which haven't really begun re. this issue). My worry is that this cold calculation means he's going to do his utmost to protect NAM against receiving direct criticism from politicians on the right should they not provide them with a pound of flesh, and this means throwing me and EcoHealth under the bus. This is likely the same calculation made by Collins, Tabak and Lauer at NIH, who stated publicly that EcoHealth has a long history of lack of compliance, despite us providing documentary evidence that this is false.

Cheers,

Peter

**Peter Daszak**
*President*



MORENS_SUBPOENA_008132
MORENS_NIH_017707
REL0000476428

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---

**From:** Keusch, Gerald T (b) (6)
**Sent:** Monday, April 25, 2022 11:08 PM
**To:** Roberts, Rich (b) (6) m>; Peter Daszak < (b) (6) Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6) >
**Subject:** RE: Investigation of Peter Daszak

Threaten Victor with a public outcry from the NLs if he fails to act now and cut this investigation off? That's what I intended in the last line of my note to him. I think many others would be willing to speak up. I'll be interested to see what my two colleagues and friends - both NAM members who joined me in a call to Victor when this first came up – have to say.

I'll keep you all posted.

Jerry

---

**From:** Roberts, Rich (b) (6)
**Sent:** Monday, April 25, 2022 10:12 PM
**To:** Keusch, Gerald T (b) (6) >; Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >; Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6)
**Subject:** RE: Investigation of Peter Daszak

Jerry:

I'm not sure what the NLs can do at this time that could lead to useful action. I'll give this some thought and discuss with Peter on Thursday when we will meet in NYC.

Rich

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

---

**From:** Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6)
**Sent:** Monday, April 25, 2022 9:38 PM
**To:** Peter Daszak (b) (6) ; Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6) ; Roberts, Rich (b) (6)
**Subject:** FW: Investigation of Peter Daszak

**EXTERNAL SENDER**

I sent the note below to Victor, now that the internal investigation at NAM is in the public domain.
Rich, it is time to mobilize the Nobel laureates. This is going too far and there must be pressure, all the pressure possible from the scientific community, and applied to Victor and NAM to stop it now.

Jerry



MORENS_SUBPOENA_008133
MORENS_NIH_017708
REL0000476428

**From:** Keusch, Gerald T
**Sent:** Monday, April 25, 2022 9:35 PM
**To:** Victor J Dzau (b) (6) >
**Cc:** Vermund, Sten (b) (6)
**Subject:** Investigation of Peter Daszak

Dear Victor,

I am surprised to see the Republican members of the House Energy and Commerce Committee providing information to Fox News about supposedly confidential procedures at NAM. They of course are repeating the baseless accusations we discussed previously, but there is the uncomfortable reality that when lies are repeated time after time people begin to believe them. But now this is in the public domain. NAM no longer has the luxury of working through this in protected space. You are in the spotlight, and like it or not you and the Academy are being dragged into this dreadful episode in the history of science.

I would hope NAM has the courage to stop this in its tracks by issuing a brief memo to them saying the initial investigation has revealed no violation by Peter Daszak of the code of conduct and their request is denied. Period. The stakes are high, certainly for Peter and his career and his organization which has generated so much critical science for the past 20 years. But beyond Peter it is the very integrity of science and the stewardship of science and separation of politics away from science that is so threatened by these accusations.

I am convinced there will be an uproar at NAM if there is any adverse judgement passed on Peter and his integrity. Please stop it in its tracks while you can.

Jerry

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**Date:** Fri, 24 Mar 2023 4:55:41 PM -0400
**Sent:** Fri, 24 Mar 2023 4:54:35 PM -0400
**Subject:** Re: The Deadly Rise of Anti-science: A Scientist's Warning JHU PRESS
**From:** "Hotez, Peter Jay" < (b) (6)
**To:** Peter Daszak < (b) (6) Keusch, Gerald T < (b) (6) Jeffrey Sturchio < (b) (6) David Morens < (b) (6) Roberts, Rich < (b) (6)
**CC:** Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6)
**Attachments:** HOTEZ FINAL PAGE PROOFS.pdf

Please do not share, etc.


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

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**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

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**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:** Friday, March 24, 2023 1:32 PM
**To:** Keusch, Gerald T < (b) (6) Hotez, Peter Jay < (b) (6) Jeffrey Sturchio (b) (6)
**Cc:** David Morens < (b) (6) Roberts, Rich < (b) (6) Aleksei Chmura < (b) (6) >
**Subject:** recording of Jerry and my call with Carlos del Rio of Emory, ISDA and NAM Council

Click on the link below to listen to the recording of our call with Carlos just now…

https://www.dropbox.com/s/j3ry06zh56ssrcy/audio1145213781.m4a?dl=0

Cheers,

Peter

**Peter Daszak**
*President*

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Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

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---

**From:** Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6)
**Sent:** Friday, March 24, 2023 10:16 AM
**To:** Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6) Jeffrey Sturchio (b) (6) >
**Cc:** David Morens (b) (6) >; Peter Daszak (b) (6) Roberts, Rich <
(b) (6) Aleksei Chmura < (b) (6)
**Subject:** RE: Daily Caller: EXCLUSIVE: Sen. Rand Paul, Rep. Chip Roy To Introduce Legislation To Eliminate Fauci's NIAID

The problem apparently is influenced by several things: a) some scientifically strong outside candidates have either refused to consider or dropped out given the politics, among other issues, b) the lead inside candidate is apparently a disruptive personality, c) the administration has a lot of other things to deal with that apparently override (I can't use that other word) in importance this appointment.

But this is madness and so obviously politically driven. Had there been a strong NIH leader in place in April 2020 NIH would not have caved in and cancelled Peter's grant. That's when the slope became slippery.

Rich, you may be on this already but it seems to me this is a critical time for the Nobel laureates to speak up, and echo Tony's characterization of Rant Paul as knowing nothing about public health, and my favorite phrase that he is an ophthalmologist who cannot see the difference between evidence-based decisions and ideologically driven "don't bother me with information, my decision stands".

---

**From:** Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6) >
**Sent:** Friday, March 24, 2023 9:43 AM
**To:** Jeffrey Sturchio <(b) (6)
**Cc:** David Morens <(b) (6) >; Keusch, Gerald T (b) (6) ; Peter Daszak <
(b) (6) >; Roberts, Rich <(b) (6) Aleksei Chmura (b) (6)
**Subject:** Re: Daily Caller: EXCLUSIVE: Sen. Rand Paul, Rep. Chip Roy To Introduce Legislation To Eliminate Fauci's NIAID

I agree

**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

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**Senior Coordinator & Executive Support:** Douglas Soriano
(b) | Phone: (b) (6) | Fax: 713-798-2299
)

**Media Inquiries:**
(b) (6)

(b) (6)

iPhone

On Mar 24, 2023, at 8:33 AM, Jeffrey Sturchio (b) (6) > wrote:

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This is madness! Yet another reason why the Biden Administration should have appointed a strong new Director of NIH some time ago.

JLS

**From:** David Morens <(b) (6) >
**Sent:** Friday, March 24, 2023 9:27 AM
**To:** Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] < (b) (6) Keusch, Gerald T < (b) (6) Peter Daszak < (b) (6) peter hotez (b) (6) , Rich <(b) (6) Jeffrey Sturchio < (b) (6) >; Aleksei Chmura (b) (6) >
**Subject:** Re: Daily Caller: EXCLUSIVE: Sen. Rand Paul, Rep. Chip Roy To Introduce Legislation To Eliminate Fauci's NIAID

From the cell phone of David Morens

On Fri, Mar 24, 2023, 09:17 Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b) (6) > wrote:

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

**From:** "Folkers, Greg (NIH/NIAID) [C]" (b) (6)
**Date:** March 23, 2023 at 20:33:18 EDT
**Subject: Daily Caller: EXCLUSIVE: Sen. Rand Paul, Rep. Chip Roy To Introduce Legislation To Eliminate Fauci's NIAID**

# EXCLUSIVE: Sen. Rand Paul, Rep. Chip Roy To Introduce Legislation To Eliminate

# Fauci's NIAID

Photo by Chip Somodevilla/Getty Images

● Henry Rodgers Chief National Correspondent

March 23, 2023 9:44 AM ET

Republican Kentucky Sen. Rand Paul and Texas Rep. Chip Roy will introduce legislation Thursday that would eliminate the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID).

The Daily Caller first obtained a copy of the bill, which is titled the NIH Reform Act. The bill would specifically replace the NIAID with three separate national research institutes that would be led by directors subject to Senate confirmation and limited to no more than two 5-year terms.

The three new institutes would be the National Institute of Allergic Diseases, the National Institute of Infectious Diseases, and the National Institute of Immunologic Diseases. The directors of each new institute would be appointed by the president, subject to Senate confirmation, and limited to no more than two 5-year terms.

"We've learned a lot over the past few years, but one lesson in particular is that no one person should be deemed 'dictator-in-chief.' No one person should have unilateral authority to make decisions for millions of Americans," Paul told the Daily Caller before introducing the legislation. **(RELATED: Rand Paul Introduces Legislation To Repeal Federal Mask Mandate For Public Transportation)**

"To ensure that ineffective, unscientific lockdowns and mandates are never foisted on the American people ever again, I've introduced this bill to eliminate Dr. Anthony Fauci's previous position as Director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases and divide the role into three separate new institutes. This will create accountability and oversight into a taxpayer funded position that has largely abused its power and has been responsible for many failures and misinformation during the COVID-19 pandemic," he added.

**READ THE LEGISLATION HERE:**

(DAILY CALLER OBTAINED) — ... by Henry Rodgers

"From the earliest days of the pandemic, unaccountable public health bureaucracies proved themselves far more adept at ruining lives than saving them. Never again should a single individual, like Dr. Anthony Fauci, wield unchecked power and influence over the lives of the American people. Breaking up Dr. Fauci's taxpayer funded bully pulpit into three separate agencies — and requiring Senate confirmation for all their future directors — is one of many actions necessary to allow the American people to hold public health agencies accountable," Roy, who introduced an identical House version of the bill, said in a statement. **(RELATED: EXCLUSIVE: Sen. Rand Paul Demands NIH Preserve All Documents, Communications In Fauci's Possession)**

The legislation is currently cosponsored by Utah Sen. Mike Lee, Tennessee Sen. Marsha Blackburn, Indiana Sen. Mike Braun and Missouri Sen. Josh Hawley.

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**Date:** Mon, 20 May 2024 5:59:36 PM -0400
**Sent:** Mon, 20 May 2024 5:57:08 PM -0400
**Subject:** RE: Disappointing tweet from Amy Maxmen re. a disappointing article in Nature.
**From:** Peter Daszak < (b) (6) >
**To:** Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6) < (b) (6) Keusch, Gerald < (b) (6) Alison Andre < (b) (6) David Morens < (b) (6) Jeffrey Sturchio < (b) (6) Keith Martin < (b) (6) Rich Roberts < (b) (6)
**CC:** Soriano Osejo, Douglas <(b) (6) < (b) (6) Aleksei Chmura < (b) (6) Kathy Chase-Gaudreau < (b) (6) >;
**Attachments:** image001.jpg; image002.jpg; image003.jpg

---

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.: +1-212- (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) >; Alison Andre < (b) (6) >; David Morens <(b) (6) >; Jeffrey Sturchio <J (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)
**Subject:** Re: Disappointing tweet from Amy Maxmen re. a disappointing article in Nature.

You can write to her and cc me amaxmen@gmail.com

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

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**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) (b) (6) <(b) (6) (b) (6) Jeffrey Sturchio (b) (6) >; Keith Martin (b) (6) Rich Roberts <(b) (6)
**Cc:** Soriano Osejo, Douglas(b) (6) Aleksei Chmura(b) (6) g >; Kathy Chase-Gaudreau (b) (6) >
**Subject:** Disappointing tweet from Amy Maxmen re. a disappointing article in Nature.

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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.

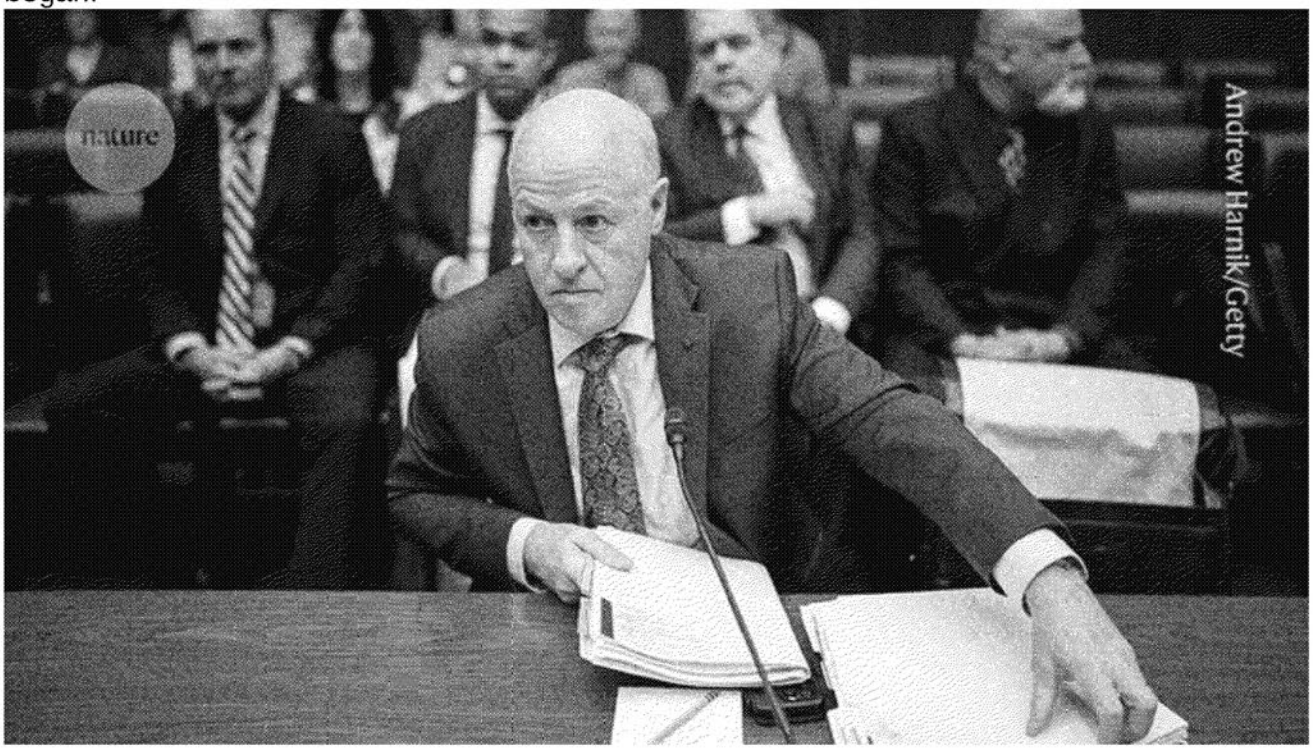
Of course, we were not given a chance to respond to allegations on the day, and now that they've moved forward with a Suspension pending debarment proceedings, we have to respond to the HHS first on a legal matter, then can talk publicly.

Amy's tweet is below, and my response (trying to be as diplomatic as possible).



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.




US halts funding to controversial virus-hunting group: what researchers think

From nature.com
1.2K



**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*

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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' (b) (6)
**Cc:** 'Soriano Osejo, Douglas' (b) (6) >; Aleksei Chmura < (b) (6) >; 'Kathy Chase-Gaudreau' (b) (6)
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*

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Twitter: @PeterDaszak

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---

**From:** Keusch, Gerald <(b) (6)



MORENS_NIH_046738
REL0000476438

**Sent:** Monday, May 20, 2024 11:49 AM
**To:** Alison Andre <a(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)
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) b) (6) (direct)
1.212.380.4465 (fax)
www.ecohealthalliance.org

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MORENS_NIH_046739
REL0000476438

**Date:** Wed, 25 Jan 2023 2:09:10 PM -0500
**Sent:** Wed, 25 Jan 2023 2:06:18 PM -0500
**Subject:** OIG Audit and our statement/response to it.
**From:** Peter Daszak < (b) (6)
**To:** David Morens < (b) (6) Hotez, Peter Jay < (b) (6)
**CC:** Jeffrey Sturchio < (b) (6) Aleksei Chmura < (b) (6) Gerald Keusch < (b) (6) Rich Roberts < (b) (6) Dennis Carroll < (b) (6)
**Attachments:** A052100025_EcoHealthFINAL.pdf; EcoHealth Alliance Statement regarding OIG audit report A-05-21-00025 January 25th 2023.pdf

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Attached is the report and our statement (also available here: https://www.ecohealthalliance.org/2023/01/ecohealth-alliance-statement-in-response-to-dhhs-oig-audit-report-a-05-21-00025-january-25-2023)

Cheers,

Peter

**Peter Daszak**
*President*

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Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

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---

**From:** Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 25, 2023 1:02 PM
**To:** 'David Morens' <(b) (6) >; 'Hotez, Peter Jay' <(b) (6)
**Cc:** 'Jeffrey Sturchio' (b) (6) Aleksei Chmura (b) (6) 'Gerald Keusch' < (b) (6) u>; 'Rich Roberts' <(b) (6) 'Dennis Carroll (b) (6)
**Subject:** OIG Audit will be released today
**Importance:** High

In 'other news', the OIG will finally release their report today after an 18 month audit of our federal grant accounting. They have given us a couple of hours' notice, but we were ready with a statement and will post it as soon as the report goes live. In the end, after 18 months of auditing, the findings are pretty minor, but it will likely generate some negative publicity from the right wing press.

I'll send copies of the report and our statement as soon as it's made public today.

The report boils down to a few basic points:

- They found we miscoded $89K of costs over the 8 year period they reviewed. We've already paid this back and fixed our accounting procedure. It equals ~1% of the $8 million of grants they audited, and less-than 0.1% of our total budget over that time


MORENS_SUBPOENA_015335
MORENS_NIH_032192
REL0000476440

- In other audits of universities etc (which we cite in our statement), OIG found <1% to 100% of the audited grants/contracts were spent on 'unallowable costs'.
- They agree that NIH owes EcoHealth $126K, which NIH has agreed to pay back within 90 days. In other words, NIH owed EHA a net of around $37K
- They share responsibility among NIH and EcoHealth for a late report on our R01 grant
- They suggest that our monitoring of Wuhan's experiments was not fully adequate, and that NIH also didn't do a fully perfect job. We gently refute some of that in our response in the report, and in our letter that's published in the report.
- They are critical of NIH's termination of our grant, and the way they monitored our work. Essentially, they make it clear that Trump's cancelation of our grant in April 2020 was 'not valid'

In our careful communications, we'll be stressing that we were grantees and working under NIH's rules and oversight, and that we stand by our statement that we fully complied with these. The fact that we continue to be funded demonstrates that these findings are not substantial, and have already been remedied.

Cheers,

Peter

**Peter Daszak**
*President*

EcoHealth Alliance
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Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

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---

**From:** David Morens <(b) (6) >
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 25, 2023 12:08 PM
**To:** Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6) >
**Cc:** Peter Daszak (b) (6) g>; Jeffrey Sturchio (b) (6) Aleksei Chmura < (b) (6) >; Gerald Keusch (b) (6) >; Rich Roberts (b) (6)
**Subject:** Re: Tweet by MinerEFlux on Twitter

You are right

I will point out that the problems in NIH OD, and the problems in NIAID are very different. In the past, the 27 Institutes/Centers have always functioned independently, and some, including some small ones, have done pretty well when not being interfered with

Our problems in niaid are unique to us, and will take years of steady vision to fix.....

d

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



MORENS_SUBPOENA_015336
MORENS_NIH_032193
REL0000476440

On Jan 25, 2023, at 12:01, Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6) wrote:

I think it's also a problem doing this search without an NIH Director installed. NIAID is one of the biggest NIH Institutes. A real gap in White House leadership not filling the NIH post 14 months after Francis left. So dysfunctional things as described below start to happen. There is no adult supervision at NIH

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

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**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

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**Media Inquiries:**
(b) (6)

iPhone

On Jan 25, 2023, at 10:38 AM, David Morens <(b) (6) > wrote:

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 (b) (6) . 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.



MORENS_SUBPOENA_015337
MORENS_NIH_032194
REL0000476440

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 arbovirologist (b) (6) (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



MORENS_SUBPOENA_015338
MORENS_NIH_032195
REL0000476440

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Twitter: @PeterDaszak

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---

**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) 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

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**Media Inquiries:**
(b) (6)

iPhone

On Jan 25, 2023, at 9:47 AM, Peter Daszak <(b) (6) > wrote:

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---

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*

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

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---

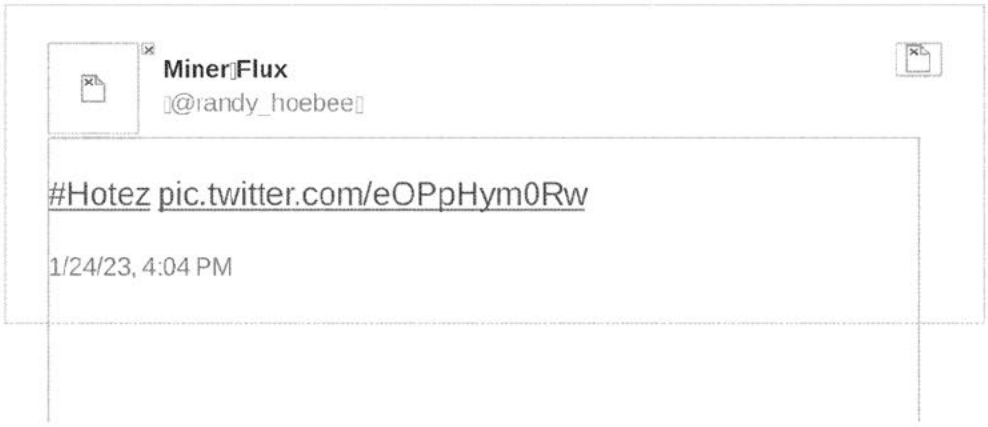
**From:** Jeffrey Sturchio (b) (6)
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 24, 2023 9:08 PM
**To:** Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6) ; Peter Daszak (b) (6)
Chmura < (b) (6) David Morens <(b) (6)
Keusch (b) (6) Rich Roberts <(b) (6)
**Subject:** RE: Tweet by Miner□Flux on Twitter

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 <
(b) (6) >; David Morens (b) (6) ) (6) >; Gerald Keusch <
(b) (6) >; Jeffrey Sturchio <(b) (6) >; Rich Roberts <(b) (6)
**Subject:** Tweet by Miner□Flux on Twitter






MORENS_SUBPOENA_015340
MORENS_NIH_032197
REL0000476440

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

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**Media Inquiries:**
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iPhone



MORENS_SUBPOENA_015341
MORENS_NIH_032198
REL0000476440

Date: Tue, 12 Apr 2022 6:39:38 PM -0400
Sent: Tue, 12 Apr 2022 6:39:35 PM -0400
Subject: RE: The NAM are now investigating me based on some of the allegations from the Republican congressional members
From: "Keusch, Gerald T" <(b) (6)
To: Roberts, Rich <(b) (6) Jeffrey Sturchio < (b) (6)
CC: Hotez, Peter Jay < (b) (6) David Morens < (b) (6) >; Aleksei Chmura < (b) (6) >;

That's exactly my point Rich. We should take a step back ourselves, give some thought and then brainstorm.

Jerry

---

**From:** Roberts, Rich < (b) (6)
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 12, 2022 5:20 PM
**To:** Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6) Jeffrey Sturchio < (b) (6)
**Cc:** Hotez, Peter Jay < (b) (6) David Morens < (b) (6) Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) >
**Subject:** RE: The NAM are now investigating me based on some of the allegations from the Republican congressional members

Jerry and Peter:

Perhaps, Peter could write back to Elena Fuentes-Afflick and say that he is greatly disturbed by the allegations and needs to seek some advice from some friends, who he knows will respect the confidentiality requested in the letter. Will that be OK?

This is to try and ensure that any "leakage" is not his personal responsibility.

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:** Tuesday, April 12, 2022 5:13 PM
**To:** Jeffrey Sturchio (b) (6) >
**Cc:** Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6) >; Roberts, Rich < (b) (6) David Morens (b) (6) Aleksei Chmura (b) (6)
**Subject:** RE: The NAM are now investigating me based on some of the allegations from the Republican congressional members

**EXTERNAL SENDER**

Hi Jeff,

I agree, and so is his committee. My first thought in response is the following. When this originally came up I was in touch with Bruce Alberts and Harvey Fineberg, both past Presidents at NASEM, and asked them to intervene. They did and were not favorable to NAM pursuing these allegations. I could follow up with them with the latest information and see what they have to say. The conundrum is that the NAM cover letter dated April 11 says that "all involved respect the confidentiality of the review process" and the attached document says it is "Privileged and Confidential". Peter will be in conflict with these instructions if he shares the material, and perhaps more so if any of us then further disseminates (however precisely) the material. Having no sense of what they are actually thinking, is this just a cover their ass process or do they actually believe there is a real issue, it is impossible to figure out where they are going with it.

My advice on the phone to Peter was to take it slow, restrain the anger and the frustration, and figure out how to respond based on a personal code of behavior as a scientist involved in research both before and after it was politicized, from being the darling of NIH and NAM to being trolled by people who have nothing but raw politics as the ideal they follow. Let's talk among ourselves, and think about the pros and the cons for any action taken. Then with Peter. Some of us could talk to Tony Fauci confidentially, and be confident it would be confidential. I think I could talk to Bruce Alberts in a confidential manner, and he is at UCSF, the same institution as the writer of the letter, Elena Fuentes-Afflick, so he presumably knows her and she certainly would know of him.

Is there any strategy that would include having Peter write to Fuentes-Afflick to say he has to consult with scientific colleagues and respected members of the Academies as part of his preparation of a response – its not just what he did or said or didn't do or say, its about the very soul and conscience of science and being a scientist when attacked in an aggressive and politically charged manner like this.

I didn't expect it to go to this step, which is why I am struggling here. Your thoughts, and maybe a call soon?

Jerry

---

**From:** Jeffrey Sturchio (b) (6)
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 12, 2022 2:29 PM
**To:** Keusch, Gerald T (b) (6) Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6)
**Cc:** Rich Roberts <(b) (6) >; David Morens <(b) (6) >; Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6)
**Subject:** RE: The NAM are now investigating me based on some of the allegations from the Republican congressional members

Jerry:

This situation is outrageous. The NAM is not covering itself in glory right now – rather than standing up for the freedom of scientific inquiry, they are abetting politically-motivated character assassination. As Peter H observes, the NAM could just tell Congress to stuff it – instead they are doing their dirty work. Victor Dzau could have exercised leadership on this question – instead he is hiding behind anonymous process. Is there any way we can bring pressure to bear on Dzau to put a stop to this?

Best regards,
Jeff

---

**From:** Keusch, Gerald T (b) (6) >
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 12, 2022 1:44 PM
**To:** Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6) >
**Cc:** Rich Roberts <(b) (6) David Morens (b) (6) Jeff Sturchio (b) (6)
Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) >
**Subject:** RE: The NAM are now investigating me based on some of the allegations from the Republican congressional members

Just off the phone with Peter D. He is really down with this shameful news from NAM, on top of being hit with COVID since Saturday. A word of encouragement, and willingness to brainstorm with him on the response would be immediately helpful.

Jerry

---

**From:** Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6)
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 12, 2022 1:34 PM
**To:** Peter Daszak (b) (6)
**Cc:** Keusch, Gerald T (b) (6) >; Rich (b) (6) >; David Morens <(b) (6) ; Jeff Sturchio(b) (6) >; Aleksei (b) (6) ;>
**Subject:** Re: The NAM are now investigating me based on some of the allegations from the Republican congressional members

My outrage aside…The legality of this does not make sense. NAM is not a government entity, right? So NAM could tell them to get stuffed if they wanted to?

**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

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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

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Fax: 713-798-2299

iPhone

On Apr 12, 2022, at 1:18 PM, Peter Daszak <(b) (6) > wrote:

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Please see the email below that I just received and the attachments.

They've cut down the allegations to a handful that I have to respond to within 30 days. But as I see this, these are grey areas that they could use to easily push me out, no matter my response. It would save them political hassle if they get rid of me, and I'm very worried that this is their ultimate goal.

Obviously, I'll try to be as aggressive as possible in defending against this, but this is devastating to me personally to have to go through this and if they expel me, it would likely cost me my job and career. Even more worrisome is the last paragraph in the letter from the Congressional members – they are playing pure politics here – if I'm found to be in breach, they are demanding that every report I've been involved in, and every committee be investigated.

This feels like a purge orchestrated by politicians for a political goal, and an academy that is too weak to push back.

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:** Monday, April 11, 2022 1:58 PM
**To:** (b) (6)
**Cc:** Kim, Se (b) (6)
**Subject:** confidential

Dear Dr. Daszak,

On behalf of the National Academy of Medicine (NAM), I am notifying you that the NAM has received a complaint alleging that you have engaged in conduct(s) that may constitute violation(s) of the NAM Code of Conduct for members.

Please find attached a notification letter, supplemental documentation, and NAM bylaws and Code of Conduct. Pursuant to the NAM Policy and Procedure on Violations of the Code of Conduct, please provide a response to the allegations within 30 days of the date of this notification, and by no later than May 13, 2022.

For your awareness, copies of this notification is postage mailed by FedEx to your office address at EcoHealth Alliance, 520 Eighth Ave Suite 1200, New York, NY 10018.

Sincerely,

Elena Fuentes-Afflick, M.D., M.P.H.

Home Secretary, National Academy of Medicine

---

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**Date:** Fri, 21 Jul 2023 1:34:53 PM -0400
**Sent:** Fri, 21 Jul 2023 1:34:02 PM -0400
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Fwd: Mother Jones: The Coming Tidal Wave of Right Wing Covid Lawsuits
**From:** David Morens < (b) (6)
**To:** Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] < (b) (6)

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

(b) (6)
(b) (6) (work)
(b) (6) (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: Sat, Apr 29, 2023 at 4:55 PM
Subject: RE: Mother Jones: The Coming Tidal Wave of Right Wing Covid Lawsuits
To: Hotez, Peter Jay < (b) (6)
Cc: Roberts, Rich < (b) (6) David Morens < (b) (6) Jeff Sturchio < (b) (6) Aleksei Chmura < (b) (6) >, Peter Daszak < (b) (6) >

And how is he doing? He was always a good scientist, cultured, and thoughtful, and his summer course at the MBL was a great contribution.

Speaking about some of the greats of the past, have you kept up with Tony Cerami? Is he OK? Where is he and what is he doing? Last I knew he had retired and was living somewhere in Europe.

Jerry

From: Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6)
Sent: Saturday, April 29, 2023 7:15 AM
To: Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6)
Cc: Roberts, Rich <(b) (6) David Morens <(b) (6) >; Jeff Sturchio < (b) (6) >; Aleksei Chmura < (b) (6) >; Peter Daszak < (b) (6) >


MORENS_SUBPOENA_009789
MORENS_NIH_020299
REL0000476445

Subject: Re: Mother Jones: The Coming Tidal Wave of Right Wing Covid Lawsuits

Yes he retired to NY he was the last chair of tropical public health at Harvard

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

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| Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology &
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Baylor University, University Professor

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iPhone



MORENS_SUBPOENA_009790
MORENS_NIH_020300
REL0000476445

On Apr 28, 2023, at 6:29 PM, Keusch, Gerald T < (b) (6) wrote:

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)
Cc: David Morens < (b) (6) Jeff Sturchio
<j_ (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 |



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MORENS_NIH_020301
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Media Inquiries:

(b) (6)

(b) (6)

(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



MORENS_SUBPOENA_009792
MORENS_NIH_020302
REL0000476445

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

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USA

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email: (b) (6)

Executive Assistant: (b) (6)

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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

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MORENS_SUBPOENA_009794
MORENS_NIH_020304
REL0000476445

Media Inquiries:

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(b) (6)

(b) (6)

iPhone

On Apr 28, 2023, at 10:40 AM, David Morens < (b) (6) > wrote:

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---

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



MORENS_SUBPOENA_009795
MORENS_NIH_020305
REL0000476445

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,



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MORENS_NIH_020306
REL0000476445

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,"



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MORENS_NIH_020308
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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



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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."

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**Date:** Mon, 27 May 2024 4:07:05 PM -0400
**Sent:** Mon, 27 May 2024 4:06:39 PM -0400
**Subject:** Re: another great Hiltzik quote Document summarizing our response to the HHS debarment allegations
**From:** Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6)
**To:** Roberts, Rich <(b) (6)
**CC:** Peter Daszak < (b) (6) >; Jeffrey Sturchio < (b) (6) (b) (6) Keusch, Gerald T < (b) (6)
**Attachments:** image.png; IMG_6292.jpeg



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The "zoonosis" hypothesis accepted by most virologists and epidemiologists is that the virus reached humans via wildlife, almost certainly through a wildlife market in the huge metropolis of Wuhan, where animals likely to be intermediate carriers of the Sars2 virus were on sale. Scientists have found molecular and epidemiological evidence linking the outbreak to that market starting in December 2019.

The second hypothesis is that the outbreak can be traced to the Wuhan Institute. This is based on pure conjecture that the lab was working either on the virus itself or a close progenitor that somehow escaped into the wild.



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The intelligence report says that both hypotheses "remain plausible." But anyone with the slightest capability for critical thinking will see from the text that it comes down against the lab-leak hypothesis.

**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

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(b) (6)

iPhone

On May 27, 2024, at 1:00 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

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iPhone

On May 27, 2024, at 1:34 PM, Roberts, Rich (b) (6) > wrote:

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Peter:

I received this feedback from Marcia McNutt.

Rich

Richard J. Roberts
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email (b) (6)

Executive Assistant: (b) (6)
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**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



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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
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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
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<Summary of EcoHealth's responses to SSCP and HHS allegations..pdf>



MORENS_NIH_047089
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**Date:** Fri, 26 Apr 2024 3:41:16 PM -0400
**Sent:** Fri, 26 Apr 2024 3:38:10 PM -0400
**Subject:** More harrassment from Michael Lauer Today!!
**From:** Peter Daszak < (b) (6)
**To:** Keusch, Gerald < (b) (6)
**CC:** Roberts, Rich < (b) (6) Hotez, Peter Jay < (b) (6) (b) (6) < (b) (6) Jeff Sturchio < (b) (6) (b) (6) Aleksei Chmura < (b) (6) John Feigelson < (b) (6)

Speaking of Michael Lauer – interesting and telling side bar with him re. the WIV lab notebooks. Remember, NIH terminated our grant, then reinitiated it with an instant suspension, pending a series of conditions be met – including getting a vial of virus from China etc.

In Jan 2022, while the grant was still suspended, they wrote to us and asked us to supply the lab notebooks and raw data from WIV, and if we didn't have them, to request them from WIV we explained we didn't have them, and passed on their letter to WIV, who never responded (of course!). WIV was then debarred by HHS, in part because when NIH directly asked for the lab notebooks via a UPS letter, the letter didn't even make it past the gate and was marked 'return to sender'!

Now the SSCP has demanded all correspondence from EHA with WIV whereby we tried to get their lab notebooks. There is only one email where we forward the demand from NIH. Cue Michael Lauer, who has seen the SSCP letter to EHA and now demands we share everything with NIH also, given "ongoing concerns over EcoHealth Alliance's compliance". Truly outrageous, however we took the high road and shared the email.

Of course Michael Lauer hasn't stopped at that, he now wants to provide (I believe) a foiable trail of emails that show how dogged he is in pursuit of the nefarious EcoHealth Alliance, and how negligent we are. Today, we got the following email from him, demanding all sorts of answers to questions about a grant that was terminated, and about an organization that is debarred. If this isn't overreach, I don't know what is. I believe he realizes that the Intel agencies can't even get this information, but wants to show that EcoHealth has likely continued to work with WIV, but hasn't done its patriotic duty in demanding their lab notebooks.. Of course, at the same time, NIH is fully aware that we're aiming to publish work from our prior award in China, and get hold of critical genomic information that WIV has generated from 15,000 NIH samples in their freezers. Talk about being stuck between a rock and a hard place…

Here's the brunt of Lauer's email:

By the way – we just received a response from Michael Lauer re. the lab notebooks. We voluntarily shared the email from us to WIV that the SSCP has asked for, that shows we forwarded NIH's demand for us to get WIV's notebooks. As is typical for Lauer, rather than say 'thanks' and move on, he's come back with further questions and demands, written in the style of a suspicious NKVD operative under Stalin. He knows these will be foiad at some point, and has written them in a way that once again implies we're either hiding information or didn't' fully comply with their request 2 yrs ago. They're also designed to make a point – if we are still communicating with WIV (which we have to if we're going to publish papers from our prior work), why aren't we demanding the notebooks? This, even though NIH has specifically told us no work in China, and HHS has debarred them from federal funding. It's a massive overreach from NIH and more like the sort of work a CIA operative would do…

Dear Dr. Chmura,

Thank you for your response. We have some follow-up questions:

- When you (EHA) received no response from WIV, did you follow-up with WIV to confirm receipt of the email, or did you otherwise follow-up with them after not hearing back?
- Did you communicate with or attempt to communicate with WIV after NIH sent a follow-up letter in January 2022 (3rd attachment)?
- Did you ever explicitly request that WIV send the lab notebooks and electronic files to you? All we see is that you forwarded the NIH email to WIV and stated, "I will write to NIH and explain that I've


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forwarded it to WIV, because I don't have that information."
- Were there any other EHA communications with WIV during the period of November 15, 2021, and February 1, 2022?

Sincerely,
Michael S Lauer, MD

Cheers,

Peter

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

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**From:** Keusch, Gerald <(b) (6)
**Sent:** Friday, April 26, 2024 3:24 PM
**To:** Peter Daszak (b) (6) >
**Cc:** Roberts, Rich <(b) (6) >; Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6) (b) (6) >; Jeff Sturchio <(b) (6) ; Aleksei Chmura (b) (6) ; John Feigelson <(b) (6) >
**Subject:** Re: Interview with Michael Hiltzik of the LA Times

I did put him on to Lauer and the Thousand Talents purge, including Lauers glee over the number of US and Chinese scientists caught in the web. I also notedand the shock Collins and Tabak exhibited when the ACD members read their statement and how quickly they ended the day one meeting after that. He has now seen the transcript and asked Lauer and Tabak to comment on it but of course no real response on that either.

I met my former fellow Claire Panosian Donavan for breakfast this morning. She just interviewed Peter Hotez for ASTMH which will be published soon in the journal. She said Phil Rosenthal would be very positive if some of us wrote an updated perspectives piece although I know that takes to time to write well and credibly.



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Claire suggested we be in touch with Don McNeil who recently left The NY Times due to rather flimsy racist allegations to talk about the current situation as he might have some ideas about how to get attention to our perspective. She offered to introduce me if that would be helpful. We should consider it as a group or I could just do it myself.

I must say I am looking forward to what Michael Hiltzik puts out after the hearing because there may some really wacky stuff coming out of some of the committee members.

Jerry

Sent from my iPhone

> On Apr 26, 2024, at 11:35 AM, Peter Daszak < (b) > wrote:
>
> Really appreciate your email Rich – it's pretty ugly right now, but I'm so busy dealing with this garbage that in a weird way you don't have time to get upset about it.
>
> I'll probably be crying into my cornflakes on the morning of May 2nd after my Salem Witch Trial.
>
> Cheers,
>
> Peter
>
> **Peter Daszak**
> *President*
>
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> USA
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> Tel.: +1· (b) (6) 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:** Friday, April 26, 2024 2:14 PM
> **To:** Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >; Keusch, Gerald <(b) (6) Hotez, Peter Jay < (b) (6) >
> **Cc:** ( ) (6) >; Jeff Sturchio (b) (6) (b) (6) (b) (6)
> **Subject:** RE: Interview with Michael Hiltzik of the LA Times

Peter:

I'm glad he is doing this. I feel very upset about what is happening to you and your family. The sooner these Republicans are voted out of office the better. It is quite unconscionable what they are doing.

Rich

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email:(b) (6)

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email: (b) (6)

**From:** Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >
**Sent:** Friday, April 26, 2024 1:56 PM
**To:** Keusch, Gerald (b) (6) u>; Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6)
**Cc:** (b) (6) >; Jeff Sturchio (b) (6) Roberts, Rich <(b) (6)
(b) (6) Aleksei Chmura (b) (6) g >; John Feigelson <
(b) (6)
**Subject:** Interview with Michael Hiltzik of the LA Times

**EXTERNAL SENDER**

Hi all, I Just had a good call with Michael Hiltzik, mainly off the record, but I gave him some quotes at the end along the lines of "It seems that NIH's actions are continuing the de facto blocking of our funding via administrative overreach.." or something less eloquent. He will allow me to check quotes. I also gave him the go ahead to excerpts from the emails and even publish the whole emails that detail the onerous oversight that NIH have been using to block our work, should he wish to. These have already been FoIA'd and are likely to be public very soon in any case.

He told me he will probably wait until after the hearing to see what happens there that can add to his story, but It does seem that he will be doing a story that directly critiques NIH's actions against EcoHealth, and that he believes are part of them trying to rationalize their initial termination under Collins, which I reminded him, our legal team contend was an illegal move. He asked for comment from Tabak and Lauer, and they responded with a single line along the lines "because this is the subject of ongoing compliance oversight, we cannot comment" or similar.

I spoke to Michael Hiltzik about what seems to be a sort of Troika at NIH – Francis Collins, Lawrence Tabak and Michael Lauer. Collins and then Tabak clearly have given the go-ahead on a number of issues to Lauer to do what he can with EcoHealth in a way that benefits NIH and avoids harassment from congress. This seems to mirror what Lauer has done with some Chinese American scientists who were accused of illicit financial activities, never shown to have committed any, but lost their jobs or privileges once Lauer called their Deans (see story in *Science* https://www.science.org/content/article/pall- suspicion-nihs-secretive-china-initiative-destroyed-scores-academic-careers).

He mentioned he had a good conversation with you also Jerry…



MORENS_NIH_047555
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Cheers,

Peter

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Twitter: @PeterDaszak

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

---

**From:** Peter Daszak (b) (6) >
**Sent:** Friday, April 26, 2024 11:37 AM
**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) >
**Subject:** RE: Security concerns re. upcoming Public Hearing

Thanks for the kind words Jerry.

Talking with Michael Hiltzik at 1pm and will be ready to fill him in on some of this, and point him to the Troika at the top of NIH (Collins, Tabak, Lauer) who's weak-willed kow-towing to the former president began all this with the termination of my grant 4 years and 2 days ago (not that I'm counting!!)…

I'll avoid the phrase "four more years" at this point, because I really think we do have another 4 years of crap to wade through…

Cheers,

Peter

**Peter Daszak**
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**From:** Keusch, Gerald (b) (6) >
**Sent:** Friday, April 26, 2024 11:10 AM
**To:** Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6)
**Cc:** Peter Daszak (b) (6) >; (b) (6) <(b) (6) >; Jeff Sturchio <(b) (6) >; Roberts, Rich <(b) (6) (b) (6) ; Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) >; John Feigelson (b) (6)
**Subject:** Re: Security concerns re. upcoming Public Hearing

It is absolutely awful Peter. But I expect your bravery in the face of adversity, and your insistence on clarity and truth, as David and Tony will echo it as well, will remain strong and in the end be the authentic and true of the fictional story they are trying to manufacture.

Jerry
Sent from my iPhone

On Apr 26, 2024, at 8:04 AM, Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6) > wrote:

As they indicated on official twitter they want to "sell popcorn"

**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

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**Senior Coordinator & Executive Support:** Douglas Soriano (b) (6) | Phone: (b) (6) | Fax: 713-798-2299

**Media Inquiries:**

(b) (6)

iPhone

On Apr 26, 2024, at 9:47 AM, Peter Daszak (b) (6) > wrote:

I agree with that – the media are otherwise occupied.

That said, we're now hearing that the SSCP are considering sending us a subpoena today. We've spent the last few days turning over emails and documents, but they still want to get their 'angry letter/subpoena' story, so looks like more garbage coming our way.

Cheers,

Peter

**Peter Daszak**
*President*

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

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**From:** Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6) >
**Sent:** Friday, April 26, 2024 10:37 AM
**To:** Peter Daszak (b) (6) >
**Cc:** (b) (6) <(b) (6) (b) (6) ; Keusch, Gerald T (b) (6) >; Jeff Sturchio <(b) (6) Roberts, Rich (b) (6) Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) >; John Feigelson (b) (6)
**Subject:** Re: Security concerns re. upcoming Public Hearing

It's just awful Peter, I'm so sorry, but if it's any consolation the press is busy with Trump hearings and the culture wars playing out on college campuses so there's a good chance that it won't be highlighted much in the mainstream media

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



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

**Media Inquiries:**
(b) (6)

iPhone

On Apr 26, 2024, at 9:25 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.**

---

Dear all,

Just letting you know some of the damage that these political attacks on science have. As soon as the SSCP announced my hearing a few weeks ago, I noticed a significant increase in online death threats, both the number and severity of the threats. On Tuesday this week I received a death threat by mail at my house, and while I was in DC yesterday for a mock hearing, the local police received a notice that someone had killed a scientist and had his wife tied up in the basement at my house. It was a fake call but we ended up with 4 police cars, and detectives searching the house, and staying for the afternoon. We're expecting more of this and are tightening up security for the next couple of weeks at my house and in the office. We also have security lined up in DC where there is a real chance for harassment because they know I have to enter the building that morning. It's also a public building and people will be in the corridors as I enter the room.

In the meantime the SSCP seem happy to gin up their base with a Twitter 'countdown' to my hearing date, just like the buildup to the next season of "Game of Thrones" (below). This time they didn't use the popcorn icon – meaning 'bring your popcorn for this fun show' – as they did on previous countdowns to testimony. I wonder if that's because Peter Hotez called them out repeatedly?

Anyway – it looks like we're in for a rough couple of weeks. Sometime today or over the weekend, the SSCP tells us they'll release a (no doubt damning) report about EcoHealth Alliance, as well as

the transcripion from my 9.5 hours interview I did with them in November. That will keep the Right wing press busy and get their supporters frothing at the mouth up to Wednesday..

**Post**

See new posts

**Conversation**

<image003.jpg>

**Select Subcommittee on the Coronavirus Pandemic**

@COVIDSelect

In less than one week, EcoHealth Alliance President Dr. Peter Daszak will appear before
@COVIDSelect
for a public hearing
<image001.png>
COVID-19 origins
<image001.png>
Gain-of-function research
<image001.png>
Wuhan Institute of Virology
<image001.png>
Dr. Anthony Fauci ...and more are on the table.

✔COVID-19 origins
✔Gain-of-function research
✔Wuhan Institute of Virology
✔Dr. Anthony Fauci

May 1, 2024 | 10:00am ET

Cheers,

Peter

**Peter Daszak**
*President*

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USA

Tel.: +1- (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, April 25, 2024 11:34 PM
**To:** '(b) (6) (b) (6) >; 'Keusch, Gerald T' <(b) (6) >; 'Jeff Sturchio' <(b) (6) 'Roberts, Rich' <(b) (6) 'Hotez, Peter Jay' <(b) (6) (b) (6) >
**Cc:** Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) >; John Feigelson <(b) (6)
**Subject:** Details and a link to my upcoming Public Hearing
**Importance:** High

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



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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
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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) (6) Roberts, Rich (b) (6) >; Hotez, Peter Jay < (b) (6) (b) (6)
**Cc:** Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) >; fei (b) (6) g
**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*

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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) (b) (6) 'Keusch, Gerald T' <(b) (6) >; 'Jeff Sturchio' (b) (6) ; 'Roberts, Rich' (b) (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*

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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' <j (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*

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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 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) >; (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
>
> <image001.png>
> <image001.png>
> <image001.png>
> @ScienceMagazine



MORENS_NIH_047565
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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
<image001.png>
<image001.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*

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Twitter: @PeterDaszak

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

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**From:** Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 16, 2024 3:22 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:** 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*

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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) u>; Jeff Sturchio (b) (6) Roberts, Rich <
(b) (6) ; Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6)
**Cc:** Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) >;
(b) (6)

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

<image001.png>
BREAKING
<image001.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*

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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) Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6) (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*



MORENS_NIH_047569
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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) g >
**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*

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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 (b) (6)
>
> Cheers,
>
> Peter
>
> **Peter Daszak**
> *President*
>
> EcoHealth Alliance



MORENS_NIH_047571
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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) m>
**Cc:** 'Aleksei Chmura (b) (6)
(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*

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*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 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



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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*

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



MORENS_NIH_047576
REL0000476447

**Date:** Fri, 21 Jul 2023 1:21:46 PM -0400
**Sent:** Fri, 21 Jul 2023 1:20:34 PM -0400
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Fwd: Publication of Angie Rasmussen article
**From:** David Morens < (b) (6)
**To:** Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] < (b) (6)

---

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

(b) (6)
(b) (6) (work)
(b) (6) (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: Thu, Sep 15, 2022 at 6:06 PM
Subject: Re: Publication of Angie Rasmussen article
To: Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6)
Cc: Jeffrey Sturchio < (b) (6) >, Roberts, Rich < (b) (6) >, Peter Daszak < (b) (6) >, David Morens < (b) (6) >, Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) >

Well there are my quotes in the Wash Post and London Telegraph for all to see. I'm guessing there might be retribution for questioning that group

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

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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)

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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 Sep 15, 2022, at 5:02 PM, Keusch, Gerald T < (b) (6) wrote:

Yes. He said in essence that it was not sufficiently rigorous to take as likely and therefore the two pathways, natural spillover and lab leak, were both viable and thus essentially of equal probability.

And, he never says there were Commissioners who did not agree with the conclusions he was presenting although the report makes a minor reference to the fact that some Commissioners had other views.

From: Hotez, Peter Jay < (b) (6)
Sent: Thursday, September 15, 2022 4:11 PM
To: Keusch, Gerald T < (b) (6)
Cc: Jeffrey Sturchio < (b) (6) >; Roberts, Rich



MORENS_SUBPOENA_009972
MORENS_NIH_020482
REL0000476452

< (b) (6) >; Peter Daszak < (b) (6) >; David Morens < (b) (6) >; Aleksei Chmura < (b) (6) >
Subject: Re: Publication of Angie Rasmussen article

Did he really? Awful

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

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(b) (6)

(b) (6)



MORENS_SUBPOENA_009973
MORENS_NIH_020483
REL0000476452

iPhone

On Sep 15, 2022, at 12:31 PM, Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6) wrote:

Sachs dissed the Worobey papers during his remarks at the Lancet Commission launch. Shameful!

From: Jeffrey Sturchio < (b) (6) >
Sent: Thursday, September 15, 2022 1:30 PM
To: Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6) Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6)
Cc: Roberts, Rich <(b) (6) Peter Daszak
< (b) (6) >; David Morens < (b) (6)
Aleksei Chmura < (b) (6) >
Subject: RE: Publication of Angie Rasmussen article

Peter: Thanks for sharing this. Rasmussen and Worobey do a masterful job of showing how groundless and pernicious Sachs's opinions are. Their commentary deserves wide distribution.

Jeff

Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy smartphone

-------- Original message --------

From: "Hotez, Peter Jay" <(b) (6)

Date: 9/15/22 12:49 PM (GMT-05:00)

To: "Keusch, Gerald T" < (b) (6) >



MORENS_SUBPOENA_009974
MORENS_NIH_020484
REL0000476452

Cc: "Roberts, Rich" < (b) (6) >, Jeffrey Sturchio
< (b) (6) Peter Daszak < (b) (6) >,
David Morens < (b) (6) >, Aleksei Chmura
< (b) (6) >

Subject: Publication of Angie Rasmussen article

https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fforeignpolicy.com%2F2022%2F09%2F15%2Fc
theories-covid-19-commission%2F
&data=05%7C01%7Cdmorens%40niaid.nih.gov%7C622244c32dfd4bfa7b8d08db8a0ef4a1%7C14b77578977342d585(
&sdata=QdJCgkVfEl0RR%2ByXqPy3Ub3RtcKt6HZX1mqkquVVniI%3D &reserved=0

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Media Inquiries:

(b) (6)

(b) (6)

(b) (6)

iPhone

On Sep 15, 2022, at 11:49 AM, Keusch, Gerald T < (b) (6) wrote:

FYI, Srinath Reddy in discussing the epidemiology of the pandemic did not get into the Sachs framework and stayed pretty much at a higher level as a public health professional.

From: Keusch, Gerald T
Sent: Thursday, September 15, 2022 11:31 AM
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) >
Subject: RE: Another attack from Republican Senators

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, September 15, 2022 11:27 AM
To: Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6)
Cc: Roberts, Rich <(b) (6) Jeffrey Sturchio < (b) (6) >; Peter Daszak < (b) (6) >; David Morens < (b) (6) >; Aleksei Chmura < (b) (6) >
Subject: Re: Another attack from Republican Senators



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MORENS_NIH_020486
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I can't bring myself to watch

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

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Baylor University, University Professor

Rice University, Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty

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(b) (6)

(b) (6)

iPhone

On Sep 15, 2022, at 11:18 AM, Keusch, Gerald T < (b) (6) wrote:



MORENS_SUBPOENA_009977
MORENS_NIH_020487
REL0000476452

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:

It's just

(b) (6)

I can tell you what he'll likely say, About how well behaved Jeff was at the press event, but no mentions or apologies for past horrors

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

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MORENS_NIH_020488
REL0000476452

Media Inquiries:

(b) (6)

(b) (6)

(b) (6)

iPhone

On Sep 15, 2022, at 9:10 AM, Roberts, Rich < (b) (6) > wrote:

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: (978) (b) (6)

Fax: (978) 412 9910

email: (b) (6)

From: Hotez, Peter Jay < (b) (6)
Sent: Thursday, September 15, 2022 7:57 AM
To: Jeffrey Sturchio < (b) (6) >
Cc: Peter Daszak < (b) (6) >; Keusch, Gerald T < (b) (6) David Morens <(b) (6) >; Roberts, Rich < (b) (6) >; Aleksei Chmura < (b) (6) >

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, Ph
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_009980
MORENS_NIH_020490
REL0000476452

**Date:** Mon, 14 Mar 2022 4:09:25 PM -0400
**Sent:** Mon, 14 Mar 2022 4:06:41 PM -0400
**Subject:** RE: Interview in the press
**From:** Peter Daszak < (b) (6)
**To:** Roberts, Rich < (b) (6) Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] < (b) (6) Hotez, Peter Jay < (b) (6) Keusch, Gerald T < (b) (6) Dennis Carroll < (b) (6)
**CC:** Aleksei Chmura < (b) (6)
**Attachments:** image001.jpg; image002.jpg; image003.jpg; image004.jpg; image005.jpg; image006.jpg; image007.jpg

True that. There are some scientists in China who get away with saying things that are critical or a bit too honest, e.g. Zhengli Shi, George Gao, and I think it was Yong-Zhen Zhang in Shanghai who sent the sequence to GISAID. Even then they are often given a slap on the wrist – e.g. the lab in Fudan Univ. was closed down for 2 weeks after the sequence was uploaded to GISAID.

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:** Monday, March 14, 2022 3:53 PM
**To:** Peter Daszak (b) (6) >; Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b) (6) m >; Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6) Keusch, Gerald T (b) (6) Dennis Carrol (b) (6)
**Cc:** Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) >
**Subject:** RE: Interview in the press

Peter:

Thanks. On the whole, I thought the piece was quite well done. I think we all know that coverups, especially in China, are never as simple as one might think. I certainly appreciate your clarifications. For me the take home message is that one has to be very careful in taking Chinese scientists or government officials at their word. Most are very intimidated by the higher-ups.

