come....

Would love to come down some

time to chat or chat plus

libation,

let me know. I am working

part time at my NIH office and

part

time at home but can be free

most times.

Yes, times ARE crazy in more

MORENS_SUBPOENA_015273
MORENS_NIH_032106
REL0000482384

ways than one, but I am an

optimist....

David

On 8/17/2020 7:41 PM,

Dennis Carroll

MORENS_SUBPOENA_015274
MORENS_NIH_032107
REL0000482384

wrote:

David,

thanks for the connection

and good words.

I hope you are fairing

well. Times are crazy. I

haven't

MORENS_SUBPOENA_015275
MORENS_NIH_032108
REL0000482384

heard from the reporter,

but you never can tell.

FYI, I am

still based in DC - living
(b) (6)

(b) (6) If you ever
come down to the (b) (6)
area reach out

I'm at the (b) (6)
(b) (6) Great place
to be in

the midst of a pandemic.

Would welcome a chance to
chat

MORENS_SUBPOENA_015276
MORENS_NIH_032109
REL0000482384

All the best

d

●n

Mon, Aug 10, 2020 at

MORENS_SUBPOENA_015277
MORENS_NIH_032110
REL0000482384

12:44 PM Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b) (6)

wrote:

MORENS_SUBPOENA_015278
MORENS_NIH_032111
REL0000482384

Dennis, in case your ears are buzzing. See email below with Peter D and Jerry Keusch. Counting down to January 20, 2021.

MORENS_SUBPOENA_015279
MORENS_NIH_032112
REL0000482384

David

MORENS_SUBPOENA_015280
MORENS_NIH_032113
REL0000482384

-------- Forwarded

Message --------

MORENS_SUBPOENA_015281
MORENS_NIH_032114
REL0000482384

Subject:

Re: Monday

morning news

from Wuhan

&

elsewhere...

Date:

Mon, 10

Aug 2020

12:42:58 -0400

MORENS_SUBPOENA_015282
MORENS_NIH_032115
REL0000482384

From:

Morens,

David

(NIH/NIAID)

[E] (b) (6)

To:

Peter (b) (6)

Daszak

Gerald Keusch

(b) (6)

MORENS_SUBPOENA_015283
MORENS_NIH_032116
REL0000482384

CC: Aleksei Chmura (b) (6)

Robert Kessler (b) (6)

MORENS_SUBPOENA_015284
MORENS_NIH_032117
REL0000482384

Great news clip

and, you see,

things are getting

better. I

have talked to a

number of

reporters, mostly

off the

record but

MORENS_SUBPOENA_015285
MORENS_NIH_032118
REL0000482384

some on, and have

headed them both

to you and

Dennis.

I just

gave a reporter

Dennis's contact

info Friday and

told

them I

MORENS_SUBPOENA_015286
MORENS_NIH_032119
REL0000482384

thought he was

temporarily out at

Texas A & M,

maybe at the

Scowcroft

Institute. BTW, I

have worked a bit

with

the

MORENS_SUBPOENA_015287
MORENS_NIH_032120
REL0000482384

Scowcroft

Institute and

there are some

good folks

there,

Republicans but

good smart

people. David

MORENS_SUBPOENA_015288
MORENS_NIH_032121
REL0000482384

On 8/10/2020

11:24 AM, Peter

Daszak

wrote:

Had

a fun weekend

w/ reporters

breaking into

my late

breakfast.

Here's a story

from NBC where

they

MORENS_SUBPOENA_015290
MORENS_NIH_032123
REL0000482384

actually

went inside

the lab.

MORENS_SUBPOENA_015291
MORENS_NIH_032124
REL0000482384

https://www.today.com/video/inside- the-wuhan-lab-at-center-of-coronavirus-controversy-89836101738

MORENS_SUBPOENA_015292
MORENS_NIH_032125
REL0000482384

Unfortunately

Zhengli Shi is

on vacation in

Tibet this

week so

she

didn’t

feature, but

the very

MORENS_SUBPOENA_015293
MORENS_NIH_032126
REL0000482384

likeable

Director

of the Lab

(the guy she

interviews

first) and the

more

political

MORENS_SUBPOENA_015294
MORENS_NIH_032127
REL0000482384

director of

the Institute

were

interviewed.

MORENS_SUBPOENA_015295
MORENS_NIH_032128
REL0000482384

Good

to see Wuhan

opening up to

outside

journalists.

I look

forward to a

trip there

with both of

MORENS_SUBPOENA_015296
MORENS_NIH_032129
REL0000482384

you one

day, followed

by a banquet,

baiju

drinking, and

Karaoke with

the very

MORENS_SUBPOENA_015297
MORENS_NIH_032130
REL0000482384

excellent

singer Zhengli

Shi!

MORENS_SUBPOENA_015298
MORENS_NIH_032131
REL0000482384

On

Wednesday

we're

expecting a

full story

from Wall

St

Journal on the

origins of

MORENS_SUBPOENA_015299
MORENS_NIH_032132
REL0000482384

COVID.

Apparently

Tony

is

interviewed,

Dennis Carroll

and other

Luminaries.

MORENS_SUBPOENA_015300
MORENS_NIH_032133
REL0000482384

In

other news,

Dennis Carroll

is now

assisting the

Biden

Campaign in

designing

policy on

MORENS_SUBPOENA_015301
MORENS_NIH_032134
REL0000482384

Global Health.

There'll be

a story in the

New York Times

either today

or

tomorrow…

MORENS_SUBPOENA_015302
MORENS_NIH_032135
REL0000482384

Cheers,

MORENS_SUBPOENA_015303
MORENS_NIH_032136
REL0000482384

Peter

MORENS_SUBPOENA_015304
MORENS_NIH_032137
REL0000482384

Peter

Daszak

President

MORENS_SUBPOENA_015305
MORENS_NIH_032138
REL0000482384

--

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)

MORENS_SUBPOENA_015306
MORENS_NIH_032139
REL0000482384

Date: Fri, 4 Jun 2021 9:39:07 PM -0400
Sent: Fri, 4 Jun 2021 9:39:05 PM -0400
Subject: RE: Thanks
From: "Keusch, Gerald T" <(b) (6)
To: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) David Morens <(b) (6)

Harvard Kennedy School is the Kennedy School of Government. The Business School is separate. Which is one is linked to jcg323? Not sure what to do with that but it would be interesting to know.

From: Peter Daszak <(b) (6)
Sent: Friday, June 4, 2
To: Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6) David Morens (t(b) (6)
Subject: RE: Thanks

The Twitter link suggests it's a program manager at Harvard Kennedy School of business.

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: Peter Daszak <(b) (6)
Sent: Friday, June 4, 20
To: 'Keusch, Gerald T' (b) (6) ; 'David Morens ((b) (6) (b) (6)
Subject: RE: Thanks

The problem is that this is the way now with social media – this person will be just some random ne'er-do-well.

I looked up the name and he's harassing trans women as well on Twitter:

https://twitter.com/thaumatropia/status/1256669048340914178?s=20

Like the journalists who came round my house this afternoon, they're just after a reaction, so if you respond, they will use that in some nefarious way.

Best just block and move on.

MORENS_SUBPOENA_016268
MORENS_NIH_034392
REL0000482385

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: Keusch, Gerald T (b) (6)
Sent: Friday, June 4, 2021 2:36 PM
To: Peter Daszak (b) (6) ; David Morens (b) (6)
Subject: FW: Thanks

You probably got this too. It's nice to know that Jason is sincere. I am contemplating a three word response because trinities are holy. Fuck you Jason.

OK, not really.

From: Jason Chapman (b) (6)
Sent: Friday, June 4, 2021 2:34 PM
To: Keusch, Gerald T (b) (6)
Subject: Thanks

In that letter you signed, you said people spread prejudice (i.e. were racists) for questioning the origin of the virus....absolutely disgusting. I am throughly enjoying watching your credibility and the credibility of Democrat biased academia evaporate in real time.

Sincerely,
Jason

https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-9652589/amp/One-original-lab-leak-deniers-calls-thorough-investigation-Covids-origin.html

Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android

Disclaimer

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

This email has been scanned for viruses and malware, and may have been automatically archived by Mimecast, a leader in email security and cyber resilience. Mimecast integrates email defenses with brand protection, security awareness training, web security, compliance and other essential capabilities. Mimecast helps protect large and small organizations

from maliciousactivity, human errorandtechnology failure; and tolead the movement toward building a more resilient world. To find out more, visit our website.

MORENS_SUBPOENA_016270
MORENS_NIH_034394
REL0000482385

Date: Wed, 21 Apr 2021 1:21:51 PM -0400

Subject: RE: Telegraph: Wuhan officials identified Huanan market as a pandemic risk at least five years before Covid emerged

From: Peter Daszak <(b) (6)

To: Roberts, (b) (6) (b) (6) Morens (b) (6) Keusch G (b) (6) Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) >,

CC: Taubenberger, Jeffery (NIH/NIAID) [E] <(b) (6)

Attachments: image004.jpg; image005.jpg; image006.jpg; EthpINRUYAEONCM.jfif

Yes – really glad Eddie has spoken out in this way. The same reporter approached me and just out of having too much to do last weekend I didn't respond so I'm not quoted – I think that's actually better – it's great to have other scientists speaking out and I'll try to do this a bit more often!

You're right about the politics, and also about the threats – Eddie's getting attacked also by the Miles Guo group (G-News) – the person on who's yacht Steve Bannon was arrested!.

These folks are very active on social media, producing videos and cartoons that are watched by millions.

Rich – you'll be very amused to see that the G-News cartoonists have decide myself and Zhengli Shi in China should be given Nobel Prizes…but this time for 'Acting' – see attached picture…

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: Roberts, Rich (b) (6)
Sent: Wednesday, April 21, 2021 10:21
To: Mo (b) (6) /NIAID) [E] <(b) (6) Peter (b) (6) Gerald (b) (6) >; Kessler Rob (b) (6) >; >
Cc: Taubenberger, Jeffery (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b) (6) >
Subject: RE: Telegraph: Wuhan officials identified Huanan market as a pandemic risk at least five years before Covid emerged

David:

MORENS_SUBPOENA_012712
MORENS_NIH_024100
REL0000482386

He really hits the nail on the head when he said that the more politics is involved the less likely there will ever be an answer from science.

Rich

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

From: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b) (6) >
Sent: Wednesday, April 21, 2021 8:34 AM
To: Daszak Peter (b) (6) Keusch Gerald (b) (6) Roberts, Rich (b) (6) >; Kessler Robert (b) (6) >; Chmura Aleksei <(b) (6) g >
Cc: Taubenberger, Jeffery (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b) (6)
Subject: Fwd: Telegraph: Wuhan officials id emic risk at least five years before Covid emerged

EXTERNAL SENDER

This is interesting because like you, Peter, Eddie and his family have been under frightening death threats. when i approached him last summer about signing on as a co author he declined out of fear, but did help behind the scenes. he must be rethinking what role he should play. he also has the qualification of not being an American and is perhaps our leading viral phylogeneticists, who has trained some of the other leading phylogeneticists. d

Sent from my iPad
David M. Morens, M.D.

Begin forwarded message:

> **From:** "Folkers, Greg (NIH/NIAID) [E]" <(b) (6) >
> **Date:** April 19, 2021 at 8:28:05 PM EDT
> **Subject: Telegraph: Wuhan officials identified Huanan market as a pandemic risk at least five years before Covid emerged**

Wuhan officials identified Huanan market as a pandemic risk at least five years before Covid emerged

Experts say market was either the site of an initial 'spillover' of Covid, or 'amplified' early circulation through a super-spreading event

By Sarah Newey, Global Health Security Correspondent 18 April 2021 • 5:00pm

MORENS_SUBPOENA_012713
MORENS_NIH_024101
REL0000482386

Members of the Wuhan Hygiene Emergency Response Team leaving the closed Huanan Seafood Wholesale Market in mid-January 2020 Credit: NOEL CELIS/AFP via Getty Images

Health experts in Wuhan knew the wet market at the centre of the coronavirus outbreak was a pandemic risk at least five years before Covid-19 emerged, a British scientist has revealed.

In 2014 Dr Eddie Holmes, an evolutionary biologist and virologist, was taken to the Huanan seafood market by members of the Wuhan Centre for Disease Control, who used it as an example of the type of place where a virus could "spillover" from animals to humans.

Dr Holmes, who now works at the University of Sydney, said the visit was part of a wider project to hunt for new pathogens with pandemic potential in China.

"The Wuhan CDC took us there, and here's the key bit, because the discussion was: 'where could a disease emerge?' Well, here's the place – that's why I went," Dr Holmes told *The Telegraph* in an interview.

"I've been to a few of these markets, but this was a big one – it felt like a disease incubator, exactly the sort of place you would expect a disease to emerge".

Live animals held in Wuhan's Huanan market in October 2014, taken by Dr Eddie Holmes during a visit to the site Credit: Eddie Holmes

Dr Holmes, who took pictures at the time, remembers the now shuttered market as a sprawling network of narrow covered streets in the heart of Wuhan. It was late afternoon and not particularly crowded, but there were "crates of wildlife stacked on top of each other", including fish, snakes, rodents and racoon dogs – a fox-like animal known to be susceptible to Covid-19.

Many of the creatures were alive, added Dr Holmes, who remembers seeing one bludgeoned in front of him.
"An animal had got out or something, and somebody was clubbing it," he said, mimicking the hand actions over Zoom. "I think it was a racoon dog, though I couldn't quite see. It was pretty confronting."
Dr Holmes added that he is unsure whether the Wuhan CDC ramped up disease surveillance or introduced new safety measures in the years preceding the pandemic, and the China CDC has not responded to *The Telegraph*.
The Huanan market gained global notoriety when the first cases of Covid-19 (initially reported as a "mystery pneumonia" on December 31, 2019) were found in people who worked and shopped there.
Of the initial 41 people hospitalised with pneumonia who were officially identified as having Covid, two-thirds were exposed to the market, which was closed and sealed off by the Wuhan authorities on January 1, 2020.