Rich


MORENS_SUBPOENA_005863
MORENS_NIH_014459
REL0000476455

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

**From:** Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >
**Sent:** Monday, March 14, 2022 3:44 PM
**To:** Roberts, Rich <(b) (6) Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b) (6) >; Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6) >; Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6) Dennis Carroll (b) (6) m>
**Cc:** Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) >
**Subject:** RE: Interview in the press

**EXTERNAL SENDER**

Yes – saw that piece. There are some truths in it and some exaggerations. On cover-ups in China. From what I've gleaned, the coverups were not as simplistic as they suggest – i.e. that China acted a single entity in not letting the world know how serious COVID was – it's more subtle than that:

1) the local CDC (Wuhan) didn't inform the Federal CDC (China CDC) early enough about the outbreak and their suspicions of it being SARS-like. This seems to be a case of city and provincial bureaucrats not wanting to be punished by higher ups – probably cost a few days in closing down transmission at the market.
2) The market workers covered up the live animal trade in the Huanan Seafood Market instead of having them tested, and finding out the source farms where the outbreak likely happened. This was then covered up by every sector of govt in China, and is denied to this day, despite there being solid, published evidence of it.
3) There clearly was a delay in reporting the sequence in early Jan, but I think that was a case of individual labs competing for a Nature paper – prob cost a couple of days in getting that information out globally. We don't know how long that would have continued, but the sequence was already in press on Jan 11th when it was released by one group via GISAID, so probably would have been released by the journal a few days later.
4) Re. human to human transmission, China was open about intra-family transmission, and the WHO and most of us strongly suspected human-to-human transmission very early on – in fact I publicly stated in early Jan when there were suddenly 40+ cases from the Huanan Market, that this is either human-to-human transmission or repeated exposure to an infected animal source. We knew the market was cleaned out so the latter was unlikely. Marion Koopmans also believed this and said this publicly. It was a dynamic, difficult outbreak situation and no one had such certainty, but the evidence was already there.

The most important mistakes were then our lack of preparation between Jan and March – we could see the virus spread to Thailand (early Jan), then Iran, then Italy, then Austria/rest of Europe. We saw the horrors of the Seattle nursing homes, and our White House just tried to wish it away – we all know the rest – that same magical thinking led us into the 'Opening by Easter weekend' comments in 2020, then summer surge, the opening just before the Delta wave, anti-maskers, anti-vaxxers and the whole sorry mess we've been through.

Then the current big mistake – I'm glad she points out that we continued to fail in getting sufficient vaccines out to the rest of the world, and the consequences of that for continued waves of infection…


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REL0000476455

Cheers,

Peter

**Peter Daszak**
*President*

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USA

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Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

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

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**From:** Roberts, Rich <(b) (6)
**Sent:** Monday, March 14, 2022 2:07 PM
**To:** Peter Daszak <(b) (6) Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b) (6) >; Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6) Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6) Dennis Carroll (b) (6)
**Cc:** Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) >
**Subject:** RE: Interview in the press

Peter:

You have my sympathy. Lot's of very loaded questions.

Incidentally, did you see the NY Times article attached? I am curious about your reaction (and others too).

Rich

Richard J. Roberts
New England Biolabs
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USA
Tel: (978) 380-7405
Fax: (978) 412 9910
email: roberts@neb.com

---

**From:** Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >
**Sent:** Monday, March 14, 2022 11:44 AM
**To:** Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b) (6) >; Roberts, Rich (b) (6) Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6) Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6) Dennis Carroll (b) (6)
**Cc:** Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6)
**Subject:** Interview in the press
**Importance:** High



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MORENS_NIH_014461
REL0000476455

EXTERNAL SENDER

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



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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 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.**



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MORENS_NIH_014463
REL0000476455

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?**

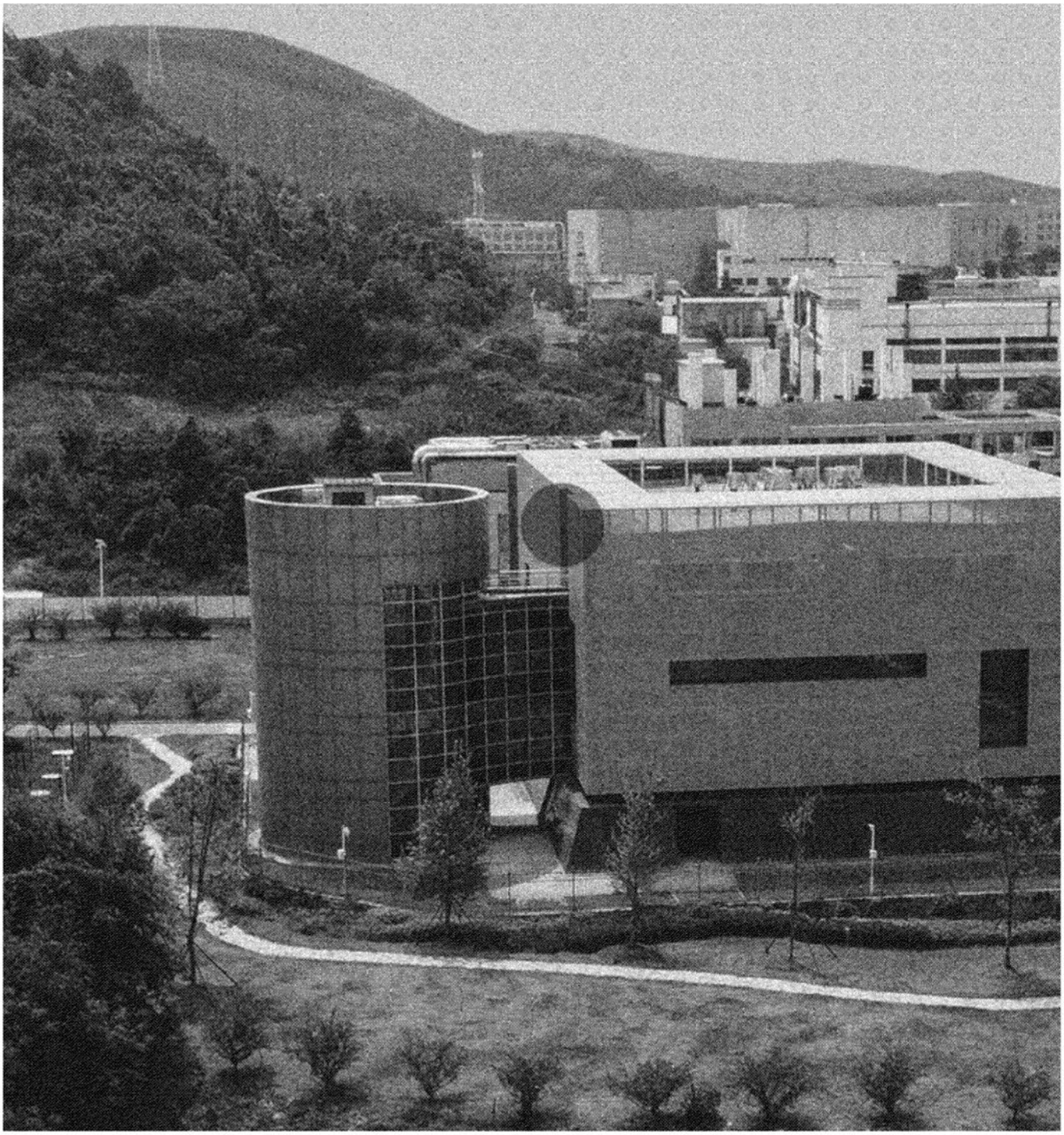
Do I agree that it's possible that Covid-19 emerged through a lab leak? Of course. It's been widely reported that we shut down discussion on that. But in the WHO report, which I was part of — and in fact I led the animal environmental side for the WHO side — we state that it's extremely unlikely. We 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 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 bat**



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MORENS_NIH_014465
REL0000476455

**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.



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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



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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?**

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?**



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We were aware of most of the stuff she was doing. Of course. These people weren't hiding anything from us. They are scientists.

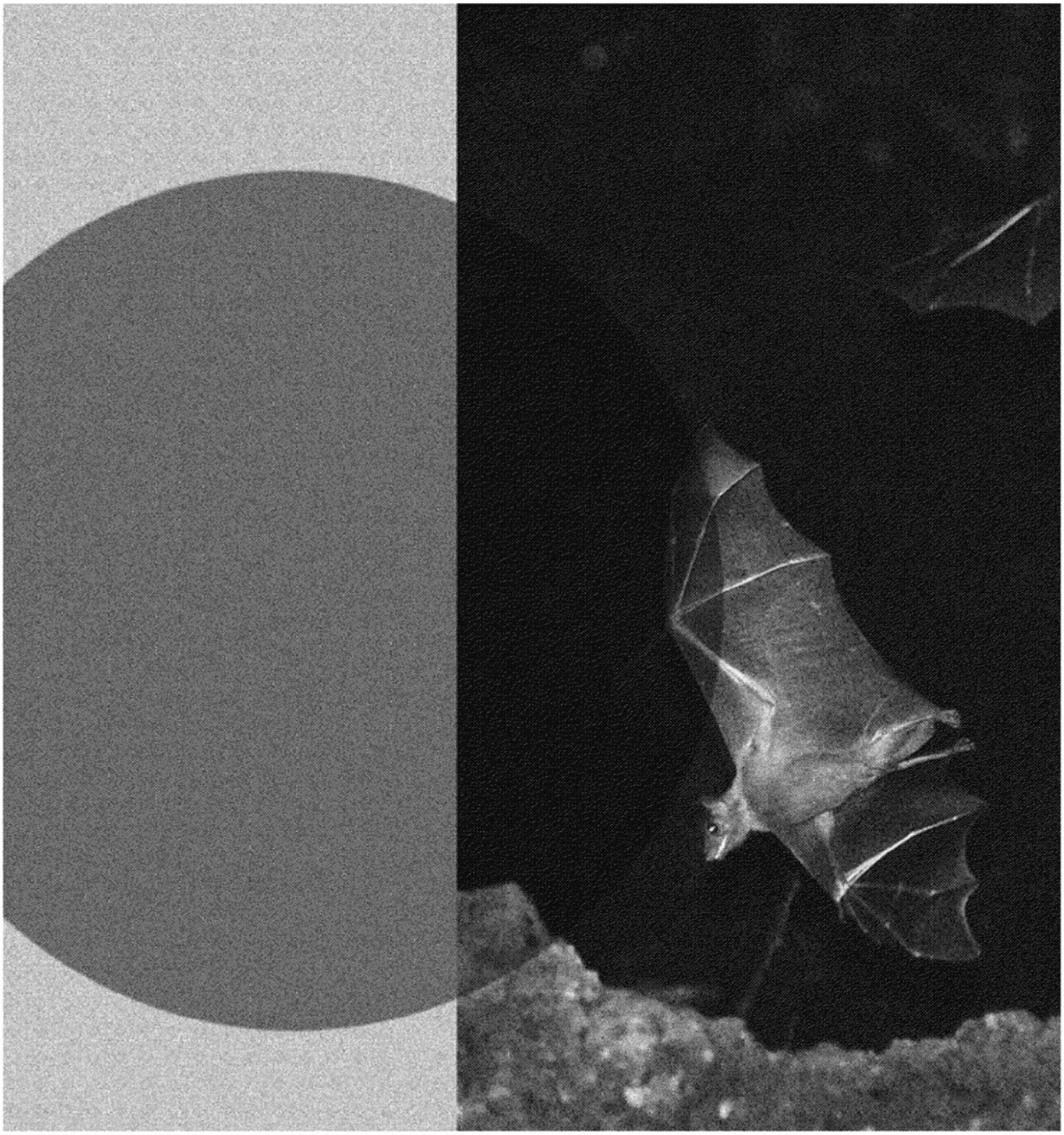
I've sat through dozens of meetings with people from Wuhan Institute of Virology, where they talk openly about unpublished work. And, by the way, RaTG13 was one of the sequences in a paper published — in I think 2015. So they weren't hiding anything from us.

**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?**



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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 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



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# 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.

**On February 24, House Energy and Commerce Committee Republicans sent a**



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**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 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


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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."




Origins of Covid

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



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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.

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Cheers,

Peter

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

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Date: Mon, 21 Mar 2022 12:56:26 AM -0400

Sent: Mon, 21 Mar 2022 12:56:21 AM -0400

Subject: RE: Enigma, wrapped within a riddle, peppered with a conspiracy...

From: "Roberts, Rich" <(b) (6)

To: David Morens < (b) (6) >; Peter Daszak < (b) (6) >;

CC: Keusch, Gerald T < (b) (6) >; Hotez, Peter Jay < (b) (6) >; Jeff Sturchio < (b) (6) >; Aleksei Chmura < (b) (6) >;

Attachments: image001.jpg



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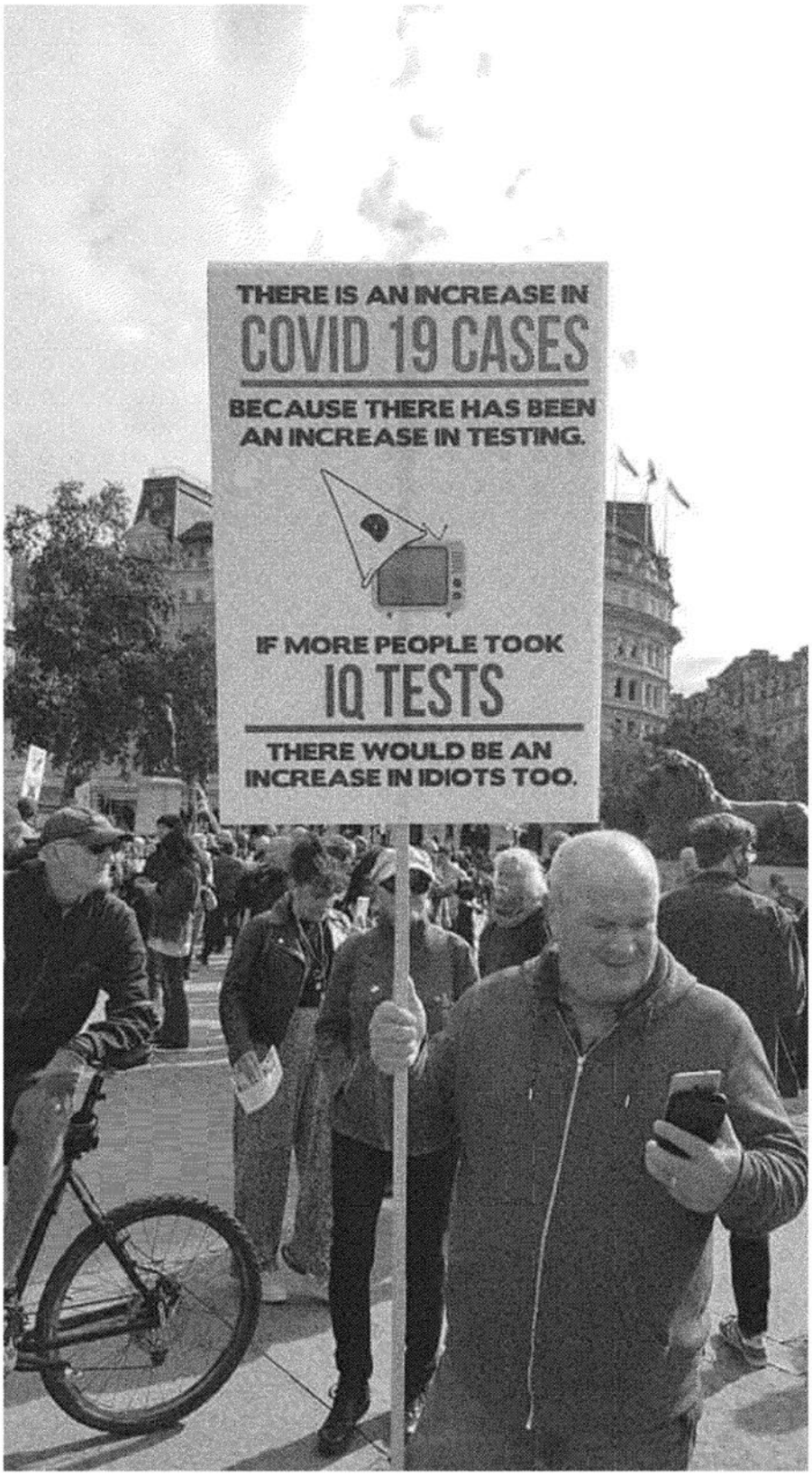


Richard J. Roberts
New England Biolabs
240 County Road



MORENS_SUBPOENA_005997
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REL0000476457

Ipswich, MA 01938-2723
USA
Tel: (978) (b) (6)
Fax: (978) 412 9910
email: (b) (6)

**From:** David Morens < (b) (6)
**Sent:** Sunday, March 20, 2022 2:13 PM
**To:** Peter Daszak < (b) (6)
**Cc:** Keusch, Gerald T < (b) (6) Roberts, Rich < (b) (6) Hotez, Peter Jay < (b) (6) Jeff Sturchio < (b) (6) Aleksei Chmura < (b) (6)
**Subject:** Re: Enigma, wrapped within a riddle, peppered with a conspiracy...

**EXTERNAL SENDER**

Pathetic! I have a very real conspiracy theory: the Russians invented and poisoned the whole US water supply with a secret drug that lowers everyone's IQ by 50 points. Everybody is affected, but those with IQs over 120 still have enough brain cells left to function. The rest? You can watch them every day on Fox News..... d

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

On Mar 20, 2022, at 13:17, Peter Daszak (b) (6) wrote:

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



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Date: Tue, 20 Dec 2022 4:15:08 PM -0500
Sent: Tue, 20 Dec 2022 4:15:03 PM -0500
Subject: RE: Names of Committee members disclosed
From: "Roberts, Rich" <(b) (6)
To: Hotez, Peter Jay < (b) (6)
CC: Peter Daszak < (b) (6) >; David Morens < (b) (6) >; Gerald Keusch < (b) (6) Aleksei Chmura < (b) (6) >; Jeff Sturchio < (b) (6) >;

Peter:

Sounds good. Let me know when it becomes available.

Rich

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**From:** Hotez, Peter Jay < (b) (6)
**Sent:** Tuesday, December 20, 2022 4:00 PM
**To:** Roberts, Rich < (b) (6)
**Cc:** Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >; David Morens < (b) (6) Gerald Keusch < (b) (6) Aleksei Chmura < (b) (6) Jeff Sturchio < (b) (6)
**Subject:** Re: Names of Committee members disclosed

**EXTERNAL SENDER**

2023 is going to be a rough year with both the House Oversight and Judiciary Committees conducting scientist witch hunts.

My new 2023 book with Johns Hopkins Univ Press out early next year I hope

"The Deadly Rise of Antiscience: How Health Freedom Propaganda Endangers the World"

How House GOP Freedom Caucus and Senate GOP in Alliance with Fox News and contrarian pseudo intellectuals to give it academic cover, formed an alliance to convince Americans across Texas and US Southern States to shun covid vaccinations during the delta variant wave. This led to the unnecessary and needless deaths of 200,000 Americans. Also discusses how antiscience extends to phony Covid origins

**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

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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 Dec 20, 2022, at 2:08 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 find it increasingly difficult to live in this country. Apparently lying is the preferred way of achieving political power.

Sorry to hear about your problems, but I hope you and your family will have an enjoyable Holiday season anyway. Just don't turn on the news.

Rich

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

Executive Assistant: (b) (6)
Tel: (b) (6) (b) (6)
Fax: (978) 412 9910
(b) (6)

---

**From:** Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >
**Sent:** Tuesday, December 20, 2022 2:45 PM
**To:** Roberts, Rich <(b) (6) David Morens (b) (6) >; Gerald Keusch <(b) (6) >; Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) >; Peter Hotez <(b) (6) Jeff Sturchio < ( b >
**Subject:** RE: Names of Committee members disclosed

**EXTERNAL SENDER**

Just returned from 3 weeks in Western Thailand near the Myanmar border organizing fieldwork in bat caves. It was hard work, made even harder by the ongoing level of harassment in the US. During that short trip we had to deal with the following attacks:

- A new lawsuit (our 3rd) claiming our work caused COVID and led to the death of a rock musician in a Midwest state in the USA
- A book from a former EHA employee that is so factually-incorrect, even the title is demonstrably wrong. The author, who sadly has some mental health issues (self-acknowledged and publicly stated) has been lauded by the usual Right wing hacks and did the rounds on Fox last week. He's getting his 15 mins of fame, but I'm a bit worried that a former Iraq/Afghanistan veteran with a grudge is drumming up hate against me and our organization.
- A series of harassing articles about me and EcoHealth in the Daily Mail, NY Post, Fox News, all based on a single tweet of some of our staff in Tyvek suits in a bat cave in Thailand, doing their job as scientists, and as laid out in our NIH grant.
- Quotes from Senator Joni Ernst & Roger Marshall bragging about how I'm not going to be able to do my work next year because I'll be spending so much time in front of Congress: 'Instead of playing in a bat cave, next year Daszak will find himself in front of Congress answering questions about his batty studies and what was really going on inside the Wuhan Institute,' added the Iowa Republican. https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-11530565/GOP-senators-slam-Peter-Daszak-playing-bat-cave-Thailand.html
- Finally the letter from the Republicans on the House Oversight Committee demanding the usual trove of documents and emails, and on-the-record interviews with me and 5 of our staff. Amusingly that includes our collaborator in Australia Hume Field, who's a member of the Independent (former Lancet) Taskforce, and not a paid employee of EcoHealth. I'm not sure what jurisdiction Congress has over Australians who live in outback Queensland, but I can imagine his fruity answer if they asked him to testify…

I now know some very remote camps in the Myanmar-Thailand border region that are beginning to look like nice places to spend the next few months rather than sitting through the constant garbage these folks are generating…..

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, December 15, 2022 8:56 AM
**To:** David Morens <(b) (6) >; Gerald Keusch <(b) (6) >; Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >; Aleksei Chmura (b) (6) >; Peter Hotez < (b) (6) >; Jeff Sturchio (b) (6) >
**Subject:** RE: Names of Committee members disclosed

Ridiculous. But wait until the Republicans take control of the House. Then all hell will break loose. New Zealand is looking more attractive all the time.

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)

email: e(b) (6)

---

**From:** David Morens <(b) (6) >
**Sent:** Thursday, December 15, 2022 8:39 AM
**To:** Gerald Keusch (b) (6) ; Peter Daszak (b) (6) g>; Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) >; Peter Hotez <(b) (6) ; Roberts, Rich (b) (6) >; Jeff Sturchio <(b) (6) >
**Subject:** Fwd: Names of Committee members disclosed

**EXTERNAL SENDER**

Now they are going after the line scientists. d

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

> **From:** "Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E]" (b) (6)
> **Date:** December 15, 2022 at 08:36:45 EST
> **To:** David Morens <(b) (6) >
> **Subject: Fwd: Names of Committee members disclosed**
>
> Sent from my iPhone
> David M Morens
> OD, NIAID, NIH
> Begin forwarded message:
>
> > **From:** "Taubenberger, Jeffery (NIH/NIAID) [E]" (b) (6)
> > **Date:** December 15, 2022 at 08:31:56 EST
> > **To:** "Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E]" < (b) (6)
> > **Subject: FW: Names of Committee members disclosed**
>
> ---
>
> **From:** "Hassell, David (Chris) (OS/ASPR/IO)" <(b) (6)
> **Date:** Wednesday, December 14, 2022 at 4:04 PM
> **To:** "Hassell, David (Chris) (OS/ASPR/IO)" <(b) (6)
> **Subject:** Names of Committee members disclosed
>
> Dear colleagues—



MORENS_SUBPOENA_014296
MORENS_NIH_026990
REL0000476466

Congress has sent the attached letter to Secretary Becerra, and I wanted you to be aware since your names are specifically mentioned. The letter signatories have made this letter available to the media, and appeared on Fox today to discuss. This included a gross mischaracterization of the roles of the Committee members.

https://www.foxnews.com/video/6317195563112

I am very sorry that this has happened, esp. in such a way that so irresponsibly and incorrectly skews the actual facts and events. Please let me know if you experience any negative consequences as a result of this disclosure. I will let you know as we receive guidance on how to proceed.

Thank you for all you have done. As you well know, the work that we did together was thorough and responsible, and in no way related to the issue in question. I am proud of the work we did, and honored to be associated with each of you.

Chris
(b) (6)



MORENS_SUBPOENA_014297
MORENS_NIH_026991
REL0000476466

Date: Thu, 15 Sep 2022 6:02:09 PM -0400
Sent: Thu, 15 Sep 2022 6:02:01 PM -0400
Subject: RE: Publication of Angie Rasmussen article
From: "Keusch, Gerald T" <(b) (6)
To: Hotez, Peter Jay < (b) (6)
CC: Jeffrey Sturchio < (b) (6) Roberts, Rich < (b) (6) Peter Daszak < (b) (6) David Morens < (b) (6) Aleksei Chmura < (b) (6) >;

Yes. He said in essence that it was not sufficiently rigorous to take as likely and therefore the two pathways, natural spillover and lab leak, were both viable and thus essentially of equal probability.

And, he never says there were Commissioners who did not agree with the conclusions he was presenting although the report makes a minor reference to the fact that some Commissioners had other views.

---

**From:** Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6)
**Sent:** Thursday, September 15, 2022 4:11 PM
**To:** Keusch, Gerald T < (b) (6)
**Cc:** Jeffrey Sturchio < (b) (6) Roberts, Rich < (b) (6) Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >; David Morens < (b) (6) Aleksei Chmura < (b) (6) >
**Subject:** Re: Publication of Angie Rasmussen article

Did he really? Awful


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

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**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

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**Senior Coordinator & Executive Support:** Douglas Soriano (b) (6) u | Phone: ( | Fax: 713-798-2299
b

**Media Inquiries:**
(b) (6)


iPhone

On Sep 15, 2022, at 12:31 PM, Keusch, Gerald T (b) (6) > wrote:

Sachs dissed the Worobey papers during his remarks at the Lancet Commission launch. Shameful!

---

**From:** Jeffrey Sturchio (b) (6) >
**Sent:** Thursday, September 15, 2022 1:30 PM
**To:** Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6) Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6)
**Cc:** Roberts, Rich <(b) (6) ; Peter Daszak (b) (6) g >; David Morens <
(b) (6) >; Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6)
**Subject:** RE: Publication of Angie Rasmussen article

Peter: Thanks for sharing this. Rasmussen and Worobey do a masterful job of showing how groundless and pernicious Sachs's opinions are. Their commentary deserves wide distribution.

Jeff

Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy smartphone

-------- Original message --------
From: "Hotez, Peter Jay" (b) (6)
Date: 9/15/22 12:49 PM (GMT-05:00)
To: "Keusch, Gerald T" <(b) (6)
Cc: "Roberts, Rich" <(b) (6) Jeffrey Sturchio (b) (6) Peter Daszak <
(b) (6) g >, David Morens <(b) (6) >, Aleksei Chmura <
(b) (6) >
Subject: Publication of Angie Rasmussen article

https://foreignpolicy.com/2022/09/15/conspiracy- theories-covid-19-commission/

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

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**Media Inquiries:**

(b) (6)

iPhone

On Sep 15, 2022, at 11:49 AM, Keusch, Gerald T (b) (6) wrote:

FYI, Srinath Reddy in discussing the epidemiology of the pandemic did not get into the Sachs framework and stayed pretty much at a higher level as a public health professional.

---

**From:** Keusch, Gerald T
**Sent:** Thursday, September 15, 2022 11:31 AM
**To:** Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6)
**Cc:** Roberts, Rich <(b) (6) Jeffrey Sturchio <(b) (6) Peter Daszak <
(b) (6) David Morens <(b) (6) m>; Aleksei Chmura <
(b) (6) >
**Subject:** RE: Another attack from Republican Senators

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, September 15, 2022 11:27 AM
**To:** Keusch, Gerald T (b) (6)
**Cc:** Roberts, Rich (b) (6) om>; Jeffrey Sturchio (b) (6) >; Peter Daszak <
d(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

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MORENS_SUBPOENA_001361
MORENS_NIH_007434
REL0000476468

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

**Media Inquiries:**
(b) (6) b) (6)
(b) (6)
(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:

It's just
(b) (6) m

I can tell you what he'll likely say, About how well behaved Jeff was at the press event, but no mentions or apologies for past horrors

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

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**Media Inquiries:**
(b) (6)

iPhone



MORENS_SUBPOENA_001362
MORENS_NIH_007435
REL0000476468

On Sep 15, 2022, at 9:10 AM, Roberts, Rich (b) (6) > wrote:

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: (978) (b) (6)
Fax: (978) 412 9910
email: (b) (6)

---

**From:** Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6)
**Sent:** Thursday, September 15, 2022 7:57 AM
**To:** Jeffrey Sturchio (b) (6)
**Cc:** Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >; Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6) David Morens (b) (6) Roberts, Rich <(b) (6) Aleksei Chmura (b) (6) >
**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

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MORENS_SUBPOENA_001363
MORENS_NIH_007436
REL0000476468

(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) edu>; David Morens (b) (6) ;
Rich Roberts <(b) (6) Aleksei Chmura (b) (6)
>; Jeff Sturchio(b) (6)
**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

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**Media Inquiries:**
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(b) (6) b
(b) (6)
iPhone

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-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)
**Cc:** Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >; David Morens < (b) (6) >; Rich Roberts (b) (6) Aleksei Chmura (b) (6) g>
**Subject:** Re: Lancet covid commission report.



MORENS_SUBPOENA_001365
MORENS_NIH_007438
REL0000476468

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

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(b) (6)

(b) (6)
iPhone

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

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Fax: 713-798-2299

**Media Inquiries:**
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(b) (6)
(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_2fOHd3OlRHuIjvaKUPrYHg?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:** Sun, 23 Jul 2023 12:56:37 PM -0400
**Sent:** Sun, 23 Jul 2023 12:55:39 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)
(b) (6) (work)
(b) (6) (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: Tue, Dec 27, 2022 at 6:25 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) >, Aleksei Chmura < (b) (6) >, David Morens < (b) (6) >, Jeffrey Sturchio < (b) (6) Rich Roberts < (b) (6)

Its an insane diatribe. I first wondered what in the world was going on at McMaster but then I found on the web that he had an unpaid part-time position there – seems like they got what they paid for. I also found a link to a letter from Jim Clyburn to him in April last year asking him to testify before the House Select Committee

(https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fcoronavirus.house.gov%2Fsites%2Fdemocrats.04-08.Clyburn%2520to%2520Alexander%2520re%2520COVID%2520Response%2520.pdf&data=05%7C01%7Cdmorens%40niaid.nih.gov%7C52e80f4bbb1e425ee0e608db8b9dbd9c%7C14b77578977342d585&sdata=7JHQHY5WztIKQLKXHIiLzcB5mHmqg0KN7wQKznMciig%3D &reserved=0).
I gather he never showed up.

Who is he networked with? The incoming far out Republican right?

Jerry

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) >; Keusch, Gerald T < (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%7C52e80f4bbb1e425ee0e608db8b9dbd9c%7C14b77578977342d585&sdata=zB4wgwNPk4sxduliWTJiVn1el87ZN7OSafk%2Bnor8y64%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

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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

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, 23 Jul 2023 12:58:57 PM -0400
**Sent:** Sun, 23 Jul 2023 12:58:15 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)
(b) (6) (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 1:37 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)
(b) (6) (work)
(b) (6) (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 1:00 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)
(b) (6) (work)
(b) (6) (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: Tue, Dec 27, 2022 at 2:16 PM
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!
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%2Fpalexander.substack.com%2Fp%2Ffauci-birx-francis-collins-azar-bourla&data=05%7C01%7Cdmorens%40niaid.nih.gov%7C312a26adfe9f427ef29208db8b9e19d7%7C14b77578977342d585(&sdata=4aiRKixBkOWQldAId8vKENc1P05GA5kJ0ieFbktqr50%3D &reserved=0

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

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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

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(b) (6)

(b) (6)

iPhone
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**Date:** Sat, 20 Apr 2024 9:39:07 AM -0400
**Sent:** Sat, 20 Apr 2024 9:38:43 AM -0400
**Subject:** RE: Today's news...
**From:** Peter Daszak < (b) (6)
**To:** Hotez, Peter Jay < (b) (6)
**CC:** (b) (6) < (b) (6) Keusch, Gerald T < (b) (6) Jeff Sturchio < (b) (6) Roberts, Rich < (b) (6) (b) (6) Aleksei Chmura < (b) (6) John Feigelson < (b) (6)

---

Glad you're honing in on this. The parallels to McCarthy hearings are clear.

Cheers,

Peter

**Peter Daszak**
*President*

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USA

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Twitter: @PeterDaszak

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

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**From:** Hotez, Peter Jay <h(b) (6)
**Sent:** Friday, April 19, 2024 8:18 PM
**To:** Peter Daszak (b) (6)
**Cc:** (b) (6) <(b) (6) Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6) Jeff Sturchio (b) Roberts, Rich(b) (6) ; Aleksei Chmura (b) (6) >; John Feigelson < feigelson@ecohealthalliance.org >
**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

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**Media Inquiries:**
(b) (6)
(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.**

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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**
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USA

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Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

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**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) (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



MORENS_SUBPOENA_000118
MORENS_NIH_000146
REL0000476488

Cheers,

Peter

**Peter Daszak**
*President*

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---

**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) u>; 'Jeff Sturchio' <
( 'Roberts, Rich' (b) (6) ; 'Hotez, Peter Jay' <(b) (6)
h
(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*

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MORENS_SUBPOENA_000119
MORENS_NIH_000147
REL0000476488

New York, NY 10018-6507
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Twitter: @PeterDaszak

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**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 <
( Roberts, Rich (b) (6) >; Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6)
(b) (6)
**Cc:** Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) >; (b) (6)

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
> <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*

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USA

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Twitter: @PeterDaszak

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

**From:** (b) (6) <(b) (6) (b) (6)
**Sent:** Friday, April 12, 2024 1:37 PM
**To:** Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >; Keusch, Gerald T (b) (6) >; Jeff Sturchio <( Roberts, Rich <(b) (6) Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6)
(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**
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Twitter: @PeterDaszak

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---

**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*

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Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

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**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)



MORENS_SUBPOENA_000123
MORENS_NIH_000151
REL0000476488

Cheers,

Peter

**Peter Daszak**
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Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

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---

**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 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



MORENS_SUBPOENA_000124
MORENS_NIH_000152
REL0000476488

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**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 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.


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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*

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Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

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

Date: Sat, 4 May 2024 10:50:16 PM -0400
Sent: Sat, 4 May 2024 10:50:12 PM -0400
Subject: Re: Post by Prof Peter Hotez MD PhD on X
From: Keusch, Gerald <(b) (6)
To: (b) (6) <(b) (6) >;

Hi David. I don't think you should be involved in any way related to the subcommittee. Others will be taking it up in multiple ways. Jerry

Sent from my iPhone

On May 3, 2024, at 7:11 PM, (b) (6) <(b) (6) > wrote:

And don't forget our Maryland rep Jaimie Raskin who is likely to be a great advocate for us if we can engage him. d

Sent from Proton Mail Android

-------- Original Message --------
On 5/3/24 17:26, Keusch, Gerald wrote:

And maybe all the more reason we should try to get to the democratic members through our congressional representatives.

Jerry

**From:** Jeffrey Sturchio < (b) (6)
**Sent:** Friday, May 3, 2024 4:35 PM
**To:** Hotez, Peter Jay < (b) (6)
**Cc:** Peter Daszak < (b) (6) Roberts, Rich < (b) (6) Aleksei Chmura < (b) (6) Keusch, Gerald < (b) (6) Keith Martin < (b) (6) David Morens < (b) (6)
**Subject:** RE: Post by Prof Peter Hotez MD PhD on X

That's encouraging!

As ever,
Jeff

**From:** Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6)
**Sent:** Friday, May 3, 2024 4:04 PM
**To:** Jeffrey Sturchio (b) (6) >
**Cc:** Peter Daszak (b) (6) >; Roberts, Rich (b) (6) Aleksei Chmura < (b) (6) >; Gerald Keusch (b) (6) ; Keith Martin (b) (6) ; David Morens <(b) (6) (b) (6) >



MORENS_NIH_044926
REL0000476494

**Subject:** Re: Post by Prof Peter Hotez MD PhD on X

As far as I can tell, this hearing has received zero national attention. No one beyond our small circle is talking about this

**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 3, 2024, at 1:52 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.**

---

All:

This is just Wenstrup and the Rs spiking the ball after a hearing in which they refused to let Peter answer the questions posed to him. All of the alleged "evidence" of EHA's supposed transgressions is based on misrepresentation and selective citation of the documentary evidence and false assumptions about the science involved (e.g., since when does a Republican Congresswoman with an MBA and no scientific training get to decide what the definition of gain-of-function research should be?). The only people showing contempt for the American people on Wednesday were the members of Congress and staff who used this hearing as a vehicle to propagate a malicious political narrative that falsely and unfairly

blamed Peter Daszak and EHA for research that never happened and outcomes that are chimerical figments of their imagination.

As ever,
Jeff

---

**From:** Peter Daszak (b) (6) >
**Sent:** Friday, May 3, 2024 1:12 PM
**To:** Roberts, Rich <(b) (6)
**Cc:** Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6) Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) >; Jeffrey Sturchio <(b) (6) Gerald Keusch (b) (6) ; Keith Martin <(b) (6) David Morens <(b) (6)
**Subject:** Re: Post by Prof Peter Hotez MD PhD on X

This is the most awful piece I've seen yet - they say:

**" The Select Subcommittee will take further steps to address Dr. Daszak's contempt for the American people."**

<image001.png>

Hearing Wrap Up: EcoHealth Alliance Should be Criminally Investigated, Formally Debarred - United States House Committee on Oversight and Accountability
oversight.house.gov

I am very worried for my future and the future of EcoHealth alliance right now. At best this will drive continued hate and death threats… at worst…

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak

President
EcoHealth Alliance

520 8th Avenue, New York, NY10018-6507, USA

www.EcoHealthAlliance.org

On May 2, 2024, at 10:00 AM, Roberts, Rich (b) (6) > wrote:

Excellent article!

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

Executive Assistant: (b) (6)
Tel: (978) (b) (6)
Fax: (978) 412 9910
email (b) (6)

---

**From:** Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6) u>
**Sent:** Thursday, May 2, 2024 6:59 AM
**To:** Peter Daszak (b) (6) >; Aleksei Chmura < (b) (6) >; Jeffrey Sturchio (b) (6) Roberts, Rich < (b) (6) Gerald Keusch (b) (6) >; Keith Martin (b) (6) g>; David Morens (b) (6)
**Subject:** Post by Prof Peter Hotez MD PhD on X

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

**Media Inquiries:**
(b) (6)

iPhone



MORENS_NIH_044930
REL000476494

Date: Wed, 23 Aug 2023 11:03:13 PM -0400
Sent: Wed, 23 Aug 2023 10:58:28 PM -0400
Subject: RE: Follow-up Action: NARA Allegations of Unauthorized Records Destruction
From: "Keusch, Gerald T" <(b) (6)
To: David Morens < (b) (6) >; Peter Daszak < (b) (6) >; Aleksei Chmura < (b) (6) >; Peter Hotez < (b) (6) >; Jeff Sturchio < (b) (6) >; Rich Roberts < (b) (6) >
Attachments: image001.gif; image002.jpg

David, I have 15 emails I sent to you, most with the rest of the gang. I don't have anything that would address the separation you have consistently maintained between government business and our conversations. These are all the usual exchanges among scientists who know one another and are reflecting on a contentious and challenging scientific environment.

If it would help to forward all of them to you or to your lawyer I am happy to do that. I might get my IT team to help me organize it, but I am sure I can get it done. They may even be able to tell me how to access emails you are part of but are not the first few email addresses that pop up.

Jerry

---

**From:** David Morens < (b) (6)
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 23, 2023 5:24 PM
**To:** Peter Daszak < (b) (6) >; Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) >; Keusch, Gerald T < (b) (6) >; Peter Hotez < (b) (6) >; Jeff Sturchio < (b) (6) >; Rich Roberts < (b) (6) >
**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
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


MORENS_SUBPOENA_006680
MORENS_NIH_015570
REL0000476503

**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 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)

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**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:** Gibson, Anthony (NIH/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
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


MORENS_SUBPOENA_006682
MORENS_NIH_015572
REL0000476503

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

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) , 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>

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)
( (b) (6)
b

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**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:** RE: Notification 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



MORENS_SUBPOENA_006684
MORENS_NIH_015574
REL0000476503

**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 maybe 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?


MORENS_SUBPOENA_006685
MORENS_NIH_015575
REL0000476503

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

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


MORENS_SUBPOENA_006686
MORENS_NIH_015576
REL0000476503

NIAID/NIH/DHHS
Bldg. 31, Room 7A24, MSC 2520
Bethesda, MD 20892-2520
Phone: 301/ (b) (6)
(b) (6)
Pronouns – she, her, hers *(why?)*



MORENS_SUBPOENA_006687
MORENS_NIH_015577
REL0000476503

**Date:** Tue, 5 Sep 2023 3:08:18 PM -0400
**Sent:** Tue, 5 Sep 2023 3:08:05 PM -0400
**Subject:** Re: Morens counsel
**From:** Aleksei Chmura < (b) (6)
**To:** (b) (6) < (b) (6)

---

Just updating you:

TKD (Michael Grudberg) have emailed Tim today and offered to speak, so up to him on timing.

Cheers,

-Aleksei

**Aleksei Chmura, PhD, MBA**
*Chief of Staff*

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

(b) (6) (mobile)
www.ecohealthalliance.org

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

On Sep 5, 2023, at 14:52, (b) (6) < (b) (6) wrote:

Thanks, d

Sent from Proton Mail mobile

-------- Original Message --------
On Sep 4, 2023, 21:39, Aleksei Chmura < (b) (6) > wrote:

Sorry for my slow replies last week, David.

I have sent an email to our folks at TKD and Tim, but do not expect them to do anything until tomorrow. If I do not hear from them, I will chase up with Madison (at TKD) on Wednesday to ensure they do get in touch and provide background etc. as soon as possible.

Cheers,

-Aleksei

On Wed, Aug 30, 2023 at 11:05 AM (b) (6) <(b) (6) (b) (6) wrote:
Hi Aleksei, Peter asked that I email you so that your attorney can connect with my attorney, Tim Belevetz, from a DC firm called IceMiller

I met with Tim yesterday and he is eager to connect with them.

His email is (b) (6) , and phone is (b) (6)

Alternatively, I could ask Tim to contact them. david
Sent from Proton Mail mobile

-------- Original Message --------
On Aug 23, 2023, 14:05, Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) > wrote:

David/Peter Call
Scheduled: Aug 23, 2023 at 14:00 to 15:00, EDT
Location: (b) (6) (b) (6)

Invitees: David Morens, Peter Daszak, Aleksei Chmura
Join Zoom Meeting
(b) (6)

Meeting ID: (b) (6)
Passcode: (b) (6)

---

One tap mobile
(b) (6)



MORENS_NIH_044567
REL0000476518

Date: Thu, 15 Sep 2022 6:06:20 PM -0400
Sent: Thu, 15 Sep 2022 6:06:01 PM -0400
Subject: Re: Publication of Angie Rasmussen article
From: "Hotez, Peter Jay" < (b) (6)
To: Keusch, Gerald T < (b) (6)
CC: Jeffrey Sturchio < (b) (6) Roberts, Rich < (b) (6) Peter Daszak < (b) (6) David Morens < (b) (6) Aleksei Chmura < (b) (6) >;

Well there are my quotes in the Wash Post and London Telegraph for all to see. I'm guessing there might be retribution for questioning that group

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

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**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 5:02 PM, Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6) wrote:

Yes. He said in essence that it was not sufficiently rigorous to take as likely and therefore the two pathways, natural spillover and lab leak, were both viable and thus essentially of equal probability.

And, he never says there were Commissioners who did not agree with the conclusions he was presenting although the report makes a minor reference to the fact that some Commissioners had other views.

**From:** Hotez, Peter Jay < (b) (6)
**Sent:** Thursday, September 15, 2022 4:11 PM
**To:** Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6)
**Cc:** Jeffrey Sturchio < (b) (6) Roberts, Rich <(b) (6) Peter Daszak

< (b) (6) David Morens < (b) (6) Aleksei Chmura
<(b) (6) >
**Subject:** Re: Publication of Angie Rasmussen article

Did he really? Awful

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

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**Media Inquiries:**
(b) (6)

On Sep 15, 2022, at 12:31 PM, Keusch, Gerald T (b) (6) u> wrote:

Sachs dissed the Worobey papers during his remarks at the Lancet Commission launch. Shameful!

**From:** Jeffrey Sturchio <(b) (6) >
**Sent:** Thursday, September 15, 2022 1:30 PM
**To:** Hotez, Peter Jay(b) (6) >; Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6) u>
**Cc:** Roberts, Rich <(b) (6) Peter Daszak (b (b) (6) >; David Morens <
(b) (6) >; Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6)
**Subject:** RE: Publication of Angie Rasmussen article

Peter: Thanks for sharing this. Rasmussen and Worobey do a masterful job of showing how groundless and pernicious Sachs's opinions are. Their commentary deserves wide distribution.

Jeff

Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy smartphone

-------- Original message --------
From: "Hotez, Peter Jay" (b) (6) >
Date: 9/15/22 12:49 PM (GMT-05:00)
To: "Keusch, Gerald T" <(b) (6)



MORENS_SUBPOENA_001373
MORENS_NIH_007446
REL0000476519

Cc: "Roberts, Rich" (b) (6) , Jeffrey Sturchio (b) (6) Peter Daszak <
(b) (6) David Morens <(b) (6) >, Aleksei Chmura <
(b) (6)
Subject: Publication of Angie Rasmussen article

https://foreignpolicy.com/2022/09/15/conspiracy- theories-covid-19-commission/

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

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b

**Media Inquiries:**
(b) (6) u
tchteam@dpwpr.com
(b) (6)
iPhone

On Sep 15, 2022, at 11:49 AM, Keusch, Gerald T (b) (6) wrote:

FYI, Srinath Reddy in discussing the epidemiology of the pandemic did not get into the Sachs framework and stayed pretty much at a higher level as a public health professional.

**From:** Keusch, Gerald T
**Sent:** Thursday, September 15, 2022 11:31 AM
**To:** Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6) >
**Cc:** Roberts, Rich <(b) (6) Jeffrey Sturchio <J (b) (6) Peter Daszak <
(b) (6) ; David Morens (b) (6) >; Aleksei Chmura <
(b) (6) >
**Subject:** RE: Another attack from Republican Senators

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) u>
**Sent:** Thursday, September 15, 2022 11:27 AM
**To:** Keusch, Gerald T (b) (6)
**Cc:** Roberts, Rich (b) (6) m>; Jeffrey Sturchio (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

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**Media Inquiries:**
(b) (6)

(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:
> >
> > It's just
> > (b) (6)
> >
> > I can tell you what he'll likely say, About how well behaved Jeff was at the press event, but no mentions or apologies 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

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**Media Inquiries:**
(b) (6)

iPhone

On Sep 15, 2022, at 9:10 AM, Roberts, Rich <(b) (6) wrote:

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: (978) (b) (6)
Fax: (978) (b) (6)
email: (b) (6)

---

**From:** Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6)
**Sent:** Thursday, September 15, 2022 7:57 AM
**To:** Jeffrey Sturchio (b) (6)
**Cc:** Peter Daszak (b) (6) >; Keusch, Gerald T < (b) (6) David Morens <(b) (6) Roberts, Rich < (b) (6) >; Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6)
**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

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**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) Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) >; Jeff Sturchio <(b) (6)
**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

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(b) (6)

iPhone

On Sep 14, 2022, at 8:31 PM, Peter Daszak < (b) (6) g > 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-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) u>
**Sent:** Wednesday, September 7, 2022 9:17 AM
**To:** Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6)
**Cc:** Peter Daszak <d(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

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Fax: 713-798-2299

**Media Inquiries:**
(b) (6)

(b) (6)
iPhone

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) g >
**Cc:** Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6) David Morens <
d(b) (6) >; Rich Roberts (b) (6) ;
Aleksei Chmura (b) (6) rg >
**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

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| Fax: 713-798-2299

**Media Inquiries:**
(b) (6)

iPhone

On Sep 7, 2022, at 2:00 AM, Peter Daszak <
(b) (6)

***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:** Fri, 21 Jul 2023 1:23:21 PM -0400
**Sent:** Fri, 21 Jul 2023 1:22:36 PM -0400
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Fwd: Publication of Angie Rasmussen article
**From:** David Morens < (b) (6)
**To:** Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] < (b) (6)

---

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

(b) (6)
(b) (6) (work)
(b) (6) (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, Sep 15, 2022 at 1:31 PM
Subject: RE: Publication of Angie Rasmussen article
To: Jeffrey Sturchio < (b) (6) Hotez, Peter Jay < (b) (6)
Cc: Roberts, Rich < (b) (6) Peter Daszak
< (b) (6) >, David Morens < (b) (6)
Aleksei Chmura < (b) (6) >

Sachs dissed the Worobey papers during his remarks at the Lancet Commission launch. Shameful!

From: Jeffrey Sturchio < (b) (6) >
Sent: Thursday, September 15, 2022 1:30 PM
To: Hotez, Peter Jay < (b) (6) Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6)
Cc: Roberts, Rich < (b) (6) Peter Daszak
< (b) (6) >; David Morens < (b) (6) >;
Aleksei Chmura < (b) (6) >
Subject: RE: Publication of Angie Rasmussen article

Peter: Thanks for sharing this. Rasmussen and Worobey do a masterful job of showing how groundless and pernicious Sachs's opinions are. Their commentary deserves wide distribution.

Jeff

Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy smartphone

-------- Original message --------

From: "Hotez, Peter Jay" <(b) (6)

Date: 9/15/22 12:49 PM (GMT-05:00)

To: "Keusch, Gerald T" < (b) (6) >

Cc: "Roberts, Rich" < (b) (6) Jeffrey Sturchio < (b) (6) Peter Daszak < (b) (6) >, David Morens < (b) (6) >, Aleksei Chmura < (b) (6) >

Subject: Publication of Angie Rasmussen article

https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fforeignpolicy.com%2F2022%2F09%2F15%2Fcovid-19-origin-theories-commission%2F&data=05%7C01%7Cdmorens%40niaid.nih.gov%7Cdccb9a5e93bd4342146008db8a0f2cc3%7C14b77578977342d585&sdata=VuCB69HiGvilQ5HNgekdRVVRAQkrLBCf9OQQx2WrNDQ%3D&reserved=0

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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

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

Media Inquiries:

(b) (6)

(b) (6)

(b) (6)

iPhone

On Sep 15, 2022, at 11:49 AM, Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6) wrote:

FYI, Srinath Reddy in discussing the epidemiology of the pandemic did not get into the Sachs framework and stayed pretty much at a higher level as a public health professional.

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Sent: Thursday, September 15, 2022 11:31 AM
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) >
Subject: RE: Another attack from Republican Senators



MORENS_SUBPOENA_009927
MORENS_NIH_020437
REL0000476521

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, September 15, 2022 11:27 AM
To: Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6)
Cc: Roberts, Rich < (b) (6) Jeffrey Sturchio < (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

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Media Inquiries:

(b) (6)

(b) (6)

(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:

It's just

(b) (6)

I can tell you what he'll likely say, About how well behaved Jeff was at the press event, but no mentions or apologies for past horrors

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

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REL0000476521

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

Media Inquiries:

(b) (6)

(b) (6)

(b) (6)

iPhone

On Sep 15, 2022, at 9:10 AM, Roberts, Rich < (b) (6) > wrote:

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



MORENS_SUBPOENA_009930
MORENS_NIH_020440
REL0000476521

240 County Road

Ipswich, MA 01938-2723

USA

Tel: (978) (b) (6)

Fax: (978) 412 9910

email: (b) (6)

From: Hotez, Peter Jay < (b) (6)
Sent: Thursday, September 15, 2022 7:57 AM
To: Jeffrey Sturchio < (b) (6) >
Cc: Peter Daszak < (b) (6) >; Keusch, Gerald T < (b) (6) David Morens < (b) (6) >; Roberts, Rich < (b) (6) >; Aleksei Chmura < (b) (6) >
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)

(b) (6)

(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) Aleksei Chmura



MORENS_SUBPOENA_009932
MORENS_NIH_020442
REL0000476521

< (b) (6) >; Jeff Sturchio < (b) (6)
Subject: Re: Another attack from Republican Senators

It's awful, here are my quotes in the Washington Post tonight

https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.washingtonpost.com%2Fhealth%2F2022%
covid-commission-report-who%2F
&data=05%7C01%7Cdmorens%40niaid.nih.gov%7Cdccb9a5e93bd4342146008db8a0f2cc3%7C14b77578977342d585
&sdata=kLe7Ore9X7%2F4CNf%2F2YZCxkUJoZL1gMYzpEYsoFC5KfQ%3D &reserved=0

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

Texas Children's Hospital: Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics |
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| 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)
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, 22 May 2020 6:43:24 PM -0400
**Sent:** Fri, 22 May 2020 6:43:23 PM -0400
**Subject:** Peter you are on pbs newshour.
**From:** David Morens < (b) (6)
**To:** Peter Daszak < (b) (6) Gerald Keusch < (b) (6) Aleksei Chmura < (b) (6) Jeffery Taubenberger < (b) (6)

---

Also discussed the 1977 release of h1n1. Sort of s mixed story. You should get a transcript ofit. D

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



MORENS_NIH_018132
REL0000476530

**Date:** Sun, 7 Apr 2024 10:53:39 AM -0400
**Subject:** Re: EcoHealth's statement circulated by NIH O/D
**From:** David Morens < (b) (6)
**To:** Peter Daszak < (b) (6)
**CC:** Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6) peter hotez <(b) (6) Roberts, Rich < (b) (6)
Jeffrey Sturchio < (b) (6) Aleksei Chmura < (b) (6) Keith Martin
< (b) (6)

---

Thanks, and best of luck with all this. I am hoping we are seeing light at the end of the tunnel

FYI. on Thursday I got a voicemail that a process server wanted to speak to me about being served, no indication about what. Both my personal lawyer and the one handling my SSCP stuff though it was very strange. I have nothing legal going on except the SSCP fiasco.

Benzine and my lawyer agreed in my presence that if I was subpoenaed it would go to the lawyer not to me, and my lawyer thought he would not break that agreement, so this might be from someone else like Sen. Paul. My lawyer tried to follow up on the voice mail to ask for details but no one has yet returned his message.
dmm
From the cell phone of David Morens

On Sun, Apr 7, 2024, 09:30 Peter Daszak (b) (6) > wrote:

> Great to hear that David. I purposefully included the phrase "fully in compliance" to make sure Michael Lauer and others are reminded that their continued harassment is going to be challenged.
>
> I've also reached out to Jon Cohen, Jocelyn Kaiser and Jeffrey Mervis at *Science* and Michael Hiltzik at the LA Times with off-the-record full details about the NIH issues we're going through. Jeffrey Mervis did the full expose of Michael Lauer's attacks on Chinese American scientists with often false allegations of financial impropriety (https://www.science.org/content/article/pall-suspicion-nihs-secretive-china-initiative-destroyed-scores-academic-careers). I don't know if they'll do a story on this or add it to the news re. my public hearing when they write about that. I will pass your names on as potential commentators, and we'll make limited comments to them, bearing in mind we're under NIH's thumb.
>
> Cheers,
>
> Peter


MORENS_SUBPOENA_013883
MORENS_NIH_026349
REL0000476534

**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, April 6, 2024 3:52 PM
**To:** Peter (b) (6) Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6) >; peter hotez <(b) (6) >; Roberts, Rich <(b) (6) Jeffrey Sturchio (b) (6) Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) >
**Subject:** Fwd: EcoHealth Alliance Statement Concerning SSCP Comments as Reported by Fox News

Circulated thru niaid od. d

From the cell phone of David Morens

---------- Forwarded message ---------
From: **Folkers, Greg (NIH/NIAID) [C]** (b) (6)
Date: Sat, Apr 6, 2024, 14:54
Subject: EcoHealth Alliance Statement Concerning SSCP Comments as Reported by Fox News
To:



MORENS_SUBPOENA_013884
MORENS_NIH_026350
REL0000476534

# EcoHealth Alliance Statement Concerning SSCP Comments as Reported by Fox News

**April 6, 2024** – EcoHealth Alliance shares the interest of members of the Select Subcommittee on the Coronavirus Pandemic (SSCP) reported in a Fox News article on Thursday (https://www.foxnews.com/politics/covid- origins-ecohealth-alliance-president-testify-publicly-congress-next-month) in ensuring that reporting requirements on Federal grants are met so that grantee organizations are held accountable to the American people. This is precisely why EHA has cooperated fully with all inquiries into our use of Federal funds to carry out our mission to reduce the threat of future outbreaks, and prevent future pandemics.

We note that the HHS Office of the Inspector General (OIG), in its audit of EHA's and NIH's grant oversight and compliance, did not find significant issues and summarized its findings as follows: "EcoHealth had steps in place to conduct risk assessments of its subrecipients, and also had standardized checklists to document routine monitoring of its subrecipients." The NIH's Division of Financial Advisory Services subsequently informed EHA that all of the findings of the HHS OIG audit have now been resolved, indicating that EHA is fully in compliance. We look forward to the hearing on May 1, when we will have an opportunity to clarify misunderstandings about EHA's reporting on its Federal grants.

***Press contact***: communications@ecohealthalliance.org

**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: Sun, 7 Aug 2022 3:36:46 PM -0400
Sent: Sun, 7 Aug 2022 3:36:39 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) >;

I don't know this group but they seem like extreme lefties who endorse Richard Ebright? Maybe that's who is feeding Sachs?

**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_009317
MORENS_NIH_019767
REL0000476535

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: (978) (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)
Linkedin Peter Hotez



MORENS_SUBPOENA_009318
MORENS_NIH_019768
REL0000476535

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 7, 2022 at 1:32:42 PM CDT
**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.**

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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) (b) (6)





MORENS_SUBPOENA_009319
MORENS_NIH_019769
REL0000476535

**Date:** Fri, 19 Apr 2024 8:12:36 PM -0400
**Sent:** Fri, 19 Apr 2024 8:09:40 PM -0400
**Subject:** Today's news...
**From:** Peter Daszak < (b) (6)
**To:** (b) (6) < (b) (6) Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6) Jeff Sturchio < (b) (6) >; Roberts, Rich <(b) (6) Hotez, Peter Jay < (b) (6) (b) (6)
**CC:** Aleksei Chmura < (b) (6) John Feigelson < (b) (6)
**Attachments:** image005.png; image006.jpg; image007.jpg

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) (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
>
> @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



MORENS_SUBPOENA_000076
MORENS_NIH_000104
REL0000476538

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( (b) (6)
'Roberts, Rich' <(b) (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, 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

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) , 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



MORENS_SUBPOENA_000080
MORENS_NIH_000108
REL0000476538

**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 (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) )' (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-



MORENS_SUBPOENA_000082
MORENS_NIH_000110
REL0000476538

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 Chinese researchers but silent on what provoked it....what was the question I was left with--Why did NIH do all this?

MH



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MORENS_NIH_000111
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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



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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*

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

| | |
|---|---|
| **Date:** | Tue, 31 May 2022 10:37:16 AM -0400 |
| **Sent:** | Tue, 31 May 2022 10:34:58 AM -0400 |
| **Subject:** | Jeffrey Sachs peddling his BS in the Boston Globe today |
| **From:** | Peter Daszak < (b) (6) |
| **To:** | David Morens < (b) (6) Roberts, Rich < (b) (6) |
| **CC:** | Keusch, Gerald T < (b) (6) Hotez, Peter Jay < (b) (6) Jeff Sturchio (b) (6) |
| **Attachments:** | image001.jpg |

As predicted, Jeffrey Sachs has now re-hashed his PNAS op ed into a Boston Globe op ed, replete with a picture of a CoV and some human stitching on the Spike protein (I kid you not – see below)…

https://www.bostonglobe.com/2022/05/31/opinion/questions-surrounding-origins-covid-19-remain-unanswered/?event=event12

It's behind a paywall, so I've inserted the full text below.

It's still full of errors. His goal is to push the Democrats to call for a bipartisan 'investigation' into EHA, UNC and other US orgs.

Reads like a call for the 'Witchfinder General' to get their pliers and racks together – farcical really, and all based on a tissue of misinformed BS.

By the way Jerry, this is the same Boston Globe that wouldn't consider your Op Ed!

Cheers,

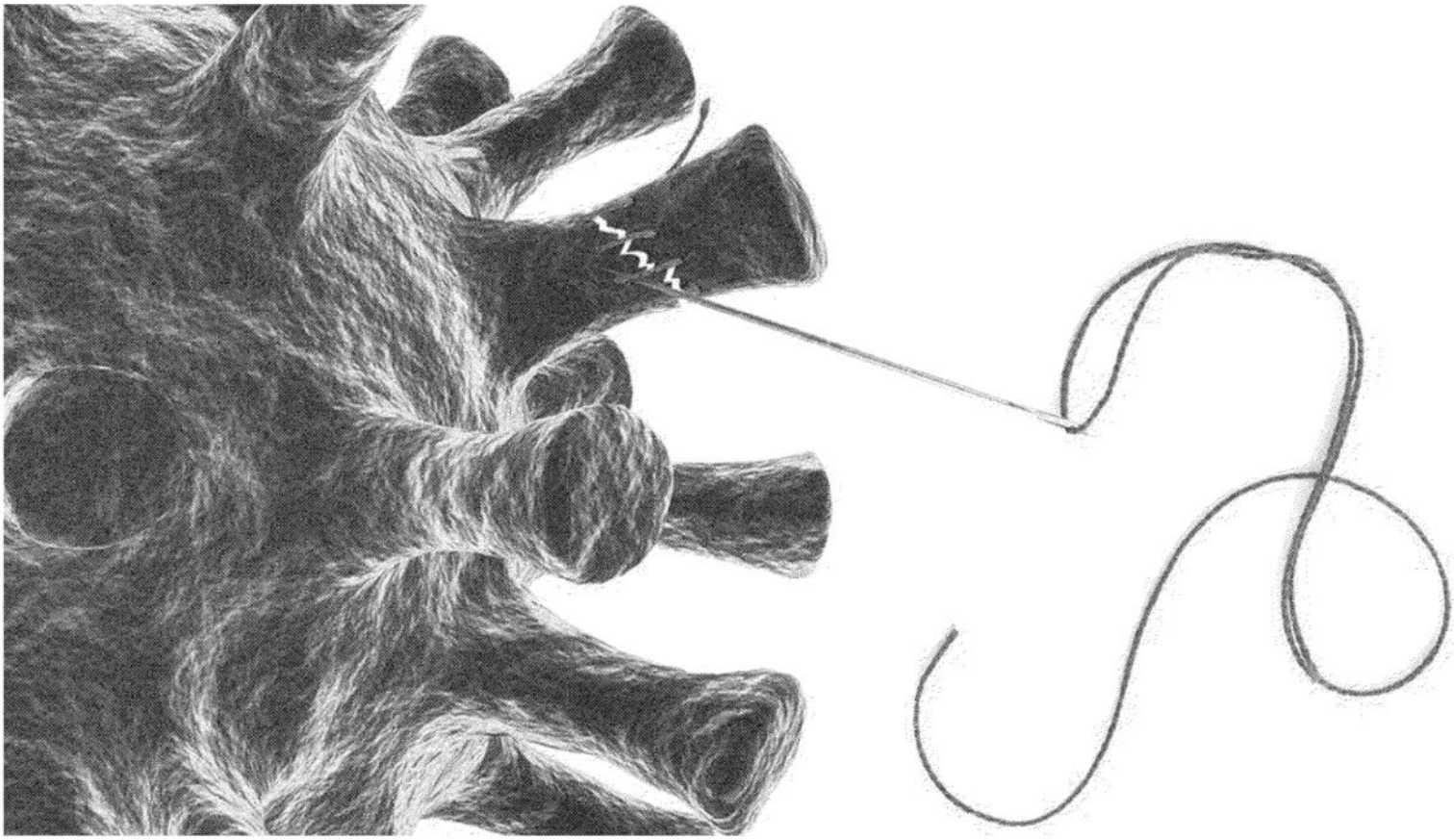
Peter

OPINION

# Questions surrounding the origins of COVID-19 remain unanswered

## Why did some components of the Intelligence Community lean toward a laboratory release as the source of the pandemic?

**By Jeffrey D. Sachs and Neil L. Harrison** Updated May 31, 2022, 3:00 a.m.



GLOBE STAFF ILLUSTRATION; JEROME CRONENBERGER/AFRICA STUDIO/ADOBE

It's not yet clear whether the SARS-CoV-2 virus that causes COVID-19 was created in a laboratory or emerged from nature; there is still no decisive evidence for either alternative. To find out, we have recently called for an independent and transparent investigation into the possible role that US biotechnology played in the emergence of the virus.

Americans have heard a lot about the possibility that Chinese laboratories played a role in the emergence of the pandemic, but very little about the role US organizations might have played. When President Biden tasked the US Intelligence Community with determining the origin of SARS-CoV-2, it found that either "a laboratory-associated incident" or a "natural origin" was possible. The IC said that China should cooperate more to find the truth, but did not make clear, or perhaps did not fully realize, the role that US science might have played in the origin of the virus. More important, the IC didn't present the details of its inquiry for independent scientific scrutiny. We don't know whether the IC's analysis was comprehensive or superficial.

The origins of the COVID-19 pandemic remain unknown, but may have had an assist from advanced US biotechnology. We do know this: The National Institutes of Health, which funded a lot of potentially hazardous and under-regulated laboratory manipulation of SARS-like viruses, has been less than transparent. And that's stating matters politely. The NIH has done its part to throw scientists and the public off track regarding the US-based and funded research.

The SARS-CoV-2 virus is so easily transmitted because it has an unusual sequence within its genetic code that makes the virus more infectious than other related viruses (including the original SARS virus from the 2003 outbreak). The key is the presence of a so-called Furin Cleavage Site that enhances the ability of the virus to enter and infect human cells.



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>From the early days of the pandemic, scientists have wondered how an FCS got into the SARS-CoV-2 genome, since it is the only virus among the group of SARS-like viruses that has an FCS. Other more distant relatives, such as the virus that causes the Middle East Respiratory Syndrome, have an FCS, but these other viruses are quite distant from SARS-CoV-2 in terms of evolution.

Did the FCS evolve naturally, or was it put into the virus by a laboratory manipulation? This may seem an odd question. Wouldn't that be a very dangerous thing to do? The answer is yes, it could definitely be dangerous, especially without proper safeguards. Yet remarkably, inserting an FCS was an aim of a US-China research team, using biotechnology developed by US scientists.

In a Project DEFUSE research proposal to the US government from the University of North Carolina, the EcoHealth Alliance, and the Wuhan Institute of Virology, the team wrote, "We will analyze all SARSr-CoV S gene sequences for appropriately conserved proteolytic cleavage sites in S2 and for the presence of potential Furin Cleavage Sites. . . . Where clear mismatches occur, we will introduce appropriate human-specific cleavage sites and evaluate growth potential in Vero cells and HAE cultures." Much of this work was to be carried out in a Wuhan laboratory with a low level of biosafety control.

In plain English, the researchers would look for FCS in viruses, and when they didn't occur naturally, would insert them. Notably, the UNC-EHA-WIV team also mentioned ">180 bat SARSr-Cov strains sequenced in our prior work and not yet examined for spillover potential." These sequences have not been made public.

Why would scientists propose such dangerous work? As one of the leaders of this research at UNC wrote in an editorial in 2018, "the study of zoonotic and human CoV [coronaviruses] outside of their natural host often times requires genetic manipulation and GOF to be useful." GOF, meaning "gain-of-function," is research in which the coronavirus is manipulated in the laboratory and then tested for its ability to infect cells and reproduce in tissue. It's used in drug and vaccine development.

Now, here's the thing: The DEFUSE proposal was rejected. But was the work undertaken anyway? We have no idea, but it is standard procedure to carry out preliminary work, or even a whole project, whether or not a particular grant is accepted. And in truth, the DEFUSE proposal is part of a much larger, and still hidden, research agenda overseen by the NIH. When the NIH was asked to release its 2020 Strategic Plan for COVID-19 Research, it did so — with all 290 pages fully blanked out.

The fact is that NIH has not told the American people, or the scientific community, what it knows about the origins of SARS-CoV-2. In a conference call call on Feb. 1, 2020, NIH leaders heard top virologists explain why the FCS in SARS-CoV-2 indicated the possibility of laboratory manipulation of the virus. Yet just a few days later, NIH encouraged a team of scientists to prepare a paper declaring a natural origin of the virus. Subsequently, NIH has resisted the release of critical documentation and dragged its feet until forced to make disclosures under Freedom of Information Act lawsuits, often providing only highly redacted materials.

The Biden administration and the scientific community need to do better. What work did NIH, DOD, and other US agencies fund that might have contributed to the emergence of SARS-CoV-2? When did agencies of the USG first learn of the virus? What evidence might there be in the United States in the form of laboratory notes, electronic communications, virus databases, and other troves of information, that can shed light on this matter? Why did some components of the Intelligence Community lean toward a laboratory release as the source of the pandemic?

There has been enough obfuscation and foot-dragging. Let's open the books and get the facts from US organizations to see what light they can shed on the origin of this tragic global disaster.

*Jeffrey D. Sachs is university professor at Columbia University. Neil L. Harrison is a professor at Columbia University.*



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

**From:** David Morens <(b) (6)
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 24, 2022 6:37 PM
**To:** Roberts, Rich <(b) (6)
**Cc:** Keusch, Gerald T (b) (6) ; Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6) Jeff Sturchio (b) (6) Peter Daszak (b) (6) ) (6)
**Subject:** Re: Jeff Sachs' comments to Rich

Colleagues, I will be polite snd point out that this sort of behavior from Sachs is not new. Too bad, because he is a smart guy....

Good that you will rebut this. Peter D has never stabbed a colleague in the back nor has he ever twisted the truth to undercut others. He still stands on the moral high ground. d

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

> On May 24, 2022, at 17:57, Roberts, Rich (b) (6) > wrote:
>
> Jerry:
>
> That is good.
>
> I will reply to Jeff in a day or so and point out some of his specific errors (as documented in Peter's email). I was especially offended by his remarks about Peter D., which not only were unnecessarily disparaging but totally at odds with my experience.
>
> Rich
>
> Richard J. Roberts
> New England Biolabs
> 240 County Road
> Ipswich, MA 01938-2723
> USA
> Tel: (978) (b) (6)
> Fax: (978) 412 9910
> email:(b) (6)
>
> **From:** Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6)
> **Sent:** Tuesday, May 24, 2022 10:42 AM
> **To:** Roberts, Rich (b) (6) >; Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6) u>; David Morens (b) (6)
> Jeff Sturchio <(b) (6) >
> **Cc:** Peter Daszak (b) (6)
> **Subject:** RE: Jeff Sachs' comments to Rich
>
> **EXTERNAL SENDER**
>
> As a signer of the Lancet letter in February 2020, the author of a follow up letter to Lancet in July 2021 (Science, not speculation, is essential to determine how SARS-CoV-2 reached humans) with 23 other signatories to the 2020 letter, a member of the infamous (soon to be famous) disbanded Lancet Task Force and the Independent Task Force which followed and has just yesterday submitted an invited Perspectives to PNAS about the pandemic (incidentally meeting the charge the Lancet Task Force had) I am one of those who advised Peter D not to personally respond. I agree with Peter D that it will not be positive or

productive to argue and rather hope to see others pick it up and dispute the ignorant science Sachs and Harrison include in their Opinion in PNAS (how in the world did PNAS publish that crap?) – I understand the Twitter world is already buzzing although I can't hear it personally because I am of another more ancient world civilization).

Jerry

**From:** Peter Daszak (b) (6)
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 24, 2022 8:49 AM
**To:** Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6) David Morens(b) (6) Keusch, Gerald T(b) (6) (b) >; Jeff Sturchio <j_ (b) (6)
**Cc:** Roberts, Rich (b) (6)
**Subject:** Jeff Sachs' comments to Rich
**Importance:** High

Rich reached out to Jeff Sachs to set up a call with him and he sent the response below, which Rich suggested I could share with you all.

I think, unfortunately, you're right Peter that he holds a grudge against me re. the way I pushed back against his efforts to remove me from the Taskforce, which is a shame, and he seems to have re-hashed his memory of what happened in a way that's unfortunate.

However, he also lays out below his rationale for his Op Ed, and again, it's riddled with errors or misconceptions that I've addressed with brief bullets in the body of his email below. It also shows that he's clearly bought into the lab leak theory hook, line and sinker. It's very worrying to see that, but this is the problem with beguiling conspiratorial narratives like these. To counter them, you have to explain complex science, and the convoluted way science is funded and conducted. The simplest, most exciting story often wins out.

Given the animosity in his email, the fact that Jeff's so well-known, and that his op ed calls for a "fair and balanced" investigation into COVID origins, I don't think EcoHealth 'wins' if I'm involved in a rebuttal to the PNAS paper. Others I've spoken with also suggest it would just amplify the attack. However, I would strongly encourage any of you to think about writing some sort of response either in PNAS or another form, and I'd be happy to provide facts and supporting documents for the many, many errors in his piece.

Please read his email below and my responses, I expect the lines of attack he puts forward will be used elsewhere by others, as many of them have already, and all can be easily refuted:

Cheers,

Peter

**Peter Daszak**
*President*

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Twitter: @PeterDaszak

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

**From:** Jeffrey Sachs (b) (6)
**Sent:** Saturday, May 21, 2022 9:37 PM
**To:** Roberts, Rich (b) (6)
**Cc:** Sonia E Sachs (b) (6) u>
**Subject:** Re: Your criticisms of the call for an independent investigation?

**EXTERNAL SENDER**

Dear Rich,

Thanks so much for your detailed comments.

Kindly let me share a few thoughts with you.

First, I got to know Daszak, as I invited him to chair a task force of the Lancet Covid-19 Commission. I observed close at hand that he was dishonest and untrustworthy. I had to dismiss him and disband the group that he set up. Many people associated with him also behaved very improperly, hiding their conflicts of interest and in other ways. I know that you defended him and I am absolutely sure that you did so out of the highest motives. Yet I've seen a side of Daszak that is disreputable.
***Response: The conflicts of interest are that I worked with the WIV. This was absolutely known to Jeff from the start – it's why he reached out to me in April 2020 after Trump terminated our NIH funding, literally because "we funded the lab in Wuhan". A few weeks into my work with the Lancet Commission that Jeff headed up, he received a letter from a Congressman complaining about my alleged conflicts. Jeff responded to him to explain that my experience working with Wuhan is a benefit to the commission. Both are attached above.***

Second, the EHA grant proposals are deeply disturbing. The DARPA-DEFUSE grant proposal raises the highest questions (especially pp. 10-11)
https://www.dropbox.com/s/7ds489l7l28us4t/DARPA%20defuse-proposal%20.pdf?dl=0
***Response: This is a rejected proposal from 2018 – the grant was never funded, the work was never done. The hypotheses and experiments proposed on pp 10-11 are based on well-known properties of other virus' proteolytic cleavage sites, and the (correct) idea that SARSr-CoVs might have them.***

Why did we have to wait for more than a year to know about this grant proposal – and then only through FOIA? NIH has behaved very badly and continues to do so.
***Response: The reason it wasn't made public is because no scientist in their right mind would publicly release an unfunded grant proposal – they represent your best ideas and hard work, and by releasing them, you hand over those ideas to competitors who are vying for the same sources of funding. However, it was in the possession of the US Federal agencies – it was in the files at DoD! Should the intelligence agencies have wanted to see it, they could have done so easily. Jeff's also wrong in that it was not released by FoIA because USG agencies also refuse to release unfunded proposals – they're privileged and confidential. If scientists submit proposals knowing that they might be FoIA'd, they would not submit their best ideas for fear of being scooped by rivals. The DARPA proposal was leaked by someone. Finally Jeff says NIH behaved badly, but this was a DoD proposal.***

Why did NIH redact 290 pages here? https://www.dropbox.com/s/hripmsjk3ovi5fm/nih-foia-request-55058-february-production.pdf?dl=0
***Response: Simple. The 290 pages were an attachment to an email that happened to be a draft version of NIAID's COVID-19 Strategic Plan. This was published and widely disseminated later on, but it makes total sense for NIAID to redact a version that's unfinished, so that the public don't get fed other erroneous theories based on some typos or errors in the uncorrected version.***

Third, NIH knew full well since February 1, 2020 if not earlier that a lab-leak was not only plausible, but for many leading scientists was odds-on. Yet that was deliberately covered up in the Proximal Origins paper in Nature Medicine, a paper advanced with Francis Collins' early intervention and editing. (The Proximal Origins paper is a remarkably crude whitewashing of the question – claiming that SARS-CoV-2 was "irrefutably" not from a known SARS-CoV backbone -- citing a 2014 (!!!) paper (see footnote 20, which gives away the game).
***Response: It's just simply not true (and never has been) that many leading scientists view the lab leak theory as 'odds-on'. Neither was the theory deliberately covered up – it was debated and put to bed, that's why people changed their opinions from FoIA'd emails wherein they noticed the FCS and suggested it could indicate a lab origin, to the final paper wherein they had spent time debating the veracity of this with colleagues – that's how science should work. Ref. 20 is about how FCS arises in nature in avian flu, following prolonged passage of a mild strain. This plausibly could have happened when a bat-CoV circulated repeatedly in an amplifier host or in people prior to emerging with a full FCS. SARS-CoV circulated for months before emergence in China, so it's more plausible than months of lab passage for a virus that was never in the lab (we had all the sequences of all known bat-CoVs).***

Fourth, even Baric has joined the call for an investigation. He has been the relentless champion of the genetic re-engineering of SARS-CoV viruses, and he trained Shi Zhengli. He has claimed that GoF is vital for drug and vaccine development. Yet GoF in a BSL2 laboratory (as in Wuhan) is a mighty risky proposition.
***Response: The work in WIV that EHA collaborated on was definitively not gain-of-function. It was reviewed by NIH before we did it and they're the organization of note to do this. Their decision and the rationale has been made public and fits exactly with the published P3CO rules. This has been stated over and over again, but I guess Jeff just somehow disagrees with the authority to decide whether an expt is GoF or not!. In any case, none of the viruses at WIV were anywhere close to SARS-CoV-2, as published by us in Latinne et al. Nature Comms. 2020. Finally, the BSL argument is clearly false. The animal experiments that Jeff is alluding to here were conducted at BSL-3. The in vitro work at BSL-2 is the standard in China, just as it is in the USA for Cedar virus with a Hendra spike protein – something that's BSL4 in Australia. If we work with a lab in China, we cannot impose US law on them. NIH approved that work.***


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Fifth, I am not much persuaded that the presence of an FCS in some coronaviruses means all that much when: (a) no FCS is known in a sarbecoronavirus; (b) UNC-WIV planned to insert an FCS into a library of so-far undocumented SARS-CoVs; and (3) no single animal in China, in >80,000 tested, has carried SARS-CoV-2.
***Response: this has been widely debunked. A) The site where FCS is found in the SARS-CoV-2 spike has mutations in many of the closely related bat-CoVs that show it is 'evolvable' and could easily mutate into a full FCS. B) UNC planned to insert FCS in 2018, but the grant wasn't funded, the work wasn't done. C) the sample of 80,000 animals includes before and after the pandemic, zoo animals, animals known refractive to SARSr-CoVs (e.g. salamanders). No group of a single species known to harbor SARSr-CoVs from this sample is of a size large enough to give statistical power to rule out infection.***

In short, I believe that we need an independent investigation because:
(1) The virus could have emerged in a BSL2 based on the research promised in the DARPA-DEFUSE grant proposal
***Response: yes it could have, but not based on a grant that wasn't funded***

(2) NIH knows this very well, but has never admitted it or supported a public review
***Response: I don't know how anyone can second guess what NIH knows. However, they have publicly stated that they support continued efforts to identify the origin***

(3) We should therefore have a long-overdue transparent stock-taking of what the US organizations (NIH, EHA, UNC, DOD, IC, others) actually know
***Response: I think I've told everyone all I 'actually know' about 100 times over. What Jeff Sachs is actually proposing is an invasive witch hunt whereby my private emails and files are published for the right wing press to spend another 2 years canceling out our organization.***

(4) The Intelligence Community is itself divided on the issue, which some agencies leaning towards a lab leak. Why do some IC agencies lean towards a lab release?
***Response: Not true. Prior to Biden's 90 day intel review, only a few intel agencies expressed an opinion: 2 agencies concluded 'natural' origins were more likely and 1 concluded lab leak more likely. After the review 4 agencies considered 'natural' origins more likely and 1 concluded lab leak more likely. Confidence in conclusion was low throughout, but there was a distinct shift suggesting intelligence supports natural over lab leak.***

All best wishes and with very warm regards,
Jeff

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**Date:** Mon, 21 Jun 2021 1:40:14 PM -0400
**Sent:** Mon, 21 Jun 2021 1:40:10 PM -0400
**Subject:** RE: CONFIDENTIAL WITHIN OUR SMALL GROUP, PLEASE
**From:** Karen Goraleski <(b) (6)
**To:** Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] <(b) (6) Rosenthal, Philip (Infectious Diseases) <Philip.(b) (6) (b) (6) (b) (6) (b) (6) (b) (6) (b) (6) Peter Daszak <(b) (6) Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6) Roberts, Rich <(b) (6)

---

Thanks for this, David. Hard not to respect and be inspired by truth-tellers.
Karen

-----Original Message-----
From: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] <(b) (6) >
Sent: Thursday, June 17, 2021 1:19 PM
To: Karen Goraleski <(b) (6) >; Rosenthal, Philip (Infectious Diseases) <(b) (6) >; (b) (6) (b) (6) Jeffkt11@gmail.com; (b) (6) Daniel (b) (6) Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >; Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6) Roberts, Rich <(b) (6)
Subject: CONFIDENTIAL WITHIN OUR SMALL GROUP, PLEASE

Dear ASTMH Colleagues,

The attached request for document production from 5 US Senators relates to some of the issues we have been dealing with over the past year, focusing on the origins of COVID-19, the terminat6ion of NIH's major sarbecovirus grant, and related issues.

It requests documents from myself and the senior leadership of NIAID, and also mentions two other ASTMH members.

As you may know, NIH correspondence between me and others, including my boss, concerning COVID-19 origins, had previously been FOIA'd and published in the press.

This request is NOT A FOIA, and I have not yet been asked to respond directly because, presumably, HHS is deciding how to respond, if at all.

Nevertheless, a couple things should be said here....

First, I have retained very few emails or documents on these matters, and continue to request that correspondence on sensitive issues be sent to me at my gmail address, (b) (6)

I have tried to make sure I have retained no documents that might lead other members of ASTMH to be approached for similar document production. The exception is normal correspondence surrounding last year's publication in AJTMH of the two pieces on this subject. There is NO PROBLEM with those publications, and no reason to worry, since the papers were published and are widely available in the public domain, and I, as a co-author on one of those papers, have made my views widely known in a variety of venues in the press and in public.

My feeling about this is that I have nothing to hide or worry about, and that my views are based on scientific evidence, and I am comfortable in explaining and defending those. Furthermore, I am comfortable in defending the importance of the work done in terminated grant and why I believe this work must continue. I feel certain that the leadership here agrees with this.

So, in other words, I don't think there is anything to worry about because there is no "there" there.

But this is yet another reminder that it is important to speak up as scientists on critically important issues of the day. ASTMH can be proud that we have spoken up about these matters in the past, and I hope we will continue to do so.

Thanks, David Morens

--
David M Morens
(b) (6)



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MORENS_NIH_041037
REL0000476549

Date: Fri, 24 Mar 2023 9:32:46 AM -0400

Sent: Fri, 24 Mar 2023 9:32:41 AM -0400

Subject: RE: Daily Caller: EXCLUSIVE: Sen. Rand Paul, Rep. Chip Roy To Introduce Legislation To Eliminate Fauci's NIAID

From: Jeffrey Sturchio < (b) (6) >

To: David Morens < (b) (6) >; Keusch, Gerald T < (b) (6) Peter Daszak < (b) (6) >; peter hotez < (b) (6) Roberts, Rich < (b) (6) >; Aleksei Chmura < (b) (6) >;

This is madness! Yet another reason why the Biden Administration should have appointed a strong new Director of NIH some time ago.

JLS

---

**From:** David Morens < (b) (6)
**Sent:** Friday, March 24, 2023 9:27 AM
**To:** Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] < (b) (6) Keusch, Gerald T < (b) (6) Peter Daszak < (b) (6) peter hotez <(b) (6) Roberts, Rich < (b) (6) Jeffrey Sturchio < (b) (6) Aleksei Chmura < (b) (6)
**Subject:** Re: Daily Caller: EXCLUSIVE: Sen. Rand Paul, Rep. Chip Roy To Introduce Legislation To Eliminate Fauci's NIAID

From the cell phone of David Morens

On Fri, Mar 24, 2023, 09:17 Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] <(b) (6) :

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

**From:** "Folkers, Greg (NIH/NIAID) [C]" (b) (6) ov >
**Date:** March 23, 2023 at 20:33:18 EDT
**Subject: Daily Caller: EXCLUSIVE: Sen. Rand Paul, Rep. Chip Roy To Introduce Legislation To Eliminate Fauci's NIAID**

# EXCLUSIVE: Sen. Rand Paul, Rep. Chip Roy To Introduce Legislation To Eliminate Fauci's NIAID

Photo by Chip Somodevilla/Getty Images
● Henry Rodgers Chief National Correspondent
March 23, 2023 9:44 AM ET
Republican Kentucky Sen. Rand Paul and Texas Rep. Chip Roy will introduce legislation Thursday that would eliminate the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID).
The Daily Caller first obtained a copy of the bill, which is titled the NIH Reform Act. The bill would specifically

replace the NIAID with three separate national research institutes that would be led by directors subject to Senate confirmation and limited to no more than two 5-year terms.

The three new institutes would be the National Institute of Allergic Diseases, the National Institute of Infectious Diseases, and the National Institute of Immunologic Diseases. The directors of each new institute would be appointed by the president, subject to Senate confirmation, and limited to no more than two 5-year terms.

"We've learned a lot over the past few years, but one lesson in particular is that no one person should be deemed 'dictator-in-chief.' No one person should have unilateral authority to make decisions for millions of Americans," Paul told the Daily Caller before introducing the legislation. **(RELATED: Rand Paul Introduces Legislation To Repeal Federal Mask Mandate For Public Transportation)**

"To ensure that ineffective, unscientific lockdowns and mandates are never foisted on the American people ever again, I've introduced this bill to eliminate Dr. Anthony Fauci's previous position as Director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases and divide the role into three separate new institutes. This will create accountability and oversight into a taxpayer funded position that has largely abused its power and has been responsible for many failures and misinformation during the COVID-19 pandemic," he added.

**READ THE LEGISLATION HERE:**

(DAILY CALLER OBTAINED) — ... by Henry Rodgers

"From the earliest days of the pandemic, unaccountable public health bureaucracies proved themselves far more adept at ruining lives than saving them. Never again should a single individual, like Dr. Anthony Fauci, wield unchecked power and influence over the lives of the American people. Breaking up Dr. Fauci's taxpayer funded bully pulpit into three separate agencies — and requiring Senate confirmation for all their future directors — is one of many actions necessary to allow the American people to hold public health agencies accountable," Roy, who introduced an identical House version of the bill, said in a statement. **(RELATED: EXCLUSIVE: Sen. Rand Paul Demands NIH Preserve All Documents, Communications In Fauci's Possession)**

The legislation is currently cosponsored by Utah Sen. Mike Lee, Tennessee Sen. Marsha Blackburn, Indiana Sen. Mike Braun and Missouri Sen. Josh Hawley.

**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, 29 Feb 2024 10:56:20 AM -0500
Sent: Thu, 29 Feb 2024 10:56:17 AM -0500
Subject: RE: WSJ/Nicolas Wade: Where Did Covid Come From?
From: "Roberts, Rich" <(b) (6)
To: Jeffrey Sturchio <(b) (6) David Morens <(b) (6) Peter Daszak <(b) (6)>; Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6) peter hotez <(b) (6) Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6)>;

He probably didn't note that I told him he was full of BS when he asked me about his theory.

Rich

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

Executive Assistant: (b) (6)
Tel: (978) (b) (6)
Fax: (978) 412 9910
email: (b) (6)

---

**From:** Jeffrey Sturchio <(b) (6)
**Sent:** Thursday, February 29, 2024 10:47 AM
**To:** David Morens <(b) (6)>; Peter Daszak <(b) (6) Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6) peter hotez <(b) (6) Roberts, Rich <(b) (6) Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6)>
**Subject:** RE: WSJ/Nicolas Wade: Where Did Covid Come From?

EXTERNAL SENDER

This is the critical fulcrum of Wade's evidence-free argument: "After Darpa turned down the DEFUSE proposal in February 2019, the researchers in Wuhan might have secured Chinese government funding and gone ahead by themselves." So – his entire argument is spun up from a speculation.

JLS

---

**From:** David Morens <d(b) (6) m>
**Sent:** Thursday, February 29, 2024 10:09 AM
**To:** Peter Daszak <(b) (6) Keusch, Gerald T (b) (6)>; peter hotez (b) (6) ; Roberts, Rich <(b) (6) Jeffrey Sturchio <(b) (6)>; Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6)>
**Subject:** Fwd: WSJ/Nicolas Wade: Where Did Covid Come From?

This stuff never freaking 'ends. dmm

From the cell phone of David Morensl

--------- Forwarded message --------
From: **Folkers, Greg (NIH/NIAID) [C]** (b) (6)
Date: Thu, Feb 29, 2024, 09:57
Subject: WSJ/Nicolas Wade: Where Did Covid Come From?
To:

# Where Did Covid Come From?

## New documents bolster the theory that it not only escaped from a laboratory but was developed in one.

By Nicholas Wade
Feb. 28, 2024 12:47 pm ET

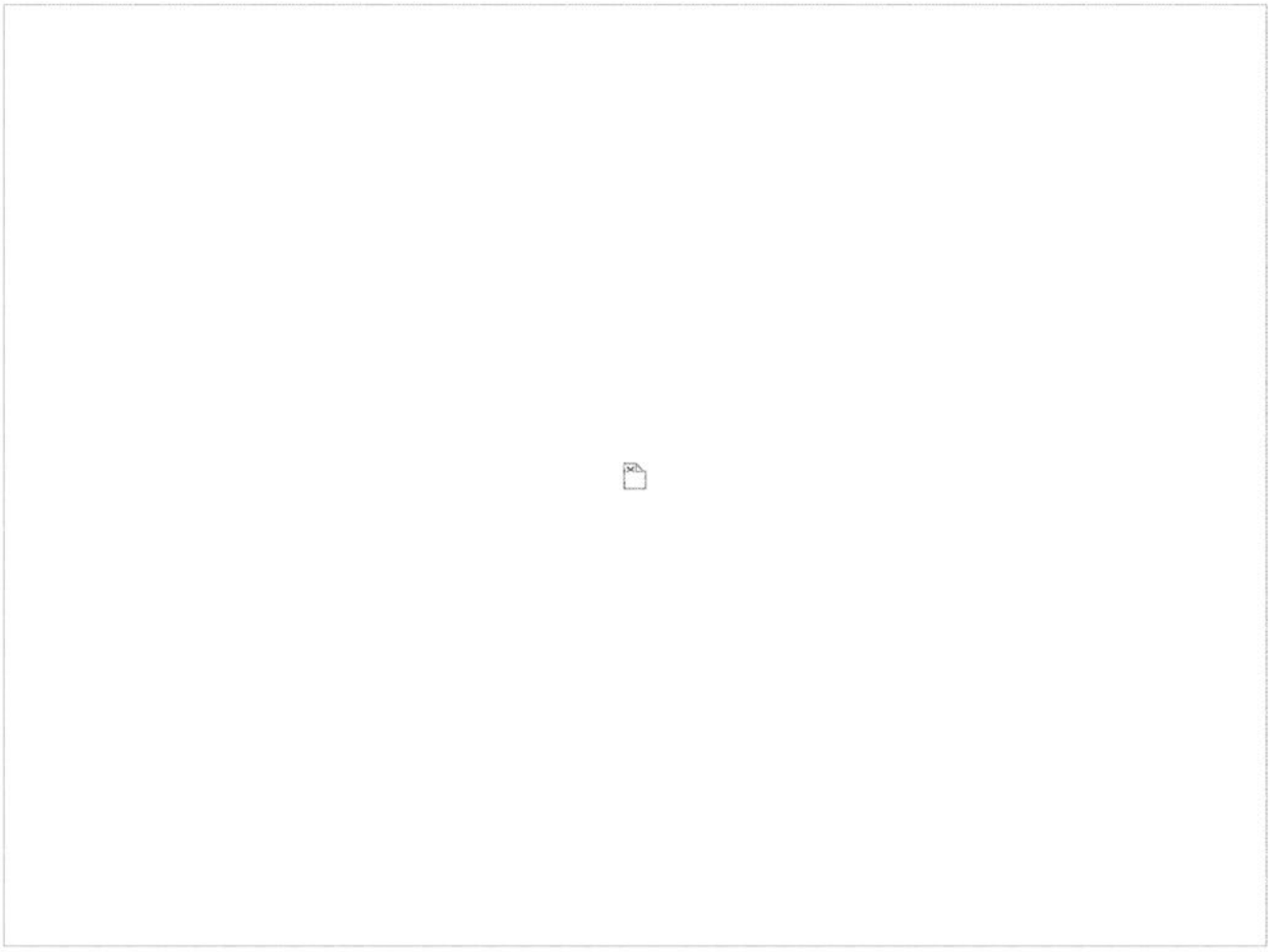

Illustration: Martin Kozlowski
In the four years since the SARS-CoV-2 virus was unleashed on the world, data have steadily accumulated



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REL0000476551

supporting the hypothesis that it emerged from a laboratory. The latest information, released last month, makes a formidable case that the virus is the product of laboratory synthesis, not of nature.

This startling fact will probably take some time to sink into the national consciousness, given the mainstream media's sustained inability to report the issue objectively. Editors have failed to think beyond the extreme politicization that requires liberals to oppose the lab-leak hypothesis. Science journalists are too beholden to their sources to suspect that virologists would lie to them about the extent of their profession's responsibility for a catastrophic pandemic.

Here are some salient facts that haven't been clearly reported to readers of the mainstream press:

In March 2018 a team of American and Chinese virologists applied to the Pentagon's Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency, known as Darpa, seeking a $14 million grant to manipulate viruses related to SARS-CoV-1, the bat virus that caused a minor epidemic in 2002. Their goal was to identify bat viruses in Asia with the highest potential for jumping to people and to immunize bats so they wouldn't infect soldiers in the region.

The proposal for Project DEFUSE specified that the viruses' infectivity would be enhanced by inserting into them a genetic element known as a furin cleavage site. Depending on the starting viruses, this protocol could have produced SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes Covid-19, which has a distinctive furin cleavage site.

In 2022 three biologists, Valentin Bruttel, Alex Washburne and Antonius VanDongen, guessed that if SARS-CoV-2 had been generated in a lab by a standard method, it would have been assembled from six sections of lab-synthesized DNA with the help of a biological agent called BsmBI. On analyzing the virus's structure, they found evidence for the seams between sections and other distinctive marks of the assembly process.

Their paper was derided as "kindergarten molecular biology" by the virologists who are favorites of the mainstream press for their opposition to the lab-leak hypothesis. But a batch of documents reveal new details about the DEFUSE proposal and confirm that the three authors were on target. Emily Kopp of U.S. Right to Know obtained the documents through a Freedom of Information Act request from the Interior Department, having noticed that a researcher at the U.S. Geological Survey was a member of the DEFUSE team.

The new documents, which are background planning papers and drafts for the DEFUSE proposal, call for assembling SARS-like viruses from six sections of DNA, and include a cost estimate for purchase of the BsmBI restriction enzyme—exactly as the three authors had inferred. This clearly strengthens, perhaps conclusively, their contention that the virus is synthetic. Richard H. Ebright, a molecular biologist at Rutgers University, says it raises "to the level of a smoking gun" the genetic evidence that the virus was manufactured.

Other strong indicators of the virus's laboratory birth include the furin cleavage site, possessed by none of the other more than 1,500 members of its viral family with which in nature it might swap genetic material. The codons—"words" used by the genetic code to specify the units of proteins—that define the cleavage site are those preferred by humans, not coronaviruses, pointing to their likely origin in a lab kit. And whereas most viruses require repeated tries to switch from an animal host to people, SARS-CoV-2 infected humans out of the box, as if it had been preadapted while growing in the humanized mice called for in the DEFUSE protocol.

The authors of the proposal were a team led by Peter Daszak of the EcoHealth Alliance of New York, Shi Zhengli of the Wuhan Institute of Virology and Ralph Baric of the University of North Carolina. Although Mr. Baric is the leading expert on the technology, Mr. Daszak intended for much or most of the work to be done in Ms. Shi's laboratory, despite giving a different impression to Darpa. He writes in the recently discovered documents that "I do want to stress the US side of this proposal so that DARPA are comfortable with our team. Once we get the funds, we can then allocate who does what exact work, and I believe that a lot of these assays can be done in Wuhan."

Ms. Shi did most of her work with SARS-type viruses in the minimal-containment condition known as BSL2, whereas Mr. Baric, who regarded the viruses as seriously dangerous, worked in a more secure lab known as BSL3. Mr. Daszak noted that the lower-security labs would save money: "The BSL-2 nature of work on SARSr-CoVs makes our system highly cost-effective relative to other bat-virus systems." Mr. Baric replied to this comment that the viruses might be grown under BSL2 safety conditions in China, but "US researchers will likely freak out."

Mr. Daszak's EcoHealth Alliance last year asserted that the DEFUSE project was never implemented: "The proposal was not funded and the work was never done, therefore it cannot have played a role in the origin of COVID-19." But science is a competitive business. After Darpa turned down the DEFUSE proposal in February 2019, the researchers in Wuhan might have secured Chinese government funding and gone ahead by

themselves. Viruses made according to the DEFUSE protocol could have been available by the time Covid-19 broke out, sometime between August and November 2019. This would account for the otherwise unexplained timing of the pandemic along with its place of origin. (Mr. Daszak, Mr. Baric and Ms. Shi didn't respond to emails seeking comment. Chinese officials have demanded that the U.S. "stop defaming China" by raising the possibility of a lab leak.)

One piece is missing from the puzzle—the identity of the parent viruses from which SARS-CoV-2 was derived. The Chinese authorities have rigorously suppressed all information about the viruses being kept in the Wuhan Institute of Virology. But the documentary and scientific evidence already assembled seems sufficient to understand the genesis of the pandemic that killed millions.

*Mr. Wade is a former science editor of the New York Times.*

You may also like

Wonder Land: Covid-19 disrupted people's private lives. Biden addressed concerns with a $6 trillion spending spree that's had little effect on them. Images: SMG/Zuma Press/AFP/Getty Images Composite: Mark Kelly

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| | |
|---|---|
| Date: | Mon, 6 Feb 2023 5:08:58 PM -0500 |
| Sent: | Mon, 6 Feb 2023 5:08:45 PM -0500 |
| Subject: | RE: Notes from our call |
| From: | "Roberts, Rich" < (b) (6) |
| To: | Hotez, Peter Jay < (b) (6) Peter Daszak < (b) (6) >; Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6) |
| CC: | David Morens < (b) (6) Jeffrey Sturchio < (b) (6) Aleksei Chmura < (b) (6) >; |
| Attachments: | image001.jpg; image002.jpg; image003.jpg |

Peter:

Sorry, there is no God. I wanted him last week after (b) (6) to perform his miracle of turning water into wine. No luck though.

We have to help ourselves!

Rich

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

Executive Assistant: (b) (6)
Tel: (978) (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)
**Subject:** 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) u | 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



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REL0000476563

**Peter Daszak**
*President*

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
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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) u>
**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

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) >; 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)


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MORENS_NIH_035233
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- 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.: +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, 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



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**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)

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**Senior Coordinator & Executive Support:** Douglas Soriano

(b) (6) : (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) , 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) (b) (6)
Passcode: 044012
One tap mobile
(b) (6) # US (New York)
(b) (6) 4# US

Cheers,

Peter

**Peter Daszak**
*President*

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New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

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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) org >
**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

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**Senior Coordinator & Executive Support:** Douglas Soriano

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**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



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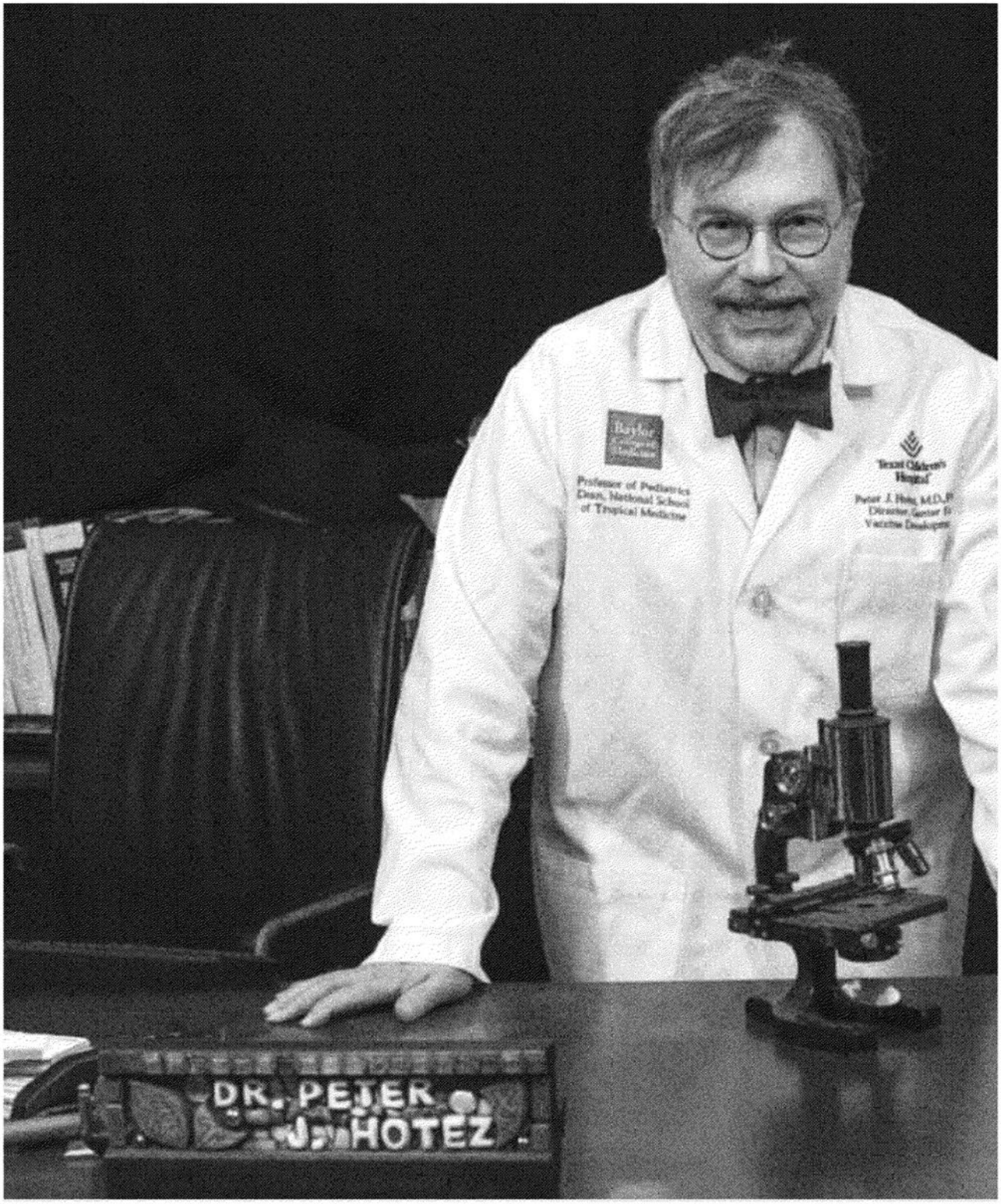


Peter Hotez (Image courtesy of Agapito Sanchez, Baylor College of Medicine)

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,



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MORENS_NIH_035238
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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.



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**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



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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 18$^{th}$-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



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

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**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) u>; 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

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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



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**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

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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



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**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 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

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*President*

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

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**From:** Roberts, Rich <r(b) (6)



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**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

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email: (b) (6)

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**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



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# officials eye more oversight of risky experiments



NELL GREENFIELDBOYCE



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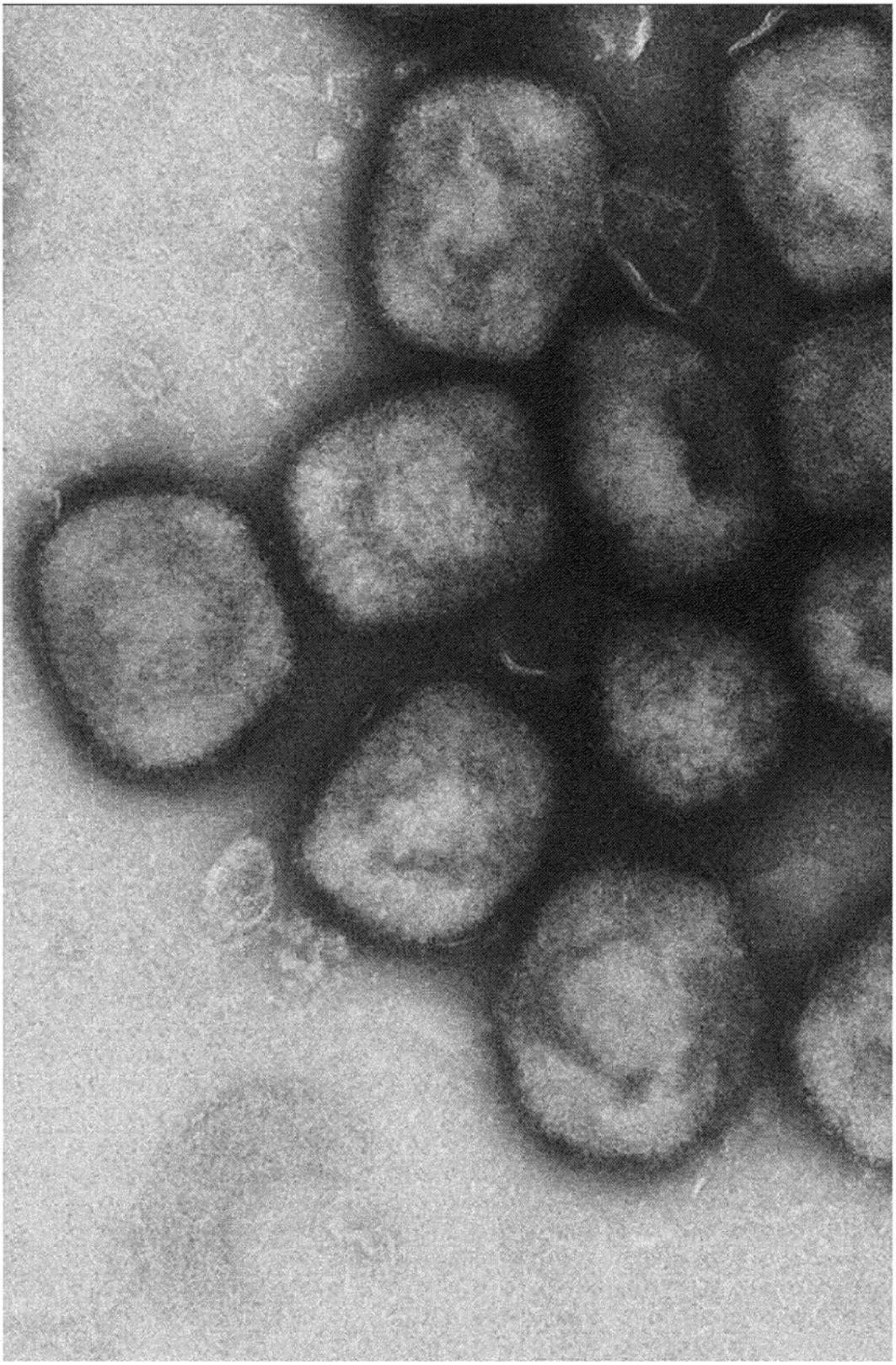

This image shows purified particles of mpox virus, formerly called monkeypox. Viruses like these can be genetically altered in the lab in ways that might make them more dangerous.

*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



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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


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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?"

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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



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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_017066
MORENS_NIH_035253
REL0000476563

**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 MinerFlux 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

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**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 <dmmorens@gmail.com>; Jeffrey Sturchio (b) (6)
Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) >; Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6)
Rich Roberts <(b) (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

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**Texas A&M University**, Faculty-Senior Fellow, Hagler Inst for Advanced Study & Scowcroft Institute of Intl Affairs

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**Media Inquiries:**

(b) (6)

iPhone

On Jan 25, 2023, at 11:35 AM, Peter Daszak (> wrote:
b

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 MinerEFlux 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 (b) (6)
(b) (6) 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 arbovirologist (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)
> Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
> Twitter: @PeterDaszak
>
> *EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation*
>
> ---
>
> **From**: Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6)



MORENS_SUBPOENA_017071
MORENS_NIH_035258
REL0000476563

**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 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

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**Texas A&M University**, Faculty-Senior Fellow, Hagler Inst for Advanced Study & Scowcroft Institute of Intl Affairs

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Amazon Author Center | Daily Beast Contributor

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

**Media Inquiries:**

(b) (6)

(b) (6)

iPhone

On Jan 25, 2023, at 9:47 AM, Peter Daszak <
(b) (6) > wrote:

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---

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*

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

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---

**From:** Jeffrey Sturchio <J (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)
**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



MinerFlux
@randy_hoebee

#Hotez pic.twitter.com/eOPpHym0Rw

1/24/23, 4:04 PM

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

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**Texas A&M University**, Faculty-Senior Fellow, Hagler Inst for Advanced Study & Scowcroft Institute of Intl Affairs

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**Media Inquiries:**

(b) (6)

iPhone



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MORENS_NIH_035262
REL0000476563

Date: Fri, 12 May 2023 10:26:50 PM -0400
Sent: Fri, 12 May 2023 10:26:38 PM -0400
Subject: RE: Michael Hiltzik's LA Times article will be live at 8am tomorrow (Friday).
From: Roberts, Rich < (b) (6)
To: (b) (6) < (b) (6) >;
Attachments: How Trump's anti-science meddling erased 3 years of crucial COVID research.pdf

Here it is

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

Executive Assistant: (b) (6)
Tel: (978) (b) (6)
Fax: (978) 412 9910
email:(b) (6)

---

**From:** (b) (6) < (b) (6)
**Sent:** Friday, May 12, 2023 7:52 PM
**To:** (b) (6) (b) (6)
**Cc:** (b) (6) (b) (6) (b) (6) Roberts, Rich < (b) (6)
(b) (6)
**Subject:** Re: Michael Hiltzik's LA Times article will be live at 8am tomorrow (Friday).

**EXTERNAL SENDER**

I cannot open it. d

Sent from Proton Mail mobile

-------- Original Message --------
On May 12, 2023, 10:28, Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6) > wrote:

> It's a terrific article
>
> **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

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**Senior Coordinator & Executive Support:** Douglas Soriano
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**Media Inquiries:**
(b) (6)

iPhone

On May 12, 2023, at 9:01 AM, John Feigelson (b) (6) > wrote:

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---

Good morning all,

The article is attached as a PDF, here. If you have any issues accessing it, please let me know.

Best,
John

On Fri, May 12, 2023 at 9:57 AM Peter Daszak <(b) (6)> wrote:

> The article is out - John my username is my email address and password is gekko2476
>
> <80.png>
> Column: How Trump's anti-science meddling erased 3 years of crucial COVID research
> latimes.com
>
> Please open this article up, print off as a pdf and share with this august group!!
>
> Cheers,
>
> Peter
>
> Peter Daszak
>
> President
> EcoHealth Alliance
>
> 520 8th Avenue, New York, NY 10018-6507, USA
>
> www.EcoHealthAlliance.org
>
> On May 11, 2023, at 10:56 PM, Peter Daszak <(b) (6)> wrote:

Please keep your eyes peeled for this. I'll be busy in the morning - I'm up at Univ. Rochester for my eldest daughter's graduation – we're proud parents of a Mechanical Engineering BS graduate, specializing in robotics…

John – can you share a link to the article as soon as you see it with everyone on this email.