Inside Huanan food market in October 2014. Dr Eddie Holmes described the site as dirty, not particularly crowded, but with areas full of wild animals in crates Credit: Eddie Holmes
Experts believe the site played a significant role in the initial circulation of Covid-19, either as the site of the initial "spillover" event where an animal virus jumps to humans, or as an "amplifier" of the early epidemic.
A report from the World Health Organization (WHO) on the origins of Sars-CoV-2 provided crucial details. Though it said "no firm conclusion" could be drawn on the precise role of Huanan market, it found the virus most likely jumped from bats to humans via an as-yet-unknown animal.
The wildlife trade in general, and wet markets in particular, have long been linked to the emergence of new pathogens. There is evidence Sars jumped to humans at markets in Guangdong, China in 2002 and datapoints to similarly a significant role in 2019.
In early 2020 Chinese researchers collected close to 1,000 samples from Huanan market – swabbing everything from rubbish bins, doors and stalls to stray cats and mice – and found widespread contamination "compatible with introduction of the virus through infected people, infected animals or contaminated products".
Meanwhile, of the first 168 Covid-19 cases, roughly a third had a connection to Huanan market. Genome sequences from some of those in this group found eight of the earliest samples were identical, confirming there was an outbreak there.
Yet the first person with a known link to Huanan market became ill on December 12, four days after the first known case. This suggests Covid-19 may have been spreading under the radar in several parts of Wuhan simultaneously before Huanan market amplified circulation.
The joint WHO-China team also found no evidence that live wildlife was still sold at the market – though noted that both Dr Holmes' pictures and "unverified photographs and videos in media reports" suggest otherwise – and none of 457

animal samples taken from the market between January and March 2020 tested positive for Sars-Cov-2.
The report added: "The manager informed the teams the market was cleaned twice a day, morning and evening. Pests and rats are sought out and killed; holes were closed. Rigorous cleaning was done once or twice a week. Even though there are rooms above some stalls, vendors were not allowed to live in the market."
But Dr Holmes and others, including members of the WHO team, believe more samples need to be taken to "follow the animals", and caution that finding wildlife involved in the early transmission chain is like finding a needle in a haystack. It is also possible that the virus was introduced to the market by an already infected person involved in earlier stages of the wildlife trade.
Live wild animals in crates stacked ontop of each other, taken in October 2014 during Dr Eddie Holmes' trip to the market Credit: Eddie Holmes
"We know how easily Sars-Cov-2 spread from minks to mink farmers in Europe," said Dr Dale Fisher, an expert in infectious diseases and chair of the Global Outbreak Alert and Response Network. "So it's likely this could happen on a farm, and the farmer was the index case who then took it to the market, where there was a super-spreading event.
"But evidence points towards wildlife. And whether it's been plague on rats, or Ebola on bats and primates, or Sars-1 on civet cats and bats, camels for Mers – historically these outbreaks all had species jumps and then amplification events," he told the *Telegraph*.
It is estimated that birds and mammals harbour roughly 700,000 viruses with the potential to jump to people, while 70 per cent of new emerging infectious diseases come from wild animals. Places where numerous species mix in close quarters with humans, with few biosecurity measures in place, are high risk.
Just this week, the WHO issued new guidance urging countries to crack down on wet markets and suspend the sale of captured live wild animals as an "emergency measure" to protect public health.
"In my mind, the wildlife trade is the most likely source of it. The role of that market is still uncertain, but there was clearly a lot of transmission and to me it smells like there's a strong link – we need to follow it through," Dr Holmes said.
"My concern is that the finger pointing has got so bad, will that happen? I think China just doesn't want it to be China… so then the question is, are we actually going to see all the data? I honestly don't know. But the more the politics gets into it, the less likely we will."

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

Date: Wed, 19 May 2021 11:16:53 AM -0400
Sent: Wed, 19 May 2021 11:15:57 AM -0400
Subject: RE: National Pulse: EXC: Fauci Underling Serves On Board for Wuhan Lab Journal.
From: Peter Daszak <(b) (6)
To: M NIAID) [E] <(b) (6) Keusch, Jerry <(b) (6) Rich Roberts <(b) (6)
Attachments: image003.gif; image004.jpg; image005.jpg; image006.png

Straight from the McCarthy Era! If you're a scientist working in a normal way, doing international science diplomacy by serving on the Board of a journal, you suddenly become an "underling" "linked to the CCP or People's Liberation Army".

Preposterous…

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: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b) (6)
Sent: Wednesday,
To: (b) (6) (b) (6) ; Keusch, Jerry (b) (6) (b) (6) <(b) (6) >
Subject: FW: National Pulse: EXC: Fauci Underling Serves On Board for Wuhan Lab Journal.

David

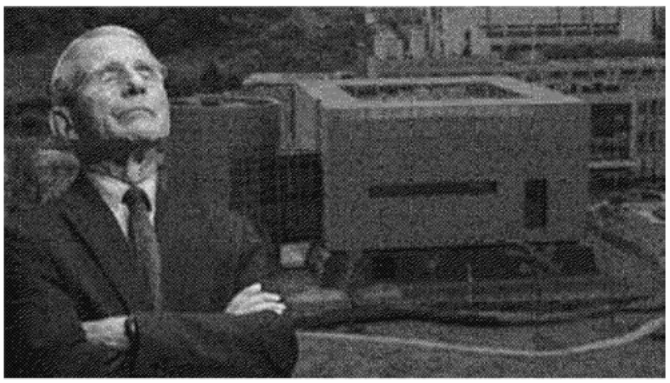
David M. Morens, M.D.
CAPT, United States Public Health Service
Senior Advisor to the Director

MORENS_SUBPOENA_014886
MORENS_NIH_030539
REL0000482391

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 itshould not be disseminated, distributed, or copied to persons not authorized to receive such information. All sensitive documents must be properly labeled before dissemination via email. If you are not the intended recipient, any dissemination, distribution, or copying is strictly prohibited. If you have received this communication in error, please erase all copies of the message and its attachments and notify us immediately.**

From: Folkers, Greg (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b) (6)
Sent: Tuesday, May 18, 2021 9:26 PM
To: NIAID COGCORE <COGCORE@mail.nih.gov>; NIAID OCGR Leg <NIAIDOCGRLeg@mail.nih.gov>; NIAID ODAM <NIAIDODAM@niaid.nih.gov>
Subject: National Pulse: EXC: Fauci Underling Serves On Board for Wuhan Lab Journal.



- Exclusive

EXC: Fauci Underling Serves On Board for Wuhan Lab Journal.

- May 18, 2021
- Natalie Winters

MORENS_SUBPOENA_014887
MORENS_NIH_030540
REL0000482391

The Wuhan Institute of Virology's scientific journal – which has discussed controversial "gain-of-function" research – counts scientists from Dr. Anthony Fauci's National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID) on its editorial board.

The Editor-in-Chief of the journal – *Virologica Sinica* – is Shi Zhengli, the Director of the Wuhan Institute of Virology's Center for Emerging Infectious Diseases. Eight additional researchers from the Wuhan lab – believed by many to be the source of COVID-19 – serve on the editorial board.

Another member of the journal's editorial board, however, has ties to Dr. Fauci's National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID).

Jens Kuhn, the Director of Virology at the Integrated Research Facility which is "part of the NIAID's Division of Clinical Research (DCR) within NIH" according to the agency, is listed as a member of the journal's editorial board.

His professional bio notes he "specializes in highly virulent viral human and animal pathogens" as one of "two Principal Scientists" at the NIAID-funded venture:

"I am a Principal at Tunnell Government Services (TGS), tasked as one of two Principal Scientists and the Director of Virology at NIH/NIAID/DCR's Biosafety Level 4 facility, the Integrated Research Facility at Fort Detrick (IRF-Frederick) in MD, USA. I specialize in highly virulent viral human and animal pathogens, biodefense, bioengagement in the BMENA region and NIS countries, and biological arms control."

Editorial Board

Jing An	Capital Medical University, China
Thomas Baumert	University of Strasbourg, France
Sina Bavari	United States Army Medical Research Institute of Infectious Diseases, USA
Lionel Berthoux	University of Quebec, Canada
Hervé Bourhy	Institut Pasteur, France
Christopher C. Broder	Uniformed Services University, USA
Ling Chen	Guangzhou Medical University, China
Mingzhou Chen	Wuhan University, China
Gong Cheng	Tsinghua University, China
Kaw Bing Chua	Temasek Life Sciences Laboratory, Singapore
Jean Michael Claverie	Aix-Marseille Université, France
Jie Cui	Institut Pasteur of Shanghai, CAS, China
Fei Deng	Wuhan Institute of Virology, CAS, China
Hongyu Deng	Institute of Biophysics, CAS, China
Lanying Du	New York Blood Center, USA
Min Fang	Institute of Microbiology, CAS, China
Wenhai Feng	China Agricultural University, China
Zheng F. Fu	University of Georgia, USA
Peng Gong	Wuhan Institute of Virology, CAS, China
Deyin Guo	Sun Yat-sen University, China
Haitao Guo	Indiana University, USA
Jianmin Hu	The Pennsylvania State University, USA
Qinxue Hu	Wuhan Institute of Virology, CAS, China
Daohong Jiang	Huazhong Agricultural University, China
Jens Kuhn	National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, NIH, USA
Kui Li	University of Tennessee Health Science Center, USA
Qihan Li	Chinese Academy of Medical Sciences and Peking Union Medical College, China

Editorial Board members.

Beyond establishing additional ties between Fauci's NIAID and the Wuhan Institute of Virology – including multiple

MORENS_SUBPOENA_014888
MORENS_NIH_030541
REL0000482391

conferences involving scientists from both entities – the journal has also discussed gain-of-function research. These unearthed connections follow Fauci insisting his agency never participated in gain of function research at the Chinese lab during an exchange with Senator Rand Paul.

A 2017 article from Virologica Sinica notes:

*"To identify the DENV entry factors, Amara's group carried out a **gain-of-function** complementary DNA(cDNA) screen for host proteins that allow the minimally susceptible cell line 293T to be infectable by DENV (Carnec et al., 2015)"*

"Simultaneous gain-of-function and loss-offunction assays were performed by transfecting cells with or without related miRNA inhibitors. After 24 h, Act-D was added into the culture medium," one study notes.

Another study references the practice, commenting "two main approaches can be undertaken in such screens: gain-of-function, in which a library of overexpressed proteins is used in order to induce or amplify restriction."

Listen to this article

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

Disclaimer

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

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

Date: Fri, 10 Feb 2023 10:16:13 AM -0500
Sent: Fri, 10 Feb 2023 10:15:54 AM -0500
Subject: RE: Follow up from our call
From: "Roberts, Rich" <(b) (6)
To: Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6) Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6)
CC: Jeffrey Sturchio <(b) (6) >; Peter Daszak <(b) (6) David Morens <(b) (6) >; Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) >;
Attachments: image001.jpg; image002.jpg; image003.jpg

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

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

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

From: Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6)
Sent: 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 <(b) (6) >
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

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 Suppor D s Soriano
(b) (6) | Phone: (b) (6) | Fax: 713-798-2299

Media Inquiries:
(b) (6)

iPhone

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) (b) (6) David Morens <
(b) (6) >; Aleksei Chmu (b) (6)
Subject: RE: Follow up from our call

The more the merrier as we say in the UK!

I think our goal should be to really get a lot of support from all segments of society. We definitely should avoid the claim that we are just being elitists.

Rich

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

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

From: Jeffrey Sturchio (b) (6)
Sent: Thursday, February 9, 2023 4:05 PM
To: Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6) oberts, Rich (b) (6)
Cc: Keusch, Gerald (b) (6)) (6) , David Morens < (b) (6) >; Aleksei Chmura
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:

1. 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.
1. 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.
1. 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.

1. 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.
1. 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.
1. 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
University of California, San Diego

Safiya Noble
University of California, Los Angeles

Frank Pasquale
University of Maryland Carey School of Law

Neal Rubin (Chair)
Adler University

Judith Tanur
Stony Brook University

Joseph Watkins
University of Arizona

Committee Staff Officer
Theresa Harris
AAAS

Best regards,
Jeff

From: Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6)
Sent: Thursday, February 9, 2023 3:44 PM
To: Roberts, Rich (b) (6)

MORENS_SUBPOENA_018467
MORENS_NIH_037456
REL0000482393

(b) (6) 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

Texas Children's Hospital: Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics | Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development | Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

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

Baylor University, University Professor
Rice University, Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty
Texas A&M University, Faculty-Senior Fellow, Hagler Inst for Advanced Study & Scowcroft Institute of Intl Affairs

E-mail | Twitter | LinkedIn | Skype: (b) (6)

Amazon Author Center | Daily Beast Contributor

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

Media Inquiries:
(b) (6)

On 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

MORENS_SUBPOENA_018468
MORENS_NIH_037457
REL0000482393

them tomorrow afternoon.

I spoke with John Deutsch (ex-President of MIT) and he is supportive, but has no clear ideas of how to proceed. He did say that we should talk with Holden Thorp (as we had discussed) and get AAAS involved. I had contacted Holden previously and he and I have a talk scheduled for next week.

Some of the more interesting suggestions that have emerged are that we should try to garner support from individuals and organizations that are not viewed by the general public, or politicians, as belong to the "elite" segment of society. I am thinking that someone like LeBron James could be an excellent spokesperson if we can reach him and his views are pro-science. He seems like a decent person and so maybe he is Pro-science. There are others who fit that category such as other sports stars and even some Hollywood people. I believe George Clooney would be favorable and maybe Harrison Ford, whom I met many years ago.

Rich

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

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

From: Keusch, Gerald T < (b) (6)
Sent: Thursday, February 2, 2023 4:58 PM
To: Peter Daszak ; (b) (6) ; Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6)
C David Morens ; (b) (6) oberts, 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)
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

MORENS_SUBPOENA_018469
MORENS_NIH_037458
REL0000482393

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

MORENS_SUBPOENA_018470
MORENS_NIH_037459
REL0000482393

- Global Health Council
- Global Health Technologies Coalition
- Infectious Diseases Society of America Carlos del Rio (Jerry will reach out)
- International AIDS Vaccine Initiative
- Nobel Laureates Campaigns
- Pandemic Action Network
- PATH
- Research!America – Reach back out – Jerry will
- Union of Concerned Scientists
- Washington Global Health Alliance
- 156 virologists letter
- NAM
- NAS
- NL Campaigns (to be kept informed of progress by Rich)
- CUGH
- The pandemic action coalition
- FASEB
- Global Health technologies coalition
- APLU (KHG has connection)
- Wellcome Trust (Paul Schreier is the interim head).
- Dr. Tony Fauci
- Felicia Goodrum (Arizona) and Stacey Schultz-Cherry (St. Judes)
- OSTP
- ASV – Anne Moscona (President-Elect)

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

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

Tel.: +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 >; Aleksei Chmura (b) (6)
Subject: Re: Update

Dear all, I spoke with Ann Moscona President-Elect at ASV and she's all in. She also suggested adding Felicia Goodrum (Arizona) and Stacey Schultz-Cherry (St. Judes) both really good on policy issues, she will give them a heads up, thanks! Peter

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

Texas Children's Hospital: Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics | Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development | Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

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

Baylor University, University Professor

Rice University, Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty

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

E-mail | Twitter | LinkedIn | Skype: (b) (6)

Amazon Author Center | Daily Beast Contributor

Senior Coordinator & Executive Support: Douglas Soriano

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

Media Inquiries:

(b) (6)

From: Peter Daszak <(b) (6)
Sent: Wednesday, February 1, 2023 8:14 AM
To: Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6)
Cc: David Morens <(b) (6) >; Roberts, Rich (b) (6) ; Keusch, Gerald T <
(b) (6) Jeffrey Sturchio (b) (6) >; Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) >
Subject: Concept note and Agenda for our discussion today at 1pm Eastern US time

Dear All,

I'm looking forward to our discussion today at 1pm. Attached is a concept note that Jeff Sturchio drafted to frame some ideas around what we might try to do.