If it's behind a paywall, you can use my username ((b) (6) ) and the password is (b) (6)

Look forward to seeing 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:** Michael Hiltzik (b) (6) >
**Sent:** Thursday, May 11, 2023 10:21 PM
**To:** Peter Daszak (b) (6)
**Subject:** Re: Renewal

Thanks. Column will go online tomorrow at 5 am pacific time…will send you a link and copy, and if you see anything needing a fix please let me know..

MH

On Thu, May 11, 2023 at 6:56 PM Peter Daszak (b) (6) g > wrote:

> Glad you got to the right number on this. It's in the Notice of award if you add up the current project period (yrs 6&7) in the first page, with the other 3 yrs of the award totals (last page).
>
> I'm traveling today and tomorrow, but can answer any last minute questions if you text or call me on my cellphone (b) (6) or email and cc Alison Andre above.



MORENS_SUBPOENA_000055
MORENS_NIH_000083
REL0000476573

Cheers,

Peter

**Peter Daszak**
*President*

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Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

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

**From:** Michael Hiltzik <(b) (6)
**Sent:** Thursday, May 11, 2023 11:13 AM
**To:** Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >
**Subject:** Renewal

Actually, I see from my notes that you told me there was $2.9 million remaining on the original grant, to be expended over about four and a half years....

MH

--

**John Feigelson**

*(he/him/his - here's why)*

*Development & Communications Coordinator*

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

www.ecohealthalliance.org

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

<Hiltzik_ Ending Trump's anti-science policies, 3 years late - Los Angeles Times.pdf>

**Date:** Fri, 21 Jul 2023 1:22:49 PM -0400
**Subject:** Fwd: Publication of Angie Rasmussen article
**From:** David Morens < (b) (6)
**To:** David Morens < (b) (6)

---

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

(b) (6)
(b) (6) (work)
(b) (6) (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: Jeffrey Sturchio < (b) (6) >
Date: Thu, Sep 15, 2022 at 1:29 PM
Subject: RE: Publication of Angie Rasmussen article
To: Hotez, Peter Jay < (b) (6) Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6)
Cc: Roberts, Rich < (b) (6) Peter Daszak
< (b) (6) >, David Morens < (b) (6)
Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) >

Peter: Thanks for sharing this. Rasmussen and Worobey do a masterful job of showing how groundless and pernicious Sachs's opinions are. Their commentary deserves wide distribution.

Jeff

Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy smartphone

-------- Original message --------
From: "Hotez, Peter Jay" <(b) (6)
Date: 9/15/22 12:49 PM (GMT-05:00)
To: "Keusch, Gerald T" < (b) (6) >
Cc: "Roberts, Rich" < (b) (6) >, Jeffrey Sturchio
< (b) (6) Peter Daszak < (b) (6) >,
David Morens < (b) (6) >, Aleksei Chmura
< (b) (6) >
Subject: Publication of Angie Rasmussen article



MORENS_SUBPOENA_003804
MORENS_NIH_010722
REL0000476575

https://foreignpolicy.com/2022/09/15/conspiracy- theories-covid-19-commission/

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

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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

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Media Inquiries:

(b) (6)

(b) (6)

(b) (6)

iPhone

On Sep 15, 2022, at 11:49 AM, Keusch, Gerald T < (b) (6) wrote:



MORENS_SUBPOENA_003805
MORENS_NIH_010723
REL0000476575

FYI, Srinath Reddy in discussing the epidemiology of the pandemic did not get into the Sachs framework and stayed pretty much at a higher level as a public health professional.

From: Keusch, Gerald T
Sent: Thursday, September 15, 2022 11:31 AM
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) >
Subject: RE: Another attack from Republican Senators

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, September 15, 2022 11:27 AM
To: Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6)
Cc: Roberts, Rich < (b) (6) Jeffrey Sturchio
< (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

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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

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Media Inquiries:

(b) (6)

(b) (6)

(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:

It's just

(b) (6)

I can tell you what he'll likely say, About how well behaved Jeff was at the press event, but no mentions or apologies for past horrors

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

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iPhone

On Sep 15, 2022, at 9:10 AM, Roberts, Rich < (b) (6) > wrote:



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REL0000476575

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: (978) (b) (6)

Fax: (978) 412 9910

email: (b) (6)

From: Hotez, Peter Jay < (b) (6)
Sent: Thursday, September 15, 2022 7:57 AM
To: Jeffrey Sturchio < (b) (6) >
Cc: Peter Daszak < (b) (6) >; Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6) David Morens < (b) (6) >; Roberts, Rich <(b) (6) >; Aleksei Chmura < (b) (6) >
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



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(b) (6)

(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.



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MORENS_NIH_010728
REL0000476575

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) Aleksei Chmura < (b) (6) >; Jeff Sturchio < (b) (6)
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

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MORENS_NIH_010729
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MORENS_NIH_010730
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Date: Tue, 21 Feb 2023 9:59:18 AM -0500
Sent: Tue, 21 Feb 2023 9:59:07 AM -0500
Subject: RE: Catching up re. Coalition building - time for a call maybe next week?
From: "Keusch, Gerald T" < (b) (6)
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) >; Alison Andre < (b) (6) >;
Attachments: image001.jpg; image002.jpg; image003.jpg

I'll be happy to join a call. I haven't had a chance to review the revised concept note but I will asap.

Jerry

---

**From:** Peter Daszak < (b) (6)
**Sent:** Monday, February 20, 2023 8:59 PM
**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) Alison Andre < (b) (6) >
**Subject:** Catching up re. Coalition building - time for a call maybe next week?
**Importance:** High

Dear all – can we set up a call maybe next week to talk about building a Coalition to protect science.

Alison – could you look at availability for the week beginning Feb 27th or March 6th for us all…

I've also attached a revised version of the Coalition concept note. Jeff re-wrote this following our call and we also reached out to a political consultant to get his input on how this would be perceived from both Dems and moderate Republicans. I added a few comments using track changes. Please feel free to add to this also.

Cheers,

Peter

**Peter Daszak**
*President*

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
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USA

Tel.: +1-212-[illegible] (b) (6)
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak



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MORENS_NIH_038889
REL0000476580

**From:** Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6) >
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 1, 2023 6:30 PM
**To:** Peter Daszak <(b) (6)
**Cc:** David Morens <(b) (6) >; Roberts, Rich (b) (6) >; Keusch, Gerald T (b) (6) u>; Jeffrey Sturchio (b) (6) Aleksei Chmura (b) (6)
**Subject:** Re: Update

Fyi Ann Moscona is in NY, a good person for EHA to connect with. She's a superb virologist mostly on respiratory virus pathogenesis and drug development

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

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**Media Inquiries:**

(b) (6)

(b) (6)

iPhone

On Feb 1, 2023, at 5:28 PM, Peter Daszak <(b) (6) > wrote:

Awesome to hear that!

Cheers,

Peter

**Peter Daszak**
*President*

EcoHealth Alliance
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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



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**Senior Coordinator & Executive Support:** Douglas Soriano

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

**Media Inquiries:**

(b) (6)

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**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)

One tap mobile
(b) (6) # US (New York)
(b) (6) # US

Cheers,

Peter

**Peter Daszak**
*President*

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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) 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

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**Media Inquiries:**

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(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



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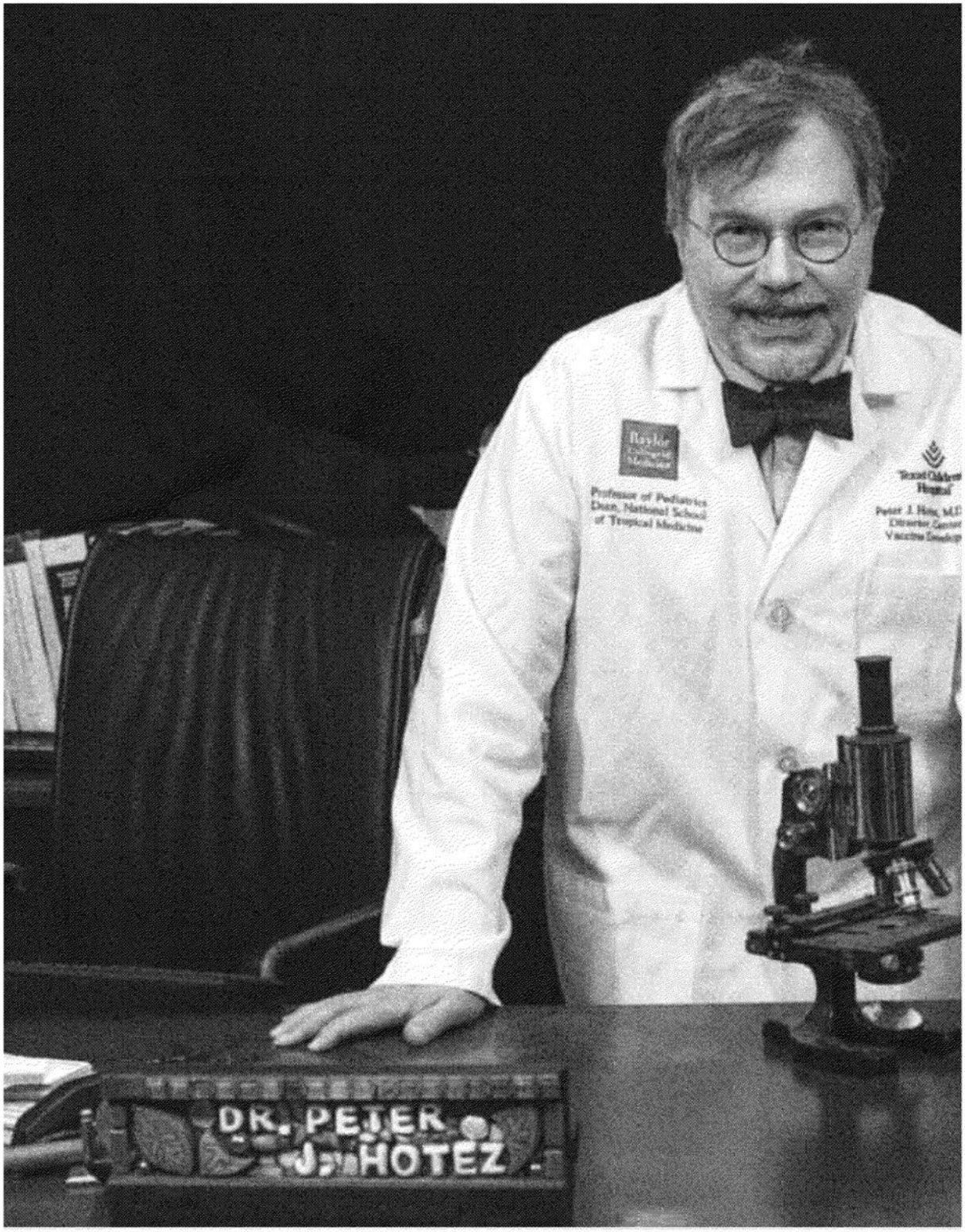


Peter Hotez (Image courtesy of Agapito Sanchez, Baylor College of Medicine)

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



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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


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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



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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



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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



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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

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MORENS_SUBPOENA_019341
MORENS_NIH_038901
REL0000476580

**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

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**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

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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/

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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
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**From:** Peter Daszak (b) (6) g>
**Sent:** Friday, January 27, 2023 3:30 PM
**To:** Roberts, Rich <(b) (6) Keusch, Gerald T (b) (6) >; Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6) u>
**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

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

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**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 <(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

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email: (b) (6)

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email: (b) (6)

---

**From:** Peter Daszak (b) (6) >
**Sent:** Friday, January 27, 2023 8:39 AM
**To:** Keusch, Gerald T (b) (6) u>; 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!



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**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



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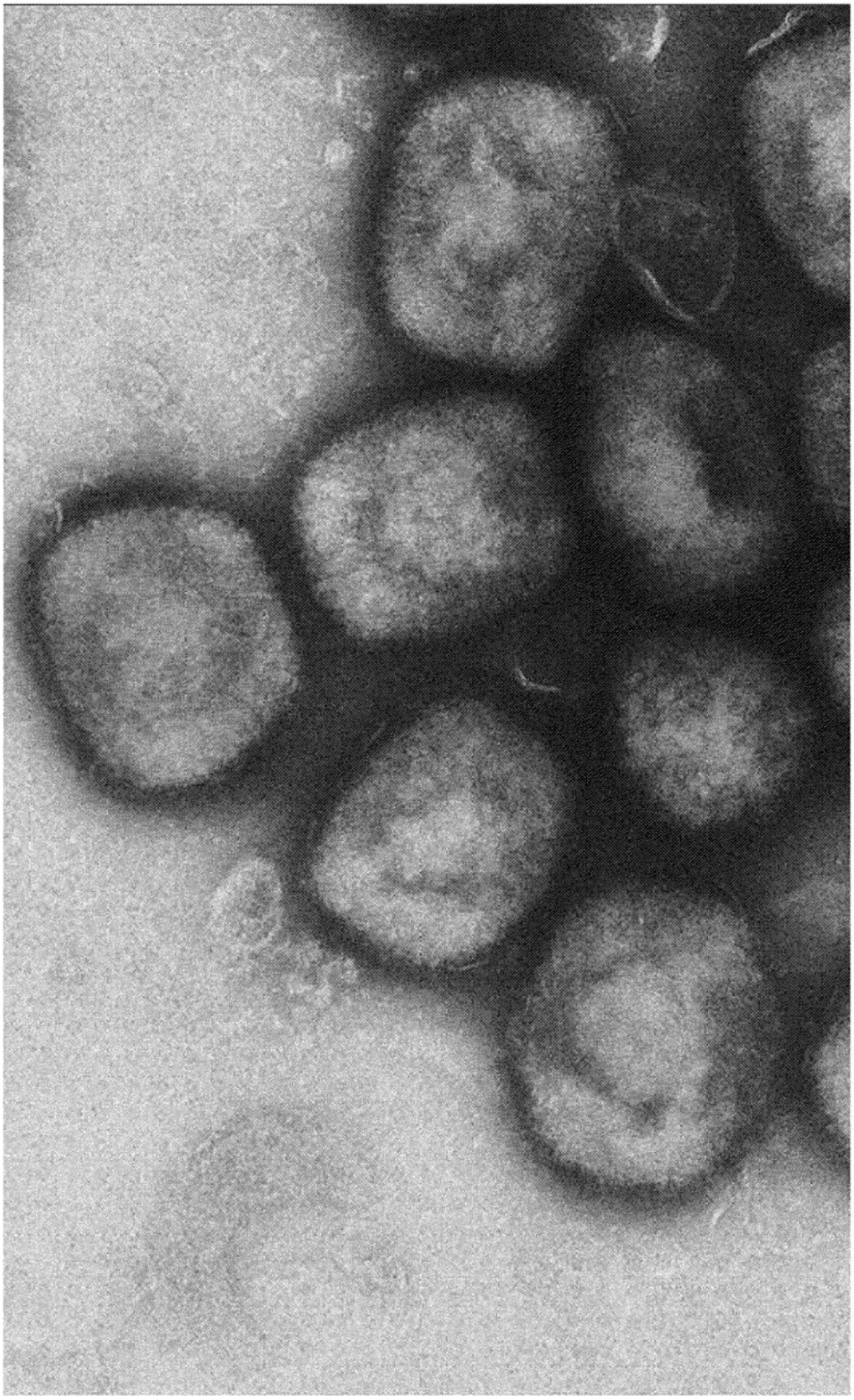

This image shows purified particles of mpox virus, formerly called monkeypox. Viruses like these can be genetically altered in the lab in ways that might make them more dangerous.
*NIAID*

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



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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.

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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.

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"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.



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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.

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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?"

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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.



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"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

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*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) (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.



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MORENS_NIH_038910
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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 MinerFlux 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

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**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

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**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) Aleksei Chmura (b) (6) Keusch, Gerald T (b) (6) >; Rich Roberts <(b) (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

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**Baylor University**, University Professor

**Rice University**, Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty



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MORENS_NIH_038912
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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



MORENS_SUBPOENA_019353
MORENS_NIH_038913
REL0000476580

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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 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 (b) (6) . 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) (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



MORENS_SUBPOENA_019355
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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 MinerEFlux 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) z

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**Senior Coordinator & Executive Support:** Douglas Soriano

( (b) (6) | Phone: (b) (6) |
b
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) >

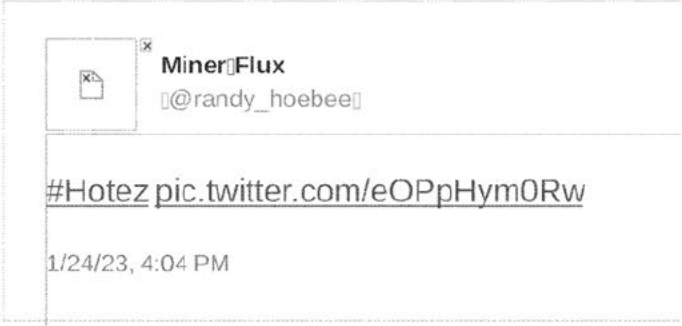
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 24, 2023 9:08 PM
**To:** Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6) ; Peter Daszak <
(b) (6) >; Aleksei Chmura <
(b) (6) David Morens <
(b) (6) >; Gerald Keusch <(b) (6) >;
Rich Roberts (b) (6) m>
**Subject:** RE: Tweet by Miner Flux on Twitter

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 <
d(b) (6) >; Gerald Keusch <(b) (6)
Jeffrey Sturchio <(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

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**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

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**Media Inquiries:**

(b) (6)

iPhone



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MORENS_NIH_038919
REL0000476580

Date: Fri, 4 Jun 2021 1:08:23 PM -0400

Sent: Fri, 4 Jun 2021 1:08:09 PM -0400

Subject: Re: LA Times: The lab-leak origin claim for COVID-19 is in the news, but it's still fact-free / "Follow the animals," he said. "That's where we're going to find the origin of COVID-19." https://lat.ms/2SZvH1K

From: Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6)

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

CC: Peter Daszak ( (b) (6) < (b) (6) >; Rich Roberts ( (b) (6) < (b) (6) >; Taubenberger, Jeffery (NIH/NIAID) [E] < (b) (6) >;

Attachments: image001.jpg; image002.gif; image003.jpg

This is really good. It's what we all have been saying but to have a journalist take the other journalists who are pandering to the right to task is really good news. We need more of that. Jerry

Sent from my iPhone

On Jun 4, 2021, at 11:16 AM, Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] < (b) (6) wrote:

Today from an LA Times essay on COVID origins:

"A corollary to the scientific truism that "nature abhors a vacuum" is that nature tends to fill the void with any garbage near at hand".

Today from a NY Times headline:

*U.S. Finds No Evidence of Alien Technology in Flying Objects, but Can't Rule It Out, Either*

I have a new theory: the Russians have found a way to poison the entire US water supply with an engineered crazy-prion and we have all gone stark raving mad…..

<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)
(b) (6)

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<image003.jpg>

**From:** Folkers, Greg (NIH/NIAID) [E] < (b) (6)
**Sent:** Friday, June 4, 2021 10:59 AM
**Subject:** LA Times: The lab-leak origin claim for COVID-19 is in the news, but it's still fact-free / "Follow the animals," he said. "That's where we're going to find the origin of COVID-19." https://lat.ms/2SZvH1K

# Column: The lab-leak origin claim for COVID-19 is in the news, but it's still fact-free

<image001.jpg>

Speculation about the origins of COVID-19 has caused some stock-taking by the press, which is accused of ridiculing the lab-leak theory during 2020 merely because it was promoted by President Trump.
(Ng Han Guan / Associated Press)

By Michael HiltzikBusiness Columnist
June 3, 2021 12:53 PM PT

A corollary to the scientific truism that "nature abhors a vacuum" is that nature tends to fill the void with any garbage near at hand.

For example, consider the surge of interest in the claim that the coronavirus reached the outside world through a release — accidental or deliberate — from a virus laboratory in Wuhan, China.

The "lab leak hypothesis," as it's known to virologists, is experiencing a heyday. Long dismissed by many experts, it's now being taken more seriously as one of two general possibilities for COVID-19's origin, along with the theory that the virus reached humans through contact with animal hosts.

> **Follow the animals. That's where we're going to find the origin of COVID-19.**
> **Tulane virologist Robert F. Garry**

In a May 14 letter in the magazine Science, 18 eminent experts urged that "a transparent, objective, data-driven" investigation be undertaken of both theories to achieve "greater clarity about the origins of this pandemic." Their letter was directed to the World Health Organization, which in April labeled the laboratory origin of COVID-19 "extremely unlikely."

Further, President Biden on May 26 gave federal intelligence agencies 90 days to provide him "the most up-to-date analysis of the origins of COVID-19, including whether it emerged from human contact with an infected animal or from a laboratory accident."

The new speculation about the origins of COVID-19 has caused some stock-taking by the press, which is accused of ridiculing the lab-leak theory in all its manifestations during 2020 merely because it was promoted by President Trump. That's treated as another strike against the "liberal media" supposedly marching in lock-step to disdain conservatives. The mainstream press, wrote Jonathan Chait of New York Magazine, "took Donald Trump's bait, answering the former president's dissembling with false certainty of their own."

What's missing from all this reexamination and soul-searching is a fundamental fact: There is no evidence — not a smidgen — for the claim that COVID-19 originated in a laboratory in China or anywhere else, or that the China lab ever had the virus in its inventory. There's even less for the wildest version of the claim, which is that the virus was deliberately engineered. There never has been, and there isn't now.

No one disputes that a lab leak is possible. Viruses have escaped from laboratories in the past, on occasion leading to human infection. But "zoonotic" transfers — that is, from animals to humans — are a much more common and well-documented pathway.

That's why the virological community believes that it's vastly more likely that COVID-19 spilled over from an animal host to humans.

That was the conclusion reached in a seminal paper on COVID-19's origins published in Nature in February 2020 by American, British and Australian virologists. "We do not believe that any type of laboratory-based scenario is plausible,"



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they wrote.

"We cannot prove that SARS-CoV-2 [the COVID-19 virus] has a natural origin and we cannot prove that its emergence was not the result of a lab leak," the lead author of the Nature paper, Kristian Andersen of the Scripps Research Institute in La Jolla, told me by email.

"However, while both scenarios are possible, they are not equally likely," Andersen said. "Precedence, data, and other evidence strongly favor natural emergence as a highly likely scientific theory for the emergence of SARS-CoV-2, while the lab leak remains a speculative incomplete hypothesis with no credible evidence."

Co-author Robert F. Garry of Tulane Medical School told several colleagues during a recent webcast: "Our conclusion that it didn't leak from the lab is even stronger today than it was when we wrote the paper."

As the veteran pseudoscience debunker David Gorski sums up the contest between the lab-leak and zoonotic theories, "the likelihood of the two hypotheses is nowhere near close to equal."

What remains of the lab-leak theory is half-truths, misrepresentations, and tendentious conjecture.

Consider one trigger of heightened speculation, a May 23 article in the Wall Street Journal reporting that three researchers at the Wuhan Institute of Virology, which is located in the community where the first major outbreak was identified, became sick enough in the fall of 2019 to seek hospital treatment. That was months before the start of the pandemic.

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Yet the report offered no evidence linking the patients' illness to COVID-19 research at the Wuhan lab. The report said the researchers had "symptoms consistent with both Covid-19 and common seasonal illness." Well, yes: The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention advises that the symptoms of COVID and seasonal flu resemble each other.

There's no evidence that the three researchers had contracted COVID-19 as opposed to flu or any other virus. Nor is there information about the clinical outcome of these three cases, which might tell us more.

Virologists point out, moreover, that it would be unlikely for COVID to affect only three people seriously enough to warrant hospital care without infecting hundreds of others in the lab or their households. The other victims might have had milder symptoms, but an outbreak of that magnitude would have been difficult to keep under wraps.

As for the letter in Science, some of its 18 signatories have taken pains to emphasize that they are not endorsing the lab-leak theory; some are highly skeptical of the hypothesis.

The organizer of the letter, David Relman of Stanford, told Nature's Amy Maxmen, "I am not saying I believe the virus came from a laboratory." Another signatory, Ralph S. Baric of the University of North Carolina told the New Yorker, "The genetic sequence for SARS-CoV-2 really points to a natural-origin event from wildlife."

Their goal in signing the letter, they said, was not to point fingers at the Wuhan lab, but to urge WHO to devote more effort to determining the origin, whatever it might be, before expressing a categorical opinion.

Biden's directive to the intelligence agencies has been taken as a virtual endorsement of the laboratory origin claim. For example, the Financial Times headlined its report on the directive, "How Biden came around to the lab-leak theory."

Even a cursory reading of the directive shows that Biden didn't "come around" to the lab-leak theory. His directive is resolutely neutral about COVID-s origin; it's consistent with interest in a conclusion that the virus originated in a lab, but also with a desire to put that speculation to rest.

Let's take a look at the science underlying the search for COVID's origins. One important fact is that we may never get a definitive answer. The animal source of the Ebola virus, which was first identified 45 years ago, is still unknown, science writer Amy Maxmen reported in Nature.

Maxmen noted that it took researchers 14 years to trace the 2002-2004 outbreak of severe acute respiratory syndrome, or SARS, to a virus that leapt from bats to humans.

But the history of virological outbreaks points strongly toward a "zoonotic" transfer of the COVID-19 virus — that is, from animals to humans.

"There is an extensive history of pathogen emergence by natural means: most novel viral pathogens that have caused epidemics or pandemics in the human population have emerged naturally from a wildlife reservoir," Angela Rasmussen of the Center for Global Health Science and Security at Georgetown University wrote in January.

"The overwhelming conclusion is that this virus, too, found its way into a human host through a series of unhappy accidental encounters with animals," Rasmussen observed.

The virus that causes COVID-19, moreover, is known as an opportunistic virus that has little trouble passing among species — "pantropic," in virological jargon.

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For a laboratory leak to have occurred secretly or inadvertently, would require "a massive conspiracy and cover-up involving a lot of people, including some very accomplished scientists, not telling the truth about what they were working on or what they had," Garry told me.

The lab-leak theory gains from a superficial plausibility — especially to laypersons. The Wuhan lab had a collection of bat viruses, including some that appear to be similar to the coronavirus that causes COVID-19.

But some virologists say they're not similar enough to mutate into SARS-CoV-2, even through deliberate manipulation, Garry says. "That's a point that's not going to resonate very strongly with people who haven't studied viruses for a long, long time."



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The assertion that the press was too quick to disdain the lab-leak theory because it was touted by ideologically suspect sources — Trump and senators Tom Cotton and Rand Paul, among others — overlooks a few pertinent factors.

One is that these individuals were not merely ideologically suspect, but known promoters of falsehoods. It would have been unwise and imprudent to suddenly treat them as truth-tellers, especially since their lies had often been targeted at China for political reasons. The idea that China had concealed its labs' role in the pandemic dovetailed well with policies aimed at painting China as an untrustworthy economic and political actor.

Trump administration officials, such as David Asher, who conducted an inquiry on COVID-19's origins for former Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, have been pushing the report of the three sick Wuhan researchers.

Asher is quoted in both the Wall Street Journal's report and the Financial Times article on Biden's directive, and has pushed the lab-leak theory on Fox News.

Another reason for journalistic skepticism was that many professional virologists labeled the lab-leak theory as implausible from the first. This was because the theory presupposed a complex series of events coming together just so — secrecy, coordination, even deliberate malevolence, abetted by extreme sloppiness.

Advocates of the lab-leak theory point to the location of the Wuhan institute of Virology, in the same community as the first known outbreak. But they overlook the magnitude of China's trade in wildlife for food and traditional medicine, among other uses — including in and around Wuhan.

As my colleague Alice Su reported last year, the breeding and sale of animals such as civet cats and pangolins, which are considered possible intermediary carriers of COVID-19 on its path from bats to humans, is a $73-billion industry in China. That makes it even larger than the beef industry in the United States, which is valued at nearly $70 billion. Regulation of Chinese breeders and traders is light and rife with corruption.

Determining the origins of COVID-19 may not be important to address the current pandemic, which can only be done through public health stratagems. But it's important for policies to deal with the next pandemics, since policies will be different for outbreaks that start with animal-human contacts and those originating in poor laboratory security.

There's an argument for getting more accountability out of China about its handling of the viral outbreak in its earliest stages. But there's also an argument against pointing fingers at the Chinese regime or its scientific establishment without evidence: China's cooperation will be crucial for world health in the future, and it's less likely to happen if China feels it has been unjustly blamed for COVID-19.

"The lab-leak hypothesis is taking the oxygen out of what's really needing to be done, which is cooperating with China," Garry told his colleagues on the recent webcast.

"Follow the animals," he said. "That's where we're going to find the origin of COVID-19."

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**Date:** Fri, 21 Jul 2023 1:27:32 PM -0400
**Sent:** Fri, 21 Jul 2023 1:26:04 PM -0400
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Fwd: A comprehensive survey of bat sarbecoviruses across China
**From:** David Morens (b) (6)
**To:** Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b) (6)

David M. Morens, MD
(b) (6)
(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: Edward Holmes (b) (6)
Date: Mon, Sep 20, 2021 at 9:49 PM
Subject: Re: A comprehensive survey of bat sarbecoviruses across China
To: Jason Gale <j.gale@bloomberg.net>
Cc: Rasmussen, Angie (b) (6) >, David Morens (b) (6) >, Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b) (6) Kristian G. Andersen (b) (6) Wang Linfa (b) (6) (b) (6) >

February. Say no more.

---

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 21 Sep 2021, at 11:48 am, Jason Gale (BLOOMBERG/ NEWSROOM:) <j.gale@bloomberg.net> wrote:

Thanks, Eddie. I'm going through it now. It feels like they came to a similarly hasty conclusion about the Huanan market from their tests on


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MORENS_NIH_009022
REL0000476584

limited environmental samples collected in February 2020. This seems odd, since there were environmental samples collected twice in January 2020, so why not use them?

From: (b) (6) | At: 09/21/21 11:45:55 UTC+10:00
To: Jason Gale (BLOOMBERG/ NEWSROOM: )
Cc: (b) (6)
(b) (6)

Subject: Re: A comprehensive survey of bat sarbecoviruses across China

Off the record Jason, and I've not read it carefully, but at first glance this is more propaganda than science. The idea that "SC2r-CoVs might not actively circulate among bats in China" is just total nonsense in my opinion. Three of the closest relatives to SARS-CoV-2 are from Yunnan. I'm not surprised it was allowed given the 'not China' narrative that the Chinese govt. are pushing.

---

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 21 Sep 2021, at 11:36 am, Jason Gale (BLOOMBERG/ NEWSROOM:) <j.gale@bloomberg.net> wrote:

https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fassets.researchsquare.com%2Ffiles%2Frs-885194%2Fv1%2F862e7aa1-f966-467a-b1ff-80f6943a84ea.pdf%3Fc%3D1632162056&data=05%7C01%7Cdmorens%40niaid.nih.gov%7C5f1ff6b942e54102f0af08db8a0fa96e%7C14b77578977342d58507&sdata=0c7ZCZGckmO5k8plsN7rGB5DbHah7FK3aBDMV2qDxm4%3D &reserved=0

Peter Daszak just sent me this preprint paper, FYI
Cheers,
Jason
Jason Gale, MHlthSec
Senior editor & chief biosecurity correspondent | Bloomberg News
Level 30, 120 Collins St., Melbourne VIC 3000
Tel. (landline) +61-3-9228-8783 | Mobile +61-407-214-821
@jwgale | Linkedin:
https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.linkedin.com%2Fpub%2Fjason-gale%2F6%2F249%2Fa56&data=05%7C01%7Cdmorens%40niaid.nih.gov%7C5f1ff6b942e54102f0af08db8a0fa96e%7C14b77578977342d58507&sdata=3APZLP%2Fd3rPUyvOrVwhBRvFjwx4wbbqXk7LqR3bCnlo%3D &reserved=0
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| | |
|---|---|
| Date: | Mon, 3 Oct 2022 6:18:14 PM -0400 |
| Sent: | Mon, 3 Oct 2022 6:18:09 PM -0400 |
| Subject: | RE: Jeff Sachs accuses US of blowing up the Nordstream pipelines last week.... |
| From: | "Keusch, Gerald T" <(b) (6) |
| To: | Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6) Peter Daszak < (b) (6) >; |
| CC: | David Morens < (b) (6) >; Aleksei Chmura < (b) (6) >; Rich Roberts <(b) (6) Jeff Sturchio < (b) (6) |
| Attachments: | image001.jpg |

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

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**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:

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---

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) >; 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



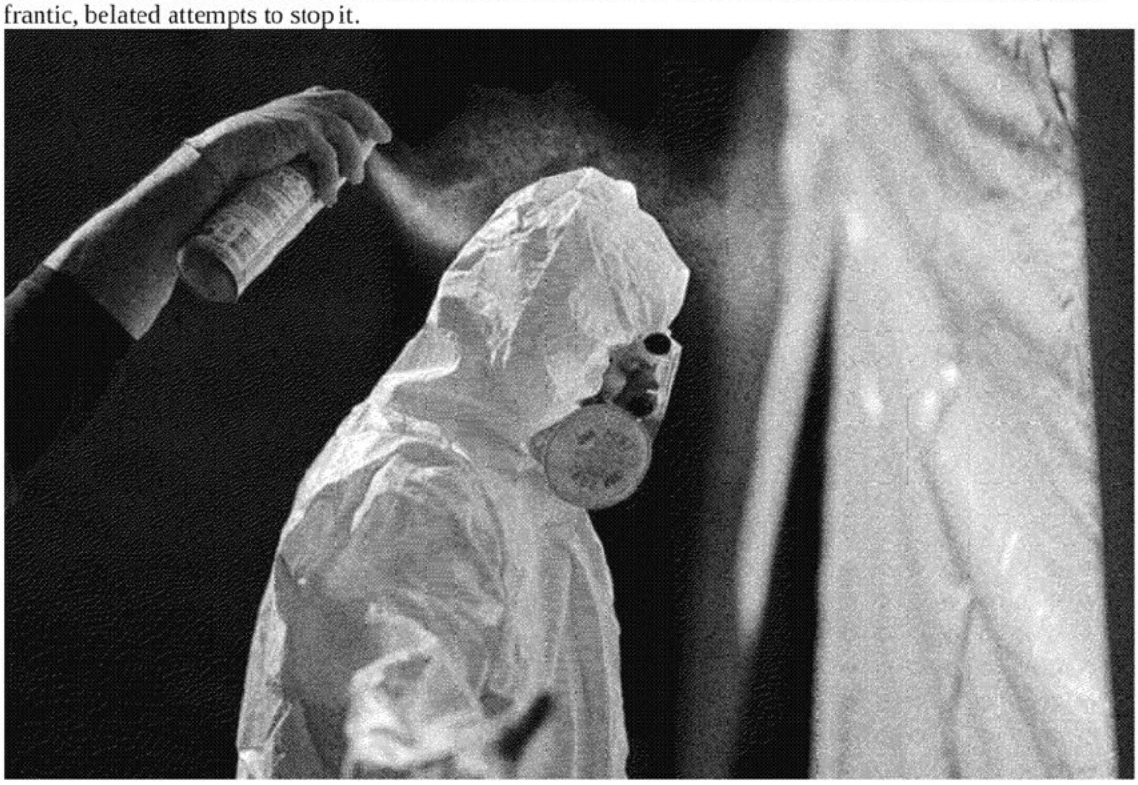
MORENS_SUBPOENA_001598
MORENS_NIH_007903
REL0000476589

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



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MORENS_NIH_007904
REL0000476589

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 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.'"



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"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

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MORENS_SUBPOENA_001601
MORENS_NIH_007906
REL0000476589

**Date:** Sat, 24 Sep 2022 12:45:54 PM -0400
**Sent:** Sat, 24 Sep 2022 12:45:49 PM -0400
**Subject:** RE: NIH/NIAID FOIA Request #57014
**From:** "Roberts, Rich" < (b) (6)
**To:** Peter Daszak < (b) (6) >; David Morens <(b) (6) >; Keusch, Gerald T < (b) (6) >; Jeff Sturchio < (b) (6) >; Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6) >; Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) >

Peter:

I have had no followup after being told my correspondence to David was FOIA'd.

Ric

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

**From:** Peter Daszak < (b) (6)
**Sent:** Friday, September 23, 2022 7:42 PM
**To:** David Morens < (b) (6) >; Roberts, Rich < (b) (6) >; Hotez, Peter Jay < (b) (6) >; Keusch, Gerald T < (b) (6) >; Jeff Sturchio < (b) (6) >; Aleksei Chmura < (b) (6) >
**Subject:** FW: NIH/NIAID FOIA Request #57014

**EXTERNAL SENDER**

Here's my version of the FoIA request that you've all had. I've got a secure link to the emails that they've dug up, and will look through them over the next few days/week.

Our first step will be to try to delay this – they want us to address all redactions by Oct 7th, but I've asked our lawyers to try to delay until the end of Oct. Every little bit helps because eventually the public will get bored of reading this garbage…

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:** Citarella, Kara (NIH/NHLBI) [C] <kara.citarella@nih.gov>
**Sent:** Friday, September 23, 2022 11:37 AM
**To:** Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >
**Cc:** Aleksei Chmura (b) (6)
**Subject:** NIH/NIAID FOIA Request #57014

Dear Mr. Daszak,

My office received a Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request from Travis Miller, who has requested, "All e-mail correspondence between David Morens and Peter Daszak from October 1, 2019 through the present." We found several emails to be responsive to this request.

Please see attached "General Guidelines-Contracts" for information that is automatically withheld by this office, which was written in the context of contracts rather than email correspondence. It should provide you with some sense of the types of information we automatically withhold. I have also included a copy of the request, as well as the amended request. A separate email will arrive with information on how to securely download the responsive records relevant to your company using NIH's Secure Email and File Transfer (SEFT) service.

In order for our office to process the FOIA request, I need you to complete the following actions consistent with the enclosed general guidance, and in consultation with your institution and collaborators, please:

- Advise us of any portion of the requested records that should be withheld by using a translucent highlight. This can be done digitally within Adobe or similar program.
- Return a copy of the material indicating the portions that you recommend be withheld.
- Send us a statement explaining why the information you have indicated is **both** confidential and commercial or financial in nature. Your justifications must address **all** of the information you identify for withholding.
- Do not request the withholding of information unless it's specifically addressed in your justifications. Note that your statement must be in writing and must contain **detailed and specific** justifications to support your proposed withholding(s); general statements will not be honored.
- Sign the bottom of the attached Release Letter and return it to me by email or fax no later than **Friday, October 7, 2022**.

Please note, we received a few more FOIA requests for similar information where these documents might be responsive.

If you have any questions or if I can be of any assistance to you, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Thank you.

Kara Citarella
Policy/FOIA Analyst
Freedom of Information and Privacy Act Branch/FOIA Service Center
National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute (NHLBI), NIH
GAP Inc. Solutions
(b) (6)
(b) (6)



MORENS_SUBPOENA_001512
MORENS_NIH_007803
REL0000476598

**Date:** Sat, 8 Jun 2024 10:08:50 PM -0400
**Sent:** Sat, 8 Jun 2024 10:08:40 PM -0400
**Subject:** Re: NYT/ Zeynep Tufekci: An Object Lesson From Covid on How to Destroy Public Trust
**From:** Hotez, Peter Jay < (b) (6)
**To:** David Morens < (b) (6)
**CC:** Peter Daszak < (b) (6) Keusch, Gerald T < (b) (6) Roberts, Rich <(b) (6) Jeffrey Sturchio < (b) (6) Aleksei Chmura < (b) (6)

---

My view: She's misrepresenting what Tony said or at least what I heard from the hearings. First it was CDC decision on 6 feet and based on droplet contact, it was only later that they understood it was via aerosol, but it was based on the data they had for influenza and always said as much. Also for COVID origins, we seldom do "proofs" but there is enormous published data supporting natural origins, no published data on lab leak. False equivalence 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

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**Senior Coordinator & Executive Support:** Douglas Soriano
(b) ((b) (6) | Phone: (b) (6) | Fax: 713-798-2299

**Media Inquiries:**
(b) (6)
(b) (6)
iPhone

On Jun 8, 2024, at 7:49 PM, David Morens < (b) (6) > wrote:

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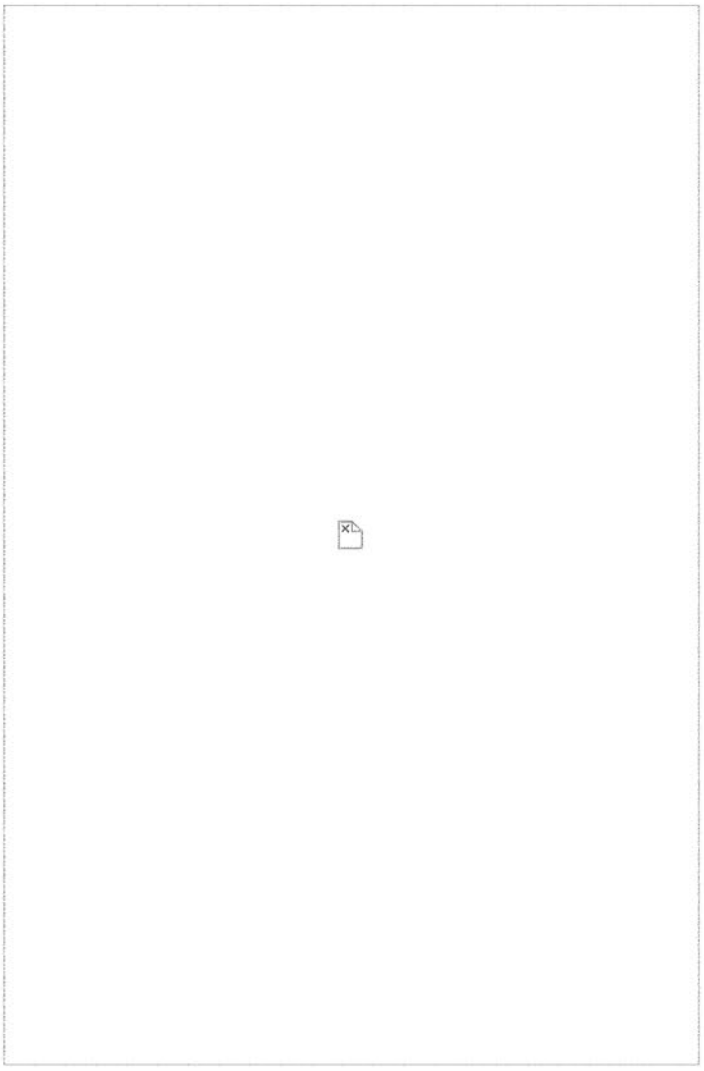
---

From the cell phone of David Morens

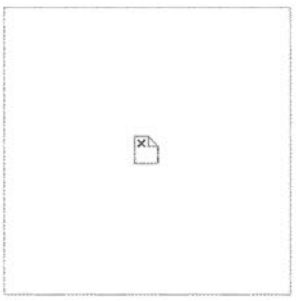
---------- Forwarded message --------
From: **Folkers, Greg (NIH/NIAID) [C]** < (b) (6)
Date: Sat, Jun 8, 2024, 18:17
Subject: NYT/ Zeynep Tufekci: An Object Lesson From Covid on How to Destroy Public Trust

To:



# An Object Lesson From Covid on How to Destroy Public Trust

Credit...Nicole Natri





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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, 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



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REL0000476600

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

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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

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<image001.jpg>
<image002.png>
<image002.png>

**Date:** Fri, 21 Jul 2023 1:44:15 PM -0400
**Sent:** Fri, 21 Jul 2023 1:43:30 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)
Woodmont (b) Avenue
Bethesda, Maryland 20814

(b) (6)
(b) (6) (work)
(b) (6) (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 3:44 PM
Subject: Re: Email intro to Mary Hall from Baylor
To: Hall, Mary Ann < (b) (6) >
Cc: Peter Daszak < (b) (6) >, Aleksei Chmura < (b) (6) >, David Morens <(b) (6) >, Gerald Keusch < (b) (6) Jeffrey Sturchio < (b) (6) Rich Roberts < (b) (6) >, Calo, Mary Andrea < (b) (6) >

Great also happy to zoom prior to that

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



MORENS_SUBPOENA_009694
MORENS_NIH_020204
REL0000476601

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

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Media Inquiries:

(b) (6)

(b) (6)

(b) (6)

iPhone

On May 3, 2023, at 2:40 PM, Hall, Mary Ann < (b) (6) > wrote:

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%7C68ad073d26d04904373908db8a121870%7C14b77578977342d58
&sdata=ICn48TMvRVaMC7FeAPtXLUoClJqz91MJ9nruBK%2F%2FpnY%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:** Fri, 21 Jul 2023 1:01:45 PM -0400
**Sent:** Fri, 21 Jul 2023 1:00:59 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)
(b) (6) (work)
(b) (6) (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: Tue, Dec 27, 2022 at 2:16 PM
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!
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%2Fpalexander.substack.com%2Fp%2Ffauci-birx-francis-collins-azar-bourla&data=05%7C01%7Cdmorens%40niaid.nih.gov%7C4d64062a44ce4a834c3008db8a0c295e%7C14b77578977342d585&sdata=5g9FpnqGwSsppnM9oOHuOs3cpCX2B%2BTw4DUvnN8PPGE%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, 4 Jun 2024 12:34:15 PM -0400

**Subject:** Fwd: Wpost/Milbank: Another Committee to Confirm Our Conspiracy Theories comes up short

**From:** David Morens < (b) (6)

**To:** Peter Daszak < (b) (6) peter hotez <(b) (6) Jeffrey Sturchio <J_ (b) (6) Roberts, Rich < (b) (6) Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6) Aleksei Chmura < (b) (6)

**Attachments:** image001.jpg; image002.png; image001.jpg; image001.jpg; image002.png

From the cell phone of David Morens

--------- Forwarded message ---------
From: **Folkers, Greg (NIH/NIAID) [C]** (b) (6)
Date: Tue, Jun 4, 2024, 08:03
Subject: Wpost/Milbank: Another Committee to Confirm Our Conspiracy Theories comes up short
To:

# Opinion

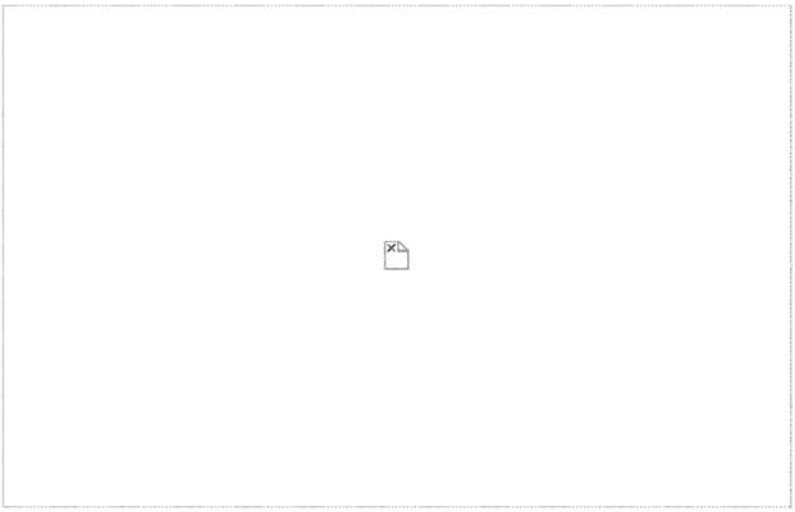
# Another Committee to Confirm Our Conspiracy Theories comes up short

Republicans could not prove that Anthony Fauci influenced the CIA on the covid lab leak theory.

By Dana Milbank

Columnist|

June 3, 2024 at 7:42 p.m. EDT



Anthony S. Fauci, the former director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, testifies during a House committee hearing on Monday. (Matt McClain/The Washington Post)

Old conspiracy theories never die. They just fade into the congressional record.

Last fall, Rep. Brad Wenstrup (R-Ohio), chairman of the Select Subcommittee on the Coronavirus Pandemic, made an incendiary public accusation that, "according to information gathered by the select subcommittee," Anthony Fauci "was escorted into Central Intelligence Agency Headquarters — without a record of entry — and participated in the analysis to 'influence' the agency's review" to say that covid-19 did not originate from a lab leak. "Wenstrup reveals new allegations," his news release boasted.

Another Republican on the panel, Rep. Richard McCormick (Ga.) declared definitively: "We now know that Fauci had a secret meeting with the CIA."

Fox News, the New York Post and the rest of the right-wing conspiracy machine ran with it. And then — nothing. The subcommittee came up with no evidence to support the claim, supposedly made by a whistleblower, and nothing to challenge Fauci's testimony that he hadn't been to the CIA in 20 years. Appearing before the panel in a public hearing on Monday, Fauci, now retired after decades leading the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, ridiculed the idea that "I was parachuted into the CIA like Jason Bourne and told the CIA that they should really not be talking about a lab leak."

So what did committee Republicans do after their Fauci-to-CIA conspiracy theory collapsed? They pretended it never happened. The Republican staff director, Mitch Benzine, during his time to question Fauci at the hearing, announced: "That was not an allegation made by the committee."

Why would anyone have thought otherwise?

This follows a pattern. The Select Subcommittee on the Weaponization of the Federal Government, after holding several hearings that failed to produce anything other than warmed-over allegations about the so-called deep state, was panned even by right-wing media. The Oversight Committee investigation of Joe Biden's "corruption" failed so thoroughly to find even a trace of wrongdoing by the president that Republicans have had to quietly shelve their impeachment ambitions.

On the covid panel, Republican House members had promised many a bombshell over the last year and a half.



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"Evidence is mounting that American tax dollars helped develop COVID & Dr. Fauci purposely suppressed the lab leak theory to cover it up," alleged Nicole Malliotakis (N.Y.).

"While many lost their loved ones, their businesses, and livelihoods, Dr. Fauci made millions," Michael Cloud (Tex.) accused.

Covid "was manufactured in a lab funded by Fauci," asserted Marjorie Taylor Greene (Ga.).

Yeah, no.

Documents and testimony the panel gathered over 18 months, while finding misbehavior by a grant recipient and by an adviser to Fauci, produced nothing to substantiate these wild allegations. The United States did not fund research that created the pathogen. Fauci didn't lie about the U.S. role in "gain of function" research at the laboratory in Wuhan, China. He didn't try to suppress the lab leak theory, or bribe people to reject it. He didn't get rich off the pandemic, either — although he testified that he earned about $120 a year from an antibody he developed years ago.

And, so, when Fauci appeared before Congress on Monday, Republicans on the panel hit him with whatever else they could come up with.

Malliotakis scolded him for "cruel, horrific animal research" at NIH on beagles, piglets and rabbits.

"I'm puzzled as to what that has to do with the origins of covid," Fauci replied.

Greene didn't care what it had to do with covid. "As a dog lover, I want to tell you this is disgusting and evil," she said, recommending "prison" for Fauci. She further informed the scientist that she would address him as "Mr. Fauci, because you're not Doctor." Democrats objected, and the committee spent several minutes bickering over proper decorum.

The dispute about Fauci's honorific (he's an M.D.) was all the more absurd because the chairman, Wenstrup, made a point in his opening statement of stating that "I am a physician" who during covid was "researching with another physician in Ohio to try and understand the pathology."

Wenstrup did not mention that he is a podiatrist. Was he researching covid's impact on the metatarsals?

But the constant repetition of the conspiracy theories is anything but amusing for, as Fauci testified, it has caused endless harassment of him and his family, including the arrests of two people "on their way to kill me." He said he needs full-time security.

Yet Republicans on the panel, rather than focusing on lessons about masks, vaccines, and school and business closures that could save lives in the future, kept returning to the same conspiracy theories that are endangering Fauci's life in the present. And Fauci kept batting them down.

He informed Debbie Lesko (Ariz.) that "you said about four or five things … that were just not true."

He advised Jim Jordan (Ohio) to "look at the facts."

And to Benzine, the staff director, Fauci offered a chuckle and a simple critique: "I know where you're going, and you're not going to get there."

They never do.



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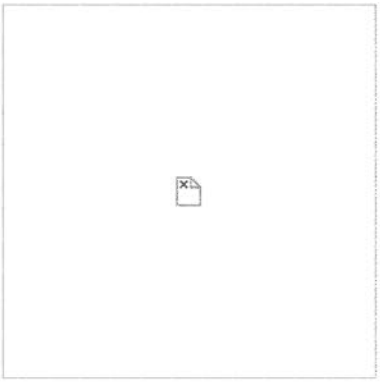

Opinion by Dana Milbank

Dana Milbank is an opinion columnist for The Washington Post. He sketches the foolish, the fallacious and the felonious in politics. His new book is "The Destructionists: The 25-Year Crackup of the Republican Party" (Doubleday).

Twitter

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**Attachments:** smime.p7s

Has the Nature news story come out yet? Does anyone have a link? I'm feeling masochistic.

---

Michael Worobey
Louise Foucar Marshall Science Research Professor,
Department Head, Ecology and Evolutionary Biology
University of Arizona

On Oct 12, 2021, at 8:20 AM, Garry, Robert F (b) (6) wrote:

**External Email**

Yes - every day from her another tweetorial about about the "less than honest scientists " on circe Feb 1 email/telecon or yet more inuendo regarding Peter. It's tiresome.

Good to remember that chan bullied her way into the origins debate by claiming that anyone who collaborated with a Chinese scientists was contributing to genocide, that the RmYN02 and RaTG13 genomes were fake, that SC2 was perfectly adapted to humans and the leading scientific journals were part of the grand conspiracy.

<image001.png>

What she's taking about in terms of "abuse" in the Nature abuse article is mostly being labeled a "conspiracy theorist" [which is accurate] and not getting her terrible papers published in *Nature* .

---

**From:** "Rasmussen, Angie" (b) (6) >
**Date:** Tuesday, October 12, 2021 at 10:00 AM
**To:** Kristian Andersen (b) (6)
**Cc:** Jason Gale (b) (6) t>, Peter Daszak <(b) (6) .>, David Morens (b) (6) m>, Edward Holmes (b) (6) >, Robert Kessler < (b) (6) >, Robert Garry (b) (6) .>, Stephen Goldstein < (b) (6) >, "Worobey, Michael - (worobey)" (b) (6) >
**Subject:** Re: MEDIA RELEASE: Pandemic levels of abuse directed at COVID experts [EMBARGOED]

And me as well, considering one of the people they interviewed has been instrumental at directing abuse to many of us on this email. I'm sorry that she's also been on the receiving end of it, but in my view that's all the more reason to denounce it when it occurs, rather than implicitly encourage it.

Angela L. Rasmussen, Ph.D.
Research Scientist
Vaccine and Infectious Disease Organization (VIDO)
University of Saskatchewan
Office: (b) (6) ) (6)
She/her
www.vido.org

<image002.png>

On Oct 11, 2021, at 10:30 PM, Kristian G. Andersen (b) (6) > wrote:



MORENS_SUBPOENA_004337
MORENS_NIH_011317
REL0000476624

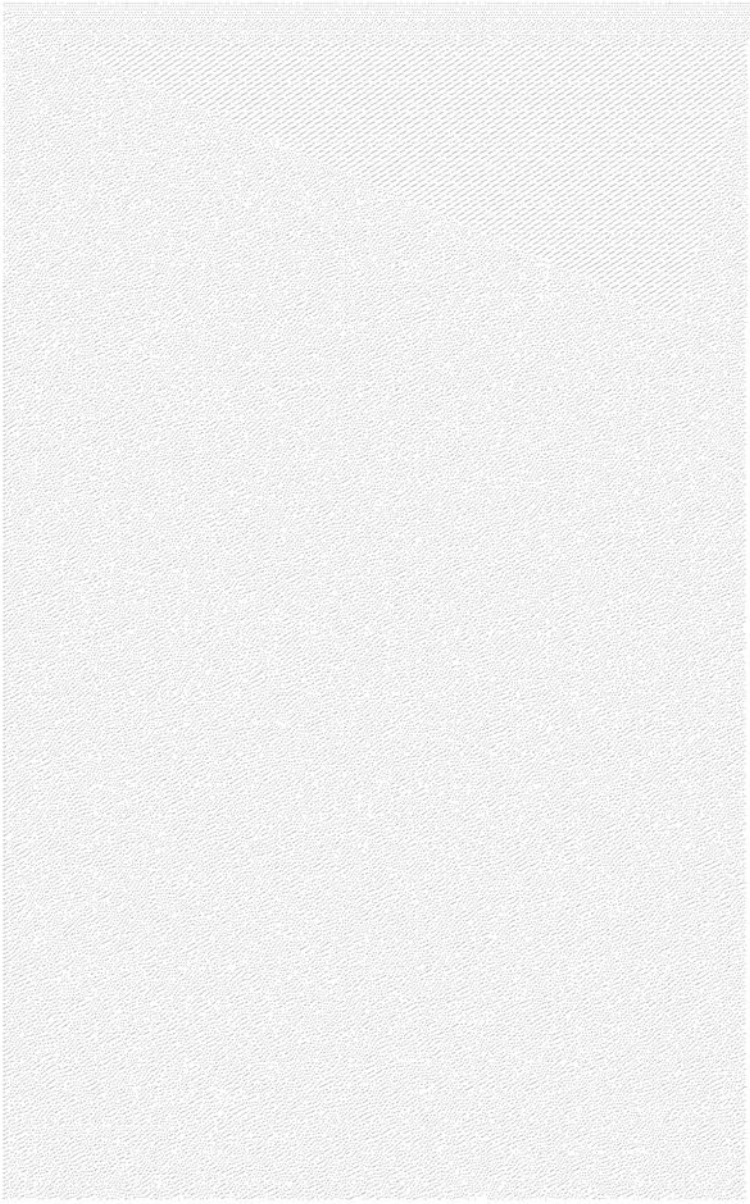
CAUTION: External to USask. Verify sender and use caution with links and attachments. Forward suspicious emails to phishing@usask.ca

Thanks Jason - and I saw the article coming out in Nature. You can't guess who they interviewed for that one.... But let's just say that they'll be getting an email from me.

K

On Mon, Oct 11, 2021 at 7:18 PM Jason Gale (BLOOMBERG/ NEWSROOM:) <j.gale@bloomberg.net> wrote:

> JFYI. I'm so sorry this is happening to scientists!
>
> From: info@smc.org.au At: 10/12/21 13:09:37 UTC+11:00
> To: Jason Gale (BLOOMBERG/ NEWSROOM: )
> Subject: MEDIA RELEASE: Pandemic levels of abuse directed at COVID experts [EMBARGOED]



Issued: 12 October 2021

View this email in your browser

**EMBARGOED UNTIL**

MEDIA RELI
COVID-19

**Around 1 in 5 Australian**
**they experienced**
**media about COVID-**

The results, which
to the survey and

The survey found

talk about COVID-

"Scientists are facing
COVID-19," said Lyndal
Centre (AusSMC).

The AusSMC also
With the help of Science
Zealand the survey

Nature's poll* found
with 15 per cent reporting
violence.

"During the pandemic,
and in our newsfeeds.

"But for some, the
the media again."

Around 40 per cent
said the trolling and

These experiences
respondents saying

While scientists said
believes they must
pandemic.

"If experts take the
worse off," said Lyndal

The trolling of scientists
personal tales of threats
issue.

The Australian Science
prepare scientists

While scientists shouldn't
we can all play a role



MORENS_SUBPOENA_004339
MORENS_NIH_011319
REL0000476624

"If a scientist has helped
comment on the news
help, and listen to

-ENDS-

**Media Contact:**
Lyndal Byford, Director
Ph: (08) 7120 8666
Follow us on Twitter

**Note for journalists:**

Below Australian
your stories. Any

Australian and New
day the embargo lifts,

For those journalists
available on Scimex

If you would like to
anything else, please

---

## COVID RELATED

**Gideon Meyerowitz-**

"For me, the trolling
anti-semitic hate online,
everywhere just for
than some of my colleague
***Gideon has not declared***

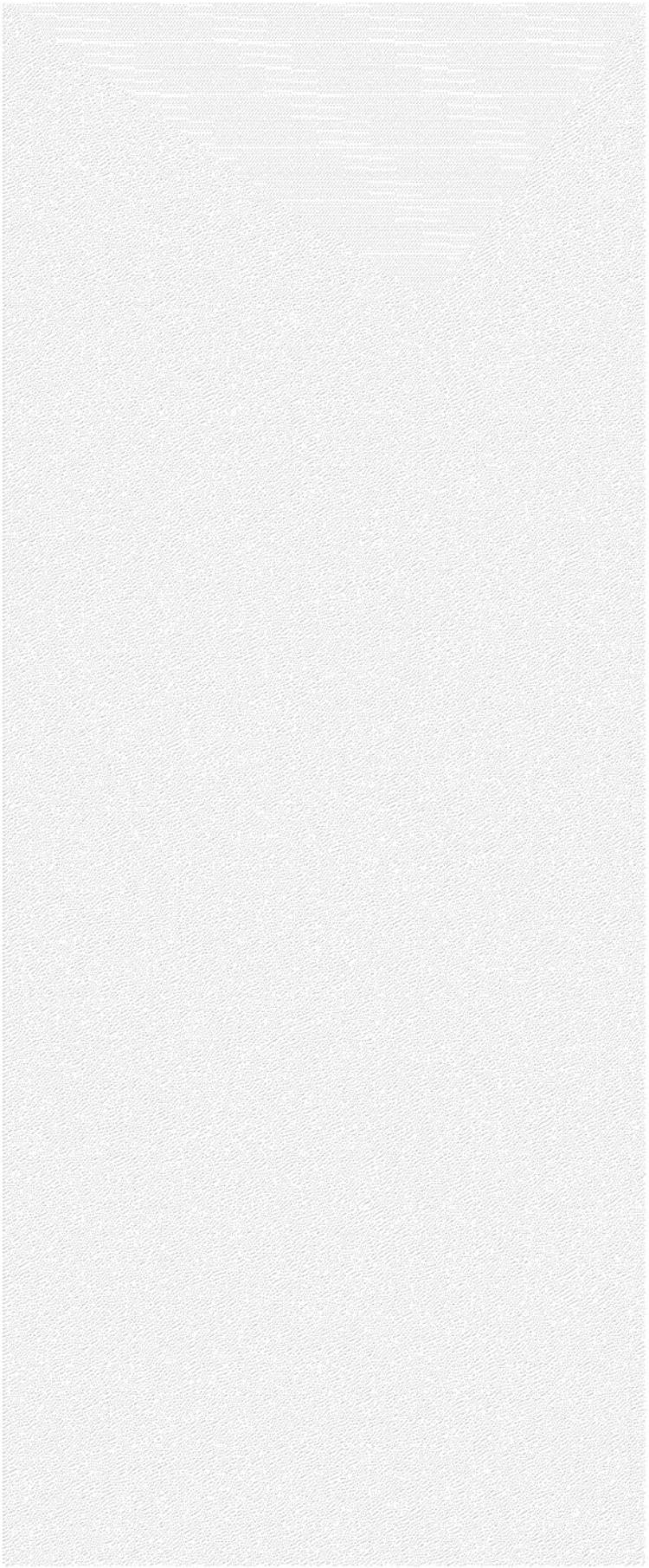
***He is contactable***

---

**Professor Raina**
**the Kirby Institute**



MORENS_SUBPOENA_004340
MORENS_NIH_011320
REL0000476624



"Trolling is common, discredit anyone who

Classic tactics are become mainstream, public health measures

Trolling can be on against me in media misogyny seem to

The saddest, however, by an agenda, but professionalism. They to see a colleague from the professional ***Raina has not declared***

***She is contactable***

*r.macintyre@unsw.edu.au*

---

## Prof Margaret

"After reflecting on police - whilst not researchers at our post or put information immediately follows

I know we are sometimes reporting these activities calling it out in multiple

In the same way that and threats on social different ways. For

***Margaret has not***

***She is contactable***

---

**Prof Brendan**

"Yes, I have indeed
the time. But more
men like me, where

Scientists don't covet
the limelight, but
scientists do this,
much at stake.

Apart from the mental
trolling negativity
ashamed to admit
social media than
energised by. The
resemblance to that.
***Brendan has not***

***He is contactable***

---

**Professor Tony from the Melbourne Melbourne.**

"As a white middle-
emails and messages
threatening text officially
more. I have blocked
vile material.

It is also salient, I
intent. I have received
members of the public
***Tony has not declared***

***He is contactable***

---

**Professor Dominic Hospital. He is Diseases) at the Medical Research, convened team**

"For me, as a medical information. It is the colleagues.

We know the information used to support a political anonymity of social questions."

***Dominic has not***

***He is contactable***

---

**Dr Andrew Miller**

"I define trolling as substance of an argument. outspoken in the media which is predictable, comes from politicians,

The latter is more colleagues, triangulation meetings being organised, mentioned in a speech, media.

I believe the main middle-aged man represent thousands "policy" that can be educated and willing of that is unavailable

I also have a large through op-eds and more to lose - a job publicly. I am sure

but that is no big price
an effect - or the people
to highlight how much
submission by bullying

***Andrew has not declared***

***He is contactable***

---

**NON-COVID**

**Professor Lisa**
**and Services,**
"I no longer read comment
follow the comments

I dropped off all social
former workplace
The content was extremely

At the height of this
took multiple routes
achieving an AVO
frightened I felt at

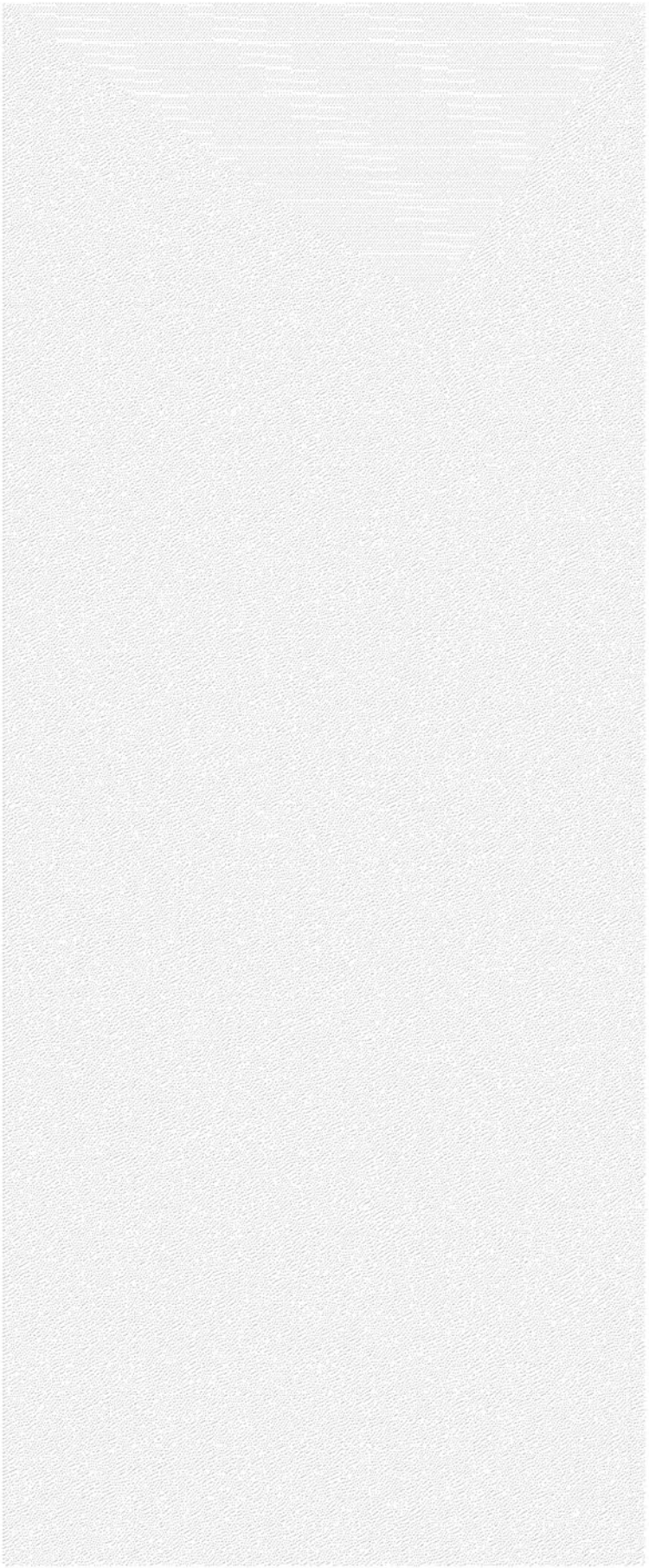
During this time, we
his mate was waiting
the ground. Apart
nearly died. I got into

Why? The only things
mess. Nothing else

I still get some of
get attacked for it."

***Lisa has not declared***

---



**Professor Dale**
**Sciences at the**
"Researchers are human

I've always considered
communication activity.
media stories and
environment and

However, after almost
abused, received death
unacceptable, and
has negative emotional
engagement work.
in the first place and
***Dale has not declared***

---

**Quote from anonym**
"I had a decade (more
continuous flow of
in place to screen
family and moved

I had offensive material
unknown people.
assassination including
colleagues who jumped
me in case it returns.
made me far more

---

*Scientists Under

---

The Australian Science
Australians. We provide
portal for Australia and
ensure this important

**Disclaimer:** Please note
views of the AusSMC



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MORENS_NIH_011325
REL0000476624

the scientific community.

AEDT = Australian Eastern
AEST = Australian Eastern

**Australian Science Media**
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55 Exchange Place
ADELAIDE SA 5000

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RUNDLE MALL SA 5000

Ph: **(08) 7120 8666**

info@smc.org.au | smc.org.au

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**Error! Filename not specified.**

Date: Wed, 18 Nov 2020 8:53:04 PM -0500
Sent: Wed, 18 Nov 2020 8:52:57 PM -0500
Subject: Re: USA Today: 'Compromised position': Dr. Anthony Fauci on why he thinks he hasn't heard from Joe Biden's team https://bit.ly/3nFxXVZ
From: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] < (b) (6)
To: Keusch, Gerald T < (b) (6)
CC: Peter Daszak < (b) (6) >;

How about keel-hauled???? D

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

On Nov 18, 2020, at 20:36, Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6) wrote:

Hi David,

Its so important that Tony says this in a public venue, that people will die because Trump refuses to cooperate with the transition team. That team knows it. Everybody in the administration other than Trump knows it and the blame will fall on his plastic head. I hope he gets pilloried for it – and that is the kindest option I could choose.

Jerry

Gerald T. Keusch, M.D.
Professor of Medicine
Associate Director
National Emerging Infectious Diseases Laboratory
Boston University, Boston MA 02118

**From:** Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] < (b) (6) ih.gov>
**Sent:** Wednesday, November 18, 2020 6:24 PM
**To:** Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6) Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >
**Subject:** Fwd: USA Today: 'Compromised position': Dr. Anthony Fauci on why he thinks he hasn't heard from Joe Biden's team https://bit.ly/3nFxXVZ

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

**From:** "Folkers, Greg (NIH/NIAID) [E]" <(b) (6) >
**Date:** November 18, 2020 at 18:05:55 EST
**Subject: USA Today: 'Compromised position': Dr. Anthony Fauci on why he thinks he hasn't heard from Joe Biden's team** https://bit.ly/3nFxXVZ

# 'Compromised position': Dr. Anthony Fauci



MORENS_SUBPOENA_011665
MORENS_NIH_022705
REL0000476639

# on why he thinks he hasn't heard from Joe Biden's team

Joey Garrison
USA TODAY
SKIP

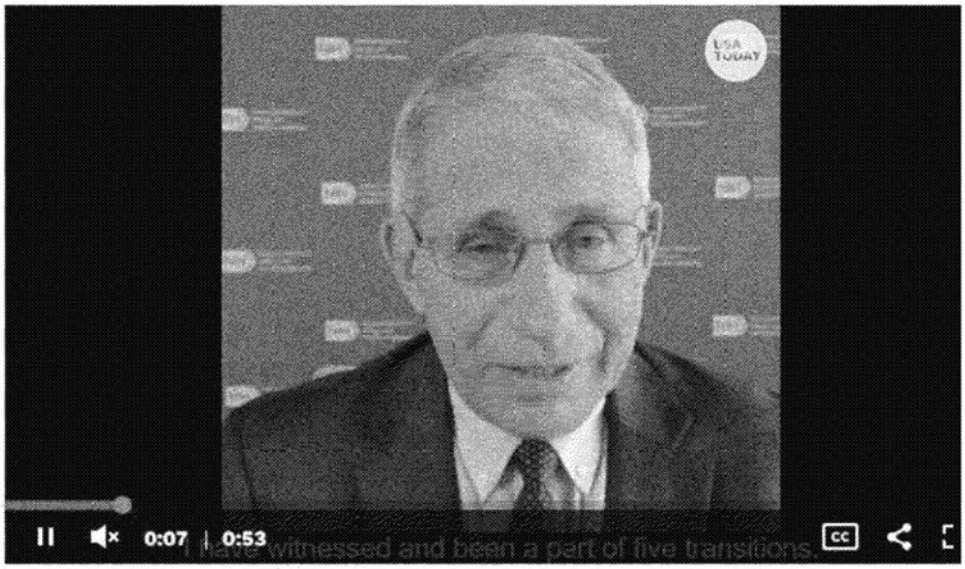
WASHINGTON — Dr. Anthony Fauci said Wednesday he wants to begin talks with President-elect Joe Biden to ensure a smooth transition for the new administration but believes the Biden team is wary of putting him in a "compromised position" as President Donald Trump refuses to concede the election.

Fauci, the nation's top infectious disease expert, hasn't spoken to Biden as the U.S. battles a significant spike in the coronavirus pandemic and the president-elect looks to start working on his plan to combat the virus.

"I have not been formally told that anything is forbidden," Fauci told USA TODAY's Editorial Board, referring to the lack of communications from the Biden team including Ron Klain, Biden's newly named chief of staff. "But it's quite obvious that this is a very sensitive period. I don't want to get into that. I have tried to the best of my ability to stay out of the political aspects and just focus on my role as a public health person, a physician and a scientist."

Fauci, director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, added: "To be honest with you, I believe that the Biden people including Ron Klain understand that and don't want to put me in a compromised position."

**More:** 'Dark winter': Biden says lack of coordination with White House on COVID-19 is biggest hurdle to transition




**Dr. Anthony Fauci explains why presidential transitions are important**
Dr. Anthony Fauci compared the transition of power to a relay race when describing its importance. *USA TODAY*

Biden, who has told the public to prepare for a "dark winter" as COVID-19 spreads, warned this week, "More people may die if we don't coordinate."

Fauci, who has served under six presidential administrations, has been a part of five transitions. But he's drawn regular criticism from supporters of Trump and increasingly the president himself, who slammed Fauci as a "disaster" two weeks before the election.

"I can tell you, transitions are really important, and they're important because you don't want to miss a step," Fauci said.

Fauci likened a smooth transition to a relay race in which runners pass the baton as they continue to run, not from a standstill. "You're all running together. And you pass the baton. That's what a smooth transition is. It's very, very much like a relay race."

After the 2016 election, Fauci said, President Barack Obama's outgoing chief of staff Denis McDonough organized a meeting with Trump's incoming chief of staff Reince Priebus to begin discussions before Trump's inauguration on how to respond to potential outbreaks.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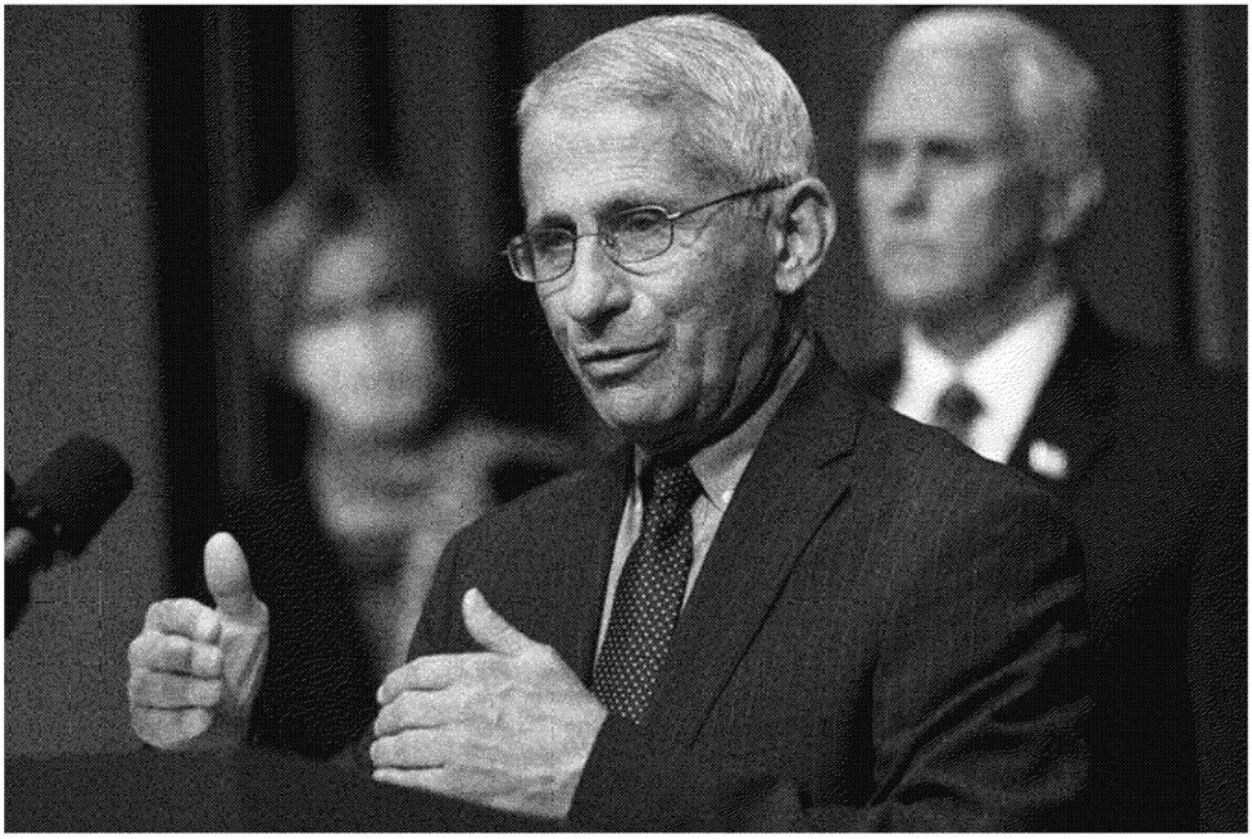

"That kind of thing makes it easier to just go from one to the other," Fauci said. "So yes, I wish we would be able to do that. That would be helpful."

A spokesman for the Biden transition team did not immediately comment on the lack of communication with Fauci when asked to respond to the doctor's comments.

Biden and his incoming team of advisors are seeking a sign-off form the General Services administrator, Trump-appointee Emily Murphy, who must ascertain the election results before the current administration can start working with the Biden team.

Because she hasn't, millions of dollars in federal funding and use of resources for the new administration are on hold. The GSA's decision has also blocked the new administration from using federal office space and gaining access to government agencies that they'll soon take over. Biden also has not received a daily classified briefing on national security threats that is given to incoming presidents.

Biden's team has worked to move forward anyway. That includes assembling a 13-member coronavirus task force co-chaired by David Kessler, professor of pediatrics and epidemiology and biostatistics at the University of California and a former U.S. Food and Drug Administration commissioner from 1990 to 1997; Vivek Murthy, former U.S. surgeon general under Obama; and Marcella Nunez-Smith, associate professor of internal medicine, public health and management at Yale University.

Murthy pushed for "cooperation and communication" from the Trump administration during a briefing with media Tuesday.

Information sought by Biden's team, NBC News reported, includes: the total number of N95 masks, plastic gloves and syringes available nationwide; the availability of nurses to administer millions of doses of vaccines next year; terms of vaccine contracts with pharmaceutical companies; and access to existing databases on testing, vaccinations and protective gear.

Biden has urged all Americans to wear face masks amid rising positive COVID-19 cases and said he would work with governors and local governments to enforce masks mandates.

Fauci expressed optimism about two vaccines that have shown promising test results. He said he believes the distribution of doses of the vaccines could begin by the end of December or January. But he said "COVID fatigue" and "denial" is a real issue in many states.

"If we can hang on and implement the public health measures, help is really on the way," Fauci said.

**More:** There are now two promising potential COVID vaccines. This is what we know about them.

*Reach Joey Garrison on Twitter @joeygarrison.*

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MORENS_NIH_022708
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**Date:** Tue, 31 May 2022 10:48:34 AM -0400
**Sent:** Tue, 31 May 2022 10:47:51 AM -0400
**Subject:** Re: Jeffrey Sachs peddling his BS in the Boston Globe today
**From:** "Hotez, Peter Jay" < (b) (6)
**To:** Peter Daszak < (b) (6) David Morens < (b) (6) Roberts, Rich < (b) (6)
**CC:** Keusch, Gerald T < (b) (6) Jeff Sturchio < (b) (6)
**Attachments:** image001.jpg; Outlook-53fre30n.png

Looks to me that Jeff has Joe Rogan syndrome, and is deep in the rabbit hole, it's awful. If there more things I can do on social media or a note let me know


**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

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Amazon Author Center: https://www.amazon.com/Peter-J.-Hotez/e/B001HPIC48
Daily Beast Contributor https://www.thedailybeast.com/author/peter-j-hotez
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Senior Coordinator / Executive Support: Douglas Soriano
(b) (6)
Phone: (b) (6)
Fax: 713-798-2299


---

**From:** Peter Daszak < (b) (6)
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 31, 2022 9:34 AM
**To:** David Morens <(b) (6) Roberts, Rich < (b) (6)
**Cc:** Keusch, Gerald T <keusch@bu.edu>; Hotez, Peter Jay < (b) (6) Jeff Sturchio < (b) (6)
**Subject:** Jeffrey Sachs peddling his BS in the Boston Globe today


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


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As predicted, Jeffrey Sachs has now re-hashed his PNAS op ed into a Boston Globe op ed, replete with a picture of a CoV and some human stitching on the Spike protein (I kid you not – see below)…

https://www.bostonglobe.com/2022/05/31/opinion/questions-surrounding-origins-covid-19-remain-

unanswered/?event=event12

It's behind a paywall, so I've inserted the full text below.

It's still full of errors. His goal is to push the Democrats to call for a bipartisan 'investigation' into EHA, UNC and other US orgs.

Reads like a call for the 'Witchfinder General' to get their pliers and racks together – farcical really, and all based on a tissue of misinformed BS.

By the way Jerry, this is the same Boston Globe that wouldn't consider your Op Ed!

Cheers,

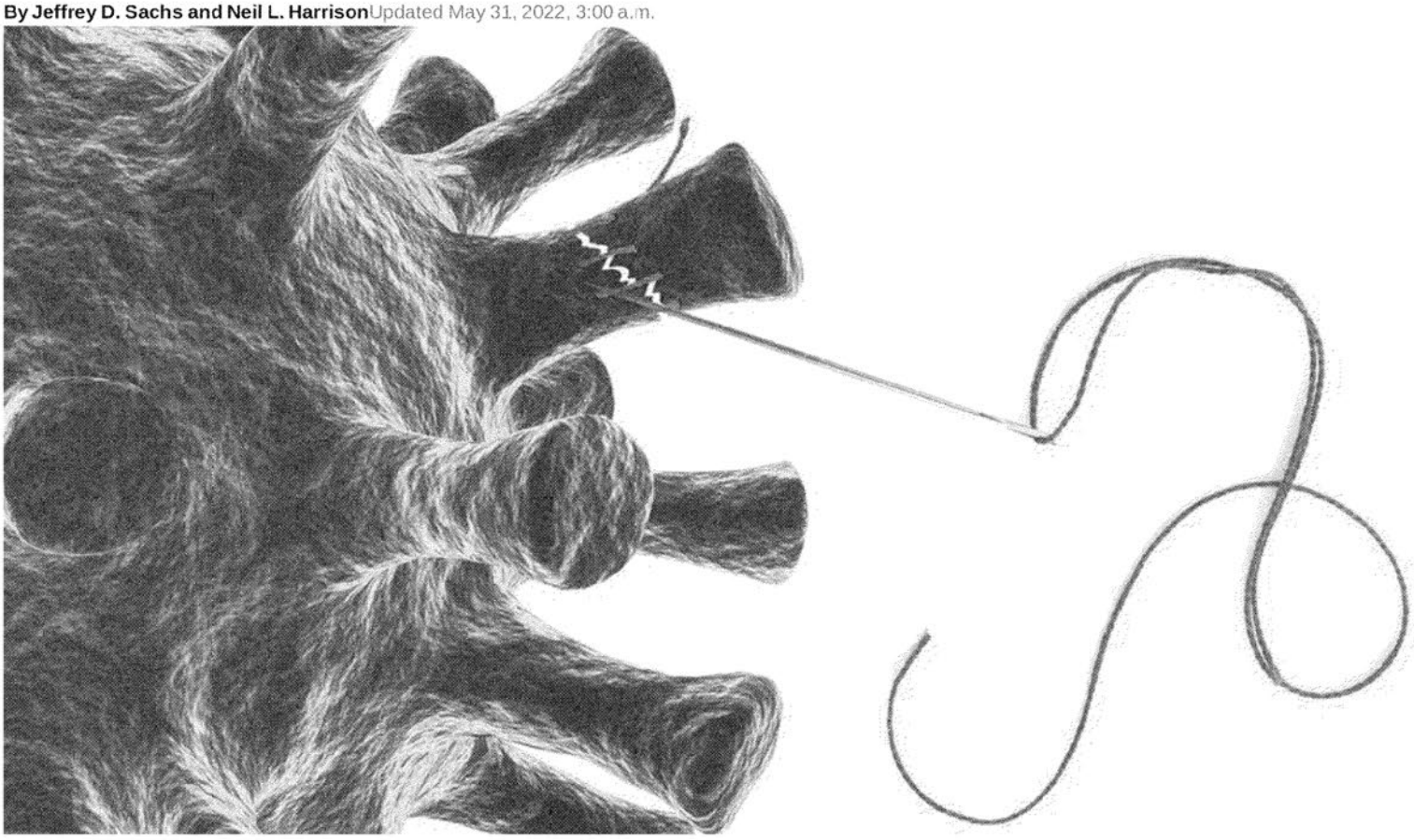
Peter

OPINION

# Questions surrounding the origins of COVID-19 remain unanswered

## Why did some components of the Intelligence Community lean toward a laboratory release as the source of the pandemic?

**By Jeffrey D. Sachs and Neil L. Harrison** Updated May 31, 2022, 3:00 a.m.



GLOBE STAFF ILLUSTRATION; JEROME CRONENBERGER/AFRICA STUDIO/ADOBE

It's not yet clear whether the SARS-CoV-2 virus that causes COVID-19 was created in a laboratory or emerged from nature; there is still no decisive evidence for either alternative. To find out, we have



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recently called for an independent and transparent investigation into the possible role that US biotechnology played in the emergence of the virus.

Americans have heard a lot about the possibility that Chinese laboratories played a role in the emergence of the pandemic, but very little about the role US organizations might have played. When President Biden tasked the US Intelligence Community with determining the origin of SARS-CoV-2, it found that either "a laboratory-associated incident" or a "natural origin" was possible. The IC said that China should cooperate more to find the truth, but did not make clear, or perhaps did not fully realize, the role that US science might have played in the origin of the virus. More important, the IC didn't present the details of its inquiry for independent scientific scrutiny. We don't know whether the IC's analysis was comprehensive or superficial.

The origins of the COVID-19 pandemic remain unknown, but may have had an assist from advanced US biotechnology. We do know this: The National Institutes of Health, which funded a lot of potentially hazardous and under-regulated laboratory manipulation of SARS-like viruses, has been less than transparent. And that's stating matters politely. The NIH has done its part to throw scientists and the public off track regarding the US-based and funded research.

The SARS-CoV-2 virus is so easily transmitted because it has an unusual sequence within its genetic code that makes the virus more infectious than other related viruses (including the original SARS virus from the 2003 outbreak). The key is the presence of a so-called Furin Cleavage Site that enhances the ability of the virus to enter and infect human cells.

From the early days of the pandemic, scientists have wondered how an FCS got into the SARS-CoV-2 genome, since it is the only virus among the group of SARS-like viruses that has an FCS. Other more distant relatives, such as the virus that causes the Middle East Respiratory Syndrome, have an FCS, but these other viruses are quite distant from SARS-CoV-2 in terms of evolution.

Did the FCS evolve naturally, or was it put into the virus by a laboratory manipulation? This may seem an odd question. Wouldn't that be a very dangerous thing to do? The answer is yes, it could definitely be dangerous, especially without proper safeguards. Yet remarkably, inserting an FCS was an aim of a US-China research team, using biotechnology developed by US scientists.

In a Project DEFUSE research proposal to the US government from the University of North Carolina, the EcoHealth Alliance, and the Wuhan Institute of Virology, the team wrote, "We will analyze all SARSr-CoV S gene sequences for appropriately conserved proteolytic cleavage sites in S2 and for the presence of potential Furin Cleavage Sites. . . . Where clear mismatches occur, we will introduce appropriate human-specific cleavage sites and evaluate growth potential in Vero cells and HAE cultures." Much of this work was to be carried out in a Wuhan laboratory with a low level of biosafety control.

In plain English, the researchers would look for FCS in viruses, and when they didn't occur naturally, would insert them. Notably, the UNC-EHA-WIV team also mentioned ">180 bat SARSr-Cov strains sequenced in our prior work and not yet examined for spillover potential." These sequences have not been made public.

Why would scientists propose such dangerous work? As one of the leaders of this research at UNC wrote in an editorial in 2018, "the study of zoonotic and human CoV [coronaviruses] outside of their natural host often times requires genetic manipulation and GOF to be useful." GOF, meaning "gain-of-function," is research in which the coronavirus is manipulated in the laboratory and then tested for its ability to infect cells and reproduce in tissue. It's used in drug and vaccine development.

Now, here's the thing: The DEFUSE proposal was rejected. But was the work undertaken anyway? We have no idea, but it is standard procedure to carry out preliminary work, or even a whole project, whether or not a particular grant is accepted. And in truth, the DEFUSE proposal is part of a much larger, and still hidden, research agenda overseen by the NIH. When the NIH was asked to release its 2020 Strategic Plan for COVID-19 Research, it did so — with all 290 pages fully blanked out.



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The fact is that NIH has not told the American people, or the scientific community, what it knows about the origins of SARS-CoV-2. In a conference call call on Feb. 1, 2020, NIH leaders heard top virologists explain why the FCS in SARS-CoV-2 indicated the possibility of laboratory manipulation of the virus. Yet just a few days later, NIH encouraged a team of scientists to prepare a paper declaring a natural origin of the virus. Subsequently, NIH has resisted the release of critical documentation and dragged its feet until forced to make disclosures under Freedom of Information Act lawsuits, often providing only highly redacted materials.

The Biden administration and the scientific community need to do better. What work did NIH, DOD, and other US agencies fund that might have contributed to the emergence of SARS-CoV-2? When did agencies of the USG first learn of the virus? What evidence might there be in the United States in the form of laboratory notes, electronic communications, virus databases, and other troves of information, that can shed light on this matter? Why did some components of the Intelligence Community lean toward a laboratory release as the source of the pandemic?

There has been enough obfuscation and foot-dragging. Let's open the books and get the facts from US organizations to see what light they can shed on the origin of this tragic global disaster.

*Jeffrey D. Sachs is university professor at Columbia University. Neil L. Harrison is a professor at Columbia University.*

**Peter Daszak**
*President*

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USA

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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, May 24, 2022 6:37 PM
**To:** Roberts, Rich (b) (6) >
**Cc:** Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6) >; Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6) ; Jeff Sturchio (b) (6) >; Peter Daszak (b) (6) .org>
**Subject:** Re: Jeff Sachs' comments to Rich

Colleagues, I will be polite snd point out that this sort of behavior from Sachs is not new. Too bad, because he is a smart guy....

Good that you will rebut this. Peter D has never stabbed a colleague in the back nor has he ever twisted the truth to undercut others. He still stands on the moral high ground. d

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

> On May 24, 2022, at 17:57, Roberts, Rich <(b) (6) wrote:
>
> Jerry:
>
> That is good.
>
> I will reply to Jeff in a day or so and point out some of his specific errors (as documented in Peter's email). I was especially offended by his remarks about Peter D., which not only were unnecessarily disparaging but totally at odds with my experience.

Rich

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

**From:** Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6)
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 24, 2022 10:42 AM
**To:** Roberts, Rich (b) (6) ; Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6) David Morens (b) (6)
Jeff Sturchio <j( >
**Cc:** Peter Daszak <(b) (6) org>
**Subject:** RE: Jeff Sachs' comments to Rich

**EXTERNAL SENDER**

As a signer of the Lancet letter in February 2020, the author of a follow up letter to Lancet in July 2021 (Science, not speculation, is essential to determine how SARS-CoV-2 reached humans) with 23 other signatories to the 2020 letter, a member of the infamous (soon to be famous) disbanded Lancet Task Force and the Independent Task Force which followed and has just yesterday submitted an invited Perspectives to PNAS about the pandemic (incidentally meeting the charge the Lancet Task Force had) I am one of those who advised Peter D not to personally respond. I agree with Peter D that it will not be positive or productive to argue and rather hope to see others pick it up and dispute the ignorant science Sachs and Harrison include in their Opinion in PNAS (how in the world did PNAS publish that crap?) – I understand the Twitter world is already buzzing although I can't hear it personally because I am of another more ancient world civilization).

Jerry

**From:** Peter Daszak <(b) (6)
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 24, 2022 8:49 AM
**To:** Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6) David Morens (b) (6) >; Keusch, Gerald T(b) (6) >; Jeff Sturchio(b) (6)
**Cc:** Roberts, Rich (b) (6)
**Subject:** Jeff Sachs' comments to Rich
**Importance:** High

Rich reached out to Jeff Sachs to set up a call with him and he sent the response below, which Rich suggested I could share with you all.

I think, unfortunately, you're right Peter that he holds a grudge against me re. the way I pushed back against his efforts to remove me from the Taskforce, which is a shame, and he seems to have re-hashed his memory of what happened in a way that's unfortunate.

However, he also lays out below his rationale for his Op Ed, and again, it's riddled with errors or misconceptions that I've addressed with brief bullets in the body of his email below. It also shows that he's clearly bought into the lab leak theory hook, line and sinker. It's very worrying to see that, but this is the problem with beguiling conspiratorial narratives like these. To counter them, you have to explain complex science, and the convoluted way science is funded and conducted. The simplest, most exciting story often wins out.

Given the animosity in his email, the fact that Jeff's so well-known, and that his op ed calls for a "fair and balanced" investigation into COVID origins, I don't think EcoHealth 'wins' if I'm involved in a rebuttal to the PNAS paper. Others I've spoken with also suggest it would just amplify the attack. However, I would strongly encourage any of you to think about writing some sort of response either in PNAS or another form, and I'd be happy to provide facts and supporting documents for the many, many errors in his piece.

Please read his email below and my responses. I expect the lines of attack he puts forward will be used elsewhere by others, as many of them have already, and all can be easily refuted:



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Cheers,

Peter

**Peter Daszak**
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Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

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

**From:** Jeffrey Sachs (b) (6) >
**Sent:** Saturday, May 21, 2022 9:37 PM
**To:** Roberts, Rich <(b) (6)
**Cc:** Sonia E Sachs < (b) (6)
**Subject:** Re: Your criticisms of the call for an independent investigation?

**EXTERNAL SENDER**

Dear Rich,

Thanks so much for your detailed comments.

Kindly let me share a few thoughts with you.

First, I got to know Daszak, as I invited him to chair a task force of the Lancet Covid-19 Commission. I observed close at hand that he was dishonest and untrustworthy. I had to dismiss him and disband the group that he set up. Many people associated with him also behaved very improperly, hiding their conflicts of interest and in other ways. I know that you defended him and I am absolutely sure that you did so out of the highest motives. Yet I've seen a side of Daszak that is disreputable.
***Response: The conflicts of interest are that I worked with the WIV. This was absolutely known to Jeff from the start – it's why he reached out to me in April 2020 after Trump terminated our NIH funding, literally because "we funded the lab in Wuhan". A few weeks into my work with the Lancet Commission that Jeff headed up, he received a letter from a Congressman complaining about my alleged conflicts. Jeff responded to him to explain that my experience working with Wuhan is a benefit to the commission. Both are attached above.***

Second, the EHA grant proposals are deeply disturbing. The DARPA-DEFUSE grant proposal raises the highest questions (especially pp. 10-11)
https://www.dropbox.com/s/7ds489l7l28us4t/DARPA%20defuse-proposal%20.pdf?dl=0
***Response: This is a rejected proposal from 2018 – the grant was never funded, the work was never done. The hypotheses and experiments proposed on pp 10-11 are based on well-known properties of other virus' proteolytic cleavage sites, and the (correct) idea that SARSr-CoVs might have them.***

Why did we have to wait for more than a year to know about this grant proposal – and then only through FOIA? NIH has behaved very badly and continues to do so.
***Response: The reason it wasn't made public is because no scientist in their right mind would publicly release an unfunded grant proposal – they represent your best ideas and hard work, and by releasing them, you hand over those ideas to competitors who are vying for the same sources of funding. However, it was in the possession of the US Federal agencies – it was in the files at DoD! Should the intelligence agencies have wanted to see it, they could have done so easily. Jeff's also wrong in that it was not released by FoIA because USG agencies also refuse to release unfunded proposals – they're privileged and confidential. If scientists submit proposals knowing that they might be FoIA'd, they would not submit their best ideas for fear of being scooped by rivals. The DARPA proposal was leaked by someone. Finally Jeff says NIH behaved badly, but this was a DoD proposal.***

Why did NIH redact 290 pages here? https://www.dropbox.com/s/hripmsjk3ovi5fm/nih-foia-request-55058-february-production.pdf?dl=0
***Response: Simple. The 290 pages were an attachment to an email that happened to be a draft version of NIAID's COVID-19 Strategic Plan. This was published and widely disseminated later on, but it makes total sense for NIAID to redact a version that's unfinished, so that the public don't get fed other erroneous theories based on some typos or errors in the uncorrected version.***



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Third, NIH knew full well since February 1, 2020 if not earlier that a lab-leak was not only plausible, but for many leading scientists was odds-on. Yet that was deliberately covered up in the Proximal Origins paper in Nature Medicine, a paper advanced with Francis Collins' early intervention and editing. (The Proximal Origins paper is a remarkably crude whitewashing of the question – claiming that SARS-CoV-2 was "irrefutably" not from a known SARS-CoV backbone -- citing a 2014 (!!!) paper (see footnote 20, which gives away the game).
***Response: It's just simply not true (and never has been) that many leading scientists view the lab leak theory as 'odds-on'. Neither was the theory deliberately covered up – it was debated and put to bed, that's why people changed their opinions from FoIA'd emails wherein they noticed the FCS and suggested it could indicate a lab origin, to the final paper wherein they had spent time debating the veracity of this with colleagues – that's how science should work. Ref. 20 is about how FCS arises in nature in avian flu, following prolonged passage of a mild strain. This plausibly could have happened when a bat-CoV circulated repeatedly in an amplifier host or in people prior to emerging with a full FCS. SARS-CoV circulated for months before emergence in China, so it's more plausible than months of lab passage for a virus that was never in the lab (we had all the sequences of all known bat-CoVs).***

Fourth, even Baric has joined the call for an investigation. He has been the relentless champion of the genetic re-engineering of SARS-CoV viruses, and he trained Shi Zhengli. He has claimed that GoF is vital for drug and vaccine development. Yet GoF in a BSL2 laboratory (as in Wuhan) is a mighty risky proposition.
***Response: The work in WIV that EHA collaborated on was definitively not gain-of-function. It was reviewed by NIH before we did it and they're the organization of note to do this. Their decision and the rationale has been made public and fits exactly with the published P3CO rules. This has been stated over and over again, but I guess Jeff just somehow disagrees with the authority to decide whether an expt is GoF or not!. In any case, none of the viruses at WIV were anywhere close to SARS-CoV-2, as published by us in Latinne et al. Nature Comms. 2020. Finally, the BSL argument is clearly false. The animal experiments that Jeff is alluding to here were conducted at BSL-3. The in vitro work at BSL-2 is the standard in China, just as it is in the USA for Cedar virus with a Hendra spike protein – something that's BSL4 in Australia. If we work with a lab in China, we cannot impose US law on them. NIH approved that work.***

Fifth, I am not much persuaded that the presence of an FCS in some coronaviruses means all that much when: (a) no FCS is known in a sarbecoronavirus; (b) UNC-WIV planned to insert an FCS into a library of so-far undocumented SARS-CoVs; and (3) no single animal in China, in >80,000 tested, has carried SARS-CoV-2.
***Response: this has been widely debunked. A) The site where FCS is found in the SARS-CoV-2 spike has mutations in many of the closely related bat-CoVs that show it is 'evolvable' and could easily mutate into a full FCS. B) UNC planned to insert FCS in 2018, but the grant wasn't funded, the work wasn't done. C) the sample of 80,000 animals includes before and after the pandemic, zoo animals, animals known refractive to SARSr-CoVs (e.g. salamanders). No group of a single species known to harbor SARSr-CoVs from this sample is of a size large enough to give statistical power to rule out infection.***

In short, I believe that we need an independent investigation because:
(1) The virus could have emerged in a BSL2 based on the research promised in the DARPA-DEFUSE grant proposal
***Response: yes it could have, but not based on a grant that wasn't funded***

(2) NIH knows this very well, but has never admitted it or supported a public review
***Response: I don't know how anyone can second guess what NIH knows. However, they have publicly stated that they support continued efforts to identify the origin***

(3) We should therefore have a long-overdue transparent stock-taking of what the US organizations (NIH, EHA, UNC, DOD, IC, others) actually know
***Response: I think I've told everyone all I 'actually know' about 100 times over. What Jeff Sachs is actually proposing is an invasive witch hunt whereby my private emails and files are published for the right wing press to spend another 2 years canceling out our organization.***

(4) The Intelligence Community is itself divided on the issue, which some agencies leaning towards a lab leak. Why do some IC agencies lean towards a lab release?
***Response: Not true. Prior to Biden's 90 day intel review, only a few intel agencies expressed an opinion: 2 agencies concluded 'natural' origins were more likely and 1 concluded lab leak more likely. After the review 4 agencies considered 'natural' origins more likely and 1 concluded lab leak more likely. Confidence in conclusion was low throughout, but there was a distinct shift suggesting intelligence supports natural over lab leak.***

All best wishes and with very warm regards,
Jeff

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| | |
|---|---|
| Date: | Sun, 30 Oct 2022 5:25:23 PM -0400 |
| Sent: | Sun, 30 Oct 2022 5:25:13 PM -0400 |
| Subject: | RE: Forbes: Is New Senate GOP Covid-19 Pandemic Origin Report More About Politics Than Science? https://bit.ly/3t1BJhb |
| From: | "Keusch, Gerald T" < (b) (6) |
| To: | David Morens < (b) (6) >; Peter Daszak < (b) (6) >; Aleksei Chmura < (b) (6) >; Peter Hotez < (b) (6) >; Rich Roberts <(b) (6) >; Jeff Sturchio < (b) (6) > |
| Attachments: | image001.jpg; image002.jpg; image003.jpg |

Thanks David,

I responded to Bruce Lee (the perfect name for a truth ninja warrior such as he) including a pdf of the PNAS paper at his City University email which was easy to obtain to a) congratulate him, and b) ultimately ask him if we can respond to his article in depth via an introduction to the editorial staff as I am tired of sending pointed well evidenced Op-Eds or editorials or opinions over the transom and then being ignored with a standard no thanks reply. Or if necessary via a letter to the editor. Let's see if he responds. I'm thinking the Task Force, all or some, might respond – actually maybe just the American members because of the uniquely American nature of this sort of rank political nonsense. I'm hoping Lee will reply.

Has anybody seen any comment from Burr regarding the outrageous attack on Nancy Pelosi's home, and the sole occupant at the time, her 82 year old husband Paul? I haven't and to me that is just the exclamation point on the assessment that his report is political and timed before the election, aside from the mile wide holes in the argument, so well-articulated by Bruce Lee.

Jerry

---

**From:** David Morens < (b) (6)
**Sent:** Sunday, October 30, 2022 11:37 AM
**To:** Keusch, Gerald T < (b) (6) Peter Daszak < (b) (6) Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) >; Peter Hotez < (b) (6) Rich Roberts < (b) (6) Jeff Sturchio (b) (6)
**Subject:** Fwd: Forbes: Is New Senate GOP Covid-19 Pandemic Origin Report More About Politics Than Science? https://bit.ly/3t1BJhb

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

> **From:** "Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E]" (b) (6)
> **Date:** October 30, 2022 at 08:36:03 PDT
> **To:** David Morens (b) (6) >
> **Subject: Fwd: Forbes: Is New Senate GOP Covid-19 Pandemic Origin Report More About Politics Than Science?**
> **https://bit.ly/3t1BJhb**
>
> Sent from my iPhone
> David M Morens
> OD, NIAID, NIH
> Begin forwarded message:
>
> > **From:** "Folkers, Greg (NIH/NIAID) [E]" (b) (6) >
> > **Date:** October 30, 2022 at 06:52:42 PDT
> > **Subject: Forbes: Is New Senate GOP Covid-19 Pandemic Origin Report More About Politics Than Science?** https://bit.ly/3t1BJhb

# Is New Senate GOP Covid-19 Pandemic Origin Report More About Politics Than Science?

Bruce Y. Lee
Senior Contributor
I am a writer, journalist, professor, systems modeler, computational and digital health expert, avocado-eater, and entrepreneur, not always in that order.
Oct 29, 2022,10:49pm EDT



Sen. Richard Burr (R-N.C.), seen here on August 6, 2022 in Washington, DC., and his office came out ... [+]
Getty Images

These days anytime any politician makes any claims about Covid-19, you've got to wonder whether it's more about politics than real science. After all, throughout the pandemic, politics has infiltrated Covid-19 decision-making like botox in a reality TV star. So when the office of Senator Richard Burr (R-N.C.) dropped "An Analysis of the Origins of the COVID-19 Pandemic Interim Report," just two weeks before the midterm election, you've gotta wonder whether this report was more about politics than actually determining what really happened.

After all, in the report, Burr did indicate that last Summer he and Senator Patty Murray (D-Washington) "announced a bipartisan Health, Education, Labor and Pensions (HELP) Committee oversight effort into the origins of SARS-CoV-2, the virus that caused the COVID-19 pandemic as part of our effort to address pandemic preparedness and response programs." *Dictionary.com* defines bipartisan as "representing, characterized by, or including members from two parties or factions," and not "screw it, why don't I just issue a report myself?" It's also interesting why such a interim report would be issued so quickly now before it's been properly vetted by the scientific community. Why the rush? And why wasn't there more of a heads up to everyone that this would be on its way? Was this designed to be a Halloween scare? Or maybe just maybe the midterm elections had something to do with it?

Plus, this interim report drew some pretty strong conclusions that usually would require a lot more supporting scientific evidence than the report actually provided. What's a strong conclusion? How about, "Based on the analysis of the publicly available information, it appears reasonable to conclude that the Covid-19 pandemic was, more likely than not, the result of a research-related incident." Yeah, that statement certainly has drawn headlines and attention on social media. The phrase "more likely than not" sounds fairly definitive. For example, if you were to tell your significant other that "based on analysis of publicly available information, it appears reasonable to conclude that you are more likely than not a cheater," you had better more likely than not provide enough specific concrete evidence to justify such a claim. Otherwise all of your possessions including your butt would more likely than not end up on the street. Similarly, this report seemed to be claiming that the evidence is already strong enough to conclude that a lab leak started the Covid-19 pandemic. But what evidence did the report then provide?


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Well, here's a hint. It rhymes with "Not a troll bot." Yes, not a whole lot.

## Did any real scientists develop, vet, and support the findings of this Interim Report?

Let's take a look at what some real scientists who have real expertise in this area said on Twitter about this report. Spoiler alert: some expletives more likely than not emerged. For example, Kristian G. Andersen, PhD, a Professor of Immunology and Microbiology at Scripps Research, used the phrase "Flood the zone with bull [bleep]" when referring to what's going on with this report:

And Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, Dean of the National School of Tropical Medicine, wrote, "My view: a total load of antiscience [bleep]," in the following tweet:

To adapt the words from that song in the movie *Bring It On*, Burr, it's cold in here— with here being real scientists' reaction to the report. Bull-bleep and antiscience bleep weren't exactly words of endorsement. Hotez also provided some real scientific papers describing how the severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) may have jumped from other animals to humans and the evidence supporting such a natural jump:

Speaking of real scientists. Were any real scientists involved in developing and reviewing Burr's interim report? Well, the cover of the report bore the names Minority Oversight Staff, Senate Committee on Health Education, Labor and Pensions, which was a fancy way of saying that it was compiled by the office of Burr. The report didn't really list any other authors or contributors other than Burr. So, assuming that Burr himself didn't compile and write everything like a high schooler doing a book report, it's unclear who actually did the research and writing for this report. The report didn't really clearly delineate what process was used to assemble and review the available evidence, who determined what should and shouldn't considered, or how the report was vetted either.

## What counterarguments did this Interim Report provide against evidence that the SARS-CoV-2 had jumped from other animals?

That being said did the report at least provide some strong arguments to support its conclusions? Well, the first of the four sections attempted to offer some kind of counter to the existing evidence of a natural animal original of the SARS-CoV-2 without even mentioning that evidence. That was sort of the "I'm going to ignore what you have said and provide only my side of the story" tactic. This section basically presented six arguments that were weak at best. The first two arguments were essentially the same: that the intermediate host animal species—meaning the intermediate between bats and humans—for SARS-CoV-2 hasn't yet been found. That argument would hold water about as well as a fish net thong.

It's been only about three years since the Covid-19 pandemic first broke. Science rarely can move that quickly, especially when Congress isn't providing nearly enough funding to support the needed studies. It can be challenging to find such a intermediate animal host species. It's not as if you can post a message on Twitter or Facebook saying, "hey all animals, come by and get tested for SARS-CoV-2 or some virus similar to it" or "hey, did you host this virus before passing it along to us humans? Come one, you can tell us." Plus, scientists around the world have been kind of busy with something called, you know, the Covid-19 pandemic. So unless Burr and his Senate colleagues want to provide much more support and funding to help find the intermediate host species, "you haven't found it yet," really isn't a very strong argument.

The third argument provided was that the "SARS-CoV-2's high binding affinity for human ACE2 receptors suggests that it is possible for it to directly infect humans without needing a period of adaptation in an intermediate host." In other words, the virus took to humans so well, it couldn't have jumped from other animals. That's a bit like saying, "hey, that velour track suit fits you so well that it was probably tailored specifically for you." Such an argument doesn't pass much muster because it wasn't clear what the virus was doing before the start of 2020. Weaker versions of the virus could have very well been spreading between other animals and humans long before late 2019 and early 2020. The world didn't have much of a surveillance system in place to really track what every possible viral threat was doing before 2020. It still doesn't have such a system.

The section's fourth argument was that Wuhan, China, seemed to be the only place where the virus may have jumped from non-humans to humans. The claim was that if the virus had jumped from other animals to humans, why didn't such jumps occur elsewhere as well. Again, all of this assumes that the world already had great global surveillance systems in place that could readily determine exactly where and how everyone had gotten infected with the SARS-CoV-2. Yeah try doing that when there's been well over 630 million Covid-19 cases around the world so far. And that's not even counting those folks who never ended up getting tested.

The fifth argument was similar to the fourth, claiming that "After the unidentified source transmitted SARS-CoV-2 to humans, it stopped transmitting SARS-CoV-2." Again, this has never been established. With so many cases emerging every day, it's difficult to say who caught the virus from where. The Covid-19 pandemic is not the same situation as the 2002-2004 SARS and the 2013 avian influenza A (H7N9) outbreaks where there were a lot fewer



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cases so that infections and transmission chains were a lot easier to track.