I've also attached a rough agenda for us.

Here are the details of the zoom call, and I look forward to speaking with you all later on:

Join Zoom Meeting
(b) (6)

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

Cheers,

Peter

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: 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!

MORENS_SUBPOENA_018473
MORENS_NIH_037462
REL0000482393

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

Texas Children's Hospital: Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics | Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development | Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

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

Baylor University, University Professor

Rice University, Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty

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

E-mail | Twitter | LinkedIn | Skype: (b) (6)

Amazon Author Center | Daily Beast Contributor

Senior Coordinator & Executive Support: Douglas Soriano

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

Media Inquiries:

(b) (6)

iPhone

On Jan 31, 2023, at 1:44 PM, Peter Daszak <(b) (6) > wrote:

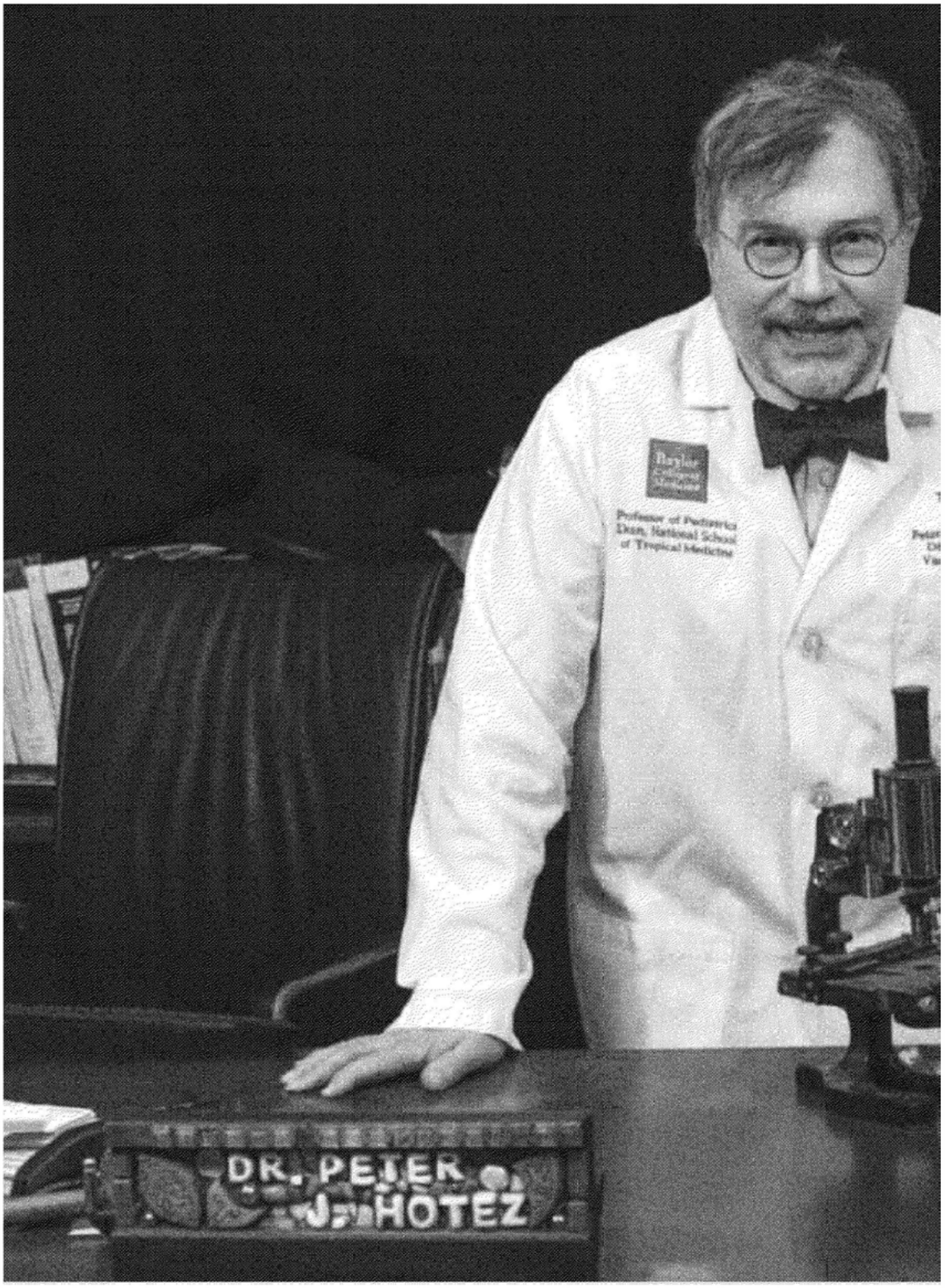
First, want to send my appreciation for your great interview in the Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists yesterday, Peter:

https://thebulletin.org/2023/01/viral- spread-peter-hotez-on-the-increase-of-anti-science-aggression-on-social-media/

Viral spread: Peter Hotez on the increase of anti-science aggression on social media

By Sara Goudarzi | January 30, 2023

MORENS_SUBPOENA_018475
MORENS_NIH_037464
REL0000482393



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

MORENS_SUBPOENA_018476
MORENS_NIH_037465
REL0000482393

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.

MORENS_SUBPOENA_018477
MORENS_NIH_037466
REL0000482393

All our training to be a scientist says you're not supposed to talk about Republicans, Democrats, liberals, or conservatives; you're supposed to be politically neutral. But what do you do when the anti-science, anti-vaccine aggression is predominantly coming along the partisan lines from the far right? How do you articulate that without basically saying, "the reason I'm doing this is to save lives?" It's no longer a theoretical discussion; Americans have lost their lives because they believed the politics, and to be able to articulate that is really threading a needle there.

Goudarzi: With Twitter's moderators practically gone, the platform's announcement that it will no longer enforce measures to combat misleading information regarding COVID-19 and will give amnesty to previously banned users, there seems to be a rise in anti-vaccination sentiment.

Hotez: It's blown up. It's gotten much tougher: Anything I put out there gets immediately pounced on, and I can trace the origins to four or five either elected leaders or these contrarians from far right think tanks and elsewhere who blow dog whistles. They will put out a (typically false or exaggerated) statement against me, and then I'll receive hundreds and hundreds of tweets or emails specifically targeting me. About half of them look like bots because the person sending it is an empty face with a gazillion numbers attached to the Twitter handle. But others are real people tuning into Fox News every night who totally fall into the rabbit hole because they seem to worship these contrarians. The other piece to this is a lot of Nazi imagery and fantasies, a lot of antisemitism, because they know I'm a Jewish scientist. And that's yet another dimension to all of this.

Goudarzi: How do you think this affects patients in healthcare settings? Have you had personal experience with those who decided not to get vaccinated because of information on the internet or social media indicating the shots are dangerous?

Hotez: I've had sort of the opposite experience, where patients were in the rabbit hole, had seen my postings, see me as credible, and because of me are taking the vaccine, which is kind of nice and spurs me on to keep going at this. But more and more I've also had the other extreme as well, which is based on what they see on social media: People will take the time to write me a threatening email or make a call to the lab or to the office. Then I have to bring in law enforcement through the Texas Medical Center Police or the Houston Police Department and the Anti-Defamation League (because they have a list of individuals who are known to make these types of threats). It's taken this very, very dark turn as a consequence.

Goudarzi: Anti-vaccination movements are nothing new and go back to the late 1700s, even before the development of the smallpox vaccine and then the 1800s and again in the 1990s and 2000s. Do you think social media has allowed the latest movement to gain even more steam than previous movements?

Hotez: I wrote an article about the whole history of [anti-vax movements] in *Journal of Clinical Investigation*. I think it really accelerated in the early 2000s with autism, in part aided by social media—it was new then but was starting up. Now, I think social media has really been an enabler. It's not only social media; I think amazon.com was a big contributor. If you search for books on vaccinations, what's out there is a horror show. My books are among the top-rated on vaccines, and they're probably ranked about number 30 or 40, because it's all preceded by the phony-baloney, anti-vaccine COVID conspiracy books. So, it's Amazon and social media. And Fox News is having a huge impact. This has been documented by Media Matters, the watchdog group, as well as this very interesting paper that came out of ETH Zurich, which is like the MIT of Central Europe.

Goudarzi: Do you think Amazon is purposefully placing these books higher up in search results, or are search results just a reflection of how much steam the movement has gained?

Hotez: I don't know. Amazon is probably amoral. I don't think they think about this one way or the other, but whatever sells. So, it's whatever people are buying—that's how they're ranking it.

Goudarzi: Are you seeing a difference in the attitudes towards COVID-19 vaccines versus say the flu or MMR vaccines?

Hotez: Yeah, because remember, MMR came out of autism; that was the [original] assertion that the MMR vaccine causes autism. That was [*The Lancet*] paper from 1998. But then around 2014, 2015 (I like to think because I was helping to take some of the wind out of the sails around autism), you started to see the anti-vaccine movement pivot around this concept of health and medical freedom, that you can't tell us what to do about our kids. And that was the first link to the Republican Tea Party here in Texas. In fact, they started getting PAC [political action committee] money… It really took off in Texas and Oklahoma and that's what you see came off the rails with COVID-19. It has been documented now by Charles Gaba, a health analyst whose work has been mentioned in the *New York Times*, National Public Radio, Pew Research Center and Peterson Academic Center, that the lowest vaccination rates were where health freedom propaganda was the strongest, and among those who are in red states like Texas, the redder the county, the lower the vaccination rate, the higher the numbers of deaths. It's a really tight correlation, so much so that David Leonhardt in the *New York Times* has called it red COVID. My forthcoming book, *The Deadly Rise of Antiscience: A Scientist's Warning* and it's full on linked to far-right politics and it's been embraced by the House Freedom Caucus.

After vaccines became widely available, the statements from the 2021 CPAC conference of conservatives in Dallas was first along the lines of: "they're going to vaccinate you, and then they're going to take away your guns and your bibles." It's ridiculous. A quarter of the country accepted it—mostly in Texas and the Southern states, and then [Georgia US Rep.] Marjorie Taylor Greene called people like me "medical brownshirts," using Nazi paramilitary analogy. Then, those in the Senate GOP, such as Senator Johnson from Wisconsin, held anti-vaccine roundtables, amplified by Fox News. Every night, during the last half of 2021, nighttime anchors Tucker Carlson and Laura Ingraham filled their airwaves with very strong anti-vaccine rhetoric, discrediting the effectiveness and safety of vaccines. And then contrarians from the far right think tanks piled on.

As I said, if it were just a theoretical construct, I wouldn't get so exercised, but 40,000 Texans died during the delta wave in the last half of 2021 and early Omicron BA1 wave in 2022 because they refused the COVID vaccine and were victims of this targeted aggression towards them. The number that I put out in the new book is 200,000 Americans across the country. The Kaiser Family Foundation and the health analyst Charles Gaba come up with similar numbers. On that basis, anti-vaccine activism, anti-science aggression, if you look at it as a societal killing force, is killing more Americans than gun violence, terrorism, nuclear proliferation, or cyber-attacks.

Goudarzi: And the interesting thing is that COVID-19 vaccines have been tremendously successful.

Hotez: Alison Galvani at Yale has just done a modeling exercise with the Commonwealth Fund, indicating that COVID vaccines have saved 3.1 million Americans.

Goudarzi: Yet the messaging against these vaccines seems to be just as successful and

as you mentioned hundreds of thousands of deaths could have been prevented here in the United States. So, it begs the question, why are we having such an anti-science moment?

Hotez: It's because it's fully ensconced in the political landscape of the country that became part of the far right, and people refused the vaccine out of allegiance. Part of showing your allegiance to the far right is not getting vaccinated. Then, you saw the Proud Boys march in anti-vaccine rallies, and an early arrest in the January 6 insurrection included a prominent anti-vaccine activist.

The question that I get is: "Hey doc, what should we do about this?" And I say I don't know, because this goes outside the health sector. This is a political problem right now. How do you uncouple the anti-science from the politics? It's been really, really challenging, and the Biden administration has not been willing to take this on. Vivek Murthy, who is a very good Surgeon General, issued an advisory in July of 2021 about social media and said we have to work with Meta and Facebook and Twitter to prevent this stuff from going viral. That's fine, but it doesn't get to those who are generating the content. This is where we're starting to see breakdowns, in my view, among our scientific and professional societies, and even the National Academies, because this idea that we have to remain politically neutral is so strong that no one will talk about it the way I'm talking about it with you. You have to be politically neutral; it's silly.

To paraphrase Desmond Tutu and Elie Wiesel, neutrality favors the aggressor.

Goudarzi: What do you think the end goal is for those generating the content and spearheading these movements? There are certain people who truly believe that vaccines could cause x, whatever x is, but there are others like Gov. DeSantis who himself was vaccinated yet promotes anti-vaccination sentiments.

Hotez: Early on when vaccines first came out, he was actually pro-vaccines. So, what caused the change? When it was pre-health freedom, it was fairly straightforward: It was people monetizing the internet, selling nutritional supplements and books on phony autism cures. When I wrote the book, trying to look at other examples of this, I found what's going on now in Stalin's Russia in the 1930s 1940s. This is part of the signature of an authoritarian regime: to target the science and scientists. When you read Hannah Arendt's *The Origins of Totalitarianism*, you see this is part of the playbook. Even though it's self-defeating, it still fosters allegiance and belonging. I think what happened is with the anti-vaccine groups for whom the wind was let out of their sails around autism, they needed a new thing. They found money and power and relevance by tying themselves to the far right, and the far right created a whole new cadre of people that they wouldn't have otherwise.