The sixth argument was that "The low genetic diversity of the earliest SARS-CoV-2 samples suggests that the COVID-19 pandemic is most likely the result of a single successful spillover of SARS-CoV-2." That's not exactly true. Plus, once again, the lack of a comprehensive surveillance system means that cases may have been missed early on in 2020 and before that time. Moreover, even if the pandemic had started with a single spillover event, how exactly would that prove that it was lab-leak rather than a natural spillover event that triggered the whole pandemic? All of these arguments didn't seem to be that scientific, which raises the question again, what specific scientists contributed to this interim report.

## Did the Wuhan Institute of Virology actually have major safety concerns as the Interim Report claimed?



This aerial view shows the P4 laboratory (L) on the campus of the Wuhan Institute of Virology in ... [+]

AFP via Getty Images

The second section of the report tried to paint a picture of the Wuhan Institute of Virology (WIV) as a place with numerous safety concerns and incidents. It did include brief descriptions of events and items that you probably normally wouldn't find at your home, assuming that you don't regularly sleep and shower at a Biosafety Level (BSL) 3 or 4 laboratory. So all of these could have sounded ominous and scary to the general public or anyone else who doesn't conduct virology experiments on regular basis.

So, assuming that Burr and his staff aren't running enzyme linked immunosorbent assays in their Congressional offices, wouldn't it have been better to ask a real laboratory scientist who regularly works with viruses to put together that section?Angela Rasmussen, PhD, a virologist at the Vaccine and Infectious Disease Organization at the University of Saskatchewan in Canada, would qualify as such an expert. So let's turn to Rasmussen's tweet thread about this section of the Burr report:

As you can see, Rasmussen's tweet stated that the report "claims to show evidence of multiple biocontainment breaches. That sounds very bad! But how reliable is this evidence?" Her tweet thread went on to review each thing listed in this section of Burr's report and explain how much of it seemed pretty normal for such a lab to her:

For example, Rasmussen explained how procuring a vaporized hydrogen peroxide system to disinfect air coming from the lab and renovating the HVAC system were not evidence of biosafety failures but instead business-as-usual:

A little later in the tweet thread, Rasmussen concluded, "No evidence of a breach or biosafety failure, but lots of evidence that they were operating a containment lab in a pretty standard way, with one exception: WIV was more innovative than many others and patented some of the bespoke systems they developed," as you can see here:

Rasmussen went on to assess what was written in the report about the working conditions, training, and management at WIV and determined that "No evidence of a biocontainment breach or a biosafety failure, other than lab leak fan fiction invented by people with no clue about how biosafety actually works reading documents that reflect the daily considerations & challenges of operating a containment lab," at the conclusion of her tweet thread:

Remember you can make anything sound scary when describing it in a certain way to people not familiar with the situation. Imagine relating the details of a high school football practice to someone who has never ever seen football. You could talk about high speed collisions, violence, things getting intercepted, jock straps, and people slapping each other on their butts in a manner that could prompt someone to say, "what the bleep is going on? Call the authorities."

## Is it relevant that China developed Covid-19 vaccines faster than the U.S. did with Operation Warp Speed?

The third section presented a rather weird argument. It pointed out that teams in China were able to develop and start administering Covid-19 vaccines faster than Operation Warp Speed could in the U.S. The section tried to suggest that the only way the teams in China were able to move more quickly was if they had access to genomic sequences of the SARS-CoV-2 much earlier.

Hmm, that sounds a little like the "they beat us, therefore, they must have cheated" argument. While Operation Warp Speed did result in Covid-19 vaccines at the end of 2020, it was by no means a perfectly run operation. For example, it July 2020, Jon Cohen wrote for *Science* magazine an article entitled "Operation Warp Speed's opaque choices of Covid-19 vaccines draw Senate scrutiny." And in December 2020, I covered for *Forbes* a range of supply chain and distribution missteps made by Operation Warp Speed. In general, the word well-oiled machine

didn't seem to apply the Trump Administration's response to the Covid-19 pandemic in 2020. Moreover, it's not clear what shortcuts the teams from China may have taken in order to get Covid-19 vaccines out there sooner. For example, did they do the same about of human testing as Pfizer-BioNTech and Moderna did before rolling out vaccines to the general public.

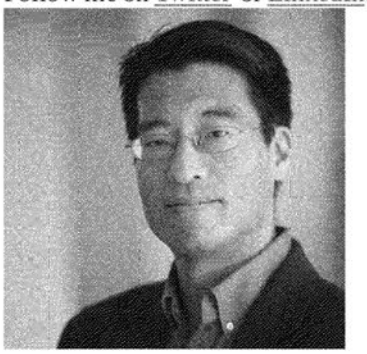
One thing's clear. The government of China wasn't as open and transparent to the rest of the world as they could have and probably should have been about the SARS-CoV-2 outbreak in late 2019 and early 2020. The first reports of this "mysterious pneumonia" emerged late in December 2019 and very early in January 2020, as I reported for *Forbes* on January 3, 2020. The government of China likely knew more about the virus and its deadly nature at the time. If that were indeed the case, then China's government chose poorly and should have been more forthcoming to get help from the international community. It is very fair to criticize China's government for withholding information and not being more cooperative. But again all of this does not necessarily mean that the Covid-19 pandemic started with a lab leak.

## Did the development and release of the Interim Report follow a scientific process?

All in all, this so-called "Analysis of the Origins of the COVID-19 Pandemic Interim Report" didn't seem to follow many of the steps and criteria needed for a truly scientific report. It didn't even fulfill basic criteria such as clearly describing the methods employed or identifying the people who did the analyses and wrote the report. Whenever you don't transparently describe how you chose what evidence to consider and not consider, you've gotta wonder how much cherry-picking happened. While cherry-picking may be great when you are making a pie, selectively choosing what evidence to follow and not follow is just not appropriate scientifically.

If Congress really wants to shed more light on the actual origins of the Covid-19 pandemic, it would commission and fund a panel of real and most importantly independent scientific experts to compile the report. At the same time, Congress members would then stay clear of this panel to avoid the perception that they are applying any political pressure to see a particular outcome. The U.S. has been leading the world in Covid-19 cases and deaths throughout the pandemic in big part of its failure to consistently follow science and instead defer to politics. And in the end, while politics may cover up to a degree what the virus does, only real science will be able to work against the SARS-CoV-2 and any future viral threats.

Follow me on Twitter or LinkedIn. Check out my website.



Bruce Y. Lee

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| | |
|---|---|
| **Date:** | Thu, 25 Apr 2024 11:35:30 PM -0400 |
| **Sent:** | Thu, 25 Apr 2024 11:33:41 PM -0400 |
| **Subject:** | Details and a link to my upcoming Public Hearing |
| **From:** | Peter Daszak < (b) (6) |
| **To:** | (b) (6) < (b) (6) Keusch, Gerald T < (b) (6) Jeff Sturchio < (b) (6) >; Roberts, Rich < (b) (6) Hotez, Peter Jay < (b) (6) (b) (6) |
| **CC:** | Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) John Feigelson < (b) (6) |
| **Attachments:** | image003.jpg; image004.jpg; image005.png |

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*

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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) (6) >; Roberts, Rich <(b) (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?



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Cheers,

Peter

**Peter Daszak**
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Twitter: @PeterDaszak

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

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**From:** Peter Daszak (b) (6) g >
**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) (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

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Twitter: @PeterDaszak

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**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' <j (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:** 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*

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**From:** (b) (6) < (b) (6)



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**Sent:** Wednesday, April 17, 2024 7:16 AM
**To:** Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >; Keusch, Gerald T (b) (6) >; Jeff Sturchio <
( Roberts, Rich <(b) (6) Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6) (b) (6)
b
(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
>
> @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*



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**From:** Peter Daszak (b) (6)
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 16, 2024 3:22 PM
**To:** '(b) (6) <(b) (6) 'Keusch, Gerald T' (b) (6) ; 'Jeff Sturchio' <(b) (6) >; 'Roberts, Rich' (b) (6) (b >; '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**
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**From:** (b) (6) <(b) (6) (b) (6)

**Sent:** Monday, April 15, 2024 8:39 PM
**To:** Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >; Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6) Jeff Sturchio <
( Roberts, Rich (b) (6) >; Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6)
h
(b) (6) g
**Cc:** Aleksei Chmura (b) (6) feig (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**
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*EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation*

**From:** (b) (6) <(b) (6) (b) (6) >
**Sent:** Friday, April 12, 2024 1:37 PM
**To:** Peter Daszak (b) (6) g >; Keusch, Gerald T (b) (6) >; Jeff Sturchio <
(b) (6) Roberts, Rich <(b) (6) Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6)
(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**
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> Twitter: @PeterDaszak



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

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**From:** Peter Daszak <(b) (6)
**Sent:** Friday, April 12, 2024 11:19 AM
**To:** 'Michael Hiltzik' (b) (6) n>
**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*

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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 (b) (6)
>
> 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:** Peter Daszak <(b) (6)
> **Sent:** Sunday, April 7, 2024 9:34 AM



MORENS_NIH_047248
REL0000476644

**To:** 'Michael Hiltzik' (b) (6) >
**Cc:** 'Aleksei Chmura ((b) (6) )' <(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**
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*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-



MORENS_NIH_047249
REL0000476644

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*



MORENS_NIH_047251
REL0000476644

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MORENS_NIH_047252
REL0000476644

**Date:** Sun, 23 Jul 2023 1:02:45 PM -0400
**Sent:** Sun, 23 Jul 2023 12:58:43 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)
(b) (6) (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 1:37 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)
(b) (6) (work)
(b) (6) (cell)

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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 1:00 PM
Subject: Fwd: Fauci, Birx, Francis Collins, Baric, Azar, Daszak,



MORENS_SUBPOENA_002261
MORENS_NIH_008777
REL0000476649

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)
(b) (6) (work)
(b) (6) (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: Tue, Dec 27, 2022 at 6:25 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) >, Aleksei Chmura < (b) (6) >, David Morens < (b) (6) >, Jeffrey Sturchio < (b) (6) >, Rich Roberts < (b) (6) >

Its an insane diatribe. I first wondered what in the world was going on at McMaster but then I found on the web that he had an unpaid part-time position there – seems like they got what they paid for. I also found a link to a letter from Jim Clyburn to him in April last year asking him to testify before the House Select Committee

(https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fcoronavirus.house.gov%2Fsites%2Fdemocrats.04-08.Clyburn%2520to%2520Alexander%2520re%2520COVID%2520Response%2520.pdf&data=05%7C01%7Cdmorens%40niaid.nih.gov%7Ce5813ec49b1c48abdbf108db8b9e2a5d%7C14b77578977342d585&sdata=7LNyRewPkCFWzOikPpJpeOf4FC%2Buj4%2BvemUjVLX9yI0%3D &reserved=0).
I gather he never showed up.

Who is he networked with? The incoming far out Republican right?



MORENS_SUBPOENA_002262
MORENS_NIH_008778
REL0000476649

Jerry

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) >; Keusch, Gerald T < (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%7Ce5813ec49b1c48abdbf108db8b9e2a5d%7C14b77578977342d585&sdata=nuyPls4%2Fu33qgfWJ2AfEPe%2BTRUqbv5pG9C4Hqz%2FtHd4%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

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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

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, 10 Oct 2022 4:21:29 PM -0400
**Sent:** Mon, 10 Oct 2022 4:17:39 PM -0400
**Subject:** RE: Wpost/Gerson: Why Anthony Fauci is the greatest public servant I have known https://wapo.st/3MiKLPv
**From:** Peter Daszak < (b) (6)
**To:** Jeffrey Sturchio < (b) (6) David Morens < (b) (6) Gerald Keusch < (b) (6) Aleksei Chmura < (b) (6) Peter Hotez < (b) (6) Rich Roberts < (b) (6)
**Attachments:** image001.jpg; image003.jpg

Yes – it's 110% spot-on. I'm sure one day everyone will come back to reality and appreciate public service for the sacrifice that it actually is.

Cheers,

Peter

**Peter Daszak**
*President*

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Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

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

**From:** Jeffrey Sturchio (b) (6) >
**Sent:** Monday, October 10, 2022 3:37 PM
**To:** David Morens <(b) (6) >; Gerald Keusch <(b) (6) Peter Daszak < (b) (6) >; Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) >; Peter Hotez <(b) (6) >; Rich Roberts (b) (6) >
**Subject:** RE: Wpost/Gerson: Why Anthony Fauci is the greatest public servant I have known https://wapo.st/3MiKLPv

David: Thanks for sharing this piece – so true and so powerful!

Best regards,
Jeff

**From:** David Morens (b) (6) >
**Sent:** Monday, October 10, 2022 3:03 PM
**To:** Gerald Keusch <(b) (6) Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >; Aleksei Chmura < (b) (6) Peter Hotez(b) (6) Roberts <(b) (6) >; Jeff Sturchio < j (b) (6) >

**Subject:** Fwd: Wpost/Gerson: Why Anthony Fauci is the greatest public servant I have known https://wapo.st/3MiKLPv

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

> **From:** "Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E]" (b) (6) >
> **Date:** October 10, 2022 at 15:02:43 EDT
> **To:** David Morens(b) (6) >
> **Subject: Fwd: Wpost/Gerson: Why Anthony Fauci is the greatest public servant I have known**
> **https://wapo.st/3MiKLPv**
>
> Sent from my iPhone
> David M Morens
> OD, NIAID, NIH
> Begin forwarded message:
>
> > **From:** "Folkers, Greg (NIH/NIAID) [E]" (b) (6)
> > **Date:** October 10, 2022 at 13:29:20 EDT
> > **Subject: Wpost/Gerson: Why Anthony Fauci is the greatest public servant I have known**
> > **https://wapo.st/3MiKLPv**

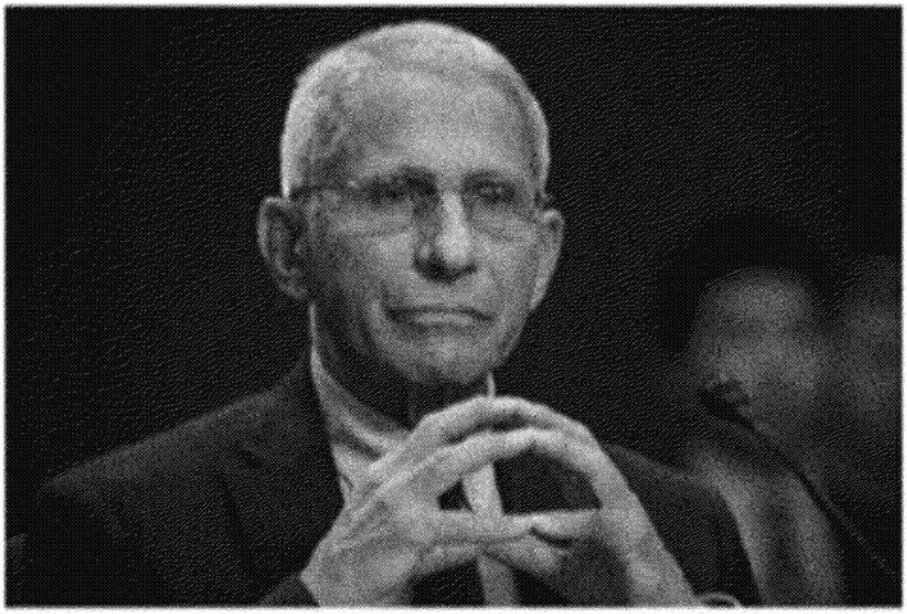
# Opinion
# Why Anthony Fauci is the greatest public servant I have known



By Michael Gerson
Columnist |
October 10, 2022 at 1:08 p.m. EDT



MORENS_NIH_008094
REL0000476655



Anthony S. Fauci, director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, on Capitol Hill on Sept. 14. (Evelyn Hockstein/Reuters)

American political disagreements have often come down to us in the form of vivid dyads. Alexander Hamilton vs. Thomas Jefferson. Stephen A. Douglas vs. Abraham Lincoln. Franklin D. Roosevelt vs. Arthur H. Vandenberg. One such conflict over the past few years has been Sen. Rand Paul (R-Ky.) vs. Anthony S. Fauci, the longtime head of the department of infectious diseases at the National Institutes of Health.

I am not referring here to any moral or intellectual equivalence between the figures. Their inequality, in fact, is a central part of the story. Paul's contempt for expertise, his spread of conspiracy theories, his use of oversight as ambush — all this indicates a performative approach to governing. Reality does not ultimately count; the play is the thing. And Paul has found an audience among ideologues who demonstrate their fidelity by taking some extra poison in their pudding.

The single most shocking fact to come out of the recent pandemic has been the unfair self-apportionment of pain and death. People in majority-Republican counties experienced 73 more deaths from covid-19 per 100,000 people than those in majority-Democratic counties. There are a variety of explanations. One is certainly the use of high office to discourage the most basic means of self-preservation during a deadly disease outbreak. Imagine if it had been Democratic public authorities encouraging Republican self-victimization. But it was Republican officials who did it — and found it an effective method of self-publicization.

On the other side has stood Fauci. In more than 50 years at the NIH, Fauci has been accustomed to scientific debates in which disagreements emerge as the result of seeking different methods in the pursuit of the same goals. But Paul and his co-ideologues have left the assumption of shared objectives in tatters. And this has constituted an attack on the very idea of public service — the notion that true experts can make a career in seeking the common good.

For Fauci, it has been a professional and moral commitment that politics should stop at the human biome's edge. This does not imply that scientific experts are perfect. To the contrary, the purpose of the scientific method is to organize failure into deeper insight. But it does mean that scientific truth is not relative — or determined in the political realm.

In attempting to demonize Fauci, his critics gained a fundraising target. And that, by their own lights, is the definition of political success. But seldom has the choice of an attack been more of a self-indictment. Fauci is not only a symbol of public health orthodoxy; he has done as much as any scientist to turn medical innovation into humanitarian progress.

For generations, Fauci has applied a low-key excellence to fighting domestic AIDS, tropical infectious diseases, global AIDS and Ebola. His role in the creation of the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief has helped save tens of millions of lives and built medical infrastructure across the developing world. His focus and public investment have brought us to the verge of vaccines against malaria, one of the world's deadliest parasites.

Fauci is a symbol of sorts. He demonstrates what can happen when a nation at the height of its power employs the finest scientific minds of their generation to the pursuit of public health goals few believed were possible. The result has been a golden age of public health, motivated by an American belief in human dignity.

This is not the kind of reputation to be dented by political attacks or internet rumors. It is a legacy praised each day by the chorus of millions of breaths that would otherwise be silent. A vast chorus of the nearly lost.

As someone who worked for a few years with Fauci during George W. Bush's administration, I saw how he pushed for new ideas and new funding: by expressing his passion for the scientific project itself. He is the ultimate explainer. In briefings, he did not conspire to make himself seem smart. He made those he briefed feel they had spent a few minutes looking out on a vast landscape of innovation.

Robin Givhan: Fauci carried all our angst and anger with patience and decency

Fauci assumes that everyone is rational and thus persuadable. That is not quite true. But when he described to me the shifting shell of sugars that surround and protect the AIDS virus, or how mRNA vaccines work, it left a few impressions. First, how something that can kill you can be so fascinating. But also how much Fauci's friendship felt like mentorship. The greatness of his calling rubbed off a bit. And one was left with the infection of his mission.

Fauci's forthcoming retirement as director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases will cost Americans, and people around the world, far more than they realize. But he will ever remain the greatest public servant I have known.

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**Date:** Thu, 9 Feb 2023 7:19:15 PM -0500
**Sent:** Thu, 9 Feb 2023 7:18:49 PM -0500
**Subject:** Re: latest round of COVID-origins hassle from today/yesterday
**From:** "Hotez, Peter Jay" < (b) (6)
**To:** Peter Daszak < (b) (6) Roberts, Rich < (b) (6) Keusch, Gerald T < (b) (6)
**CC:** David Morens < (b) (6) Jeffrey Sturchio < (b) (6) Aleksei Chmura < (b) (6) >;
**Attachments:** image001.jpg; image002.jpg; image003.jpg

WSJ opinion is written version of Fox News, so disappointing about NY Times


**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

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**Senior Coordinator & Executive Support:** Douglas Soriano
(b) (6) | Phone: (b) (6) | Fax: 713-798-2299

**Media Inquiries:**
(b) (6)
(b) (6)


---

**From:** Peter Daszak <(b) (6)
**Sent:** Thursday, February 9, 2023 6:13 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 Chmura <(b) (6) >
**Subject:** latest round of COVID-origins hassle from today/yesterday

NIH Acting Director Tabak was giving testimony to the House Energy and Commerce Committee yesterday. They banged on about the usual issues, including attacking their oversight of our work, and generally pushing the idea that NIH funded EcoHealth that led to COVID. Here's a press release from the Committee:
https://energycommerce.house.gov/posts/oversight- and-investigations-subcommittee-chair-griffith-opening-statement-on-the-federal-government-s-response-to-covid-19

This was picked up by the NY Times, who seems to love reporting on the 'debate' on the lab leak, little realizing that even if they're on the right side of it, they're still amplifying attacks by publishing this:
https://www.nytimes.com/2023/02/08/us/politics/house- covid-lab-leak.html

Then, today (unfortunately) Rand Paul went on a pretty rambling summary of lab leak conspiracies, criticizing EHA during

Senate Foreign Relations hearing (I think) with the State Dept. There's a video from his Twitter feed here: https://twitter.com/SenRandPaul/status/1623724657043013632?s=20 &t=pTNEJXwmjOPPDvD2q2ZFsA

Finally, the activists pushing this agenda are busy writing Op Eds to capitalize on the House's interest in investigating COVID origins. There have been a few, but here's one today with that horrible anti-China political correspondent Josh Rogin, and an equally irritating person who used to be in Clinton's National Security staff and is all-out for subpoena-ing scientists… https://www.wsj.com/articles/we- still-dont-know-the-truth-about-covid-wuhan-lab-virology-pandemic-source-gain-of-function-who-research-accountability-china-congress-11675893326?st=zec5duovjxogxm4 &reflink=article_copyURL_share

It looks like we're in for a constant haranguing of reports, committee hearings, and the media attacks that cycle with them.

Writing this email from a hotel room near Gore Mountain in the Adirondacks – I find the only real place I can forget about all this hassle is when I'm zipping between giant iced-up moguls on the steepest runs…

Cheers,

Peter

**Peter Daszak**
*President*

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

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**From:** Peter Daszak (b) (6) >
**Sent:** Thursday, February 9, 2023 7:02 PM
**To:** 'Roberts, Rich' <(b) (6) 'Keusch, Gerald T' (b) (6) (b) ; 'Hotez, Peter Jay' < (b) (6)
**Cc:** 'David Morens' (b) (6) >; 'Jeffrey Sturchio' (b) (6) >; Aleksei Chmura < (b) (6)
**Subject:** RE: Follow up from our call

Very promising that people at that level are interested in getting involved in protecting against the anti-science agenda. I understand that they aren't sure what exactly to do, but that's where I think we need to keep thinking strategically amongst ourselves as we get further support. There needs to be either a formal coalition, with a name and a website, or a program led by an organization with taskforces, articles, and a way for people to get involved.

Right now, if we can persuade AAAS to take this on board, or one of the other orgs, then the second option will work, but if not, perhaps the way to do this is to convene a meeting of all relevant people/organizational representatives, and then have them all come up with a plan together.

Cheers,

Peter

**Peter Daszak**
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**From:** Roberts, Rich <(b) (6)
**Sent:** Thursday, February 9, 2023 3:20 PM
**To:** Keusch, Gerald T (b) (6) >; Peter Daszak (b) (6) >; Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6) >
**Cc:** David Morens (b) (6) >; Jeffrey Sturchio (b) (6) Aleksei Chmura <
(b) (6) >
**Subject:** Follow up from our call

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
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**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) m >; Roberts, Rich (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,

Peter

**Peter Daszak**
*President*

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**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) g>
**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



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**Media Inquiries:**
(b) (6)

(b) (6)

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**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)

Cheers,

Peter

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Twitter: @PeterDaszak

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**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

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Amazon Author Center | Daily Beast Contributor

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**Media Inquiries:**
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iPhone

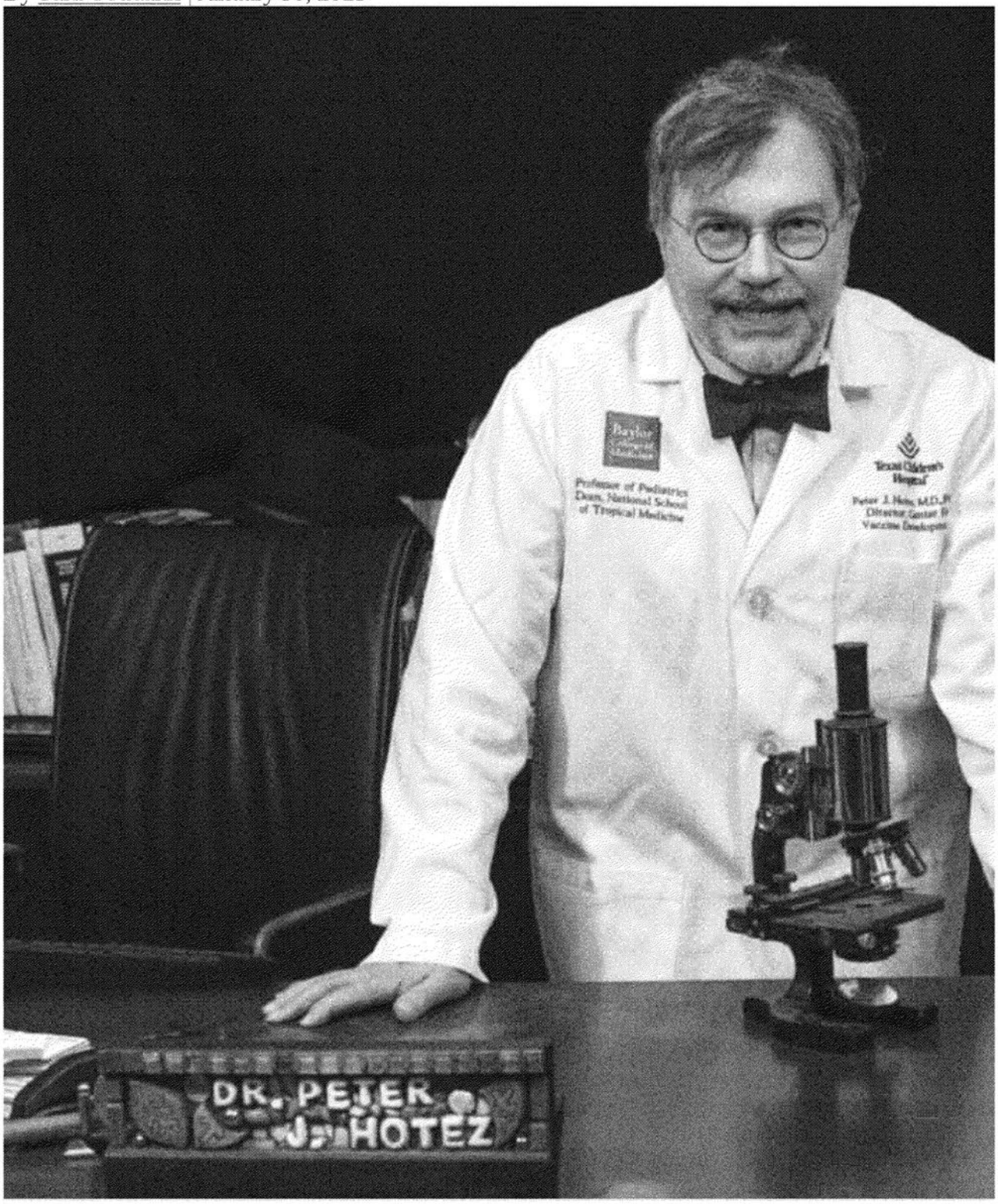
On Jan 31, 2023, at 1:44 PM, Peter Daszak <(b) (6) > wrote:

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



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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



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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



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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 18$^{th}$-century enlightenment philosophy, but science is not typically something that's debated in that kind of forum; we have a mechanism for doing that



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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

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

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**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

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**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
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(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/

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**Baylor University**, University Professor
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**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
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Fax: (978) 412 9910
email: (b) (6)

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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) >; 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



MORENS_SUBPOENA_018309
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REL0000476656

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**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) (b) (6) <(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

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Executive Assistant: (b) (6)
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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 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



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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



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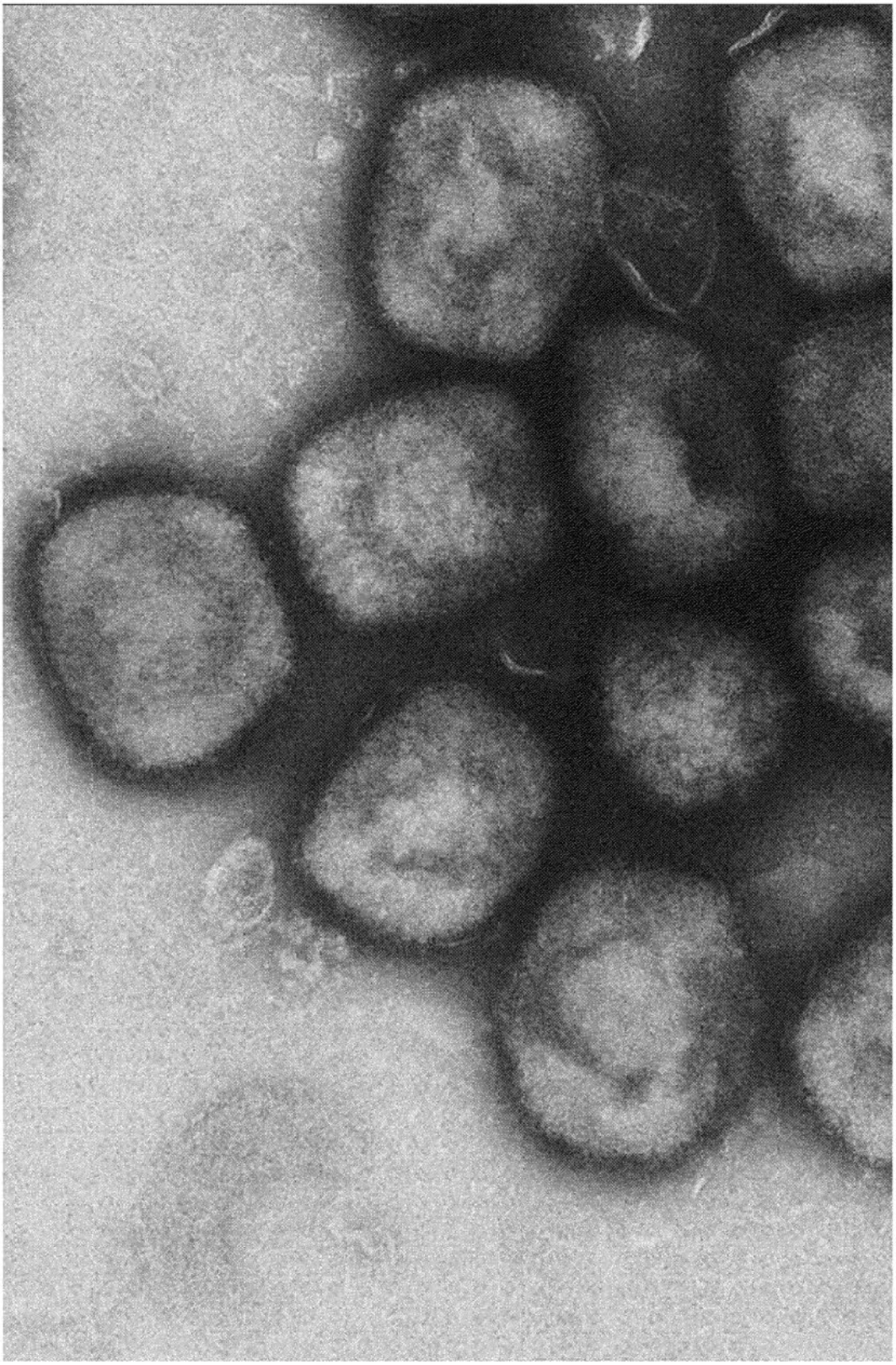

This image shows purified particles of mpox virus, formerly called monkeypox. Viruses like these can be genetically altered in the lab in ways that might make them more dangerous.

*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



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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.
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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.

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"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


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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.

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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?"

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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



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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*

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**From:** Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6)
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 25, 2023 9:20 PM
**To:** Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6) u>
**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

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**From:** Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6)



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MORENS_NIH_037288
REL0000476656

**Sent:** Wednesday, January 25, 2023 2:38 PM
**To:** Keusch, Gerald T (b) (6) u>
**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

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

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**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

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**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



MORENS_SUBPOENA_018316
MORENS_NIH_037289
REL0000476656

**To:** Peter Daszak (b) (6)
**Cc:** David Morens (b) (6) Jeffrey Sturchio <(b) (6) >;
Aleksei Chmura (b) (6) >; Keusch, Gerald T (b) (6) ;
Rich Roberts (b) (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

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**Baylor University**, University Professor
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**Texas A&M University**, Faculty-Senior Fellow, Hagler Inst for Advanced Study & Scowcroft Institute of Intl Affairs

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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*

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Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
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*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) com >; 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 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 (b) (6)
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



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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



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REL0000476656

**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) rg>; David Morens (b) (6) >; Gerald Keusch (b) (6) Rich Roberts (b) (6) m>
**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: (b) (6)

**Media Inquiries:**
(b) (6)

(b) (6)
iPhone



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On Jan 25, 2023, at 9:47 AM, Peter Daszak <
(b) (6) > wrote:

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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) g>; Aleksei Chmura <
(b) (6) >; David Morens <
d(b) (6) m>; 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

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**Senior Coordinator & Executive Support:** Douglas Soriano
(b) (6) | Phone: (b) (6) |
Fax: 713-798-2299

**Media Inquiries:**
(b) (6)

iPhone

**Date:** Tue, 26 Apr 2022 12:33:31 PM -0400
**Sent:** Tue, 26 Apr 2022 12:32:59 PM -0400
**Subject:** Jerry's letter to Victor Dzau
**From:** Peter Daszak < (b) (6)
**To:** Keusch, Gerald T < (b) (6) Hotez, Peter Jay < (b) (6) Roberts, Rich < (b) (6)
David Morens <(b) (6) Jeff Sturchio < (b) (6)

Re. your letter below, Jerry, and the comment to Victor that the news is now public re. the NAM investigation – in my inbox this morning are requests from journalists from the Washington Examiner, Bloomberg Law, and Epoch Times. They want me to comment on the allegations from McMorris Rodgers, and the letter last week requesting the HHS secretary to investigate EcoHealth for unethical behavior and get us debarred from federal funding.

Does Victor really want the NAM to be a party to this anti-science political witchhunt? Because that's exactly what's happening 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
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*EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation*

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**From:** Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6)
**Sent:** Monday, April 25, 2022 9:38 PM
**To:** Peter Daszak (b) (6) >; Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6) >; Roberts, Rich (b) (6)
**Subject:** FW: Investigation of Peter Daszak

I sent the note below to Victor, now that the internal investigation at NAM is in the public domain.
Rich, it is time to mobilize the Nobel laureates. This is going too far and there must be pressure, all the pressure possible from the scientific community, and applied to Victor and NAM to stop it now.

Jerry

---

**From:** Keusch, Gerald T
**Sent:** Monday, April 25, 2022 9:35 PM
**To:** Victor J Dzau (b) (6)
**Cc:** Vermund, Sten (b) (6)
**Subject:** Investigation of Peter Daszak

Dear Victor,

I am surprised to see the Republican members of the House Energy and Commerce Committee providing information to Fox News about supposedly confidential procedures at NAM. They of course are repeating the baseless accusations we discussed



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previously, but there is the uncomfortable reality that when lies are repeated time after time people begin to believe them. But now this is in the public domain. NAM no longer has the luxury of working through this in protected space. You are in the spotlight, and like it or not you and the Academy are being dragged into this dreadful episode in the history of science.

I would hope NAM has the courage to stop this in its tracks by issuing a brief memo to them saying the initial investigation has revealed no violation by Peter Daszak of the code of conduct and their request is denied. Period. The stakes are high, certainly for Peter and his career and his organization which has generated so much critical science for the past 20 years. But beyond Peter it is the very integrity of science and the stewardship of science and separation of politics away from science that is so threatened by these accusations.

I am convinced there will be an uproar at NAM if there is any adverse judgement passed on Peter and his integrity. Please stop it in its tracks while you can.

Jerry

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| | |
|---|---|
| Date: | Tue, 21 Jul 2020 12:19:19 PM -0400 |
| Sent: | Tue, 21 Jul 2020 12:19:17 PM -0400 |
| Subject: | RE: FW: House passes Chris Smith measure to probe if government turned ticks into bioweapons |
| From: | "Keusch, Gerald T" <(b) (6) |
| To: | Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] <(b) (6) >; Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >; |
| Attachments: | image001.gif; image002.jpg; image003.png; image004.jpg |

It is sometimes, just sometimes, hard to believe how stupid so many are in this country. This is one of those times, and Chris Smith is the poster child.

---

**From:** Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] < (b) (6)
**Sent:** Tuesday, July 21, 2020 11:25 AM
**To:** Keusch, Gerald T < (b) (6) Peter Daszak < (b) (6)
**Subject:** Fwd: FW: House passes Chris Smith measure to probe if government turned ticks into bioweapons

-------- Forwarded Message --------
**Subject:** FW: House passes Chris Smith measure to probe if government turned ticks into bioweapons
**Date:** Tue, 21 Jul 2020 15:22:07 +0000
**From:** Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b) (6)
**To:** David Morens (b) (6) <(b) (6) >



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)

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**From:** Folkers, Greg (NIH/NIAID) [E] <
(b) (6)
**Sent:** Tuesday, July 21, 2020 9:54 AM
**Subject:** House passes Chris Smith measure to probe if government turned ticks into bioweapons

NEW JERSEY GLOBE



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Rep. Christopher Smith (R-Hamilton).

# House passes Chris Smith measure to probe if government turned ticks into bioweapons

New Jersey congressman wants GAO to investigate whether diseased ticks were 'accidentally or intentionally' released

By David Wildstein, July 21 2020 9:10 am

Rep. Christopher Smith (R-Hamilton) says there are credible assertions that government researchers at Ft. Detrick and Plum Island turned ticks into bioweapons.

Now the 20-term New Jersey Republican wants the government to investigate whether ticks were ever weaponized with Lyme disease or other hazardous pathogens.

Smith's congressional colleagues agree with him.

Last night, the House approved an amendment sponsored by Smith that requires the Government Accountability Office (GAO) to determine if ticks were ever weaponized with Lyme disease or other hazardous pathogens.

This is Smith's second bid to get his proposed law passed. In 2019, he sponsored a similar measure giving the job to the U.S. Department of Defense Inspector General.

The proposal never moved through the U.S. Senate. Smith said he was told the inspector general at the Pentagon didn't have the bandwidth to launch an investigation.

Smith said that the government researcher credited with discovering Lyme disease, Dr. Willy Burgdorfer, was a bio-weapons specialist.

According to Smith, Burgdorfer's files reveals that he and other bio-weapon specialists "stuffed ticks with pathogens in a quest to cause severe disability, disease, and death to potential enemies."

"With Lyme disease and other tick-borne diseases exploding in the United States—with an estimated 300,000 to 427,000 new cases each year and 10-20% of all patients suffering from chronic Lyme Disease, Americans have a right to know whether any of



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this true," Smith said.
Smith wants the GAO investigation to determine if any diseased ticks were accidentally or intentionally released.
"Perhaps most importantly, can any of this information help current-day researchers find a way to mitigate—and help facilitate a cure—for Lyme and other tick borne diseases," Smith asked.

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| | |
|---|---|
| Date: | Thu, 5 May 2022 11:36:00 AM -0400 |
| Sent: | Thu, 5 May 2022 11:35:53 AM -0400 |
| Subject: | RE: Article in Buzzfeed yesterday detailing political motivation behind Termination of EHA's grant |
| From: | "Keusch, Gerald T" <(b) (6) |
| To: | Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6) >; Roberts, Rich <(b) (6) >; |
| CC: | Peter Daszak < (b) (6) >; David Morens < (b) (6) >; Jeff Sturchio < (b) (6) Aleksei Chmura < (b) (6) >; |
| Attachments: | image001.jpg; image002.jpg; image003.png; image004.jpg; image005.jpg; image006.jpg |

It's a powerful piece with a focus on the political motivation and ulterior motives of these attack dogs. I am really glad to see Lauer put into the spotlight in this manner. It makes me think he has a political agenda of his own, rather than simply being the messenger for Collins and allowing Collins to stay more in the background. That said, I am disappointed that he didn't point his pen at Collins for the egregious failure to defend science and scientists.

I am going to forward this to Victor Dzau, Bruce Alberts and Harvey Fineberg, with the hope that the latter two will respond to Dzau and that Bruce will make sure Elena Fuentes-Afflick realize the full weight of the political and other forces that are behind the republican demands on NAM.

Jerry

---

**From:** Hotez, Peter Jay < (b) (6)
**Sent:** Thursday, May 5, 2022 11:05 AM
**To:** Roberts, Rich < (b) (6)
**Cc:** Peter Daszak < (b) (6) Keusch, Gerald T < (b) (6) David Morens < (b) (6) Jeff Sturchio < (b) (6) Aleksei Chmura < (b) (6)
**Subject:** Re: Article in Buzzfeed yesterday detailing political motivation behind Termination of EHA's grant

Until now I hadn't heard of the white coat project

**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



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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: (b) (6)

iPhone

On May 5, 2022, at 9:15 AM, Roberts, Rich (b) (6) wrote:

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Peter:

A good article, but hard to know how effective it might be.
It does continue to raise the need for scientists to fight back.

Rich

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

**From:** Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >
**Sent:** Thursday, May 5, 2022 9:27 AM
**To:** Keusch, Gerald T (b) (6) >; Roberts, Rich (b) (6) ; David Morens (b) (6)
Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6) >; Jeff Sturchio (b) (6) >
**Cc:** Aleksei Chmura (b) (6)
**Subject:** Article in Buzzfeed yesterday detailing political motivation behind Termination of EHA's grant
**Importance:** High

**EXTERNAL SENDER**

Dear All,



MORENS_SUBPOENA_008489
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Peter Aldhous from Buzzfeed has done a deep dive on FoIA'd emails and put together a convincing account of how a pretty awful Animal Rights group (White Coat Waste) was behind much of the initial efforts to get our grant terminated by NIH. It shows that the campaign against EHA and myself was politically motivated and as Jeff Sturchio said in an email to me today 'cravenly opportunistic'. It shows clearly that Francis Collins, Michael Lauer, and a bunch of lawyers at NIH have been on a two-year long campaign to find justification for their actions so they can throw us under the bus to avoid political pressure.

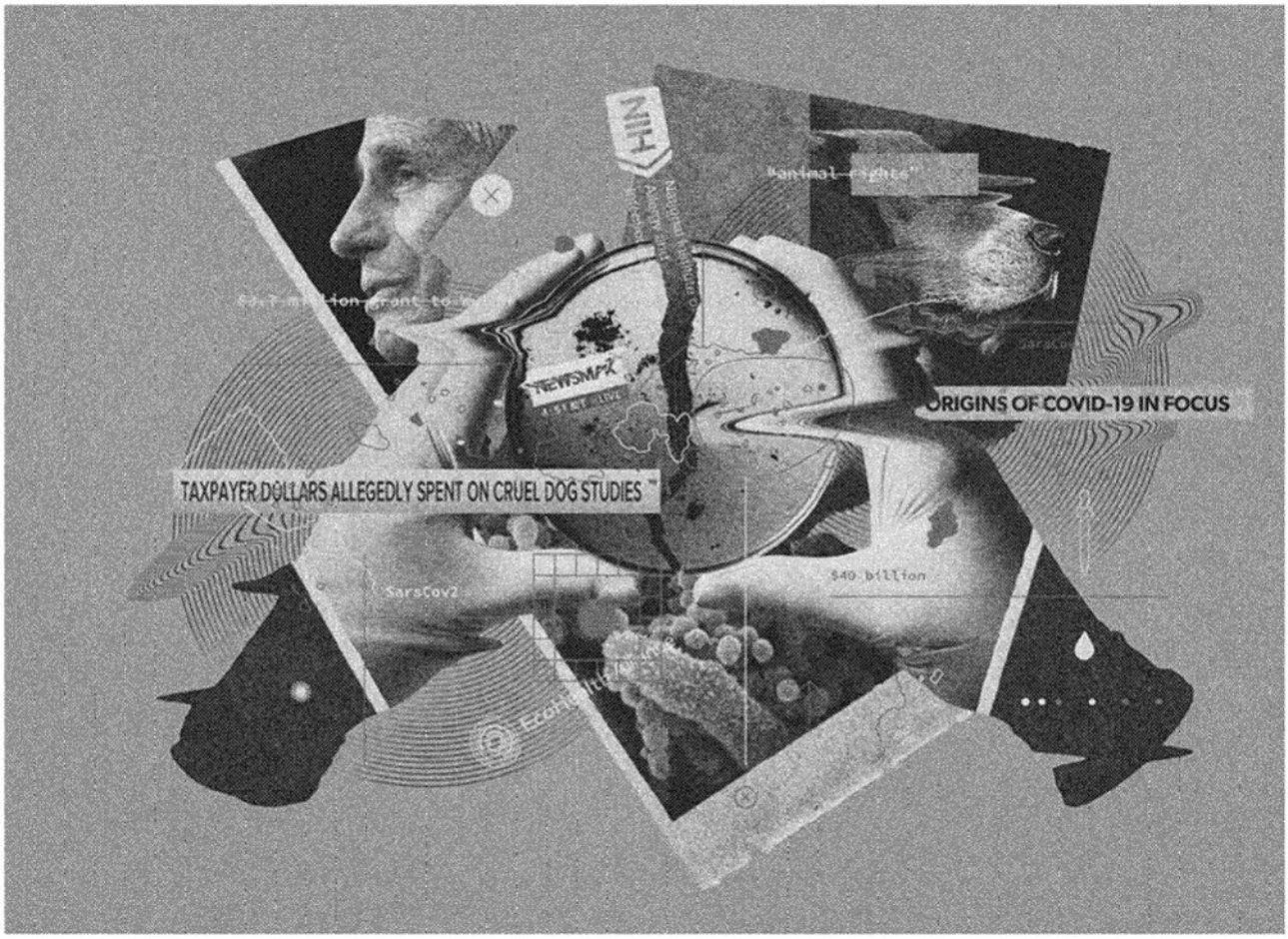
https://www.buzzfeednews.com/article/peteraldhous/white- coat-waste-anthony-fauci-nih-ecohealth-alliance-lab

Note the following line, when Michael Lauer discovered that our Yr 5 report arrived late, so they could try to nail us for 'non-compliance' even though we'd already reported the experiment the year earlier.

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."

What an awful bunch of disingenuous bureaucrats in the Office of the Director – a real rats nest – focused entirely on saving their own jobs, not caring about science or grantees…

Here's the text of the article:



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*Israel Vargas for BuzzFeed News*

**As much of the United States** entered COVID lockdowns in April 2020, a tiny group that campaigns against federal funding for animal experiments spotted an opportunity. Speculation was swirling in right-leaning media that the virus behind the pandemic had emerged from a lab in Wuhan, China, rather than from wildlife sold for food in the city's markets. As it happened, the White Coat Waste Project had been looking into taxpayer money going to labs in China, including in Wuhan. The group's founder had strong contacts with Republican politicians and had launched the group with the mission of getting conservatives into animal activism.

The White Coat Waste Project sprung into action, persuading DailyMail.com to run a story saying the US government had funded the lab. Then all hell broke loose.

Then-president Donald Trump, keen to blame China for the pandemic, was soon involved. After prodding from the conservative outlet Newsmax at a press conference, his administration terminated the grant from the National Institutes of Health, which had been awarded to a New York–based nonprofit called the EcoHealth Alliance.

Since then, the controversy over whether the COVID pandemic started with a "lab leak" has escalated into a ferocious fight, with conflicting narratives that paint EcoHealth and the Wuhan Institute of Virology either as out-of-control scientists who may have caused the pandemic through inherently risky research or as the victims of politically motivated conspiracy theories, unfairly vilified as the architects of a catastrophe that they worked for years to prevent by studying the risks posed by bat coronaviruses.

Two years on, and with the scientific trail going cold, it's possible that the mystery of the origins of SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19, may never be conclusively solved. But thousands of pages of NIH emails and other documents released to BuzzFeed News through a Freedom of Information Act lawsuit show how the White Coat Waste Project rode the wave of partisan pandemic politics to serve its cause, and in the process triggered a storm that engulfed EcoHealth, one of the world's largest groups studying potentially dangerous animal viruses. They also show how the NIH, a behemoth that spends more than $40 billion annually on biomedical research, stumbled under the political pressure the White Coat Waste Project brought to bear.

The White Coat Waste Project has subsequently channeled right-wing anger toward Anthony Fauci, the public face of COVID policies including mask and vaccine mandates, accusing his National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, which is part of the NIH, of funding "beagle torture." The White Coat Waste Project is writing a controversial new activist playbook — and it's unclear whether anyone can control the forces that it has helped to unleash.

"They jumped on the bandwagon of how I have become public enemy number one of the far right," Fauci told BuzzFeed News. "If you engage and try and push back on that, it very often only gives it legs. And then it becomes even worse of a problem."



*White Coat Waste via YouTube / Via youtube.com*

Anthony Bellotti

**The White Coat Waste Project** was formed in 2013 by Anthony Bellotti, a campaign consultant who over the years had worked for Republican candidates including Arnold Schwarzenegger and Lisa Murkowski, and on efforts to defund Planned Parenthood and Obamacare. But Bellotti's real passion had long been animal protection, he told BuzzFeed News — an interest forged at the age of 17 when he worked as a summer intern in a lab doing research on pigs, studying ways to extend the time they could be kept under anesthesia during heart surgery. Bellotti said he was struck both by the animals' suffering and the "repugnant and callous attitude" of the experimenters. "It really made a mark on me," he said.

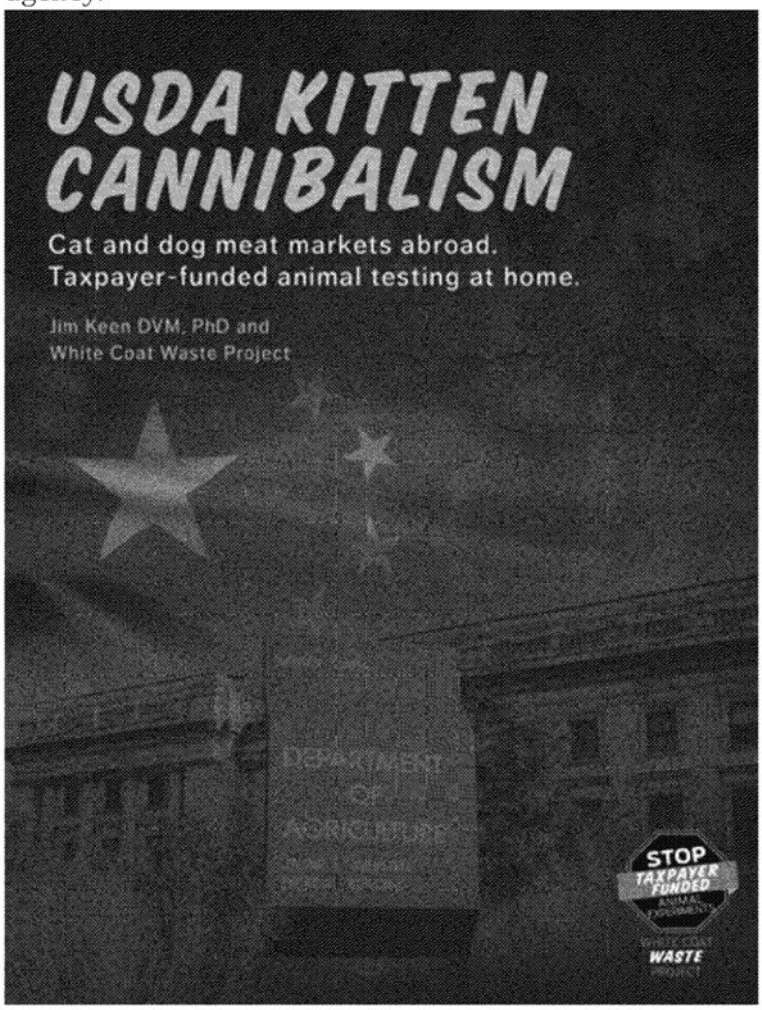
Poring over polling data, Bellotti could see that there was a big gap between Democrats and Republicans on the issue. Democrats were much more likely to support campaigns against animal experiments, which had often focused on corporate labs, and Republicans tended to back the research. So Bellotti crafted a message calculated to bring the missing Republicans on board, focusing on government spending. He avoids the label "animal rights," and has cast the White Coat Waste Project as a "taxpayer watchdog uniting liberty-lovers and animal-lovers."

In addition to mobilizing support from the political right, there was another reason to target government spending: Congress has the power to shut it down. "The goal isn't to change hearts and minds, it's to win the fight," Bellotti told BuzzFeed News. "We had to get to the root cause of the problem, which was the government spending."

The group didn't really take off until 2016, when Bellotti hired Justin Goodman, a former director of laboratory investigations with People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals, to head the White Coat Waste Project's advocacy efforts. Goodman started digging into government databases and filing FOIA requests to identify projects that the group could campaign to defund.

Even before the pandemic, the White Coat Waste Project scored some victories. An early campaign, launched in a report called "Spending to Death," highlighted experiments involving

dogs in federal labs, including one studying the effects of blood transfusions in dogs with pneumonia in which some of the animals died. The group then turned up the heat on the Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center in Richmond, Virginia, focusing on experiments into heart disease in which dogs were run on treadmills after their heart rhythms were disrupted using implanted pacemaker devices. The White Coast Waste Project's multiyear effort to shut down Veterans Affairs dog research eventually led Congress to restrict spending on the work and demand explicit approval from the secretary for veterans affairs for new dog experiments by the agency.