Goudarzi: Just add adding to that: Do you think vaccine disinformation is propagated or reinforced purposely by other governments to cause division within the United States, similar to the 2016 election?

Hotez: No question about that, and I think Russia is probably the most egregious [perpetrator], and this has been documented. David Broniatowski, a computer scientist at the George Washington University, has written about this and the Russian bots' roles. In some cases, they're using both anti-vaccine and pro-vaccine rhetoric. They are specifically using this as a wedge issue to divide the country and destabilize our democracy. And it's not only the Russians—the Chinese, North Koreans and Iranians are doing this. But I think Russia is probably the biggest state actor.

What I've recommended to the Biden administration is they create an inter-governmental agency, because the United States Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) doesn't know what to do at this point. Because of the foreign actors involved, you have to bring in Homeland Security, the Commerce Department, the

MORENS_SUBPOENA_018480
MORENS_NIH_037469
REL0000482393

Justice Department and the State Department as well. There are people smart enough who know about these big dangerous societal forces, and we need their advice on what levers we can pull and push. But they haven't wanted to take it on.

Similarly, at the level of the UN agencies, the World Health Organization doesn't know what to do at this point. So, you're starting to see that same US-style anti-vaccine activity moving to Canada, the United Kingdom and Western Europe—and I wrote about this in a paper in *Nature Reviews Immunology*. You're even seeing it now in low- and middle- income countries, including those in Africa. So, it's going to destabilize the global vaccine ecosystem, even around childhood vaccination.

Goudarzi: Scientific debate around new treatment or preventive measure used to happen more or less behind closed doors. But given the nature of a real time pandemic, some of those debates are taking place on social media, and sometimes that leads to the lay audience misunderstanding certain aspects of the discussion and spreading misinformation. How valuable, and how harmful, do you think it is to have scientific debates between researchers on social media?

Hotez: It's often not between researchers. For instance, one of the most common things when they target me on social media is they say I should be in a public debate with the lead anti-vaccine activist. And I say, "No, that's not how science is done. I've written a scientific paper and if somebody has an issue with that, they can either refute it in a scientific journal, or publish their own finding." Of course, they can't get it published because there's no science behind it. So, what they want to do instead is they want a public debate.

And I say, "Look, you can debate 18th-century enlightenment philosophy, but science is not typically something that's debated in that kind of forum; we have a mechanism for doing that through scientific publication and peer review." And they don't want to play that way. They just want to put out their propaganda because that's all they have behind it. An example is ivermectin or hydroxychloroquine, which the scientific community has clearly shown has no effect on COVID-19. Hydroxychloroquine is even harmful. But the problem is the anti-vaccine force has dominated the internet, and they say, "Hey, scientists don't want to debate us, what are they hiding?"

And that's, again, how they weaponize communication.

Goudarzi: I was actually thinking of earlier during the pandemic. Because there was so little time, some researchers were putting their papers up on open access preprint servers, which didn't require a peer review, and then others were weighing in on social media platforms. At times, you would see non-scientists take one aspect of that discussion and spread something that wasn't necessarily true.

Hotez: I think with the whole preprint server mechanism, ultimately the benefits outweighed the downside. I can't tell you how many times I had to depend on data from bioRxiv, medRxiv in order to make sense of what was going on. If I had to wait a few weeks for it to air in *New England Journal of Medicine* or *Nature* and *Science*—and by the way, they did a pretty good job too; they were able to turn that around in record time—[it would have been too late.] If you're looking for any silver lining in this pandemic, it's the journal editors, the whole preprint server mechanism, and the willingness of the scientific community to share information. And I think for most of the public understood that they were seeing this play out in real time and that there wasn't always going to be consistency. The problem was those who were who were weaponizing it for their own personal or political gain.

Goudarzi: But you still think the advantages outweighed the disadvantages?

Hotez: I think so. It's hard to imagine how I could've really talked about everything going on knowledgeably on CNN, NBC, or wherever without having access to the

information. The preprints were so important.

Goudarzi: Some researchers have either left Twitter or are thinking of leaving. What will this do to scientific discourse? Would it make sense to stay on the platform to counter misinformation and disinformation and increase public awareness, or should researchers seek a more balanced platform?

Hotez: I don't have the answer. I struggle with this every day. I mean, the aggression against me and the threats would continue even if I wasn't on Twitter, because more often than not, it's not against anything that I tweeted. Ninety percent of the time, it's people who see me as a threat to undermine their politics or their business line and are just making up things about me and would still continue even if I wasn't on Twitter. So that's the reason I stay on it, because at least I'm getting out important and timely information. But it is really painful and awful to see what's going on there.

Goudarzi: Is the amount of aggression you face tied to the changing ownership of Twitter and political shifts?

Hotez: The politics around the anti-science, anti-vaccine and phony baloney about COVID origins had started with the pandemic in 2020. But now with all the contrarians back at once it reminds me of the old *Batman* series when they brought back Catwoman, Joker, Penguin, and Riddler all at once to do away with Batman. That seems to be going on, so it's been their superstars who are super energized by being invited back to Twitter, and they are using the platform very aggressively.

Goudarzi: What are some of the lessons we've learned about disinformation and misinformation over the last few years regarding social media that we should consider moving forward?

Hotez: I would say social media is a major weapon of choice for spreading disinformation. But remember, we have to get to those who are generating content. Social media is an important vehicle, but it's not the only one. I think we probably should stop calling it misinformation, disinformation or infodemic. We should call it for what it is, which is anti-science aggression, because it is a killing force. What we realized is that the science aggression is taking lives in the United States on an unprecedented scale.

For that reason, it needs to be addressed, and that's the part the scientific community has not come to terms with. When I call myself a scientist, it's not just co-heading a team of scientists making a COVID vaccine for the world that has reached a 100 million people. That's a very noble activity, but from my perspective, even that's still insufficient. Now being a scientist means, to some extent, being willing to combat the anti-science. It's nothing that any of us signed up for. I never dreamed when I got my MD-PhD in New York in the 1980s that this was something I'd be doing, but this is what's in front of us.

And I don't really feel that the scientific community—the professional societies, scientific bodies, even the academy—fully understand the impact. Hopefully it'll be clear when my book comes out, but it may become even clearer when we see the House GOP hearings. I predict the oversight committee and the judiciary committee or select subcommittees will become an anti-science witch hunt and will target prominent American scientists. And then we'll get a better picture.

MORENS_SUBPOENA_018482
MORENS_NIH_037471
REL0000482393

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: Monday, Janu
To: David Morens (b) (6)
Cc: (b) (6) (b) (6) >; Keusch, Gerald T (b) (6) chio (b) (6) (b) (6)

Many thanks David! Best Peter

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

Texas Children's Hospital: Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics | Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development | Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

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

Baylor University, University Professor

Rice University, Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty

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

E-mail | Twitter | LinkedIn | Skype: (b) (6)

Amazon Author Center | Daily Beast Contributor

Senior Coordinator & Executive Support: Douglas Soriano

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

Media Inquiries:

(b) (6)

iPhone

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

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

Texas Children's Hospital: Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics | Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development | Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

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

Baylor University, University Professor

Rice University, Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty

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

E-mail | Twitter | LinkedIn | Skype: (b) (6)

Amazon Author Center | Daily Beast Contributor

Senior Coordinator & Executive Support: Douglas Soriano

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

Media Inquiries:

(b) (6)

iPhone

On Jan 27, 2023, at 2:43 PM, Roberts, Rich <(b) (6) wrote:

Peter:

No, I didn't come up with the name.

But one I haverecently come up with is CheatGPT instead of ChatGPT.

Rich

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

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

From: Peter Daszak (b) (6)
Sent: Friday, Janu
To: Robe (b) (6) Keusch, Gerald T (b) (6) otez, Peter Jay (b) (6)
Cc: (b) (6)
(b) (6) >; Aleksei Chmura (b) (6) >
Subject: RE: Finally - virologists fight back!

EXTERNAL SENDER

I forgot about that Rich. But I'm assuming it wasn't you that came up with somewhat colonial name!!???

In all seriousness, while it's good for virologists to push back against calls to block scientific research, I don't think a campaign to support gain of function work that's designed to see what would happen if you make a lethal pathogen more transmissible is anything any of us particularly want to get behind right now!

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

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

Tel.: +1.(b) (6)
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

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

From: Roberts, Rich (b) (6)
Sent: Friday, Janu
To: (b) (6) >; Keusch, Gerald T < (b) (6) ; (b) (6) > (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.

MORENS_SUBPOENA_018486
MORENS_NIH_037475
REL0000482393

Rich

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

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

From: Peter Daszak (b) (6)
Sent: Friday, January 27, 2023 8:39 A M
To: Keusch, Gerald T (b) (6) Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6) (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

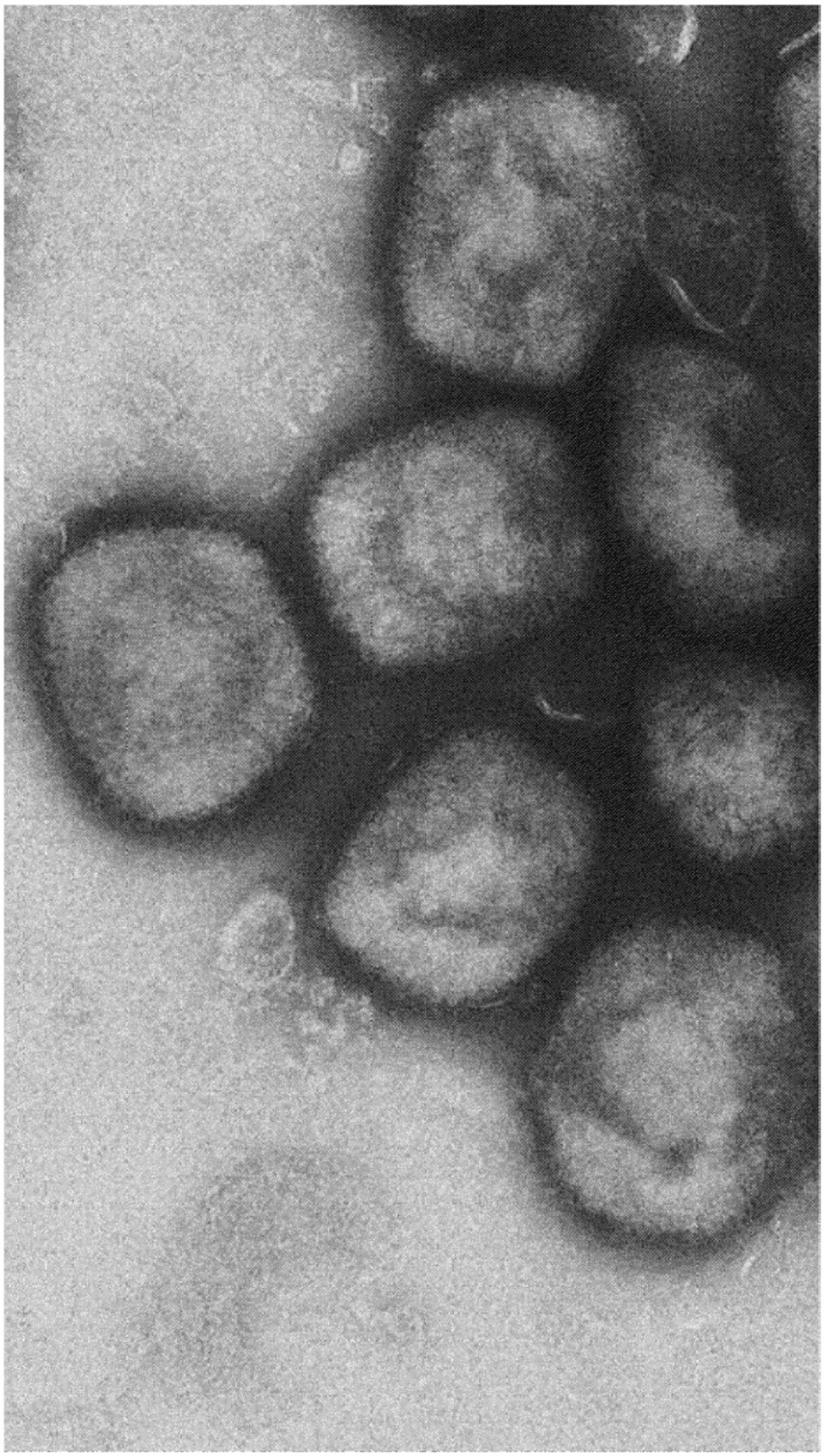
Virologists defend their science as officials eye more oversight of risky experiments

MORENS_SUBPOENA_018487
MORENS_NIH_037476
REL0000482393

NELL GREENFIELDBOYCE

[redacted]

MORENS_SUBPOENA_018488
MORENS_NIH_037477
REL0000482393



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

MORENS_SUBPOENA_018489
MORENS_NIH_037478
REL0000482393

kind of lab accident or malicious attack.
They worry that continued speculation about a lab in China is fueling calls for more regulation of experiments with pathogens, and that this will stifle the basic research needed to prepare for future pandemics.

The virologists issued their statement just ahead of a key meeting Friday held by outside advisors to the federal government. That group is set to wrap up a recent review of the existing oversight system for experiments that are controversial because they could create new potential threats.
The advisors' draft recommendations call for expanding a special decision-making process that currently weighs the risks and benefits of experiments that might make "potential pandemic pathogens" more dangerous.
"The government really has a strong interest on behalf of all of us, in the public, in knowing when researchers want to make a virus more lethal or more transmissible, and understanding how that would be done and why that would be done, and whether the benefits are worth it," says Tom Inglesby, director of the Center for Health Security at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health.
Sponsor Message
He thinks if the draft recommendations were adopted by the government, "it would be a very big step forward."

The origins of the pandemic

All of this comes as the lab in China, known as the Wuhan Institute of Virology, is again in the headlines. An internal government watchdog released a report this week criticizing the National Institutes of Health, saying it failed to adequately monitor grant awards given to a nonprofit that had collaborated with scientists at the Wuhan lab.
Felicia Goodrum, a virologist at the University of Arizona, says that open-minded experts have investigated the origins of the pandemic. The available evidence, she says, supports the notion that the virus emerged from nature just like other viruses such as HIV and Ebola did — by jumping from animals into people who had contact with them.
"The evidence that we have to date suggests that SARS-CoV-2 entered the human population by that route," says Goodrum. "There is no evidence to the contrary or in support of a lab leak, nothing credible."

Basic research on viruses, she says, is what led to the swift development of vaccines and drugs to fight the pandemic.

And yet virologists have watched in dismay as misinformation and conspiracy theories have placed the blame on science.

Sponsor Message
"There's this complete disconnect between reality and what happened," says Michael Imperiale, a virologist at the University of Michigan.
He says that while debates have gone on for years about the wisdom of doing experiments that might make bad viruses even worse, this moment feels different.

"The pandemic," he says, "has really kind of heightened the urgency with which we need to address these issues, just because of all the controversy that's been out there regarding, you know, was this a lab leak or not?"

A bird flu study raises alarm

Unlike, say, nuclear physics research, biology has traditionally had a culture of openness. After the anthrax attacks in 2001, however, biologists began to grapple with the possibility that their published work might serve as recipes for evildoers who wanted to make bioweapons.

And in 2011, there was an outcry after government-funded researchers altered a bird flu

virus that can be deadly in people. Their lab work made this virus more contagious in the lab animals that are stand-ins for people.

Critics said they'd created a super flu. Proponents said that viruses sometimes have to be manipulated in the lab to see what they might be capable of; in nature, after all, mutations occur all the time and that is how pandemic strains emerge.

That episode marked the start of a long, heated debate, plus research moratoriums and ultimately the development of new regulations. In 2017, a review system was put into place to weigh the risks and benefits of studies that might make a potential pandemic pathogen even worse. So far just three proposed lines of research, with influenza viruses, have been deemed risky enough to merit that kind of extra scrutiny.

"We are really talking about a small amount of research proposals," says Lyric Jorgenson, the acting associate director for science policy and the acting director of the Office of Science Policy at the NIH.

Sponsor Message

She says just before the pandemic started, officials asked advisors on the National Science Advisory Board for Biosecurity to consider whether the government needed to be more transparent to the public about how it was making decisions about this kind of research. Before that work was done, the pandemic hit and everything was put on hold. Last year, officials asked the group to broaden its work and to evaluate the regulations more comprehensively.

If the draft changes developed by this advisory group are eventually adopted by the government, an extra layer of oversight would apply to any study "reasonably anticipated" to enhance the transmission or virulence of any pathogen in a way that could make it a public health threat. That means more experiments on more viruses would get a closer look.

"What this new recommendation is saying, is that even if you start with a virus that had no potential to cause an epidemic or pandemic, if you are doing research that will change that virus in a way where it could now cause an uncontrollable disease, or a widely spreading disease, that has to be reviewed by this new framework," says Inglesby.

What's more, the advisory group has noted that "increased transparency in the review process is needed to engender public trust in the review and oversight processes."

What's "Reasonably Anticipated"

The American Society for Microbiology has responded positively to the draft recommendations, saying "we urge swift implementation of the recommended changes by the federal agencies engaged in this work."

But some virologists think the devil will be in the details if these recommendations turn into policy.

"They keep using this phrase 'reasonably anticipated,'" says Imperiale. "How is that going to be interpreted? Is there going to be clear guidance as to what is meant by that?"

Sponsor Message

Researchers often don't know what will happen when they start an experiment, says Goodrum, especially when the science is cutting-edge.

"That's where the big scientific advancements come from. And so to tie our hands behind our back, to say we can only do the science that we can anticipate, then we're 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."

MORENS_SUBPOENA_018491
MORENS_NIH_037480
REL0000482393

The U.S. is unusual in that it has a lot of public discussion of these issues and a system to try to manage the risks, says Inglesby.

He thinks that oversight can be made stronger without getting in the way of science.

"I am avidly, absolutely pro-science and pro-research, and in particular pro-infectious disease research," says Inglesby.

But he says there's a very small part of that research "where there is the potential for very high risk if things go wrong, either by accident or on purpose. And so we have to get the balance right, between the risks that could unfold and the potential benefits."

lab leak theory
coronavirus research
pathogens
Facebook
Twitter
Flipboard
Email

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

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

Tel.: +1 (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 M
To: Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6)
Cc: Peter Daszak <d (b) (6) ; David Morens < (b) (6) >; Jeffrey Sturchio (b m>; Aleksei Chmura (b) (6) >; Rich Roberts (b) (6)
Subject: RE: Tweet by MinerdFlux 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

MORENS_SUBPOENA_018492
MORENS_NIH_037481
REL0000482393

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) (b) (6)
Cc: Peter Daszak (b) (6) ; David Morens < (b) (6) ; Jeffrey Sturchio (b) (6) Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) Rich Roberts (b) (6) >
Subject: Re: Tweet by Miner□Flux on Twitter

I think top priority is the Biden Administration appointing a new NIH Director and someone really good, I don't understand the holdup.

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

Texas Children's Hospital: Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics | Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development | Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

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

Baylor University, University Professor

Rice University, Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty

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

E-mail | Twitter | LinkedIn | Skype: (b) (6)

Amazon Author Center | Daily Beast Contributor

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

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 Miner Flux on Twitter

I see the farright keeps putting video after video about me terrified I might take over for Tony

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

Texas Children's Hospital: Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics | Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development | Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

Baylor College of Medicine: Dean, National School of Tropical

Medicine | Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology | Health Policy Scholar

Baylor University, University Professor

Rice University, Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty

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

E-mail | Twitter | LinkedIn | Skype: (b) (6)

Amazon Author Center | Daily Beast Contributor

Senior Coordinator & Executive Support: Douglas Soriano

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

Media Inquiries:
(b) (6)

iPhone

On Jan 25, 2023, at 11:35 AM, Peter Daszak < (b) (6) wrote:

Disapppointed that Hugh isn't a candidate, because short of a stellar scientist from outside (and that isn't looking good), Hugh would be a safe pair of hands for the forseeable future.

I also cannot believe for the life of me that (b) (6) would be rejected from the other position you mentioned. He's a serious scientists, a huge leader in his field, and someone who is balanced and measured in the way he deals with bureaucracy. What a stupid decision and loss to NIAID.

What we need is a leading scientist, who's got a research and public health background, with experience in dealing with difficult political issues and both sides of the political spectrum…er….Peter Hotez!

Seriously, there surely are others out there?

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

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

Tel.: +1-(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, Janu
To: Peter Daszak <(b) (6)
Cc: Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6) Jeffrey Sturchio <(b) (6) (b) (6) (b) (6) Gerald Keusch (b) (6) >; Rich Roberts (b) (6)
Subject: Re: Tw x on Twitter

Guys, although the director search seems to be proceeding with total secrecy, I learned yesterday that our worst fear has come true: a highly undesirable internal candidate has applied. This person is a middle to upper level physician scientist who is widely disliked as a self-serving narcissist, back stabber, and manipulator. Tthis opinion comes not from me, but from colleagues with much more knowledge of him/her than me. Of course, being an A-hole doesn't necessarily predict a bad leader, but there is widespread worry.

I won't name the candidate but Peter S would know because her/his research at NIAID is in the area of clinical management of rare hereditary pediatric diseases such as Job disease and CGD. Peter H, you could easily ID this person, but i do not want to do so, in part because i have limited personal experience with him/her and am merely relating opinions of colleagues i trust

This individual is in a key management position in which she/he has earned a reputation of cresting an ant-meritocracy: screwing the best scientists while supporting those who suck up. Again this is hearsay, hut 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

MORENS_SUBPOENA_018496
MORENS_NIH_037485
REL0000482393

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) · from (b) (6) - Peter H, you may know him- and we was th 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

er Daszak <
(b) (6) > wrote:

Unfortunate. At thispoint you should just throw your hat in the ring!

Why not have a confidential chat with Peter Staley and see if they have a pool of candidates yet?

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

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

Tel.: +1-(b) (6)
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

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

From: Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6)
Sent: Wednesday, Januar AM
To: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >
Cc: Jeffrey Sturchio (b) (6) Aleksei Chmura (b) (6) g >; David Morens < (b) (6) Keusch <(b) (6) >;
Subject: Re: T x on Twitter

Unfortunately the far right made a new YouTube claiming I'm the successor to Fauci. Which is ridiculous but it has set off a new wave of aggression

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

Texas Children's Hospital: Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics | Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development | Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

Baylor College of Medicine: Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine | Professor, Departments of

Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology | Health Policy Scholar

Baylor University , University Professor

Rice University , Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty

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

E-mail | Twitter | LinkedIn | Skype: (b) (6)

Amazon Author Center | Daily Beast Contributor

Senior Coordinator & Executive Support: Douglas Soriano

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

Media Inquiries:
(b) (6)

iPhone

On Jan 25, 2023, at 9:47 AM, Peter Daszak <
(b) (6) (b) > 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.: +1-(b) (6)
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

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

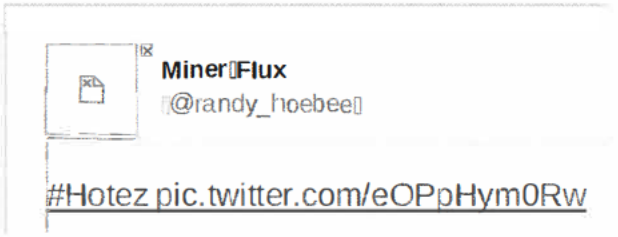
---

From: Jeffrey Sturchio <(b
Sent: Tuesday, January) M
(b) (6) Peter Daszak <
(b) (6) >; Aleksei Chmura <
>; David Morens <
(b) (6) Gerald
oberts (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, Jan
To: Peter Daszak (t(b) (6)
Aleksei Chmur (t(b) (6)
David M (b) (
(t(b) (6)
(b) (6) ch Roberts <
(b) (6)
y Miner□Flux on Twitter



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

Texas Children's Hospital: Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics | Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development | Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

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

Baylor University, University Professor

Rice University, Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty

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

E-mail | Twitter | LinkedIn | Skype: (b) (6)

Amazon Author Center | Daily Beast Contributor

Senior Coordinator & Executive Support: Douglas Soriano

(b) (6) | Phone: (b) (6)

(b | Fax: 713-798-2299

Media Inquiries:

(b) (6)

iPhone

MORENS_SUBPOENA_018502
MORENS_NIH_037491
REL0000482393

Date: Fri, 27 Aug 2021 12:28:20 PM -0400
Sent: Fri, 27 Aug 2021 12:28:05 PM -0400
Subject: FW: The good, the bad, and the ugly
From: Peter Daszak <(b) (6)
To: D (b) (6) <(b) (6) (b) (6) <(b) (6) Keusch, Jerry
Attachments: image002.jpg; image003.jpg

I just wanted to share a couple of articles – Op Eds re the Intel report on COVID origins. The First is actually positive and balanced from today's Guardian
https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2021/aug/27/us- report-covid-origins-pandemic-virus-covid

It includes the comment:
"The false dichotomy that has been set up over Covid's origins is hard to challenge. Until a year ago, scientists who collaborated across national and disciplinary borders were applauded. Now they're accused of conflicts of interest – meaning that many of the people who know most about what happened, or are best qualified to find out, have been silenced. Meanwhile the behemoth that is the global livestock industry goes about its toxic business untroubled by any real scrutiny."

The bad/ugly is below this one, from yesterday's WSJ from Mike Pompeo, calling on lawyers to decide COVID origins – years of litigation will illuminate the truth according to the former Secretary of State. I realize he's grandstanding and may be using this hardline talk to put in a bid for President in 3 yrs, but it's very worrying for me to think that one day EcoHealth Alliance, and myself could be under criminal investigation for doing what we were supposed to do as scientists.

https://www.wsj.com/articles/covid- 19-coronavirus-origin-fsia-foreign-sovereign-immunities-act-china-lab-leak-wet-market-11629990917

The Guardian

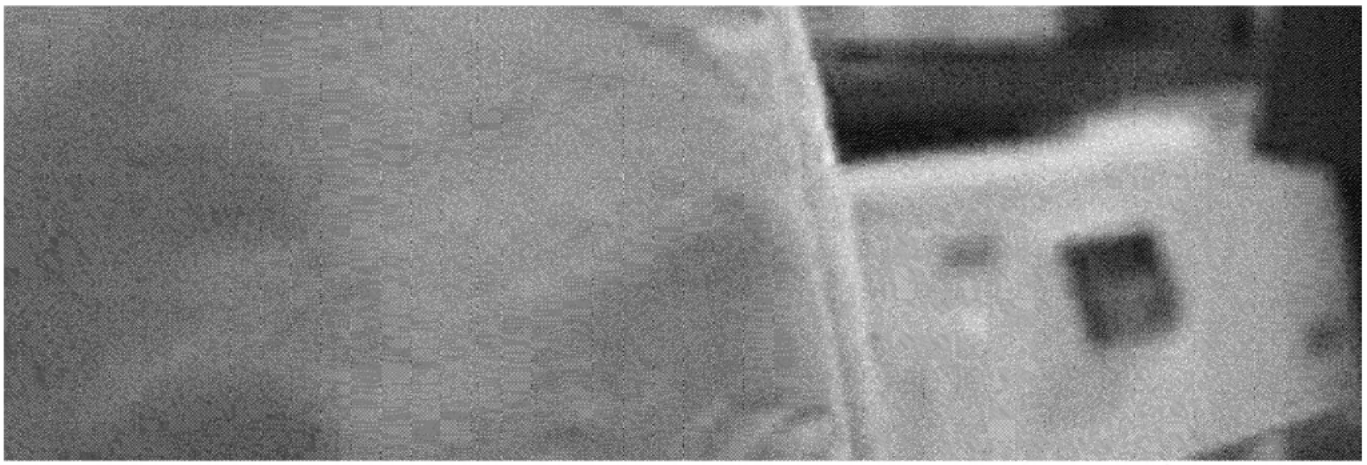
The US report into Covid's origins is little use in averting another pandemic

Laura Spinney

Regardless of where the virus came from, there's a growing risk of another Covid-like phenomenon occurring

MORENS_SUBPOENA_022035
MORENS_NIH_042928
REL0000482399

MORENS_SUBPOENA_022036
MORENS_NIH_042929
REL0000482399



'Biden ordered the latest investigation partly because of widespread dissatisfaction with one set up by the World Health Organization (WHO).' Photograph: Evan Vucci/AP

Fri 27 Aug 2021 11.20 EDT

US intelligence services have just briefed the president, Joe Biden, on the results of their 90-day investigation into the origins of Covid-19. They were asked to test two hypotheses: that it had a "natural" origin, or that it escaped from a lab. Preliminary reports suggest that their findings are inconclusive.

Few scientists will be surprised by this, and yet the investigation has been the subject of intense – and intensely divisive – political and media interest over the past three months. The White House has promised more detail, which could be illuminating, especially if it reveals the genetic sequences of viruses related to the one that causes Covid-19, Sars-CoV-2, that were being studied in labs in Wuhan in 2019. But that won't change the fact that two investigations down, we're still in the dark as to how this pandemic started.