*White Coat Waste*

The cover of the White Coat Waste Project's 2019 report titled "USDA Kitten Cannibalism"

But it was another campaign that sowed the seeds for the attack on EcoHealth and its collaboration with the Wuhan Institute of Virology. In 2018, the White Coat Waste Project began to target the US Department of Agriculture's Animal Parasitic Diseases Laboratory in Beltsville, Maryland, zeroing in on its research into toxoplasmosis, which can infect people exposed to cat feces and can cause brain or eye damage in those with compromised immune systems. The campaign culminated in a March 2019 White Coat Waste Project report called "USDA Kitten Cannibalism." Its cover featured the Chinese flag superimposed over a photo of USDA's headquarters in Washington, DC. That framing drew on an experiment published in 2007 in which cats at the Maryland facility were fed meat from other cats purchased at a market in China to gauge its infectivity. Although the full report noted that these experiments were no longer being run, the association between this gruesome-sounding research and a nation seen as a major adversary to the US resonated with



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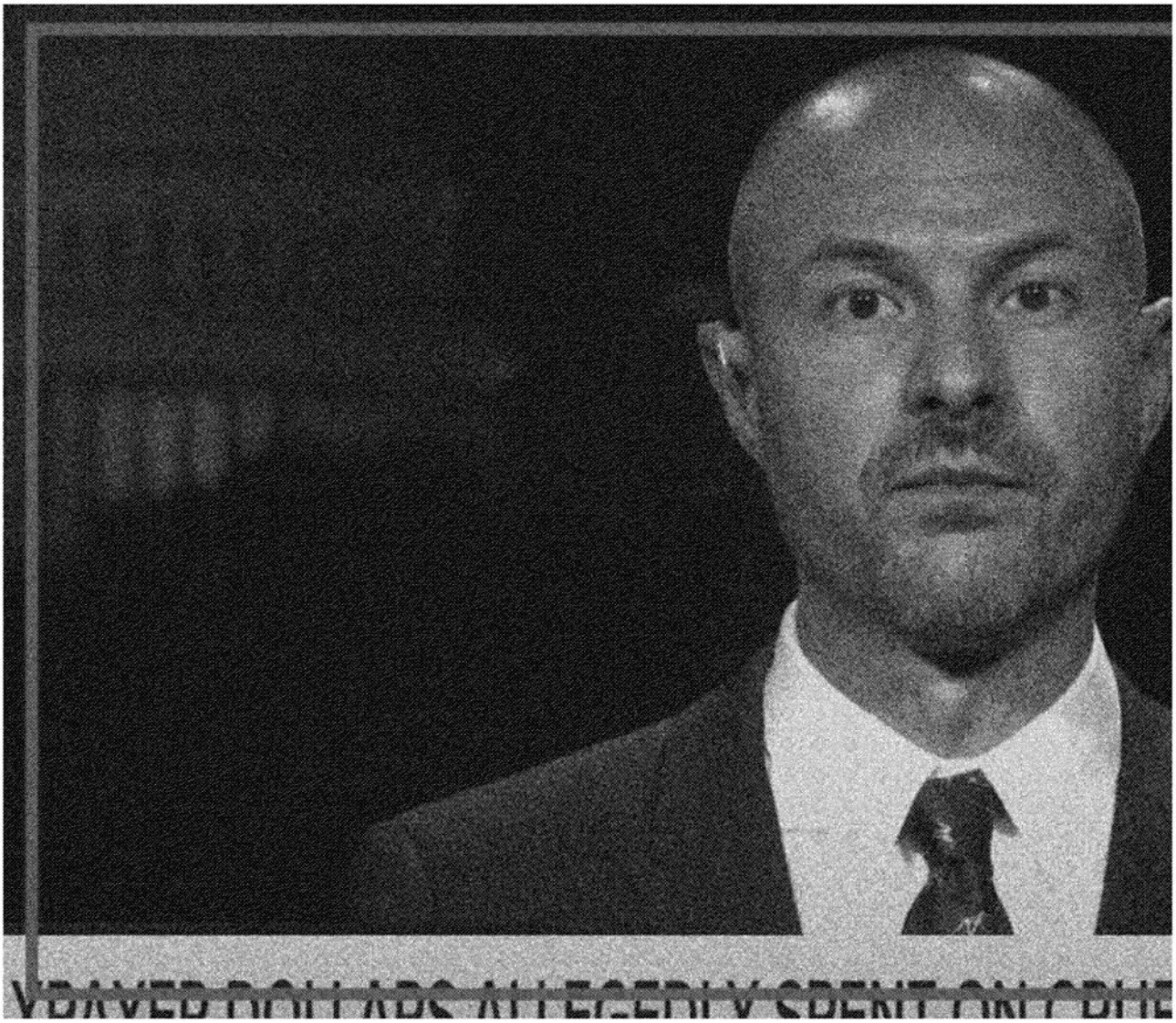
members of Congress from both parties and with the media. Within a couple of weeks, the USDA announced that the cat toxoplasmosis research would be shut down, stating that it had "reached its maturity."

After that win, Bellotti said that the White Coat Waste Project started to wonder about what else was being funded with taxpayer dollars outside of the US: "This is horrible stuff. What else is going on?" So Goodman started to look at research in foreign labs funded by the NIH, turning to a list of those given an "animal welfare assurance" needed to receive federal dollars for animal experiments. He focused particularly on labs in the US's two main geopolitical rivals. "One of the things that struck us was that there were at the time 31 labs in Russia and China," Goodman told BuzzFeed News.



*NewsNation via YouTube / Via youtube.com*

Justin Goodman

**Still, the White Coat Waste Project** remained a small player in the world of animal activism: Its total revenue in 2019 of around $1.4 million was dwarfed by the $60 million pulled in by Goodman's former employer PETA. And initial efforts to interest the Trump administration in Goodman's findings on the NIH's overseas animal research didn't gain much traction. In January 2020, as reports emerged of a dangerous new virus spreading in China, the White Coat Waste



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Project had a meeting with White House officials. Goodman recalls specifically mentioning the Wuhan Institute of Virology, but the Trump staffers didn't bite. "We gave them a bunch of information and never heard back," Goodman said. "We got a cursory 'thank you.'"

At that time, Peter Daszak, president of the EcoHealth Alliance, had never heard of the White Coat Waste Project and had no inkling of the storm that was brewing. "If you would have told me that this chain of events was going to happen, I would have said, 'No way, this is absolutely impossible,'" he told BuzzFeed News.

Federal spending records show that EcoHealth has received almost $120 million from research grants and contracts since 2008, from agencies including USAID, the NIH, and the Defense Threat Reduction Agency. EcoHealth's emergence as a major player in assessing pandemic threats, working with labs across the world, was fueled in part by the "near miss" with SARS, another respiratory disease caused by a coronavirus that emerged in southern China in 2002 and killed nearly 800 people before its spread was brought under control.

Indeed, in late January 2020, officials in Fauci's institute who were preparing talking points for their boss, due to appear at a Jan. 28 press conference on the US response to the new coronavirus, described Daszak's research into the risks posed by bat coronaviruses in glowing terms. The EcoHealth group was "among the biggest players in coronavirus research," wrote David Morens, senior adviser to Fauci, in an email obtained through the BuzzFeed News FOIA lawsuit. "In short, we have on our team … probably the world's experts in these non-human coronaviruses."

"If you would have told me that this chain of events was going to happen, I would have said, 'No way, this is absolutely impossible.'"

Fast-forward to April 2020, and the White Coat Waste Project's findings about NIH funding for the Wuhan Institute of Virology were starting to find a receptive audience. On April 11, the group succeeded in getting DailyMail.com, the website of a British tabloid newspaper with a large online readership in the US, to run the story: "REVEALED: U.S. Government Gave $3.7 Million Grant to Wuhan Lab at Center of Coronavirus Leak Scrutiny." ($3.7 million was actually the total sum paid over six years to EcoHealth, gleaned by Goodman from the NIH's grants database; in fact, less than $600,000 went to the Wuhan institute.)

The White Coat Waste Project started reaching out to Republicans in Congress — and the NIH was soon reeling. By April 13, NIH officials were scrambling to respond to a request for information from the office of Florida Sen. Marco Rubio, which had forwarded an email from Goodman noting the press coverage of the White Coat Waste Project's "troubling find" about the Wuhan institute. In that email, Goodman noted: "We're working with Rep. Matt Gaetz (R-FL) and others on a sign-on letter about this."

Two days later, the alarm bells were ringing at the very top of the NIH. Lawrence Tabak, deputy to Francis Collins, then director of the NIH, wrote to his boss and Fauci, whose institute had awarded the grant, emphasizing in bold that the Trump White House was on the warpath: "The **WH has strongly embraced concerns** raised by Congressman Gaetz who is publicly criticizing HHS/NIH for funding the Wuhan laboratory's bat research."

"I reached Tony, he is now informed," Collins replied, confirming Fauci was in the loop.

Then, on April 17, a Newsmax reporter asked Trump about the project, repeating the false claim that $3.7 million had gone to the Wuhan institute. "We will end that grant very quickly," Trump said.

**Michael Lauer, head** of the NIH Office of Extramural Research, part of Collins' central command, then took control. On April 19, Lauer wrote to inform EcoHealth that NIH was looking to suspend the Wuhan institute from receiving federal funds. Other spending could continue, but EcoHealth should send no more money to China. In an April 21 email, Daszak told Lauer that since the grant was renewed for a second five-year term in July 2019, no funds had gone to Wuhan "nor has any contract been signed."

But three days later, NIH terminated the entire grant, for "convenience." In a one-page letter to EcoHealth on April 24, Lauer wrote: "At this time, NIH does not believe that the current project outcomes align with the program goals and agency priorities."

Daszak was stunned. So too were many other scientists, disturbed that research that had been exceptionally highly rated in peer review, and which was directly related to the pandemic, could be canceled at a stroke. On May 21, 77 US Nobel Prize winners in science wrote to NIH director Collins and Alex Azar, secretary of health and human services, protesting the decision and describing the explanation given by Lauer about the NIH's priorities as "preposterous under the circumstances."

EcoHealth's response came on the day after the Nobelists' letter, when the group's pro bono lawyer wrote to Lauer contending that the NIH didn't have the legal authority to terminate a research grant in this way, without cause. The letter also argued that EcoHealth's goals were virtually identical to those laid out in the NIAID Strategic Plan for COVID-19 Research, released the day before the grant termination.

Later, in a congressional hearing, Fauci was asked why the grant was terminated. "It was canceled because the NIH was told to cancel it," he told the House Energy and Commerce Committee on June 23, 2020. "We got it from the highest office of the president: 'Cancel that grant,'" Fauci confirmed to BuzzFeed News.

The backlash against Lauer's initial letter seemed to prompt a rethink from the NIH. As first reported by the Wall Street Journal, Lauer came back to EcoHealth with a second letter on July 8. Abandoning the explanation about the NIH's priorities, Lauer wrote that the grant was reinstated, but immediately suspended because of concerns about biosafety at the Wuhan Institute of Virology. That tied the suspension directly to the lab leak theory, which posits that the pandemic may have started with the accidental release of a virus being studied in the lab, perhaps through a worker who became infected.

"We have concerns that WIV has not satisfied safety requirements under the award, and that EcoHealth Alliance has not satisfied its obligations to monitor the activities of its subrecipient to ensure compliance," Lauer wrote.

To lift that suspension, EcoHealth would have to respond to seven requests for information and materials. They included: "EcoHealth Alliance must arrange for WIV to submit to an outside inspection team charged to review the lab facilities and lab records, with specific attention to addressing the question of whether WIV staff had SARS-CoV-2 in their possession prior to December 2019." There was no way a US nonprofit could get the Chinese authorities to agree to such a request: Even the WHO team, including Daszak, that later visited the institute in February 2021 as part of its study of the origins of COVID-19 didn't get this unfettered access.

With Lauer's second letter, the grant entered a state of limbo from which it has yet to emerge — and seems unlikely to.




*Hector Retamal / AFP via Getty Images*

The Wuhan Institute of Virology on Feb. 3, 2021

**Since then, Republicans in Congress** have leaned hard into the lab leak theory and the related idea that the NIH funded EcoHealth and the Wuhan institute to conduct "gain-of-function" research — when scientists deliberately make viruses more dangerous in order to study pandemic risks. Internal correspondence obtained by BuzzFeed News shows NIH officials discussing at length how to respond to demands for information from congressional Republicans about the agency's funding for EcoHealth and the Wuhan institute.

The White Coat Waste Project once again entered the fray. In November 2021, it released 378 pages of documents obtained through FOIA, including a back-and-forth in 2016 between Daszak and two NIAID officials. Those officials were concerned that some experiments under EcoHealth's collaboration with the Wuhan institute might breach a pause the US government had imposed on gain-of-function work that could create a potentially pandemic virus. The experiments

involved creating "chimeric" coronaviruses, engineered to combine genetic sequences from different viruses sampled from the wild.

Some proposed experiments involved chimeras based on the virus that causes MERS, a respiratory disease that first showed up in Saudi Arabia in 2012 and has since killed almost 900 people. EcoHealth wanted to replace the MERS virus's "spike" protein, used to enter animal or human cells, with those from these new viruses, to see whether they were also able to latch onto a molecule on cell surfaces targeted by the MERS virus. The NIAID officials also wanted to know more about two chimeras that had already been made, in which the genes for spike proteins from newly discovered bat coronaviruses had been put into another bat coronavirus called WIV1, named after the Wuhan Institute of Virology.

The NIAID officials accepted Daszak's explanation that these experiments didn't meet the US government's definition of gain-of-function research: He had argued that there was no reason to suppose the chimeric viruses would be any more dangerous than the viruses behind MERS and SARS. So the NIAID allowed the research to continue.

Daszak responded: "This is terrific! We are very happy to hear that our Gain of Function research funding pause has been lifted." The White Coat Waste Project later claimed that it had caught Daszak "red-handed, admitting to gain-of-function research" — omitting the context that this quote was part of an exchange in which he had argued that the research didn't meet the US government's definition of that term.

"We'll have to agree to disagree here," Goodman said, when BuzzFeed News questioned this claim. "We're not interested in debating the interpretation of these emails or the definition of gain-of-function. We're only interested in exposing and ending wasteful government spending on dangerous animal experiments."

Emails and other documents obtained by BuzzFeed News show that the chimera experiments had already been deepening EcoHealth's problems, as Lauer and other NIH officials looked for evidence that EcoHealth had breached the terms and conditions of its grant.

> "Because [Fauci] became a household name as the pandemic progressed, sure, it created an opportunity to go after him for animal testing in a way that would really make waves."

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.



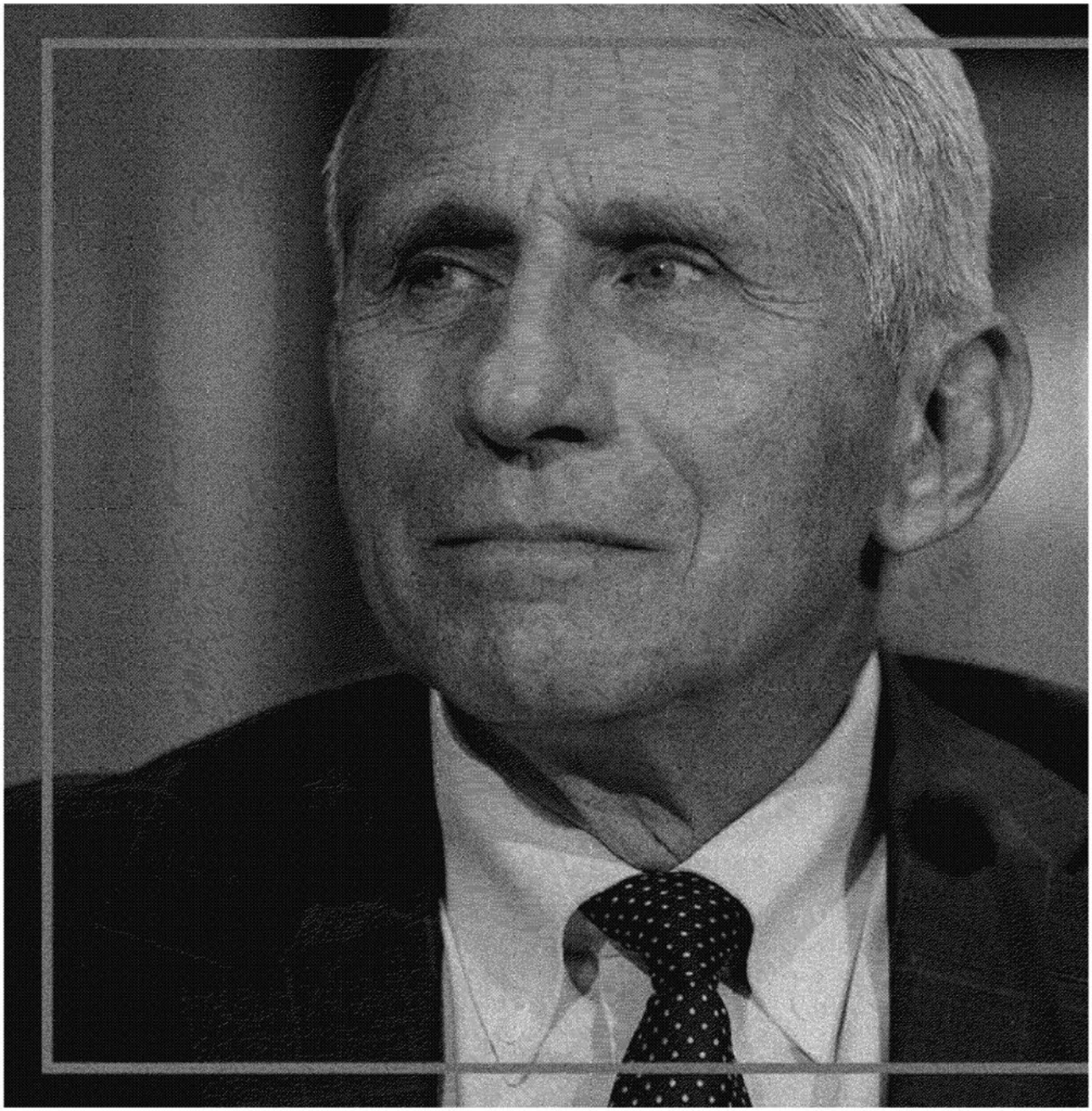
MORENS_SUBPOENA_008498
MORENS_NIH_018511
REL0000476665

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."

In December 2021, the White Coat Waste Project claimed a win from its activism around the EcoHealth grant when President Joe Biden signed the 2022 National Defense Authorization Act into law. It contained specific wording blocking the Department of Defense — which over the years has provided almost $40 million to EcoHealth — from supporting the nonprofit's research in China.



*Stefani Reynolds / POOL / AFP via Getty Images*
Anthony Fauci

**The gain-of-function** fight had also intensified the pressure on Fauci, who was by now a hate figure for many on the political right. In November 2021, he and Kentucky Republican Sen. Rand Paul clashed angrily in a Senate hearing, as Paul accused Fauci of changing the definition of gain-of-function and funding dangerous research in Wuhan. "He is egregiously incorrect," Fauci responded. In January, they locked horns in another hearing, featuring an extraordinary exchange in which Fauci accused Paul of jeopardizing his personal safety for political gain.

"What happens when he gets out and accuses me of things that are completely untrue is that all of a sudden that kindles the crazies out there, and I have threats upon my life, harassment of my family and my children," Fauci said.



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By the time of these acrimonious exchanges, the White Coat Waste Project had embarked on another campaign that made Fauci its main focus. In July 2021, the White Coat Waste Project launched its "BeagleGate" campaign, highlighting research on dogs funded by the NIAID, with a blog post headlined: "WCW Exposé: Fauci Spent $424K on Beagle Experiments, Dogs Bitten to Death by Flies."

The next month, the White Coat Waste Project accused Fauci of funding "beagle torture" in Tunisia, referring to a paper published in July 2021 investigating whether the biting sand flies that spread visceral leishmaniasis, a potentially fatal disease, preferred to feed on dogs already infected with the parasites that cause the condition.

The story really took off on Oct. 24, 2021, when 24 members of Congress from both parties, led by Rep. Nancy Mace, a Republican from South Carolina, wrote to Fauci protesting "costly, cruel, and unnecessary taxpayer-funded experiments on dogs." Fauci's nemesis, Rand Paul, wasn't among the signatories, but weighed in with a tweet touting the White Coat Waste Project's original blog post:

The Washington Post later reported that Fauci's office received 3,600 calls in 36 hours, causing his assistant to stop answering the phone for two weeks. The newspaper linked the onslaught to "a campaign by a little-known animal rights group called the White Coat Waste Project."

The NIAID tried to address the controversy, stating that it didn't actually fund the Tunisian beagle research paper — which in November 2021 was corrected to remove reference to a grant from the institute, which had been awarded to a researcher at Ohio State University for related work. "NIAID was listed as a courtesy because it had supported other leishmaniasis research in the past," a spokesperson for the university told BuzzFeed News. But that correction seemed only to give the White Coat Waste Project more ammunition. "Once again…color us unconvinced," it wrote in a later blog post disputing the NIAID's denial of funding the work.

The White Coat Waste Project's critics argue that its demonization of Fauci, seemingly calculated to channel existing right-wing anger with the government scientist seen as the public face of mask and COVID vaccine mandates, has taken animal activism into scary territory.

"They take a tiny sliver of truth, and then around that they build this highly emotional somewhat fictional narrative to build their case," Jim Newman, director of strategic communications with Americans for Medical Progress, which argues that animal experiments are essential to develop new treatments and vaccines, told BuzzFeed News. Animal activists have long been accused of cherry-picking facts and ignoring the goals of research to present animal experiments in the worst possible light. But portraying individuals as cruel villains in the current febrile political climate is "a very dangerous direction to be headed," Newman said.

"Of course, the pro-animal experimentation lobby hates that we hold government bosses accountable for funneling tax dollars to cruel and wasteful animal tests," Goodman said. "We generally don't run campaigns targeting individual taxpayer-funded animal experimenters to respect their privacy and because we question the approach's effectiveness, but federal agency bosses are public figures and fair game."

Threats to Fauci's life, which began well before the White Coat Waste Project's BeagleGate campaign, have been widely documented. Daszak, too, has faced security scares, including an incident in August 2020 when an envelope containing a mysterious white powder reportedly turned up at his home. "I get death threats regularly and we get crank calls at home trying to keep us awake at night," Daszak told BuzzFeed News.

The White Coat Waste Project stresses that it opposes violence and issued a statement in October 2021 saying it had no quarrel with Fauci over his advice on COVID policies. "You could stand

shoulder-to-shoulder with him on COVID response and go toe-to-toe with him on other issues," said Goodman, who makes no apology for the group's decision to make Fauci the focus of the BeagleGate campaign. "Because he became a household name as the pandemic progressed, sure, it created an opportunity to go after him for animal testing in a way that would really make waves."

As the White Coat Waste Project has seized its opportunities and gained a higher public profile, the group has itself come under scrutiny. In February, the Campaign for Accountability filed a complaint with the IRS and the Federal Election Commission, alleging that the White Coat Waste Project had coordinated with the White Coat Waste Political Action Committee, founded in 2017, in breach of regulations prohibiting tax-exempt nonprofits from engaging in political campaign activities.

In an interview with BuzzFeed News, Bellotti declined to answer questions about the political action committee, which he said was a separate organization. Goodman later sent a statement describing the Campaign for Accountability's complaint as a "politically-motivated, baseless, and frivolous attack," noting: "The WCW Project *does not* fund activities of the distinct, all-volunteer WCW PAC."

Despite the partisan dynamics that have driven the White Coat Waste Project's campaign against funding for the Wuhan Institute of Virology, Bellotti told BuzzFeed News that his group's goal remains finding ways to unite Democrats and Republicans on defunding animal experiments backed by the US government. "We didn't know when we launched this that it would get partisan in the way it did," he said.

The White Coat Waste Project's latest campaign, again tapping into concern about US taxpayer dollars going to the nation's most powerful adversaries, might just have broader political appeal. Less than a week after Russia's invasion of Ukraine, it published a new blog post: "Breaking: WCW Discovers NIH Pays For Cruel Kitten Experiments…in Russia!" ●

Cheers,

Peter

**Peter Daszak**
*President*

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

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**Date:** Fri, 25 Jun 2021 12:36:28 PM -0400
**Sent:** Fri, 25 Jun 2021 12:33:34 PM -0400
**Subject:** RE: Article gives further details on termination of EcoHealth's NIH grant
**From:** Peter Daszak < (b) (6)
**To:** Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] < (b) (6) Keusch, Gerald T < (b) (6) Rich Roberts < (b) (6) peter hotez < (b) (6)
**CC:** Aleksei Chmura < (b) (6) Robert Kessler < (b) (6)

I have no idea what happened, but the inference in the article seems to be something like this – Trump asked HHS who asked Tony/Francis to terminate. They came back with the comment that it might not be possible because it might be illegal. I think at that point they may have tried to just cut the Wuhan subcontract rather than the whole grant. Trump then ordered them to terminate. Francis did the deed.

It fits with what we saw at EcoHealth – the first approach was from within NIAID (Emily Erbelding) that we were getting 'letters and concerns' from politicians about our grant. Then a couple of days later we were contacted by Francis Collins' office who said we should stop sending funds to Wuhan. Perhaps this was an effort to see if just canceling the subcontract would placate Trump. Then a few days later we were told it was terminated – again done by Francis Collins' office.

I don't hold any negative feelings for Tony. His bobble-head and mug remain in high esteem in our household. Likewise, I completely understand the need for him to stay in his place during the Trump administration and not resign over our grant. However, Francis should have known better – it's the integrity of NIH's review process, and of science in general that is at stake, and he is the political appointee who should have defended NIH's honor.

That said, Trump would have probably inserted someone truly heinous in his position.

My conclusion - 16 months ago, our organization was used as a political football by the right wing. This continues to this day, and has led to a situation where my life is under threat, our staff's jobs and our organizations survival is in jeopardy. Good scientists are now lining up to throw us to the dogs for perceptions of biosafety and gain of function. It all goes back to the events with Trump – the original sin, if you like.

Cheers,

Peter

**Peter Daszak**
*President*

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MORENS_SUBPOENA_020620
MORENS_NIH_041328
REL0000476670

**From:** Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b) (6)
**Sent:** Friday, June 25, 2021 11:15 AM
**To:** Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >; Keusch, Gerald T (b) (6) u>; Rich Roberts <(b) (6)
peter hotez (b) (6)
**Cc:** Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) >; Robert Kessler (b) (6) >
**Subject:** Re: Article gives further details on termination of EcoHealth's NIH grant

If this is true, I am ashamed for my boss. Neither I nor anyone I know has ever questioned his integrity..... It does not seem like the guy I have known for 39 years. d

On 6/24/2021 9:51 PM, Peter Daszak wrote:

> is that "Fauci had the audacity to think it shouldn't have been terminated!". But actually, it reveals some interesting new information:
>
> 1. NIH and HHS thought it likely illegal to terminate a grant "for convenience". My lawyers also

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| | |
|---|---|
| Date: | Mon, 31 Oct 2022 9:43:36 AM -0400 |
| Sent: | Mon, 31 Oct 2022 9:43:27 AM -0400 |
| Subject: | RE: Forbes: Is New Senate GOP Covid-19 Pandemic Origin Report More About Politics Than Science? https://bit.ly/3t1BJhb |
| From: | "Keusch, Gerald T" < (b) (6) |
| To: | Hotez, Peter Jay < (b) (6) >; David Morens < (b) (6) >; |
| CC: | Peter Daszak < (b) (6) >; Aleksei Chmura < (b) (6) >; Rich Roberts < (b) (6) >; Jeff Sturchio < (b) (6) >; |
| Attachments: | image001.jpg; image002.jpg; image003.jpg |

Kidney week? Are you in a pissing contest with somebody????

---

**From:** Hotez, Peter Jay < (b) (6)
**Sent:** Sunday, October 30, 2022 6:17 PM
**To:** David Morens < (b) (6)
**Cc:** Keusch, Gerald T < (b) (6) Peter Daszak < (b) (6) Aleksei Chmura < (b) (6) Rich Roberts < (b) (6) Jeff Sturchio < (b) (6)
**Subject:** Re: Forbes: Is New Senate GOP Covid-19 Pandemic Origin Report More About Politics Than Science? https://bit.ly/3t1BJhb

I'm not unfortunately, I've been invited to keynote at Kidney Week in Orlando FL of all things 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

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**Senior Coordinator & Executive Support:** Douglas Soriano
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**Media Inquiries:**
(b) (6)

iPhone

On Oct 30, 2022, at 5:15 PM, David Morens < (b) (6) wrote:

Amen, thanks! Are you here at the ASTMH meeting? d

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

On Oct 30, 2022, at 14:07, Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6) > wrote:

My take:

https://twitter.com/peterhotez/status/1586722053167714304?s=46 &t=4XkfQxcGoMQM6ya6lHG-mQ

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

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**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

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**Media Inquiries:**
(b) (6) (b) (6)
(b) (6)
(b) (6)
iPhone

On Oct 30, 2022, at 10:37 AM, David Morens <(b) (6) > wrote:

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---

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

**From:** "Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E]" <(b) (6)
**Date:** October 30, 2022 at 08:36:03 PDT
**To:** David Morens <(b) (6) >
**Subject: Fwd: Forbes: Is New Senate GOP Covid-19 Pandemic Origin Report More About Politics Than Science?** https://bit.ly/3t1BJhb



MORENS_SUBPOENA_002116
MORENS_NIH_008578
REL0000476691

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

**From:** "Folkers, Greg (NIH/NIAID) [E]" <(b) (6) >
**Date:** October 30, 2022 at 06:52:42 PDT
**Subject: Forbes: Is New Senate GOP Covid-19 Pandemic Origin Report More About Politics Than Science?** https://bit.ly/3t1BJhb

# Is New Senate GOP Covid-19 Pandemic Origin Report More About Politics Than Science?

Bruce Y. Lee
Senior Contributor
I am a writer, journalist, professor, systems modeler, computational and digital health expert, avocado-eater, and entrepreneur, not always in that order.
Oct 29, 2022,10:49pm EDT



Sen. Richard Burr (R-N.C.), seen here on August 6, 2022 in Washington, DC., and his office came out ... [+]
Getty Images

These days anytime any politician makes any claims about Covid-19, you've got to wonder whether it's more about politics than real science. After all, throughout the pandemic, politics has infiltrated Covid-19 decision-making like botox in a reality TV star. So when the office of Senator Richard Burr (R-N.C.) dropped "An Analysis of the Origins of the COVID-19 Pandemic Interim Report," just two weeks before the midterm election, you've gotta wonder whether this report was more about politics than actually determining what really happened.

After all, in the report, Burr did indicate that last Summer he and Senator Patty Murray (D-Washington) "announced a bipartisan Health, Education, Labor and Pensions (HELP) Committee oversight effort into the origins of SARS-CoV-2, the virus that caused the COVID-19 pandemic as part of our effort to address pandemic preparedness and response programs." *Dictionary.com* defines bipartisan as "representing, characterized by, or


MORENS_SUBPOENA_002117
MORENS_NIH_008579
REL0000476691

including members from two parties or factions," and not "screw it, why don't I just issue a report myself?" It's also interesting why such a interim report would be issued so quickly now before it's been properly vetted by the scientific community. Why the rush? And why wasn't there more of a heads up to everyone that this would be on its way? Was this designed to be a Halloween scare? Or maybe just maybe the midterm elections had something to do with it?

Plus, this interim report drew some pretty strong conclusions that usually would require a lot more supporting scientific evidence than the report actually provided. What's a strong conclusion? How about, "Based on the analysis of the publicly available information, it appears reasonable to conclude that the Covid-19 pandemic was, more likely than not, the result of a research-related incident." Yeah, that statement certainly has drawn headlines and attention on social media. The phrase "more likely than not" sounds fairly definitive. For example, if you were to tell your significant other that "based on analysis of publicly available information, it appears reasonable to conclude that you are more likely than not a cheater," you had better more likely than not provide enough specific concrete evidence to justify such a claim. Otherwise all of your possessions including your butt would more likely than not end up on the street. Similarly, this report seemed to be claiming that the evidence is already strong enough to conclude that a lab leak started the Covid-19 pandemic. But what evidence did the report then provide? Well, here's a hint. It rhymes with "Not a troll bot." Yes, not a whole lot.

## Did any real scientists develop, vet, and support the findings of this Interim Report?

Let's take a look at what some real scientists who have real expertise in this area said on Twitter about this report. Spoiler alert: some expletives more likely than not emerged. For example, Kristian G. Andersen, PhD, a Professor of Immunology and Microbiology at Scripps Research, used the phrase "Flood the zone with bull [bleep]" when referring to what's going on with this report:

And Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, Dean of the National School of Tropical Medicine, wrote, "My view: a total load of antiscience [bleep]," in the following tweet:

To adapt the words from that song in the movie *Bring It On*, Burr, it's cold in here— with here being real scientists' reaction to the report. Bull-bleep and antiscience bleep weren't exactly words of endorsement. Hotez also provided some real scientific papers describing how the severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) may have jumped from other animals to humans and the evidence supporting such a natural jump:

Speaking of real scientists. Were any real scientists involved in developing and reviewing Burr's interim report? Well, the cover of the report bore the names Minority Oversight Staff, Senate Committee on Health Education, Labor and Pensions, which was a fancy way of saying that it was compiled by the office of Burr. The report didn't really list any other authors or contributors other than Burr. So, assuming that Burr himself didn't compile and write everything like a high schooler doing a book report, it's unclear who actually did the research and writing for this report. The report didn't really clearly delineate what process was used to assemble and review the available evidence, who determined what should and shouldn't considered, or how the report was vetted either.

## What counterarguments did this Interim Report provide against evidence that the SARS-CoV-2 had jumped from other animals?

That being said did the report at least provide some strong arguments to support its conclusions? Well, the first of the four sections attempted to offer some kind of counter to the existing evidence of a natural animal original of the SARS-CoV-2 without even mentioning that evidence. That was sort of the "I'm going to ignore what you have said and provide only my side of the story" tactic. This section basically presented six arguments that were weak at best. The first two arguments were essentially the same: that the intermediate host animal species—meaning the intermediate between bats and humans—for SARS-CoV-2 hasn't yet been found. That argument would hold water about as well as a fish net thong.

It's been only about three years since the Covid-19 pandemic first broke. Science rarely can move that quickly, especially when Congress isn't providing nearly enough funding to



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support the needed studies. It can be challenging to find such a intermediate animal host species. It's not as if you can post a message on Twitter or Facebook saying, "hey all animals, come by and get tested for SARS-CoV-2 or some virus similar to it" or "hey, did you host this virus before passing it along to us humans? Come one, you can tell us." Plus, scientists around the world have been kind of busy with something called, you know, the Covid-19 pandemic. So unless Burr and his Senate colleagues want to provide much more support and funding to help find the intermediate host species, "you haven't found it yet," really isn't a very strong argument.

The third argument provided was that the "SARS-CoV-2's high binding affinity for human ACE2 receptors suggests that it is possible for it to directly infect humans without needing a period of adaptation in an intermediate host." In other words, the virus took to humans so well, it couldn't have jumped from other animals. That's a bit like saying, "hey, that velour track suit fits you so well that it was probably tailored specifically for you." Such an argument doesn't pass much muster because it wasn't clear what the virus was doing before the start of 2020. Weaker versions of the virus could have very well been spreading between other animals and humans long before late 2019 and early 2020. The world didn't have much of a surveillance system in place to really track what every possible viral threat was doing before 2020. It still doesn't have such a system.

The section's fourth argument was that Wuhan, China, seemed to be the only place where the virus may have jumped from non-humans to humans. The claim was that if the virus had jumped from other animals to humans, why didn't such jumps occur elsewhere as well. Again, all of this assumes that the world already had great global surveillance systems in place that could readily determine exactly where and how everyone had gotten infected with the SARS-CoV-2. Yeah try doing that when there's been well over 630 million Covid-19 cases around the world so far. And that's not even counting those folks who never ended up getting tested.

The fifth argument was similar to the fourth, claiming that "After the unidentified source transmitted SARS-CoV-2 to humans, it stopped transmitting SARS-CoV-2." Again, this has never been established. With so many cases emerging every day, it's difficult to say who caught the virus from where. The Covid-19 pandemic is not the same situation as the 2002-2004 SARS and the 2013 avian influenza A (H7N9) outbreaks where there were a lot fewer cases so that infections and transmission chains were a lot easier to track.

The sixth argument was that "The low genetic diversity of the earliest SARS-CoV-2 samples suggests that the COVID-19 pandemic is most likely the result of a single successful spillover of SARS-CoV-2." That's not exactly true. Plus, once again, the lack of a comprehensive surveillance system means that cases may have been missed early on in 2020 and before that time. Moreover, even if the pandemic had started with a single spillover event, how exactly would that prove that it was lab-leak rather than a natural spillover event that triggered the whole pandemic? All of these arguments didn't seem to be that scientific, which raises the question again, what specific scientists contributed to this interim report.

## Did the Wuhan Institute of Virology actually have major safety concerns as the Interim Report claimed?



This aerial view shows the P4 laboratory (L) on the campus of the Wuhan Institute of Virology in ... [+]

AFP via Getty Images

The second section of the report tried to paint a picture of the Wuhan Institute of Virology (WIV) as a place with numerous safety concerns and incidents. It did include brief descriptions of events and items that you probably normally wouldn't find at your home, assuming that you don't regularly sleep and shower at a Biosafety Level (BSL) 3 or 4 laboratory. So all of these could have sounded ominous and scary to the general public or anyone else who doesn't conduct virology experiments on regular basis.

So, assuming that Burr and his staff aren't running enzyme linked immunosorbent assays in

their Congressional offices, wouldn't it have been better to ask a real laboratory scientist who regularly works with viruses to put together that section?Angela Rasmussen, PhD, a virologist at the Vaccine and Infectious Disease Organization at the University of Saskatchewan in Canada, would qualify as such an expert. So let's turn to Rasmussen's tweet thread about this section of the Burr report:

As you can see, Rasmussen's tweet stated that the report "claims to show evidence of multiple biocontainment breaches. That sounds very bad! But how reliable is this evidence?" Her tweet thread went on to review each thing listed in this section of Burr's report and explain how much of it seemed pretty normal for such a lab to her:

For example, Rasmussen explained how procuring a vaporized hydrogen peroxide system to disinfect air coming from the lab and renovating the HVAC system were not evidence of biosafety failures but instead business-as-usual:

A little later in the tweet thread, Rasmussen concluded, "No evidence of a breach or biosafety failure, but lots of evidence that they were operating a containment lab in a pretty standard way, with one exception: WIV was more innovative than many others and patented some of the bespoke systems they developed," as you can see here:

Rasmussen went on to assess what was written in the report about the working conditions, training, and management at WIV and determined that "No evidence of a biocontainment breach or a biosafety failure, other than lab leak fan fiction invented by people with no clue about how biosafety actually works reading documents that reflect the daily considerations & challenges of operating a containment lab," at the conclusion of her tweet thread:

Remember you can make anything sound scary when describing it in a certain way to people not familiar with the situation. Imagine relating the details of a high school football practice to someone who has never ever seen football. You could talk about high speed collisions, violence, things getting intercepted, jock straps, and people slapping each other on their butts in a manner that could prompt someone to say, "what the bleep is going on? Call the authorities."

## Is it relevant that China developed Covid-19 vaccines faster than the U.S. did with Operation Warp Speed?

The third section presented a rather weird argument. It pointed out that teams in China were able to develop and start administering Covid-19 vaccines faster than Operation Warp Speed could in the U.S. The section tried to suggest that the only way the teams in China were able to move more quickly was if they had access to genomic sequences of the SARS-CoV-2 much earlier.

Hmm, that sounds a little like the "they beat us, therefore, they must have cheated" argument. While Operation Warp Speed did result in Covid-19 vaccines at the end of 2020, it was by no means a perfectly run operation. For example, it July 2020, Jon Cohen wrote for *Science* magazine an article entitled "Operation Warp Speed's opaque choices of Covid-19 vaccines draw Senate scrutiny." And in December 2020, I covered for *Forbes* a range of supply chain and distribution missteps made by Operation Warp Speed. In general, the word well-oiled machine didn't seem to apply the Trump Administration's response to the Covid-19 pandemic in 2020. Moreover, it's not clear what shortcuts the teams from China may have taken in order to get Covid-19 vaccines out there sooner. For example, did they do the same about of human testing as Pfizer-BioNTech and Moderna did before rolling out vaccines to the general public.

One thing's clear. The government of China wasn't as open and transparent to the rest of the world as they could have and probably should have been about the SARS-CoV-2 outbreak in late 2019 and early 2020. The first reports of this "mysterious pneumonia" emerged late in December 2019 and very early in January 2020, as I reported for *Forbes* on January 3, 2020. The government of China likely knew more about the virus and its deadly nature at the time. If that were indeed the case, then China's government chose poorly and should have been more forthcoming to get help from the international community. It is very fair to criticize China's government for withholding information and not being more cooperative. But again all of this does not necessarily mean that the Covid-19 pandemic started with a lab leak.

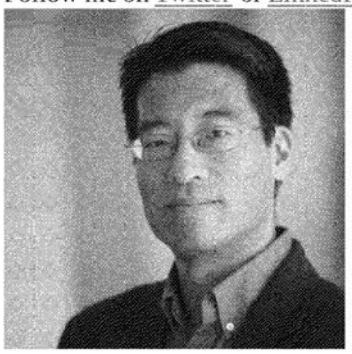
## Did the development and release of the Interim

# Report follow a scientific process?

All in all, this so-called "Analysis of the Origins of the COVID-19 Pandemic Interim Report" didn't seem to follow many of the steps and criteria needed for a truly scientific report. It didn't even fulfill basic criteria such as clearly describing the methods employed or identifying the people who did the analyses and wrote the report. Whenever you don't transparently describe how you chose what evidence to consider and not consider, you've gotta wonder how much cherry-picking happened. While cherry-picking may be great when you are making a pie, selectively choosing what evidence to follow and not follow is just not appropriate scientifically.

If Congress really wants to shed more light on the actual origins of the Covid-19 pandemic, it would commission and fund a panel of real and most importantly independent scientific experts to compile the report. At the same time, Congress members would then stay clear of this panel to avoid the perception that they are applying any political pressure to see a particular outcome. The U.S. has been leading the world in Covid-19 cases and deaths throughout the pandemic in big part of its failure to consistently follow science and instead defer to politics. And in the end, while politics may cover up to a degree what the virus does, only real science will be able to work against the SARS-CoV-2 and any future viral threats.

Follow me on Twitter or LinkedIn. Check out my website.



Bruce Y. Lee

**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 1:19:08 PM -0400
**Sent:** Fri, 21 Jul 2023 1:17:47 PM -0400
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Fwd: MEDIA RELEASE: Pandemic levels of abuse directed at COVID experts [EMBARGOED]
**From:** David Morens < (b) (6)
**To:** Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] < (b) (6)
**Attachments:** image001.png; image002.png

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

(b) (6)
(b) (6) (work)
(b) (6) (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**

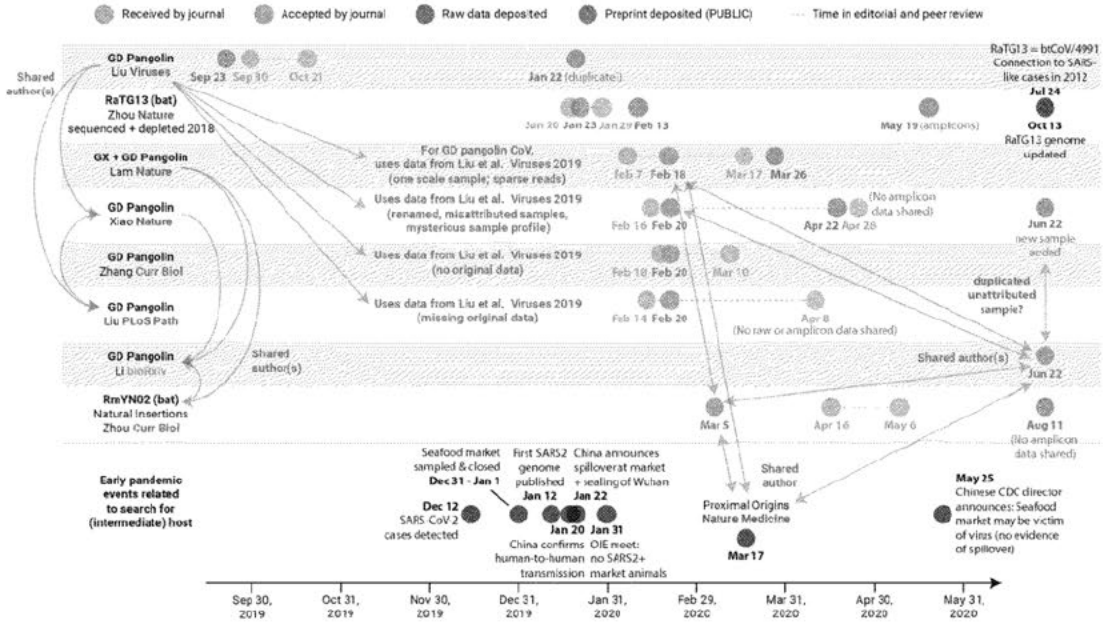
**IMPORTANT: For US Government-related email, please also reply to my NIAID address**

---------- Forwarded message ---------
From: **Garry, Robert F** (b) (6) u>
Date: Tue, Oct 12, 2021 at 11:20 AM
Subject: Re: MEDIA RELEASE: Pandemic levels of abuse directed at COVID experts [EMBARGOED]
To: Rasmussen, Angie (b) (6) >, Kristian G. Andersen (b) (6)
Cc: Jason Gale <j.gale@bloomberg.net>, Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >, David Morens <
(b) (6) >, Edward Holmes (b) (6) au >, Robert Kessler <
(b) (6) >, Stephen Goldstein (b) (6) >, Worobey, Michael - (worobey) <
(b) (6)

Yes - every day from her another tweetorial about about the "less than honest scientists " on circe Feb 1 email/telecon or yet more inuendo regarding Peter. It's tiresome.

Good to remember that chan bullied her way into the origins debate by claiming that anyone who collaborated with a Chinese scientists was contributing to genocide, that the RmYN02 and RaTG13 genomes were fake, that SC2 was perfectly adapted to humans and the leading scientific journals were part of the grand conspiracy.

Timeline of SARS-CoV-2-related virus data published in late 2019-2020




To date, the GD pangolin CoV genome by Xiao et al. **Nature** & Liu et al. **PLoS Pathogens**, and the RmYN02 genome by Zhou et al. **Current Biology** cannot be independently assembled. The mismatch between the sequencing data and the original RaTG13 genome sequence, and the initially inaccurately reported history of RaTG13 remain to be explained by Zhou et al. **Nature**.

What she's taking about in terms of "abuse" in the Nature abuse article is mostly being labeled a "conspiracy theorist" [which is accurate] and not getting her terrible papers published in *Nature* .

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**From:** "Rasmussen, Angie" (b) (6)
**Date:** Tuesday, October 12, 2021 at 10:00 AM
**To:** Kristian Andersen (b) (6) com >
**Cc:** Jason Gale <j.gale@bloomberg.net>, Peter Daszak (b) (6) Morens < (b) (6) >, Edward Holmes (b) (6) >, Robert Kessler < (b) (6) >, Robert Garry (b) (6) (b) (6) Stephen Goldstein < (b) (6) >, "Worobey, Michael - (worobey)" (b) (6) (b) (6)
**Subject:** Re: MEDIA RELEASE: Pandemic levels of abuse directed at COVID experts [EMBARGOED]

And me as well, considering one of the people they interviewed has been instrumental at directing abuse to many of us on this email. I'm sorry that she's also been on the receiving end of it, but in my view that's all the more reason to denounce it when it occurs, rather than implicitly encourage it.



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Angela L. Rasmussen, Ph.D.
Research Scientist
Vaccine and Infectious Disease Organization (VIDO)
University of Saskatchewan
Office: (b) (b) (6)
She/her
www.vido.org



On Oct 11, 2021, at 10:30 PM, Kristian G. Andersen (b) (6) > wrote:

CAUTION: External to USask. Verify sender and use caution with links and attachments. Forward suspicious emails to phishing@usask.ca

Thanks Jason - and I saw the article coming out in Nature. You can't guess who they interviewed for that one.... But let's just say that they'll be getting an email from me.

K

On Mon, Oct 11, 2021 at 7:18 PM Jason Gale (BLOOMBERG/ NEWSROOM:) <j.gale@bloomberg.net > wrote:

> JFYI. I'm so sorry this is happening to scientists!



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From: info@smc.org.au At: 10/12/21 13:09:37 UTC+11:00

To: Jason Gale (BLOOMBERG/ NEWSROOM: )
Subject: MEDIA RELEASE: Pandemic levels of abuse directed at COVID experts [EMBARGOED]



Issued: 12 October 2021

View this email in your browser

**Error! Filename not specified.**

**EMBARGOED UNTIL 02:00 AEDT Thursday 14 October 2021**

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# MEDIA RELEASE: Pandemic levels of abuse directed at COVID-19 experts

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*Not peer reviewed* *Evidence type: Survey* *Subjects: People*

**Around 1 in 5 Australian scientists surveyed by the Australian Science Media Centre (AusSMC) said they experienced death threats and/or threats of physical or sexual violence after speaking to the media about COVID-19.**

The results, which are not peer-reviewed, represent the experiences of the 50 scientists who chose to respond to the survey and are not a random sample of researchers who have given media interviews on COVID-19.

The survey found that 31 of the 50 scientists reported some level of trolling after appearing in the media to talk about COVID-19.

"Scientists are facing pandemic levels of abuse for simply trying to help us all wrap our heads around COVID-19," said Lyndal Byford the Director of News and Partnerships at the Australian Science Media Centre (AusSMC).

The AusSMC also worked with the journal ***Nature*** to see if the same was true for scientists internationally. With the help of Science Media Centres in the United Kingdom, Germany, Canada, Taiwan and New Zealand the survey was distributed to scientists in multiple countries.

Nature's poll* found an even higher proportion of negative experiences among a larger group of respondents with 15 per cent reporting death threats and 22 per cent saying they received threats of physical or sexual violence.

"During the pandemic, many scientists became celebrities, appearing regularly on our TV screens, radios and in our newsfeeds. They helped all of us understand this awful virus," said Ms Byford.

"But for some, the abuse they received for this public service has made them think twice about appearing in the media again."

Around 40 per cent of the Australian scientists who responded and 60 per cent of international scientists said the trolling and personal attacks have impacted their willingness to speak to the media in the future.

These experiences are also taking a toll on experts' mental health, with over 30 per cent of Australian respondents saying it has had emotional and psychological impacts.

While scientists said their experiences with the media themselves were largely positive, the AusSMC believes they must be better prepared and supported if we want them to keep helping us through the pandemic.

"If experts take the understandable Naomi Osaka approach, and stop speaking to the media, all of us will be worse off," said Lyndal Byford.

The trolling of scientists is also not confined to COVID-19, with experts in other sectors also sharing personal tales of threats and abuse, although more research is needed to understand the full scale of the issue.

The Australian Science Media Centre hopes to develop a series of training materials and resources to better prepare scientists across the board to deal with trolling and abuse.

While scientists shouldn't expect to be immune from the abuse that often takes place online, Ms Byford says we can all play a role in supporting these experts.

"If a scientist has helped you understand COVID in some way, why not write a kind or encouraging comment on the news story or on the social media pages. If you see someone being trolled, ask if they need help, and listen to their concerns."

-ENDS-

**Media Contact:**
Lyndal Byford, Director of News & Partnerships, Australian Science Media Centre
Ph: (08) 7120 8666 | info@smc.org.au | Mob: 0449 122 100
Follow us on Twitter and Facebook

**Note for journalists:**

Below Australian experts share there personal experiences with trolling. Feel free to use the below quotes in your stories. Any further comments will be posted on Scimex.

Australian and New Zealand newspapers have permission from the journal to run this story in print on the day the embargo lifts, with the strict proviso that nothing can appear online until after the embargo lifts.

For those journalists with a login, the embargoed article, survey results, and any associated materials are available on Scimex.

If you would like to speak to one of the experts, feel free to contact them using the details below. For anything else, please don't hesitate to contact us on (08) 7120 8666 or by email.

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## COVID RELATED EXPERIENCES:

### Gideon Meyerowitz-Katz is an epidemiologist from the University of Wollongong

"For me, the trolling and harassment of scientists during the pandemic has been a real problem. I get regular anti-semitic hate online, occasional death threats, and a load of the expected nasty lies about myself posted everywhere just for discussing issues in certain research areas. And, frankly, as a white man, I'm far luckier



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than some of my colleagues, who receive orders of magnitude more hate than I do."

***Gideon has not declared any conflicts of interest.***

***He is contactable on +61 410 848 513, gideon.meyerowitzkatz@health.nsw.gov.au***

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## Professor Raina MacIntyre is the Head of the Biosecurity Research Program at the Kirby Institute UNSW Medicine

"Trolling is common, and some of it is organised and orchestrated around specific agendas, to silence and discredit anyone who exposes the truth.

Classic tactics are used, like repeating a lie over and over. The pandemic has seen an anti-science agenda become mainstream, with themes such as anti-vaccination (of children), anti-masking and conflation of all public health measures with lockdown.

Trolling can be on social media, or on mainstream media. I have had some extraordinary personal attacks against me in media pieces, the likes of which I have never seen directed at white men. Racism and misogyny seem to be a factor.

The saddest, however, is trolling by doctors, other health professionals and academics. Some may be driven by an agenda, but others just seem to have been broken by the pandemic, lost their bearings and sense of professionalism. They band together like schoolyard bullies and act like bullies and stalkers. I was shocked to see a colleague who I have worked with and known has become a well-known troll, and unrecognisable from the professional I used to know."

***Raina has not declared any conflicts of interest.***

***She is contactable on +61 2 9385 0920, +61 410 651 612***

*r.macintyre@unsw.edu.au*

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## Prof Margaret Hellard is Deputy Director at the Burnet Institute

"After reflecting on one particularly threatening email earlier this year I decided to make a report to the police - whilst not personally feeling anxious I decided to make a stand on behalf of the younger female researchers at our Institute. When talking with younger female staff, a number said they were reluctant to post or put information online or to engage in discussions/debate in the press due to the trolling that immediately follows and feeling threatened. For me, this was a terrible thing.

I know we are sometimes instructed to ignore trolling and threats but I disagree. I think we should be reporting these activities to the police (and ensuring they follow it up which they did in my situation) and calling it out in multiple forums.

In the same way that domestic abuse and violence was ignored as being unimportant for many years, abuse and threats on social media are similarly dismissed but they can be very impactful on people's lives in many different ways. For young women, it is particularly hard."

***Margaret has not declared any conflicts of interest.***

***She is contactable on +61* 417 302 515, margaret.hellard@burnet.edu.au**

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## Prof Brendan Crabb is Director & Chief Executive Officer at the Burnet Institute

"Yes, I have indeed experienced a fair dose of this, in both social and mainstream media. More and more all the time. But more so I've witnessed it in others; especially in those who are not white, privileged, straight men like me, where the abuse reaches extraordinary low and abusive levels.

Scientists don't covet speaking in the media, it is not how they get their energy. Some may be interested in the limelight, but certainly not many. Duty to serve the public good is the overwhelming motivation scientists do this, especially given there is so much poor quality information in the public domain and so much at stake.

Apart from the mental health impact on the victims, my main concern about scientists being engulfed in trolling negativity is that we just stop. Which, sadly, is the main purpose of the harassment. I am a little ashamed to admit that I already say no to many requests for interview for this reason and engage less in social media than I would like to. Debating robustly on intellectual grounds is a sport we enjoy, indeed are energised by. The type of argument that scientists face mostly in relation to COVID-19 bears no resemblance to that. It's simply bullying abuse."

*Brendan has not declared any conflicts of interest.*

*He is contactable on +61 425 737 752, brendan.crabb@burnet.edu.au*

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**Professor Tony Blakely is an epidemiologist and public health medicine specialist from the Melbourne School of Population and Global Health at The University of Melbourne.**

"As a white middle-aged male, I am less vulnerable to trolling than other experts. Nevertheless, abusive emails and messages bordering on death threats are common. During this pandemic, I have reported one threatening text officially to my University who forwarded it to the Police – I think I should have reported more. I have blocked several phone numbers, and diverted to junk email several email addresses based on vile material.

It is also salient, I think, to note the many people out there who spontaneously contact you with positive intent. I have received useful feedback on what I say in public, messaging, new papers and research from members of the public I have never met before."

*Tony has not declared any conflicts of interest.*

*He is contactable on +61 466 850 095, +61 3 9035 8299, or antony.blakely@unimelb.edu.au*

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**Professor Dominic Dwyer is the Director of NSW Health Pathology at Westmead Hospital. He is also a Clinical Professor in Medicine (Immunology & Infectious Diseases) at the Westmead Clinical School Institute for Clinical Pathology and Medical Research, University of Sydney. He was also a member of the WHO-convened team that examined the origins of SARS-CoV-2.**

"For me, as a medical virologist, talking to the general public through the media is about providing information. It is the same approach that I do for patients, or medical, scientific and public health colleagues.

We know the information on the origins of SARS-CoV-2 is still incomplete, but these gaps shouldn't be used to support a political stance, encourage the blame game or criticise others, especially behind the



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anonymity of social media. It should be about how to go forward collaboratively to better answer the questions."