Biden ordered the latest investigation partly because of widespread dissatisfaction with one set up by the World Health Organization (WHO), which reported in March that a lab origin was "extremely unlikely". Many saw the WHO's efforts as compromised because China used its influence within the organisation to set restrictive terms of reference. It's hard to see why the new investigation, from a single nation locked in a trade war with China, and from intelligence services to boot – not a source often lauded for transparency – should be accorded any more credibility. It should have been conducted by a coalition of national science academies. They still might not have reached any firm conclusions, but they would have had more chance of being seen as independent.

The WHO is promising a new investigation, and there may be others. Whether these will add anything is again questionable, but it's important that scientists continue to try to get at the truth, and that we all acknowledge that it might take them years to do so. It's difficult to trace the origins of a pandemic. Here's just one example of the challenges.

Much has been made of the finding that some Italians may have been carrying antibodies to Sars-CoV-2

as early as September 2019, several months before the first cases of Covid-19 were reported in China. (Nobody's suggesting the pandemic started in Italy, only that it might have come out of China earlier than thought.) But if those antibodies really were to Sars-CoV-2 – which some researchers doubt – it's odd that the wave of Covid-19 infection they indicate wasn't followed by a wave of hospitalisations and deaths, as it was later in China. What's more, those antibody carriers didn't go to the doctor with Covid symptoms, they went for other reasons. If the earliest Chinese cases were also mild or asymptomatic, how will researchers find them?

To be clear, the only reason these investigations are valuable is scientific – because the knowledge they provide could help prevent something similar from happening again. Even if it could be proved to many people's satisfaction that a lab accident triggered the pandemic, it's unlikely that any punishment could be meted out or compensation demanded. As Thomas Bollyky and Yanzhong Huang of the US Council on Foreign Relations have written, a lab accident is not a violation of any international law, and even if it were, establishing causation would be tricky. As they point out, taking the US perspective: "Many nations faced similar challenges in this pandemic and did not suffer the United States' poor health outcomes."

The ongoing debate over Covid's origins has had good and bad outcomes. A good outcome is that it has shone a spotlight on the fact that, as biosecurity experts Filippa Lentzos and Gregory Koblentz reported in May, labs authorised to deal with the most dangerous pathogens have been proliferating in an almost complete vacuum of regulation or oversight. One component of the oversight that should now be put in place is independent, international inspection teams. A model already exists for these, in the WHO's protocol for overseeing the two labs – one Russian, one American – that hold the last stockpiles of variola virus, which causes the now eradicated disease smallpox.

A bad outcome is that at least part of the scientific community – supposedly the bulwark that protects us from propaganda – has bought into the false dichotomy of two "rival" hypotheses for Covid's origins. It's as if they were looking at one of those ambiguous images, and seeing either a duck or a rabbit when both are in the picture. In reality it isn't natural origins versus lab leak; it's long-term human activity versus short-term human activity. Natural ceases to mean much in this context.

Fire, waves and warfare: the way we make sense of Covid

Read more

In fact, since the evidence is by now overwhelmingly that long-term human activity is accelerating the emergence of novel pathogens and increasing the risk of pandemics, the question investigators should really be asking is: did some recent, one-off event such as a lab accident exacerbate the already high and growing risk of spillover of a virus with pandemic potential caused by a decades-long shift towards industrialised farming and the wildlife trade?

Through their reliance on antibiotics, livestock monocultures and crowding, industrial-scale farms are ratcheting up the virulence of animal pathogens that the wildlife trade – and one of its shop windows, wet markets – is bringing into contact with potential host species they wouldn't otherwise encounter, including us. This is not news. As the journalist Felicity Lawrence wrote in 2009, during the swine flu pandemic: "Novel human disease is the toxic debt of today's industrial livestock farming."

Here's something worth reflecting on: in recent decades, most spillover events of highly pathogenic avian influenza – still considered the disease most likely to cause a future pandemic – occurred in countries with generally good biosecurity but lots of intensive poultry farming. The reason more of them didn't seed outbreaks is that they were nipped in the bud through good disease surveillance – the US being a leader in this. If high-security labs are enjoying a boom, prestige and biowarfare deterrence may have something to do with it, but it's also because dangerous pathogens are booming.

The false dichotomy that has been set up over Covid's origins is hard to challenge. Until a year ago, scientists who collaborated across national and disciplinary borders were applauded. Now they're accused of conflicts of interest – meaning that many of the people who know most about what happened,

MORENS_SUBPOENA_022038
MORENS_NIH_042931
REL0000482399

or are best qualified to find out, have been silenced. Meanwhile the behemoth that is the global livestock industry goes about its toxic business untroubled by any real scrutiny. This week, Marco Marani of the University of Padova in Italy and colleagues reported that the probability of an individual experiencing a Covid-like pandemic in their lifetime, currently about 38%, could double within a few decades. Unless scientists stand back and look at the bigger picture, it won't stop there.

- Laura Spinney is a science journalist and the author of Pale Rider: The Spanish Flu of 1918 and How it Changed the World

Here's the bad/ugly from Mike Pompeo yesterday..

Let Lawyers Hunt for Covid's Origin

The report from the intelligence community is equivocal, but spies don't have subpoena power.

By Mike Pompeo and David B. Rivkin Jr.
Aug. 26, 2021 12:59 pm ET
SAVE
PRINT
TEXT
213

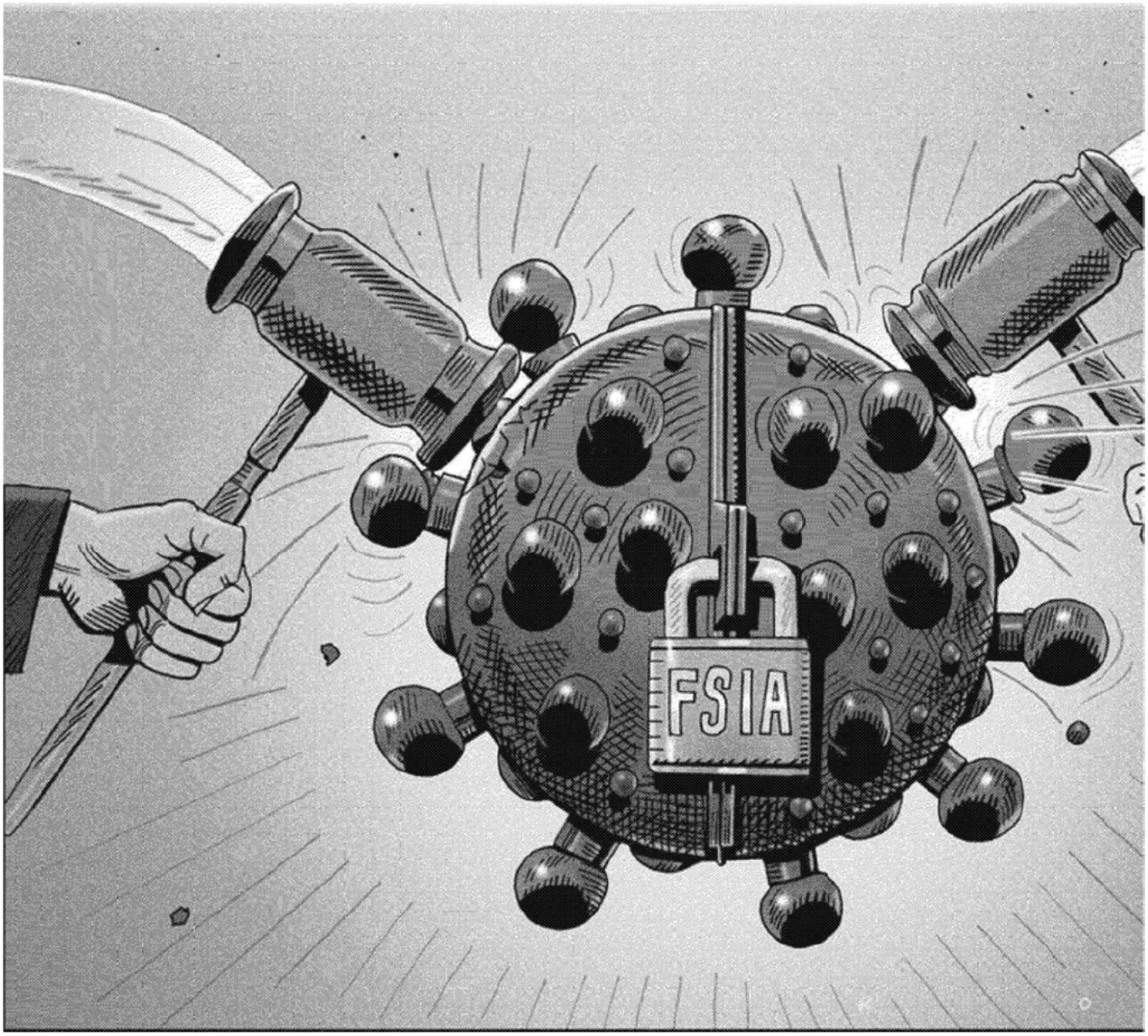


PHOTO: MARTIN KOZLOWSKI

Listen to article

Length 7 minutes

Queue

Will we ever know where Covid-19 came from? Not if the last word comes from the U.S. intelligence community, which reported to the White House this week that China's fault is plausible but unprovable. Beijing has refused to cooperate with inquiries, which it has characterized as "origin tracing terrorism." The Chinese Foreign Ministry even denounced the equivocal intelligence report: "If they want to baselessly accuse China, so they better be prepared to accept the counterattack from China."

For the rest of the world, getting to the bottom of the question is essential to assigning blame and preventing pandemics. Fortunately, we have an institution dedicated to getting to the bottom of thorny factual disputes: the U.S. judicial system. Our judiciary is respected globally for its impartiality and

MORENS_SUBPOENA_022040
MORENS_NIH_042933
REL0000482399

scrupulous adherence to due process. Civil discovery gives litigants the tools to compel production of evidence, backed by the threat of sanctions or even default judgment, so Beijing would be unable to stonewall. With so many losses caused by the pandemic, U.S. litigants have a powerful incentive to bring cases, prosecute them aggressively, and test liability through adversarial presentation. Several such cases have already been filed.

But those suits and others like them face a high hurdle: the Foreign Sovereign Immunities Act. The FSIA is the reason at least eight lawsuits were dismissed or withdrawn on grounds that foreign states are generally shielded from litigation in U.S. courts. Yet that immunity isn't a constitutional mandate, only a matter of congressional discretion. Congress can legislate exceptions, and has done so.

Lawmakers should enact a new FSIA exception denying sovereign immunity to nations that fail to inform, or deliberately misinform, the global community of the nature and scope of a local epidemic that becomes a global pandemic. Beijing's failure in December 2019 to comply with the 24-hour notification requirement of the 2005 International Health Regulations, which China joined, should be a sufficient trigger. This would permit lawsuits to proceed so China's culpability for the Covid-19 outbreak can be openly adjudicated.

Congress should also withdraw immunity from international organizations that aided and abetted China's efforts to play down the virus's transmission and health risks. Western intelligence services have suggested that Beijing instructed the World Health Organization early in the pandemic on what it should say about Covid-19. Plaintiffs could use discovery to identify other governmental and private entities that collaborated with Beijing and hold them accountable. This litigation would have an added benefit of unmasking much of the pro-China infrastructure within international organizations and Western companies, think tanks and other institutions.

To ensure that China can't delay proceedings, the FSIA amendment should also either create a new federal tort action or give federal courts jurisdiction over Covid-related claims under state law.

Some may object that these measures could interfere with U.S. diplomacy. But Congress can address that concern. The Justice Against Sponsors of Terrorism Act of 2016—which withdrew sovereign immunity from nations that provided material support to terrorist attacks on American soil—authorized the federal government to intervene in litigation to secure a diplomatic resolution that compensates plaintiffs and mitigates future harm. It makes sense to follow that model here. That would provide the Biden administration with the impetus to declassify and make available to Covid-19 litigants intelligence relating to the virus's origin. Here, too, there is precedent, stemming from civil cases over the Iran-contra affair and the 9/11 terrorist attacks.

Defendants in U.S. legal proceedings are ordinarily entitled to bring counterclaims and spread liability to other potential defendants. Beijing has accused the U.S. military of creating the Covid-19 virus at the Army's Fort Detrick, Md., lab and introducing it during the 2019 Military World Games in Wuhan, in which a U.S. team participated. To ensure that Beijing is accorded every opportunity to defend itself, including bringing counterclaims against the U.S., the Biden administration should waive governmental immunity, a step it can take unilaterally without statutory changes. Let Beijing test its implausible theory in court.

China wouldn't be able to ignore lawsuits in American courts, given its close commercial ties with the U.S. If it refused to participate, courts would enter enforceable default judgments. China would be hard-pressed to avoid complying with any court-ordered damages and injunctions. Successful plaintiffs could pursue collection actions against Chinese government-owned commercial property around the world. Corporations are not normally liable for their owners' debts, but there is an exception when the owner is involved on a day-to-day basis in running the company. Given the Chinese Communist Party's pervasive control over formally private Chinese companies, this shouldn't be difficult to prove.

It should be possible to secure broad bipartisan support for these measures. Republicans and Democrats have expressed a keen desire to hold Beijing accountable, and the Biden administration has made a priority of defending and strengthening the rules-based international order. The president has repeatedly said he wants to make sure China plays by the rules.

Chinese military publications have run articles expressing interest in developing biological weapons. China understands that bioweapons are particularly effective against open societies, where stringent isolation and quarantine measures spur resistance, and could be used to incapacitate aircraft carriers and military bases, which are crucial to the U.S. ability to project power in the Indo-Pacific. Pandemics aside, upholding international norms is essential to deterring China from other malevolent acts, including against Taiwan.

Permitting Covid-19 suits would have additional strategic benefits. In its propaganda, Beijing has sought to capitalize on its supposedly superior handling of Covid-19, claiming it demonstrates the superiority of its totalitarian political system over open, democratic society. Legal discovery could unearth information puncturing these claims.

Holding Beijing accountable would also do much to dispel its assertions that the U.S. is a declining power. While Beijing still respects U.S. military power, it routinely talks down U.S. political will and economic strength. It would face a formidable foe in an army of lawyers on an honest judicial battlefield.