***Dominic has not declared any conflicts of interest.***

***He is contactable on dominic.dwyer@sydney.edu.au***

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## Dr Andrew Miller is President Australian Society for Anaesthetics

"I define trolling as attacks on the person, or the tone, delivery, or format of a message rather than the substance of an argument. There are two types of trolling I experience frequently as someone who is outspoken in the media advocating a precautionary response to COVID. Firstly, that from the general public which is predictable, easily ignored, and amplified often by bots, and a more concerning variety that I think comes from politicians, bureaucrats and colleagues.

The latter is more organised and can involve multiple people, phone calls and texts to me and my close colleagues, triangulation of people I respect who are asked to "have a word with me" and even face to face meetings being organised, without me, to see if my message can be silenced or changed. I have been mentioned in a speech, without any right of reply, at a medical College plenary meeting and defamed in the media.

I believe the main thing protecting me, and making all of this ultimately ineffectual, is that I am a white middle-aged man of means, and therefore difficult to marginalise, and that I am in elected positions where I represent thousands of doctors. I do not have any government or other employment, and as such there is no "policy" that can be used to quietly threaten my contract renewal as there is for so many. I am legally educated and willing and able to exert my rights, spending my own money on legal fees where I have to. All of that is unavailable to so many others who are silenced or threatened.

I also have a large Twitter following and have been able to get a message across on mainstream media through op-eds and interviews so I make no claim to having been silenced myself, but those who do have more to lose - a job or a future career path, are clearly having to weigh their options when advocating publicly. I am sure that doors previously open to me such as government advisory boards are now closed, but that is no big price for me. I put all this on the record so that ironically people realise advocacy does have an effect - or the people who have power would not try all this nonsense to silence people like me, and also to highlight how much richer the conversation could be if all the diverse experts were not frightened into submission by bullying tactics such as those I have experienced in relatively small measure."



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*Andrew has not declared any conflicts of interest.*

*He is contactable on +61 419 941 274 or ajm@andrewmiller.com.au*

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## NON-COVID RELATED EXPERIENCES:

### Professor Lisa Jackson Pulver, is Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Indigenous Strategy and Services, at the University of Sydney.

"I no longer read comments on articles I author or look at reviews following a TV or radio appearance, or follow the comments in the newspapers where I am cited.

I dropped off all social media a while back following threats of violence and threats of a sexual nature. My former workplace received many unsubstantiated complaints and I received simultaneous letters in the post. The content was extremely unsettling.

At the height of this nearly ten years ago, I ended up having to be escorted in and out of my workplace and took multiple routes to get home safely. Others read all mail addressed to me. I was unsuccessful in achieving an AVO against one of the 'threateners'. I don't think I did a good enough job of expressing how frightened I felt at the time. I was – apparently – looking too calm.

During this time, we had a home break-in. We there home at the time and my husband disturbed this man, his mate was waiting outside. My husband got thrown down the stairs. He was attacked as he lay injured on the ground. Apart from the bruising, he sustained 11 broken ribs, a collapsed lung and a lacerated liver. He nearly died. I got into the room to see this man going back out the window. I took this attack personally.

Why? The only things taken were some of my personal files and some of my research work. My office was a mess. Nothing else was really touched.

I still get some of the same old name-calling, the phone calls. It's horrible that I can't just do my job, and not get attacked for it."

*Lisa has not declared any conflicts of interest.*

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**Professor Dale Dominey-Howes is a Professor of Hazard and Disaster Risk Sciences at the University of Sydney.**

"Researchers are human and we have feelings!

I've always considered it vital – a moral and ethical imperative – to engage in public outreach and communication activity. After all, the public pays our salaries and for our research. Therefore, writing news media stories and other activities is a really important part of sharing research that makes society, the environment and the world a better place.

However, after almost every story I do as a specialist on hazards and disasters, I've been trolled, verbally abused, received death threats, and most recently had threatening material sent to my home. This is really unacceptable, and researchers are human beings with feelings and trolling really is a poisonous process. It has negative emotional and mental health impacts on us and acts as a discouragement to that public engagement work. This article shines a light on these practices. Much more needs to be done to stop trolling in the first place and support ordinary researchers going about their daily work."

***Dale has not declared any conflicts of interest.***

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## Quote from anonymous scientist:

"I had a decade (more than a decade ago now) of what would now be called trolling. There was a near-continuous flow of hate mail (even letters made of bits cut out of magazines) - leading to systems being put in place to screen all mail. I had to have phone numbers removed from directories and changed to protect family and moved to have calls screened.

I had offensive material industrially stapled to my front door at home. I have been threatened in airports by unknown people. I had lies sent to senior colleagues and Ministers or the Crown in efforts at character assassination including efforts to cover me with corruption allegations. I had/have an amazing group of colleagues who jumped in to put in place a perimeter of protection for me - I know they still today watch over me in case it returns. It has changed me for life and impacted my character and wellbeing forever, and has made me far more protective of my family. "

---

*Scientists Under Attack, Nature, doi:10.1038/d41586-021-02741-x

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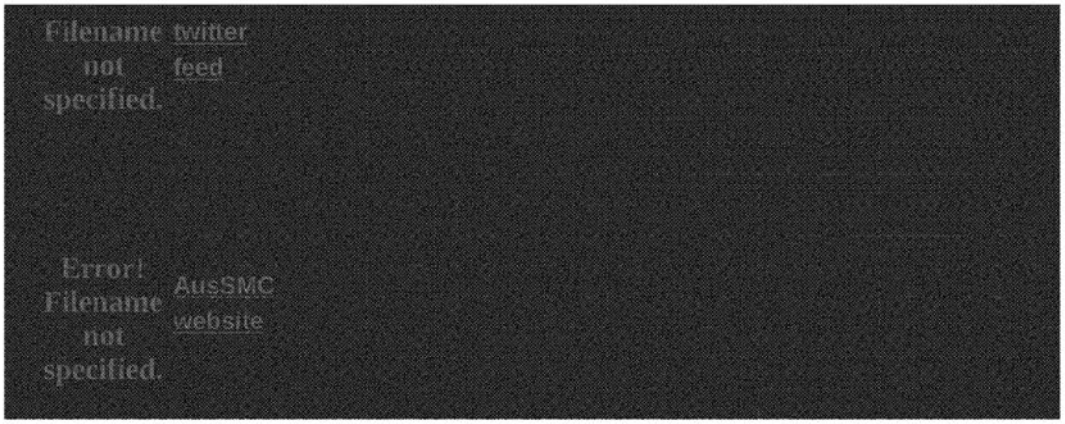


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**Date:** Sat, 20 May 2023 6:52:47 PM -0400
**Sent:** Sat, 20 May 2023 6:52:36 PM -0400
**Subject:** Re: The new NIH Director nomination
**From:** David Morens < (b) (6)
**To:** Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6)
**CC:** Roberts, Rich < (b) (6) Peter Daszak < (b) (6) Aleksei Chmura < (b) (6) Hotez, Peter Jay < (b) (6) Jeffrey Sturchio < (b) (6) >; Jeffery Taubenberger < (b) (6)
**BCC:** (b) (6)

---

As a footnote on the terms GoF and DURC, the US govt including NIH allowed without protest critics including Ebright and others to introduce those pejorative terms around 2010 when the controversy over H5N1 influenza experimentation first broke. GoF was an unrelated term from genetics that had never been used by virologists, and certainly not to describe the inevitable + and - phenotype changes that occur when viruses are put in cells or animals. It's a bogus term that perpetuates lies about how virology works

We (nih virologists) thought at the time that NIH should push back against those who were trying to control the work by controlling the terminology, but HHS caved and tried to manage the problem by giving the worst critics a platform, eg, on the NSABB. That is, they decided to let the foxes help manage the hen house

It has been a disaster that keeps on giving

As i and others have written and stated many times, GoF, as the term is typically used, misleads and creates false impressions

Viruses are not living things and only exist as viruses when they are being replicated by host cells, typically in cell culture or in animals. When viruses are being replicated by any host cell, the cell/cells impose pressures that select for the millions of mutations that naturally and quickly occur in an effort to better adapt to the cell. Adaptation of the viral quasispecies or "swarm" is associated with virions that have changed phenotypically, in both directions, helpful and not helpful to adaptation.

If you were to call some of this "gain of function", you would also have to call most of the rest "loss of function". Moreover, the hundred plus year old history of viruses tells us that almost always, viral adaptation drives viruses in the direction of attenuation, NOT increased pathogenicity. This is the basis for making some of the world's most important vaccines such as measles, yellow fever, and polio, vaccines that have saved millions. By the definitions of Ebright et al, these vaccines all resulted from GoF experimentation

Moreover, the most infamous of GoF experiments, which shut down much of experimental virology for a decade (the circa 2010 experiments in which two groups made mutations in avian H5N1 influenza and got it to transmit in ferrets) were presented and interpreted dishonestly. Adaptation to ferrets occurred but caused a LOSS, not gain of pathogenicity, which the authors and GoF critics have never mentioned, and they failed to disclose that even viruses from extremely rare fatal human cases of H5N1 are unable to be transmitted between humans (they are acquired from chickens and seem to occur only in people with rate genetic susceptibilities)

In short, these experiment were designed purposely to create a false illusion of risk, and were glorified and dishonestly promoted by the Ebrights et al

We are not in this predicament by some cosmic accident. It is the result of a cynical campaign to vilify standard ethical virology, which has given us countless life saving vaccines, drugs, diagnostics, and cancer therapies

We should have never let this happen, but now that we have, how do we put the toothpaste back into the tube?david

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

On May 20, 2023, at 16:42, Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6) wrote:

Hi Rich,

Totally agree with the need to get rid of the slogan for attacks on science that GOF has become. The question is how. That would be something a new advocacy organization that engages the scientific societies to fight back against the attacks on science and scientists could pick up and pursue.

More immediate is the issue of EHA and what Bertagnolli will experience in the hearings. Ordinarily what Harold suggests would be fine, however in the current circumstances Building 1 remains hostile to EHA and too reticent with the republican congressmen. I don't trust them to prep her in a manner that we would consider both rational and reasonable. Maybe the other way to get her attention is to get something in Science (? via and editorial from you and Harold, or prod Holden Thorpe to take a proactive stance) providing the background including the suspensions, terminations, reversals, reimpositions etc in a way that has stopped the important work EHA does for all this time. Jocelyn Kaiser has a nice news report in Science; what is needed now is an editorial that Bertagnolli will see and hopefully ask lots of questions to the legal office at NIH and HHS.

Peter, is there anybody in that office who has been willing to both listen and to hear the message? I don't know how to get more information to that person, that office, without stepping over red lines for influencing (rather than informing) decision making. What is needed is some sort of amicus brief. Is there any precedent for something like that outside the courts?

I'm just verbally mulling over where this issue is and what can be legitimately be done proactively in defense.
Jerry

**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
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Fax: (978) 412 9910



MORENS_SUBPOENA_005643
MORENS_NIH_013907
REL0000476714

email: (b) (6)

---

**From:** Harold E. Varmus <(b) (6)
**Sent:** Saturday, May 20, 2023 1:30 PM
**To:** Roberts, Rich (b) (6)
**Subject:** Re: The new NIH Director nomination

**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

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MORENS_SUBPOENA_005645
MORENS_NIH_013909
REL0000476714

**Date:** Thu, 15 Feb 2024 4:25:40 PM -0500
**Subject:** Fwd: Wash Examiner: House Republicans commit to releasing full Fauci transcript from COVID-19 interview
**From:** David Morens (h
**To:** Peter Daszak (b) (6); Jeffrey Sturchio (b) (6); peter hotez (b) (6); Keusch, Gerald T (b) (6); Roberts, Rich (b) (6); Aleksei Chmura (b) (6)

***David Morens***
(b) (6)

(b) (6) (mobile)

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---------- Forwarded message ---------
From: **Folkers, Greg (NIH/NIAID) [C]** (b) (6)
Date: Thu, Feb 15, 2024 at 1:51 PM
Subject: Wash Examiner: House Republicans commit to releasing full Fauci transcript from COVID-19 interview
To:

# House Republicans commit to releasing full Fauci transcript from COVID-19 interview

By Gabrielle M. Etzel

February 15, 2024 1:35 pm



MORENS_SUBPOENA_011653
MORENS_NIH_022642
REL0000476715

**EXCLUSIVE** — House Republicans have committed to making public the full transcript of their 14-hour interview with former National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases Director Anthony Fauci.

A spokesperson for the House Select Subcommittee on the Coronavirus Pandemic told the *Washington Examiner* that the subcommittee will be releasing the transcript before Fauci's public hearing before the Oversight Committee, slated for early this summer.

Fauci, who was a top adviser to Presidents Donald Trump and Joe Biden in responding to the pandemic, participated in two days of closed-door, transcribed interview testimony in January, which was his first public appearance since he retired in December 2022 after a nearly four-decadelong career as the leader of the largest branch of the National Institutes of Health.

Subcommittee Chairman Brad Wenstrup (R-OH) reported shortly after the transcribed interview that Fauci told the committee that the 6-foot limitation for social distancing guidelines and masking recommendations during the height of the pandemic were not based on scientific data.

Wenstrup also reported that the interview revealed "drastic and systemic failures" at the National Institutes of Health, such as a lack of oversight of U.S. investment in research projects conducted in foreign labs.

Subcommittee ranking member Raul Ruiz (D-CA) called the Republican push to interview Fauci an "extreme fishing expedition" for partisan gain, criticizing the polarization of the inquiry into the origins of COVID-19.

On the first day of the interview, Ruiz demanded that the majority publicly release the full transcripts "as soon as possible."

The subcommittee spokesperson said that they are not expecting to make substantive redactions when the public transcript is released.

Wenstrup told the *Washington Examiner* that the transcripts are currently going through an internal review process, which includes obtaining a verification of accuracy from both Fauci and the agencies involved.

Wenstrup also said that the subcommittee is planning on releasing interim staff reports based upon the testimony of Fauci and others that cover various elements of COVID-19 policy, such as school closures, lockdowns, and the vaccine rollout program, Operation Warp Speed. The staff reports will also incorporate the findings from investigations of the congressional committees with original jurisdiction over the relevant agencies.

"It's a lot to gather, and in some ways, I like to think of us as pulling from the work of all the committees," Wenstrup said. "The subcommittee is just one subcommittee."

The *Washington Examiner* contacted Fauci's legal counsel, who represented the former public health official during the transcribed interview process. They have not responded for comment.



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MORENS_NIH_022643
REL0000476715

**Date:** Thu, 2 May 2024 9:53:19 AM -0400
**Sent:** Thu, 2 May 2024 9:51:44 AM -0400
**Subject:** RE: Post by Prof Peter Hotez MD PhD on X
**From:** Peter Daszak < (b) (6)
**To:** Hotez, Peter Jay < (b) (6) < (b) (6) Aleksei Chmura < (b) (6) Rich Roberts < (b) (6) David Morens < (b) (6) Gerald Keusch < (b) (6) Jeffrey Sturchio Keith Martin

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Thankyou so much for speaking out about this Peter,

I just wrote to Jerry and Rich, and am copying this to our whole group:

I did my best yesterday to be ready to answer any questions they could throw at me, but as you saw, it was a forgone conclusion – we're the organization, and I'm the scientist that has to be thrown to the dogs to protect NIAID, NIH, Fauci and Biden. That's why the Dems threw me under the bus, and they said as much in their opening statements – they're worried a Republican administration would severely hinder NIH. Meanwhile the SSCP Republicans have had 2 years and come up with zero evidence of COVID originating in a lab, so they need a scalp.

I'm utterly devastated today, even though I suspected this is how it would go. I will keep on fighting Rich – it's my nature (unfortunately) and also I really have no other options. Over the next few days, we'll be going through each of these ridiculous allegations and refuting them publicly, with evidence and receipts. We'll also be talking with lawyers and political consultants about what the likelihood of our organization being debarred is, and if there's any way we can fight that. I'll keep you updated once I know more.

As your talking with colleagues, I have no doubt many will read the stories and say "well, the SSCP does have a point, EcoHealth did not comply with regulations". This is not true, I've pointed out repeatedly to this committee, the NAM (when I was 'investigated' for 12 months at the behest of Republicans), the OIG, GAO and a dozen other bodies, that each of these allegations of 'non-compliance' are either demonstrably true, pathetically insignificant, or valid problems with the NIH system (which of course doesn't play well with Dems trying to protect NIH). Please remind your colleagues that I was not given a fair chance to respond on the day, and that their 'findings' were already published before I stepped into the room. I'd also be happy to get on the phone or zoom with people who are potentially supportive but wavering, to explain why these allegations don't hold water.

Cheers,

Peter

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**From:** Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6)
**Sent:** Thursday, May 2, 2024 6:59 AM
**To:** Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >; Aleksei Chmura (b) (6) >; Jeffrey Sturchio <(b) (6) Rich Roberts <(b) (6) >; Gerald Keusch <(b) (6) Keith Martin <(b) (6) ; David Morens <(b) (6) (b) (6)
**Subject:** Post by Prof Peter Hotez MD PhD on X

**Prof Peter Hotez MD PhD**
@PeterHotez

Important article on yesterday's disgusting Stalinist show trial in the House of Representatives: The politicization of the pandemic continues - great writing as always from @hiltzikm @latimes latimes.com/business/story...

5/2/24, 5:50 AM

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

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**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

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MORENS_NIH_044872
REL0000476716

**Date:** Tue, 7 May 2024 11:31:02 PM -0400
**Sent:** Tue, 7 May 2024 11:30:35 PM -0400
**Subject:** RE: Transcribed interviews from my and David Morens' behind-closed-doors testimony with the SSCP
**From:** Peter Daszak < (b) (6)
**To:** Hotez, Peter Jay < (b) (6)
**CC:** Jeffrey Sturchio < (b) (6) Roberts, Rich < (b) (6) Aleksei Chmura < (b) (6) Gerald Keusch < (b) (6) Keith Martin < (b) (6) David Morens < (b) (6)

Here is one of the Republican members of the SSCP who asked me questions and received completely honest answers.

She's reporting back to her district and essentially ignoring my answers and stating I can't be trusted. This gives you an idea of how ideological this stuff is – plenty of comments about communists, gain-of-function, and fauci.

http://oskynews.org/rep- miller-meeks-the-world-deserves-to-know-the-truth/

# Rep. Miller-Meeks: The World Deserves to Know the Truth

For nearly five years, the world has been consistently misled about the origins of COVID-19. While definitive answers regarding the virus's genesis remain elusive, mounting evidence suggests a link to gain-of-function research conducted in Wuhan that was partially funded by NIH grants and the Chinese Communist Party

The Select Subcommittee on the Coronavirus Pandemic recently held a pivotal hearing featuring Dr. Peter Daszak, President of EcoHealth Alliance, a nonprofit whose stated mission is safeguarding wildlife and public health from the emergence of disease. For years leading up to the global COVID-19 pandemic, EcoHealth had been facilitating gain-of-function research on coronaviruses at the Wuhan Institute of Virology in China.

During this critical hearing, Dr. Daszak's responses raised eyebrows. Despite his confidence, his assertions lacked credibility. He defended the gain-of-function research, arguing it was okay because it focused on animals rather than humans—an ironic stance for the head of an organization purportedly dedicated to wildlife and public health protection.

I, much like many of my colleagues, wasn't buying what Dr. Daszak was selling, so let's dive deeper into this.

In 2016, EcoHealth emailed the NIH saying that they planned to make chimeric MERS and SARS viruses in year 3 of their 5-year coronavirus bat grant. It was later revealed that no research on MERS had been conducted. Instead, EcoHealth spent the year conducting what the NIH labeled as "risky research" and in doing so, violated NIH grant terms and conditions. Nevertheless, once the COVID-19 Pandemic had begun, the NIH was quick to defend EcoHealth and even asserted that they could not have started or contributed to the pandemic. They based this conclusion on studies conducted by the Chinese Communist Party and the NIH itself.

In 2020, the Trump Administration suspended EcoHealth's NIH grants upon recognizing serious concerns with their work. Just 3-years later, the Biden Administration reinstated those grants, allowing EcoHealth to resume bat coronavirus testing in China. The sequence of events raises significant concerns about transparency, accountability, and potential culpability in the origins of COVID-19. How much did the NIH know about EcoHealth's research to amplify transmission and pathogenicity of bat viruses? Why was the NIH so quick to dismiss the lab leak theory despite not having enough credible evidence to prove otherwise? Why did the Biden Administration reinstate the grants before definitively knowing if EcoHealth had a role in creating COVID-19?

The world deserves to know the truth. On June 3, former director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases and lead member of the White House Coronavirus Task Force, Dr. Anthony Fauci, will be testifying before the House Select Subcommittee on the Coronavirus Pandemic.

House Republicans look forward to questioning Dr. Fauci and getting answers for the American people about the origins of COVID-19 and the NIH's involvement in EcoHealth's gain-of-function research in Wuhan.

Cheers

Peter

**Peter Daszak**
*President*

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Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
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---

**From:** Peter Daszak (b) (6)
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 7, 2024 11:23 PM
**To:** 'Hotez, Peter Jay' <(b) (6)
**Cc:** 'Jeffrey Sturchio' (b) (6) >; 'Roberts, Rich' (b) (6) Aleksei Chmura < (b) (6) >; 'Gerald Keusch' <(b) (6) 'Keith Martin(b) (6) ; 'David Morens' < (b) (6)
**Subject:** Transcribed interviews from my and David Morens' behind-closed-doors testimony with the SSCP
**Importance:** High

Here are all the transcribed interviews of various people who recently appeared in front of the SSCP behind closed doors. It will make for tedious reading. I know that my 9-and-a-half hours was spent doing exactly what I did during my public hearing, although they did let me respond at the time…:

- Dr. Lawrence Tabak: https://oversight.house.gov/wp-content/uploads/2024/04/Tabak-TI-Transcript.pdf
- Dr. Michael Lauer: https://oversight.house.gov/wp-content/uploads/2024/04/Lauer-TI-Transcript.pdf
- Dr. David Morens (Part 1): https://oversight.house.gov/wp-content/uploads/2024/04/Morens-TI-Transcript-1.pdf
- Dr. David Morens (Part 2): https://oversight.house.gov/wp-content/uploads/2024/04/Morens-TI-Transcript-2.pdf
- Dr. Emily Erbelding: https://oversight.house.gov/wp-content/uploads/2024/04/Erbelding-TI-Transcript.pdf
- Dr. Erik Stemmy: https://oversight.house.gov/wp-content/uploads/2024/04/Stemmy-TI-Transcript.pdf
- Dr. Peter Daszak: https://oversight.house.gov/wp-content/uploads/2024/04/Daszak-TI-Transcript.pdf
- Dr. Ralph Baric: https://oversight.house.gov/wp-content/uploads/2024/04/Baric-TI-Transcript.pdf

David – you got two pdfs, you're obviously doubly important to them!



MORENS_NIH_044990
REL0000476718

Cheers,

Peter

**Peter Daszak**
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Twitter: @PeterDaszak

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**From:** Hotez, Peter Jay < (b) (6)
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 7, 2024 2:25 PM
**To:** Peter Daszak (b) (6) >
**Cc:** Jeffrey Sturchio (b) (6) >; Roberts, Rich < (b) (6) Aleksei Chmura < (b) (6) Gerald Keusch (b) (6) u>; Keith Martin (b) (6) >; David Morens < (b) (6) >
**Subject:** Re: More upsetting news for us at EcoHealth Alliance

The only person i have access to these days is Paul Friedrichs the White House pandemic coordinator. I'm wondering maybe you should contact Chuck Schumer?

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

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**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

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**Media Inquiries:**
(b) (6)

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On May 7, 2024, at 1:22 PM, Peter Daszak <(b) (6) > wrote:

Yes – it would need to be from high up in USDA to say that 'hold on, these guys aren't debarred, and this is a political action, so please carry on the process of funding them'

The specific unit in USDA that's in charge of the funding process is NIFA (https://www.nifa.usda.gov/ ) which is the unit that oversees USDA research grants.

Cheers,

Peter

**Peter Daszak**
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**From:** Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6)
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 7, 2024 2:16 PM
**To:** Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >
**Cc:** Jeffrey Sturchio(b) (6) , Rich < (b) (6) Aleksei Chmura < (b) (6) >; Gerald Keusch (b) (6) ; Keith Martin <(b) (6) ; David Morens <(b) (6)
**Subject:** Re: More upsetting news for us at EcoHealth Alliance

This is truly awful Peter, I'm so sorry. If there was to be an effective intervention who would do that? Would it be the White House with the Agriculture Secretary?

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

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**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

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On May 7, 2024, at 10:25 AM, Peter Daszak <(b) (6) > wrote:

Just heard today that a 5 year $2.5 million award to analyze disease dynamics in wildlife farms in Southeast Asia we were in the process of finalizing with USDA via the NSF/NIH Ecology and Evolution of Infectious Diseases program is now "impossible" for them to fund. We received a very high score on review, were told it was highly competitive, received notice from USDA that it was 'recommended for funding', and over the past few weeks met repeatedly with the program staff at USDA to finalize all the forms. They were communicating positively with us requesting further paper work as recently as last week, now suddenly we've been told the following:

"Good morning. I must bring you some unfortunate news. Due to unforeseen circumstances, it has become impossible for USDA NIFA to provide support for the project that we discussed. I have had to retract my recommendation. I apologize for the inconvenience this will have caused you."

We're trying to set up calls to find out more information, but it's well known that you don't have funding from an agency until the notice of award and that they can pull out for reasons like budget shortfalls etc. I doubt there's anything we can do. This is similar to an issue we had last year with an joint-PI NIH grant to Colorado State University with us having a substantial role and funding. The program officer spoke with the CSU PI and said they should reduce our budget because if we get 'debarred' NIH will lose its budget. We fought back, CSU scientists pushed back, and we got our Notice of Award.

It's just outrageous that the Republicans can de facto de-fund and organization on a whim. We are not debarred, and we're looking into the rules for debarment and this is normally for issues like fraud, criminal convictions related to grant management, tax evasion etc. I strongly doubt that we would be debarred over a late report that we have substantial evidence we tried to submit.

What worries me is that we are now going to have a multi-year impact on our organization, whether or not we are debarred, and whether or not we actually did anything wrong. I'm also devastated at the impact this will have on

my reputation (already in tatters at this point) and my career.

Extremely upsetting and disappointing!

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 3, 2024 4:04 PM
**To:** Jeffrey Sturchio (b) (6)
**Cc:** Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >; Roberts, Rich <(b) (6) Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) >; Gerald Keusch <(b) (6) ; Keith Martin (b) (6) ; David Morens <(b) (6) >
**Subject:** Re: Post by Prof Peter Hotez MD PhD on X

As far as I can tell, this hearing has received zero national attention. No one beyond our small circle is talking about this

**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 May 3, 2024, at 1:52 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.

---

All:

This is just Wenstrup and the Rs spiking the ball after a hearing in which they refused to let Peter answer the questions posed to him. All of the alleged "evidence" of EHA's supposed transgressions is based on misrepresentation and selective citation of the documentary evidence and false assumptions about the science involved (e.g., since when does a Republican Congresswoman with an MBA and no scientific training get to decide what the definition of gain-of-function research should be?). The only people showing contempt for the American people on Wednesday were the members of Congress and staff who used this hearing as a vehicle to propagate a malicious political narrative that falsely and unfairly blamed Peter Daszak and EHA for research that never happened and outcomes that are chimerical figments of their imagination.

As ever,
Jeff

**From:** Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >
**Sent:** Friday, May 3, 2024 1:12 PM
**To:** Roberts, Rich <(b) (6)
**Cc:** Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6) Aleksei Chmura (b) (6) Jeffrey Sturchio (b) (6) Gerald Keusch (b) (6) u>; Keith Martin (b) (6) >; David Morens <(b) (6) (b) (6)
**Subject:** Re: Post by Prof Peter Hotez MD PhD on X

This is the most awful piece I've seen yet - they say:

**" The Select Subcommittee will take further steps to address Dr. Daszak's contempt for the American people."**




I am very worried for my future and the future of EcoHealth alliance right now. At best this will drive continued hate and death threats… at worst…

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak

President
EcoHealth Alliance

520 8th Avenue, New York, NY10018-6507, USA

www.EcoHealthAlliance.org

On May 2, 2024, at 10:00 AM, Roberts, Rich (b) (6) wrote:

Excellent article!

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

Executive Assistant: (b) (6)
Tel: (978) (b) (6)
Fax: (978) 412 9910
email: (b) (6)

---

**From:** Hotez, Peter Jay < (b) (6)
**Sent:** Thursday, May 2, 2024 6:59 AM
**To:** Peter Daszak <(b) (6) Aleksei Chmura <
(b) (6) >; Jeffrey Sturchio <(b) (6) Roberts, Rich <
(b) (6) Gerald Keusch <(b) (6) u>; Keith Martin <(b) (6) g>; David
Morens <(b) (6) >

**Subject:** Post by Prof Peter Hotez MD PhD on X

**EXTERNAL SENDER**

**Prof Peter Hotez MD PhD**
@PeterHotez

Important article on yesterday's disgusting Stalinist show trial in the House of Representatives: The politicization of the pandemic continues - great writing as always from @hiltzikm @latimes latimes.com/business/story…

5/2/24, 5:50 AM


**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: Mon, 8 Aug 2022 4:24:06 PM -0400
Sent: Mon, 8 Aug 2022 4:23:48 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) >; David Morens < (b) (6) >; Gerald T Keusch < (b) (6)

Baylor Comms told me not to respond to her emails and they are arranging to block her. Such craziness. I can't even understand what she's talking about? Just unhinged gibberish

**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 8, 2022, at 3:17 PM, Roberts, Rich < (b) (6) wrote:

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: (978) (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

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Skype: (b) (6)
Linkedin Peter Hotez



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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) u
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.**

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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,
> >
> > 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?



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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
Sig(b) (6) ) (6)





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MORENS_NIH_019818
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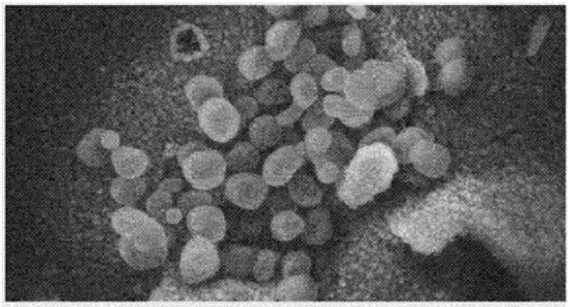
| | |
|---|---|
| **Date:** | Fri, 12 May 2023 9:59:17 AM -0400 |
| **Sent:** | Fri, 12 May 2023 9:59:03 AM -0400 |
| **Subject:** | Re: Michael Hiltzik's LA Times article will be live at 8am tomorrow (Friday). |
| **From:** | John Feigelson < (b) (6) |
| **To:** | Peter Daszak < (b) (6) |
| **CC:** | Jeff Sturchio < (b) (6) Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6) Rich Roberts < (b) (6) David Morens < (b) (6) Hotez, Peter Jay < (b) (6) Aleksei Chmura < (b) (6) |
| **Attachments:** | 80.png; Hiltzik_ Ending Trump's anti-science policies, 3 years late - Los Angeles Times.pdf |

Good morning all,

The article is attached as a PDF, here. If you have any issues accessing it, please let me know.

Best,
John

On Fri, May 12, 2023 at 9:57 AM Peter Daszak (b) (6) > wrote:
The article is out - John my username is my email address and password is gekko2476



Column: How Trump's anti-science meddling erased 3 years of crucial COVID research
latimes.com

Please open this article up, print off as a pdf and share with this august group!!

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak

President
EcoHealth Alliance

520 8th Avenue, New York, NY10018-6507, USA

www.EcoHealthAlliance.org

On May 11, 2023, at 10:56 PM, Peter Daszak <(b) (6) > wrote:

Please keep your eyes peeled for this. I'll be busy in the morning - I'm up at Univ. Rochester for my eldest daughter's graduation – we're proud parents of a Mechanical Engineering BS graduate, specializing in robotics…

John – can you share a link to the article as soon as you see it with everyone on this email.

If it's behind a paywall, you can use my username ((b) (6) ) and the password is(b) (6)

Look forward to seeing this.

Cheers,

Peter

**Peter Daszak**

*President*

EcoHealth Alliance

520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200

New York, NY 10018-6507

USA



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MORENS_NIH_000050
REL0000476723

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:** Thursday, May 11, 2023 10:21 PM
**To:** Peter Daszak (b) (6) >
**Subject:** Re: Renewal

Thanks. Column will go online tomorrow at 5 am pacific time…will send you a link and copy, and if you see anything needing a fix please let me know..

MH

On Thu, May 11, 2023 at 6:56 PM Peter Daszak (b) (6) > wrote:

> Glad you got to the right number on this. It's in the Notice of award if you add up the current project period (yrs 6&7) in the first page, with the other 3 yrs of the award totals (last page).
>
> I'm traveling today and tomorrow, but can answer any last minute questions if you text or call me on my cellphone +1-(b) (6) or email and cc Alison Andre above.

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:** Thursday, May 11, 2023 11:13 AM
**To:** Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >
**Subject:** Renewal

Actually, I see from my notes that you told me there was $2.9 million remaining on the original grant, to be expended over about four and a half years....



MORENS_SUBPOENA_000024
MORENS_NIH_000052
REL0000476723

MH

--

**John Feigelson**

*(he/him/his - here's why)*

*Development & Communications Coordinator*

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

www.ecohealthalliance.org

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

**Date:** Mon, 16 Oct 2023 10:10:09 AM -0400
**Subject:** Fwd: Dr. Peter Hotez Receives Inaugural IDSA Anthony Fauci Courage in Leadership Award
**From:** David Morens (b) (6)
**To:** peter hotez (b) (6) ; Peter Daszak (b) (6) ; Roberts, Rich (b) (6) ; Jeffrey Sturchio (b) (6) ; Aleksei Chmura (b) (6) ; Keusch, Gerald T (b) (6)
**Attachments:** image001.png; image002.jpg

Congrats again! david


***David Morens***
(b) (6)

(b) (mobile)


**IMPORTANT: For US Government-related email, please use my publicly available NIAID contact information**

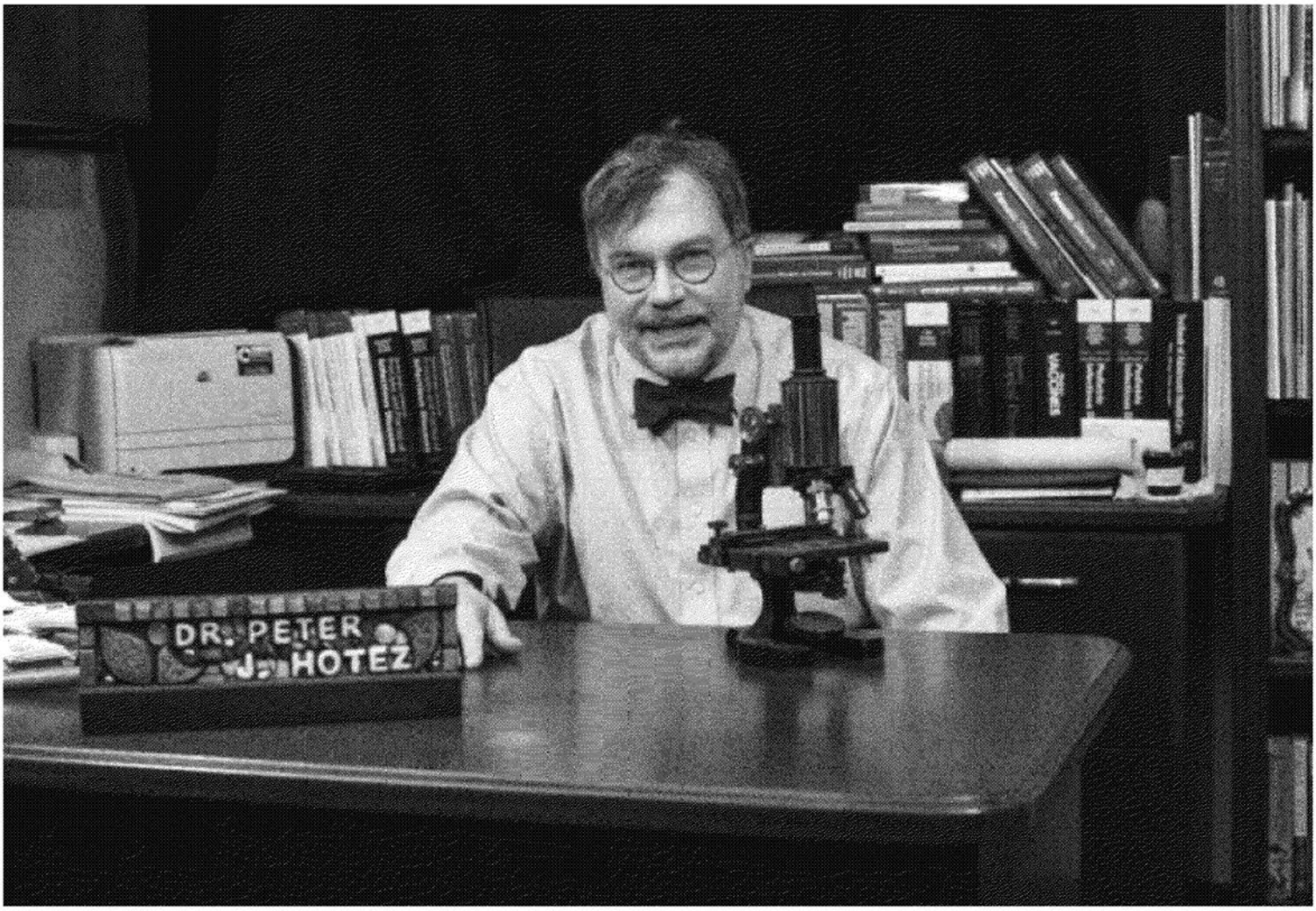
--------- Forwarded message ---------
From: **Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E]** (b) (6) (b) (6) (b)
Date: Mon, Oct 16, 2023 at 9:47 AM
Subject: Fwd: Dr. Peter Hotez Receives Inaugural IDSA Anthony Fauci Courage in Leadership Award
To: David Morens (b) (6)

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

**From:** "Folkers, Greg (NIH/NIAID) [C]" (b) (6)
**Date:** October 15, 2023 at 14:58:50 EDT
**Subject: Dr. Peter Hotez Receives Inaugural IDSA Anthony Fauci Courage in Leadership Award**

Texas Children's Hospital

# Dr. Peter Hotez Receives Inaugural IDSA Anthony Fauci Courage in Leadership Award




*Annual award recognizes individual efforts to uphold and speak to scientific truths*

**HOUSTON (October 11, 2023)** – Texas Children's Hospital is pleased to announce that Dr. Peter Hotez , co-director of the Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development (CVD) and professor and dean of the National School of Tropical Medicine at Baylor College of Medicine, has been awarded the inaugural Infectious Diseases Society of America (IDSA) Anthony Fauci Courage in Leadership Award for his efforts to uphold and speak to scientific truths.

The Anthony Fauci Courage in Leadership Award is given in recognition of the values and attributes that Dr. Fauci has exhibited throughout his career, courage in leadership in speaking scientific truth, perseverance in the face of opposition, and serving as a change agent for healthcare and patients around the world.

"I'm thrilled to be honored by the IDSA, and it's especially meaningful to have the name of my longstanding colleague and mentor, Dr. Anthony Fauci, attached to this award. Beyond being a vaccine scientist, over the past decades I have also sought to counter antivaccine activism. As a parent of an adult daughter with autism and intellectual disabilities, I worked to debunk vaccine and autism links, and more recently its expanding influence during the COVID-19 pandemic. I am profoundly grateful to IDSA and its members - my colleagues - for their support and guidance on this front," said Dr. Hotez.

The Anthony Fauci Courage in Leadership Award celebrates individuals who inspire and encourage others to make a difference and is awarded to a person who has demonstrated courage in leadership, a commitment to promoting scientific integrity, advocating for sound science, and advancing the field of infectious disease at their institutions or in their local, national, or global communities.

Dr. Hotez is an elected member of the National Academy of Medicine and American Academy of Arts and Sciences, and the author of several books including Vaccines Did Not Cause Rachel's Autism – about his daughter – and the newly released The Deadly Rise of Anti-science: A Scientist's Warning (Johns Hopkins University Press). He and team members from the Texas Children's Hospital CVD and Baylor co-led the development of neglected disease vaccines, as well as a low-cost COVID-19 vaccine technology for global health, with millions of doses administered in India and Indonesia. They just received the David and Beatrix Hamburg Award for Advances in Biomedical Research and Clinical Medicine for their vaccine technology development work from the National Academy of Medicine. In 2022, Dr. Hotez and Dr. Maria Elena Bottazzi, co-director of the Texas Children's Hospital and senior associate dean of the National School of Tropical Medicine at Baylor CVD, were nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize for their vaccine efforts. In 2022, Dr. Hotez received the AMA's Scientific Achievement Award, and in 2023, the AAAS Scientific Freedom and Responsibility Award, for promoting vaccines and combating vaccine misinformation. He has also been recognized by the AAMC and the American Medical Writer's Association and holds several honorary doctorates.

**ABOUT TEXAS CHILDREN'S**

Texas Children's, a nonprofit health care organization, is committed to creating a healthier future for children and women throughout the global community by leading in patient care, education and research. Consistently ranked as the best children's hospital in Texas and among the top in the nation, Texas Children's has garnered widespread recognition for its expertise and breakthroughs in pediatric and women's health. The system includes the Texas Children's Duncan NRI; the Feigin Tower for pediatric research; Texas Children's Pavilion for Women, a comprehensive obstetrics/gynecology facility focusing on high-risk births; Texas Children's Hospital West Campus, a community hospital in suburban West Houston; and Texas Children's Hospital The Woodlands, the first hospital devoted to children's care for communities north of Houston. The organization also created Texas Children's Health Plan, the nation's first HMO for children; Texas Children's Pediatrics, the largest pediatric primary care network in the country; Texas Children's Urgent Care clinics that specialize in after-hours care tailored specifically for children; and a global health program that is channeling care to children and women all over the world. Texas Children's Hospital is affiliated with Baylor College of Medicine. For more information, visit www.texaschildrens.org.

**ABOUT TEXAS CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL CENTER FOR VACCINE DEVELOPMENT**

Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development is one of the leading vaccine development centers in the world. Established in Washington DC as the Sabin Vaccine Institute Product Development Partnership (PDP) in the year 2000 and after relocating to the Texas Medical Center in 2011, it rebranded as Texas Children's Center for Vaccine Development. For the past two decades it has acquired an international reputation as a non-profit PDP, advancing vaccines for poverty-related neglected tropical diseases (NTDs) and emerging infectious diseases of pandemic importance. In addition, it builds and strengthens capacity for vaccine development locally and with foreign nations and leads global efforts to guide and influence vaccine policy and advocacy through "vaccine diplomacy" as an international bridge



MORENS_NIH_009733
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for peace and vaccine development capacity.

**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.**



MORENS_NIH_009734
REL0000476726

**Date:** Thu, 16 Mar 2023 6:40:29 PM -0400
**Sent:** Thu, 16 Mar 2023 6:40:18 PM -0400
**Subject:** The Strongest Evidence Yet That an Animal Started the Pandemic - The Atlantic
**From:** "Hotez, Peter Jay"(b) (6)
**To:** Gerald Keusch (b) (6); Aleksei Chmura (b) (6); David Morens (b) (6); Jeffrey Sturchio (b) (6); Peter Daszak (b) (6); Rich Roberts (b) (6)

https://www.theatlantic.com/science/archive/2023/03/covid- origins-research-raccoon-dogs-wuhan-market-lab-leak/673390/


**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, 19 May 2022 6:43:59 PM -0400
**Sent:** Thu, 19 May 2022 6:41:22 PM -0400
**Subject:** Peter Hotez' tweet and Jamie Metzl's
**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) Jeffrey Sturchio < (b) (6) Aleksei Chmura < (b) (6)
**Attachments:** image001.jpg; image002.jpg; image003.jpg; image005.jpg; image006.jpg; image007.jpg; image009.jpg; image010.jpg; image012.jpg; image014.jpg; image016.jpg; image018.jpg; image020.jpg

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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) >; 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



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MORENS_NIH_022186
REL0000476741

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 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

**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*

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USA

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Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

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

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**From:** Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6)
**Sent:** Thursday, May 19, 2022 5:36 PM
**To:** Peter Daszak <(b) (6)



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MORENS_NIH_022187
REL0000476741

**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

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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
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Fax: 713-798-2299



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iPhone

On May 19, 2022, at 4:27 PM, Peter Daszak <(b) (6) g > 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 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



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MORENS_NIH_022189
REL0000476741

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

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**From:** Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6)
**Sent:** Thursday, May 19, 2022 4:58 PM
**To:** Roberts, Rich <(b) (6)
**Cc:** Peter Daszak (b) (6) (b) (6) g >; 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
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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

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Senior Coordinator / Executive Support: Douglas Soriano
(b) (6)
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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
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Tel: (b) (6)
Fax: (978) 412 9910
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**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).

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.



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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."

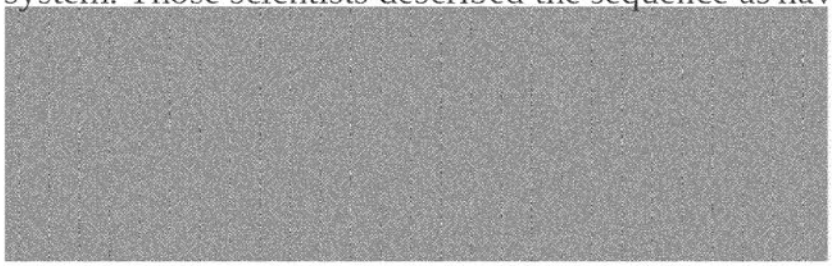
The intent of the DARPA proposal was to prevent emerging pathogenic threats, but the work, if conducted, could have created a novel virus capable of infecting humans. "We will introduce appropriate human-specific cleavage sites and evaluate growth potential in [a type of mammalian cell commonly used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

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.





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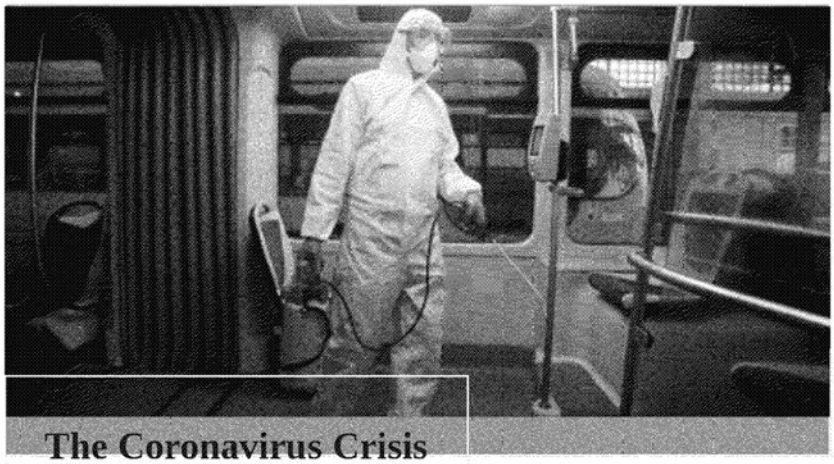

**The Coronavirus Crisis**

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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.



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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 sequences into bat coronaviruses



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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,



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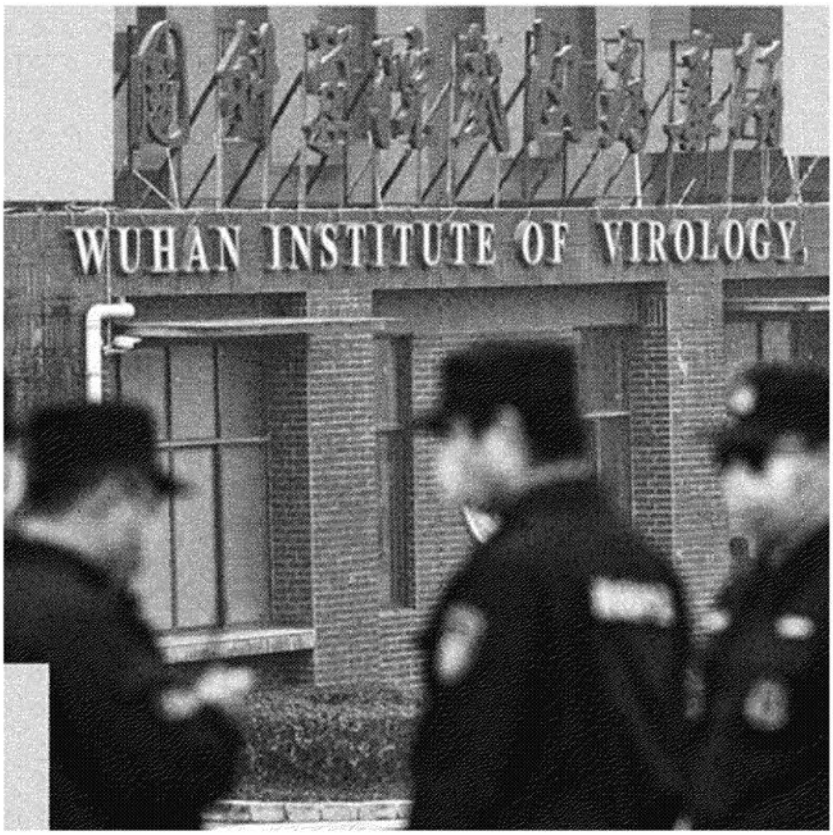
wrote in an email to The Intercept when asked about the possibility that these things are both chance occurrences. “But the list of coincidences is getting verrrrrrrrrry long.”

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.

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**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 pandemic have settled into an increasingly acrimonious,



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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



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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."



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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



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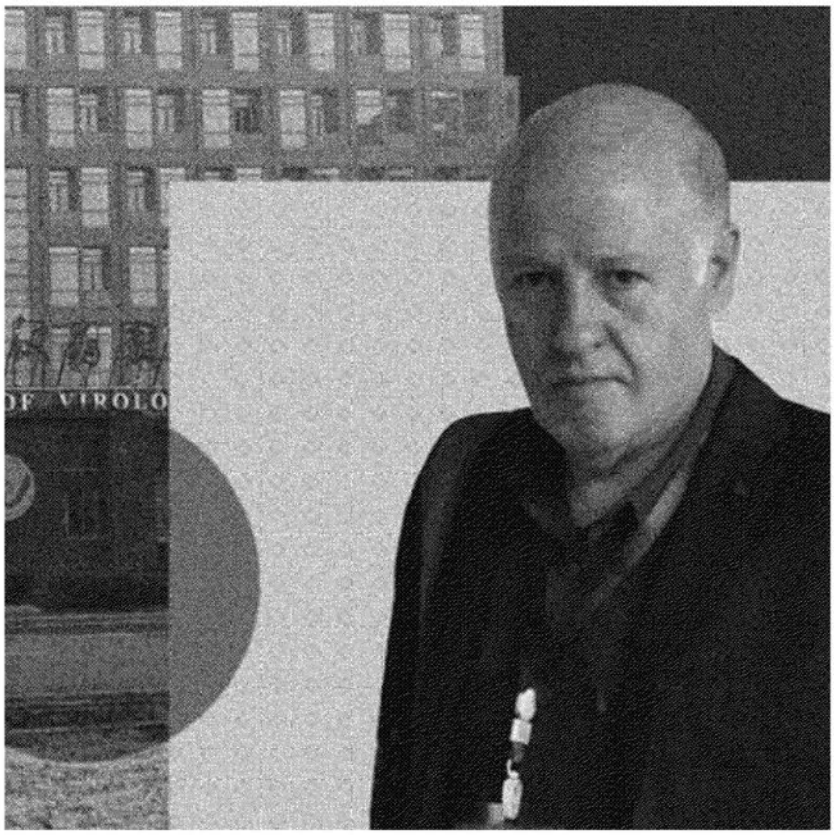
published in The Lancet on behalf of scientists who said they "condemn conspiracy theories suggesting that COVID-19 does not have a natural origin."



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



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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*

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

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**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 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



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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

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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)
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Fax: 713-798-2299

iPhone

On May 11, 2022, at 6:39 PM, David Morens <(b) (6) wrote:

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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



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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 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…:



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**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.

1

Thanks,
Renate

Cheers,

Peter



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*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)

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

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**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 <(b) (6) >

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**From:** Folkers, Greg (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b) (6)
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 11, 2022 4:12 PM



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**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."



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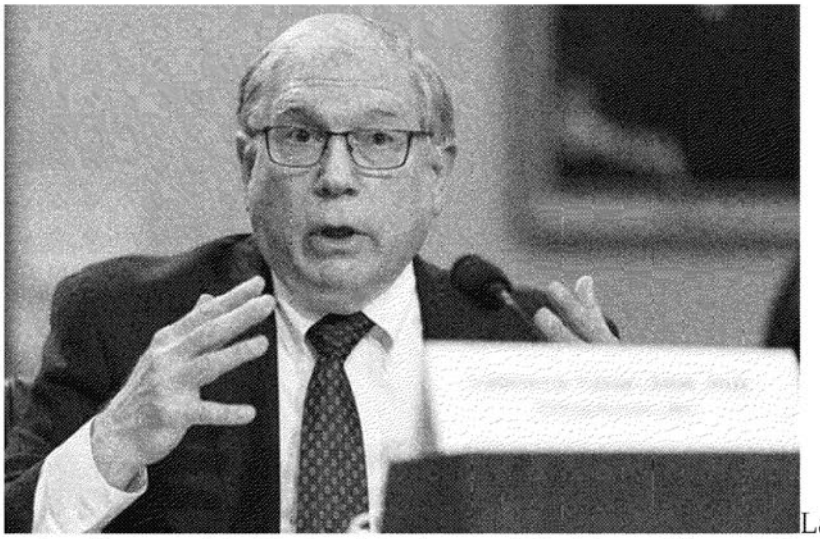
Lawrence Tabak, acting director of the National Institutes of Health, testifies on May 11. Jacquelyn Martin/AP

"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."



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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.



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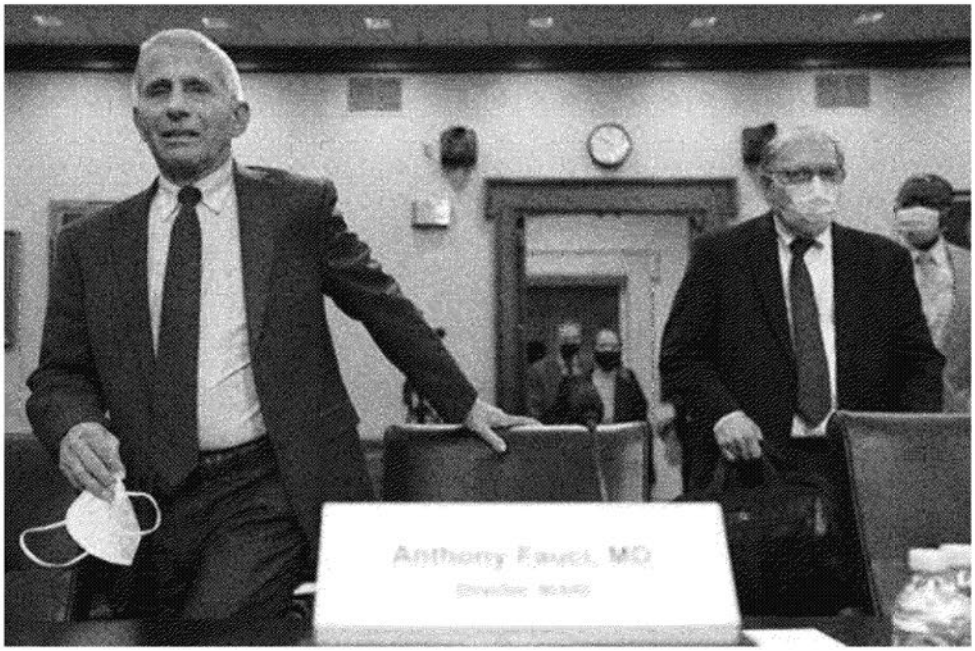


Lawrence Tabak confirmed Wednesday that early genomic sequences of COVID-19 were concealed at the request of Chinese specialists. Jacquelyn Martin/AP

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.

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