Mr. Pompeo is a distinguished fellow at the Hudson Institute. He served as director of the Central Intelligence Agency (2017-18) and secretary of state (2018-21). Mr. Rivkin practices appellate and

MORENS_SUBPOENA_022042
MORENS_NIH_042935
REL0000482399

constitutional law in Washington. He served at the Justice Department and the White House Counsel's Office in the Reagan and George H.W. Bush administrations.

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

Disclaimer

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

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

Date: Sun, 18 Sep 2022 8:40:38 PM -0400
Sent: Sun, 18 Sep 2022 8:40:36 PM -0400
Subject: RE: FOIA Request - PDN Contact
From: "Keusch, Gerald T" <(b) (6)
To: David Morens <(b) (6) Peter Daszak <(b) (6)
CC: Roberts, Rich <(b) (6) Hotez, P (b) (6) effrey Sturchio <(b) (6) hmura <(b) (6)

Can we FOIA them? NIH counsel didn't tell me when they got in touch the end of last week. It's with the BU legal office now and they requested that NIH send the emails in question to legal and to me. When I looked at what is stored on my BU server all of the emails are from your gmail account.

Do you know who is behind this FOIA request? Can they be FOIA'ed? It would be interesting to see what they are saying in their back channels, who is involved, and how they are planning to attack all of us.

Jerry

From: David Morens <(b) (6)
Sent: Sunday, September 18, 2022 8:01 PM
To: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) (b) (6)
Cc: Roberts, Rich Gerald T <(b) (6) Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6) Jeffrey Sturchio <(b) (6) Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6)
Subject: Re: FOIA Request - PDN Contact

Peter and colleagues, you are obviously more on top of this than me

I have been foia'd so many times in the past few years, and so thoroughly, probably st leadt 20-40 times, that i truly doubt there is anything new here

And apart from my occasional outrageous vulgarities, which i will defend as entirely justified, i have written NOTHING i would not be happy to defend in front of a Congressional committee. My sole concern is boxing in Tony and hurting you.

I can and will defend myself by saying, truly and with conviction, there was nothing i have said/done that was not in the interest of the best science, and that my defense of you was not in the interest of friendship but because you and EcoHealth colleagues were doing the very best and most cutting edge research, which adds to the truth, given that research is defined as "the creation of new knowledge". It is only about discovering what is true, and not cozying up to what is false. I am hard-ass about that, and i never stay silent when bullshit prevails

I have no fear of being censored, fired, attacked or whatever. True is true and i am comfortable with saying so and rejecting the crap. It's true, i will say so, and i will defend it.

So,don't worry about me, and don't worry that i will increase your misery

Despite my cervical vertebral injuries, and partial numbness of 4 fingers, my right middle finger is very strong and i can think of several congress-people i would be happy to show it to! d

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

> On Sep 18, 2022, at 19:34, Peter Daszak (t(b) (6) > wrote:
>
> Sorry to hear that they're planning to release emails from David's NIH account.
>
> I first heard from David that they were digging into them a few months ago and went through all my past emails with him. There are some mildly embarrassing ones, but nothing unusual, or particularly pertinent to the COVID origins issue. I'll go back through these and talk with Jeff Sturchio (cc'd). What we normally do when we get wind of an upcoming FoIA

release is work on a statement that attempts to take the heat out of the stories that these organizations normally write. We use this if the publicity is particularly bad, but often get them ready only to file them when the story doesn't come to much.

I imagine that the sort of headlines we could expect would be "leading scientists conspire to undermine investigation into lab leak theory via back-channel to Dr. Fauci", or "Fauci advisor actively colluded with leading scientists to undermine lab leak investigations" etc. I remember that there is a bit of flowery language in some of the emails, but again, nothing out of the ordinary for an email back-and-forth.

So far, I don't see a request from NIH for me, but they usually go to Aleksei and he hasn't checked yet.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

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

Tel.: +1 (b) (6)
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

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

From: Roberts, Rich (b) (6)
Sent: Friday, September 16, 2022 12:30 AM
To: Keusch, Gerald T (b) (6) >; David Morens (b) (6)
Cc: Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6) Peter Daszak (b) (6) Jeffrey Sturchio < (b) (6)
Subject: RE: FOIA Request - PDN Contact

Jerry:

OK – I have involved our legal department too.

Here was their immediate response:

"There are 9 categories of information that are exempt from FOIA requests under federal law. They are listed below, but the only two that could possibly be relevant are if the emails contain information that was protected under a CDA with the government agency, or if the emails disclose any of your personal information, like your personal email or home address.

Here are the exemptions:

The nine exemptions are described below.

Exemption 1: Information that is classified to protect national security.
Exemption 2: Information related solely to the internal personnel rules and practices of an agency.

Exemption 3: Information that is prohibited from disclosure by another federal law.
Exemption 4: Trade secrets or commercial or financial information that is confidential or privileged.
Exemption 5: Privileged communications within or between agencies, including those protected by the:
1. Deliberative Process Privilege (provided the records were created less than 25 years before the date on which they were requested)

2. Attorney-Work Product Privilege

3. Attorney-Client Privilege
Exemption 6: Information that, if disclosed, would invade another individual's personal privacy.
Exemption 7: Information compiled for law enforcement purposes that:
o7(A). Could reasonably be expected to interfere with enforcement proceedings

o7(B). Would deprive a person of a right to a fair trial or an impartial adjudication

o7(C). Could reasonably be expected to constitute an unwarranted invasion of personal privacy

o7(D). Could reasonably be expected to disclose the identity of a confidential source

o7(E). Would disclose techniques and procedures for law enforcement investigations or prosecutions, or would disclose guidelines for law enforcement investigations or prosecutions if such disclosure could reasonably be expected to risk circumvention of the law

o7(F). Could reasonably be expected to endanger the life or physical safety of any individual
Exemption 8: Information that concerns the supervision of financial institutions.
Exemption 9: Geological information on wells.

Rich

Richard J. Roberts
New England Biolabs
240 County Road
Ipswich, MA 01938-2723
USA
Tel: (b) (6)
Fax: (9
email:(b) (6)

From: Keusch, Gerald T (b) (6)
Sent: Thursday, September 15, 2022 3:27 PM
To: Roberts, Rich (b) (6) >; David Moren (b) (6) ((b) (6) ; Jeffrey Sturchio <
Cc: Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6) (b) (6) (b) (6)
Subject: RE: FOIA Req

EXTERNAL SENDER

Rich, I got this same email yesterday. I contacted the university legal office and they have requested the material be sent to both them and to me.
We got a lot a better about using private email addresses as time went on but we were not so careful at the beginning and occasionally things got sent from and to David at the NIH address. I looked at my inbox and outbox for saved emails involving David and all that I found still there had used the gmail address.

I'll share what our university legal team has to say when we know what we are dealing with. It

would no doubt help to figure out the best response if we were all to do that and have a consistent narrative story.

Jerry

From: Roberts, Rich (b) (6)
Sent: Thursday, Se PM
To: David Morens (b) (6)
Cc: (b) (6) (b) (6) eusch, Gerald T < (b) (6) Jeffrey Sturchio (b) (6)
A Request - PDN Contact

David:

Just got this.

Rich

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

From: Citarella, Kara (NIH/NHLBI) [C] (b) (6)
Sent: Thursday, S AM
To: Roberts, Rich (b) (6)
Subject: FOIA Request - PDN Contact

EXTERNAL SENDER

Dear Mr. Roberts,

NIAID/NHLBI is working on a FOIA (Freedom of Information Act) request that includes emails between David Morens at NIH and yourself. We would like to send the documents over for pre-disclosure notification (PDN) and review. Please advise if we should send the letter and records to your legal counsel's office, or anyone else besides yourself.

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

(b) (6)

Date: Sun, 12 Feb 2023 3:00:37 PM -0500
Sent: Sun, 12 Feb 2023 3:00:11 PM -0500
Subject: Re: latest round of COVID-origins hassle from today/yesterday
From: "Hotez, Peter Jay" <(b) (6)
To: Peter Daszak <(b) (6)
CC: (b) (6) <(b) (6) (b) (6) Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6) <(b) (6) Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6)
Attachments: image001.jpg; image002.jpg; image003.jpg; image001.jpg; image002.jpg; image003.jpg

Meanwhile I'm trying to get people to see the bigger picture, making the case that Covid 19 might be the warmup act to even more dire viral pandemics and support for EcoHealth is front and center to our global virus surveillance. We need to support virology and virologists not tear this down

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 butor

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

Media Inquiries:
(b) (6)

On Feb 12, 2023, at 1:43 PM, Peter Daszak <(b) (6) > wrote:

I'd rather have the crazy people do this, because at this point, after 3 years of awful stated-as-fact lies, any self-respecting commission will have to state that EcoHealth Alliance did something wrong in our work in China. The people pushing for the Commission include David Relman et al. and they are clearly ready, willing and able to point to our 2 yr late report as an example of how we put the world at risk, even though NIH already had all the information, much of it was published, and none of it has any relevance at all to the origins of COVID.

It's stated as fact that our work was "gain of function" even though it clearly doesn't fit the definition per the P3CO rules (the definitive rule on this). Just like the OIG, they'll embellish on our mis-coded $5 beverage, or the staff's grad school tuition that's normally paid for by NIH, but the OIG made 'unallowable', and claim that EcoHealth is negligent.

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: Jeffrey Sturchio (b) (6) >
Sent: Thursday, February 9, 2023 10:27 PM
To: ter Daszak <(b) (6) >; Roberts, Rich (b) (6) Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6) @ H Jay(b) (6)
Cc: David Morens (b) (6) Aleksei Chmura ((b) (6)
Subject: RE: latest round of COVID-origins hassle from today/yesterday

Peter: An independent, non-partisan COVID Commission would be better than the partisan sniping that we're in for over the coming months, so I think the Metzl and Pottinger op-ed could actually provide useful. (Philip Zelikow at the University of Virginia, who served as executive director of the 9/11 Commission, has been calling for such an independent COVID Commission for some time.) They put an unwarranted emphasis on experiments that were never done, but they're nowhere as crazy on these issues as some of the others in Congress – including Comer, Griffith, Rand Paul, etc.

As ever,
JLS

From: Peter Daszak (b) (6)
Sent: Thursday, Fe 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

MORENS_SUBPOENA_018624
MORENS_NIH_037643
REL0000482402

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
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: Peter Daszak (b) (6)
Sent: Thursday, February 9, 2023 7:02 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: 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
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: 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: (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

MORENS_SUBPOENA_018626
MORENS_NIH_037645
REL0000482402

and mine is that that means it is dead for now. He had been talking with Harold Varmus and Bob Horvitz, both of whom are very concerned about the Republican attacks on science. I will be talking with both of them tomorrow afternoon.

I spoke with John Deutsch (ex-President of MIT) and he is supportive, but has no clear ideas of how to proceed. He did say that we should talk with Holden Thorp (as we had discussed) and get AAAS involved. I had contacted Holden previously and he and I have a talk scheduled for next week.

Some of the more interesting suggestions that have emerged are that we should try to garner support from individuals and organizations that are not viewed by the general public, or politicians, as belong to the "elite" segment of society. I am thinking that someone like LeBron James could be an excellent spokesperson if we can reach him and his views are pro-science. He seems like a decent person and so maybe he is Pro-science. There are others who fit that category such as other sports stars and even some Hollywood people. I believe George Clooney would be favorable and maybe Harrison Ford, whom I met many years ago.

Rich

Richard J. Roberts
New England Biolabs
240 County Road
Ipswich, MA 01938-2723
USA
Tel: (b) (6)
Fax: (9
email: (b) (6)

Exec (b) (6)
Tel: (b) (6)
Fax:
email (b) (6)

From: Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6)
Sent: Thursday, F PM
To: Peter Daszak (t(b) (6) >; Hotez, Pe (t(b) (6)
Cc: David Morens _ (t(b) (6) y 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 (t(b) (6) >
Sent: Wednesday, Fe
To: Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6)
Cc: David More (b) (6) Roberts, Rich (b) (6) Keusch, Gerald T (l(b) (6)
Jeffrey Sturchio (b) (6) ; Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6)
Subject: Notes from our call

MORENS_SUBPOENA_018627
MORENS_NIH_037646
REL0000482402

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

MORENS_SUBPOENA_018628
MORENS_NIH_037647
REL0000482402

- Global Health Council
- Global Health Technologies Coalition
- Infectious Diseases Society of America Carlos del Rio (Jerry will reach out)
- International AIDS Vaccine Initiative
- Nobel Laureates Campaigns
- Pandemic Action Network
- PATH
- Research!America – Reach back out – Jerry will
- Union of Concerned Scientists
- Washington Global Health Alliance
- 156 virologists letter
- NAM
- NAS
- NL Campaigns (to be kept informed of progress by Rich)
- CUGH
- The pandemic action coalition
- FASEB
- Global Health technologies coalition
- APLU (KHG has connection)
- Wellcome Trust (Paul Schreier is the interim head).
- Dr. Tony Fauci
- Felicia Goodrum (Arizona) and Stacey Schultz-Cherry (St. Judes)
- OSTP
- ASV – Anne Moscona (President-Elect)

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

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

Tel.: +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 More (b) (6) >; Roberts, Ric (b) (6) erald T <(b) (6)
Jeffrey Sturchio (b) (6) Aleksei Chmura >
Subject: Re: Update

Dear all, I spoke with Ann Moscona President-Elect at ASV and she's all in. She also suggested adding Felicia Goodrum (Arizona) and Stacey Schultz-Cherry (St. Judes) both really good on policy issues, she will give them a heads up, thanks! Peter

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

Texas Children's Hospital: Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics | Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development | Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

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

Baylor University, University Professor

Rice University, Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty

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

E-mail | Twitter | LinkedIn | Skype: (b) (6)

Amazon Author Center | Daily Beast Contributor

Senior Coordinator & Executive Support: Douglas Soriano

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

Media Inquiries:

(b) (6)

From: Peter Daszak (b) (6)

Sent: Wednesday, February 1, 2023 8:14 AM
To: Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6)
Cc: David Morens (b) (6) >; Roberts, Rich (b) (6) Keusch, Gerald T (b) (6)
Jeffrey Sturchio (b) (6) Aleksei Chmura (b) (6)
Subject: Concept note and Agenda for our discussion today at 1pm Eastern US time

Dear All,

I'm looking forward to our discussion today at 1pm. Attached is a concept note that Jeff Sturchio drafted to frame some ideas around what we might try to do.

I've also attached a rough agenda for us.

Here are the details of the zoom call, and I look forward to speaking with you all later on:

Join Zoom Meeting
(b) (6)

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

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

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

Tel.: +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: 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!

MORENS_SUBPOENA_018631
MORENS_NIH_037650
REL0000482402

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

Texas Children's Hospital: Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics | Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development | Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

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

Baylor University, University Professor

Rice University, Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty

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

E-mail | Twitter | LinkedIn | Skype: (b) (6)

Amazon Author Center | Daily Beast Contributor

Senior Coordinator & Executive Support: Douglas Soriano

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

Media Inquiries:

(b) (6)

iPhone

On Jan 31, 2023, at 1:44 PM, Peter Daszak (b) (6) > wrote:

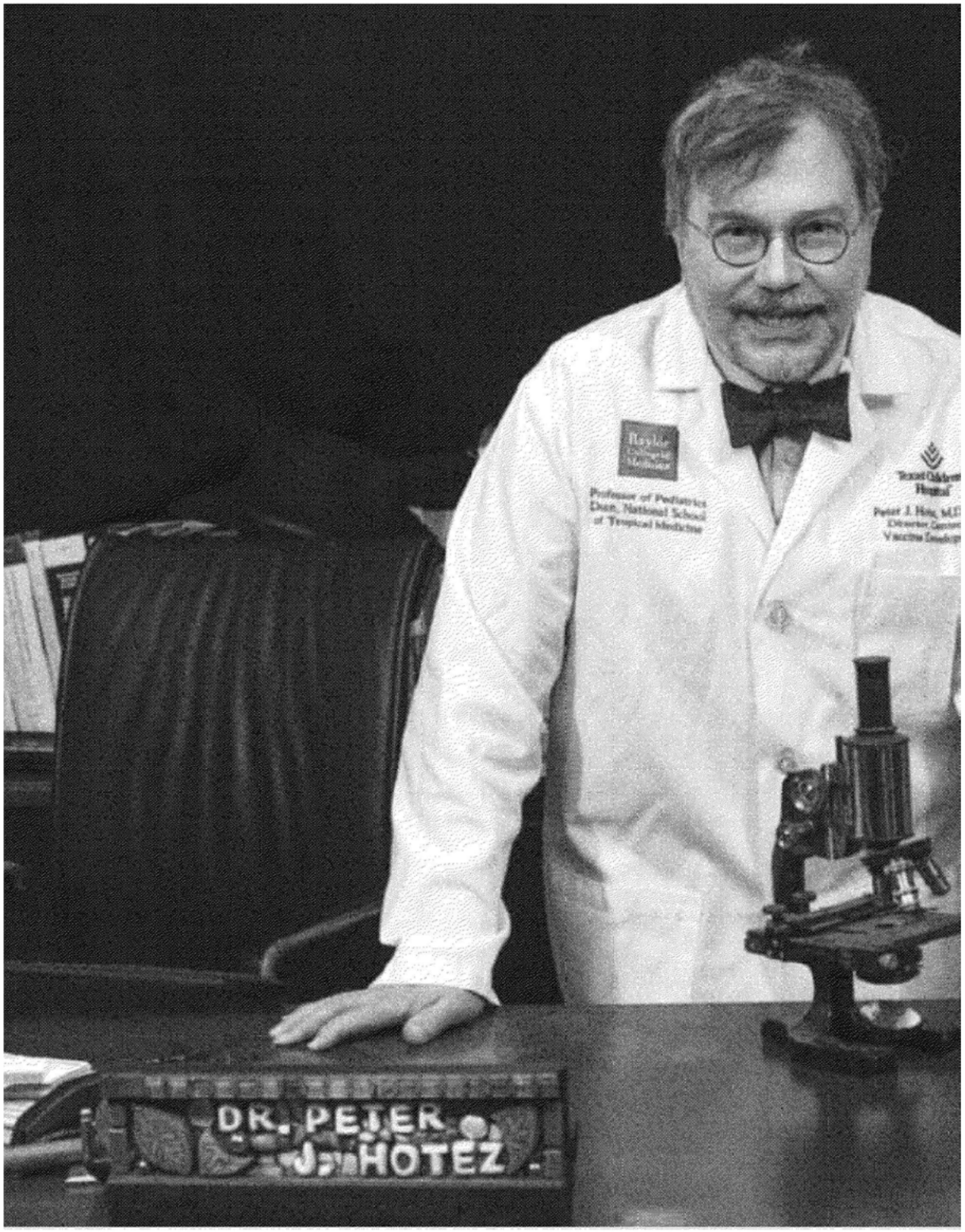
First, want to send my appreciation for your great interview in the Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists yesterday, Peter:

https://thebulletin.org/2023/01/viral- spread-peter-hotez-on-the-increase-of-anti-science-aggression-on-social-media/

Viral spread: Peter Hotez on the increase of anti-science aggression on social media

By Sara Goudarzi | January 30, 2023

MORENS_SUBPOENA_018633
MORENS_NIH_037652
REL0000482402



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

Last November, Twitter announced it will no longer enforce "the COVID-19 misleading information policy." The platform also allowed previously banned users to rejoin the site. Since then, anti-vaccination messaging has gained renewed energy, distressing scientists and researchers who have been combatting misinformation and disinformation on social media. According to research, there's a strong relationship between anti-vaccination efforts on social media and vaccine hesitancy, and while millions of people were saved by having taken the

MORENS_SUBPOENA_018634
MORENS_NIH_037653
REL0000482402

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

MORENS_SUBPOENA_018635
MORENS_NIH_037654
REL0000482402

partisan lines from the far right? How do you articulate that without basically saying, "the reason I'm doing this is to save lives?" It's no longer a theoretical discussion; Americans have lost their lives because they believed the politics, and to be able to articulate that is really threading a needle there.

Goudarzi: With Twitter's moderators practically gone, the platform's announcement that it will no longer enforce measures to combat misleading information regarding COVID-19 and will give amnesty to previously banned users, there seems to be a rise in anti-vaccination sentiment.

Hotez: It's blown up. It's gotten much tougher: Anything I put out there gets immediately pounced on, and I can trace the origins to four or five either elected leaders or these contrarians from far right think tanks and elsewhere who blow dog whistles. They will put out a (typically false or exaggerated) statement against me, and then I'll receive hundreds and hundreds of tweets or emails specifically targeting me. About half of them look like bots because the person sending it is an empty face with a gazillion numbers attached to the Twitter handle. But others are real people tuning into Fox News every night who totally fall into the rabbit hole because they seem to worship these contrarians. The other piece to this is a lot of Nazi imagery and fantasies, a lot of antisemitism, because they know I'm a Jewish scientist. And that's yet another dimension to all of this.

Goudarzi: How do you think this affects patients in healthcare settings? Have you had personal experience with those who decided not to get vaccinated because of information on the internet or social media indicating the shots are dangerous?

Hotez: I've had sort of the opposite experience, where patients were in the rabbit hole, had seen my postings, see me as credible, and because of me are taking the vaccine, which is kind of nice and spurs me on to keep going at this. But more and more I've also had the other extreme as well, which is based on what they see on social media: People will take the time to write me a threatening email or make a call to the lab or to the office. Then I have to bring in law enforcement through the Texas Medical Center Police or the Houston Police Department and the Anti-Defamation League (because they have a list of individuals who are known to make these types of threats). It's taken this very, very dark turn as a consequence.

Goudarzi: Anti-vaccination movements are nothing new and go back to the late 1700s, even before the development of the smallpox vaccine and then the 1800s and again in the 1990s and 2000s. Do you think social media has allowed the latest movement to gain even more steam than previous movements?

Hotez: I wrote an article about the whole history of [anti-vax movements] in *Journal of Clinical Investigation*. I think it really accelerated in the early 2000s with autism, in part aided by social media—it was new then but was starting up. Now, I think social media has really been an enabler. It's not only social media; I think amazon.com was a big contributor. If you search for books on vaccinations, what's out there is a horror show. My books are among the top-rated on vaccines, and they're probably ranked about number 30 or 40, because it's all preceded by the phony-baloney, anti-vaccine COVID conspiracy books. So, it's Amazon and social media. And Fox News is having a huge impact. This has been documented by Media Matters, the watchdog group, as well as this very interesting paper that came out of ETH Zurich, which is like the MIT of Central Europe.

Goudarzi: Do you think Amazon is purposefully placing these books higher up in search results, or are search results just a reflection of how much steam the movement has gained?

Hotez: I don't know. Amazon is probably amoral. I don't think they think about this one way or the other, but whatever sells. So, it's whatever people are buying—that's how they're ranking it.

Goudarzi: Are you seeing a difference in the attitudes towards COVID-19 vaccines versus

say the flu or MMR vaccines?

Hotez: Yeah, because remember, MMR came out of autism; that was the [original] assertion that the MMR vaccine causes autism. That was [*The Lancet*] paper from 1998. But then around 2014, 2015 (I like to think because I was helping to take some of the wind out of the sails around autism), you started to see the anti-vaccine movement pivot around this concept of health and medical freedom, that you can't tell us what to do about our kids. And that was the first link to the Republican Tea Party here in Texas. In fact, they started getting PAC [political action committee] money… It really took off in Texas and Oklahoma and that's what you see came off the rails with COVID-19.

It has been documented now by Charles Gaba, a health analyst whose work has been mentioned in the *New York Times*, National Public Radio, Pew Research Center and Peterson Academic Center, that the lowest vaccination rates were where health freedom propaganda was the strongest, and among those who are in red states like Texas, the redder the county, the lower the vaccination rate, the higher the numbers of deaths. It's a really tight correlation, so much so that David Leonhardt in the *New York Times* has called it red COVID. My forthcoming book, *The Deadly Rise of Antiscience: A Scientist's Warning* and it's full on linked to far-right politics and it's been embraced by the House Freedom Caucus.

After vaccines became widely available, the statements from the 2021 CPAC conference of conservatives in Dallas was first along the lines of: "they're going to vaccinate you, and then they're going to take away your guns and your bibles." It's ridiculous. A quarter of the country accepted it—mostly in Texas and the Southern states, and then [Georgia US Rep.] Marjorie Taylor Greene called people like me "medical brownshirts," using Nazi paramilitary analogy. Then, those in the Senate GOP, such as Senator Johnson from Wisconsin, held anti-vaccine roundtables, amplified by Fox News. Every night, during the last half of 2021, nighttime anchors Tucker Carlson and Laura Ingraham filled their airwaves with very strong anti-vaccine rhetoric, discrediting the effectiveness and safety of vaccines. And then contrarians from the far right think tanks piled on.

As I said, if it were just a theoretical construct, I wouldn't get so exercised, but 40,000 Texans died during the delta wave in the last half of 2021 and early Omicron BA1 wave in 2022 because they refused the COVID vaccine and were victims of this targeted aggression towards them. The number that I put out in the new book is 200,000 Americans across the country. The Kaiser Family Foundation and the health analyst Charles Gaba come up with similar numbers. On that basis, anti-vaccine activism, anti-science aggression, if you look at it as a societal killing force, is killing more Americans than gun violence, terrorism, nuclear proliferation, or cyber-attacks.

Goudarzi: And the interesting thing is that COVID-19 vaccines have been tremendously successful.

Hotez: Alison Galvani at Yale has just done a modeling exercise with the Commonwealth Fund, indicating that COVID vaccines have saved 3.1 million Americans.

Goudarzi: Yet the messaging against these vaccines seems to be just as successful and as you mentioned hundreds of thousands of deaths could have been prevented here in the United States. So, it begs the question, why are we having such an anti-science moment?

Hotez: It's because it's fully ensconced in the political landscape of the country that became part of the far right, and people refused the vaccine out of allegiance. Part of showing your allegiance to the far right is not getting vaccinated. Then, you saw the Proud Boys march in anti-vaccine rallies, and an early arrest in the January 6 insurrection included a prominent anti-vaccine activist.

The question that I get is: "Hey doc, what should we do about this?" And I say I don't know, because this goes outside the health sector. This is a political problem right now. How do you uncouple the anti-science from the politics? It's been really, really challenging, and the Biden

MORENS_SUBPOENA_018637
MORENS_NIH_037656
REL0000482402

administration has not been willing to take this on. Vivek Murthy, who is a very good Surgeon General, issued an advisory in July of 2021 about social media and said we have to work with Meta and Facebook and Twitter to prevent this stuff from going viral. That's fine, but it doesn't get to those who are generating the content. This is where we're starting to see breakdowns, in my view, among our scientific and professional societies, and even the National Academies, because this idea that we have to remain politically neutral is so strong that no one will talk about it the way I'm talking about it with you. You have to be politically neutral; it's silly.

To paraphrase Desmond Tutu and Elie Wiesel, neutrality favors the aggressor.

Goudarzi: What do you think the end goal is for those generating the content and spearheading these movements? There are certain people who truly believe that vaccines could cause x, whatever x is, but there are others like Gov. DeSantis who himself was vaccinated yet promotes anti-vaccination sentiments.

Hotez: Early on when vaccines first came out, he was actually pro-vaccines. So, what caused the change? When it was pre-health freedom, it was fairly straightforward: It was people monetizing the internet, selling nutritional supplements and books on phony autism cures. When I wrote the book, trying to look at other examples of this, I found what's going on now in Stalin's Russia in the 1930s 1940s. This is part of the signature of an authoritarian regime: to target the science and scientists. When you read Hannah Arendt's *The Origins of Totalitarianism*, you see this is part of the playbook. Even though it's self-defeating, it still fosters allegiance and belonging. I think what happened is with the anti-vaccine groups for whom the wind was let out of their sails around autism, they needed a new thing. They found money and power and relevance by tying themselves to the far right, and the far right created a whole new cadre of people that they wouldn't have otherwise.

Goudarzi: Just add adding to that: Do you think vaccine disinformation is propagated or reinforced purposely by other governments to cause division within the United States, similar to the 2016 election?

Hotez: No question about that, and I think Russia is probably the most egregious [perpetrator], and this has been documented. David Broniatowski, a computer scientist at the George Washington University, has written about this and the Russian bots' roles. In some cases, they're using both anti-vaccine and pro-vaccine rhetoric. They are specifically using this as a wedge issue to divide the country and destabilize our democracy. And it's not only the Russians—the Chinese, North Koreans and Iranians are doing this. But I think Russia is probably the biggest state actor.

What I've recommended to the Biden administration is they create an inter-governmental agency, because the United States Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) doesn't know what to do at this point. Because of the foreign actors involved, you have to bring in Homeland Security, the Commerce Department, the Justice Department and the State Department as well. There are people smart enough who know about these big dangerous societal forces, and we need their advice on what levers we can pull and push. But they haven't wanted to take it on.

Similarly, at the level of the UN agencies, the World Health Organization doesn't know what to do at this point. So, you're starting to see that same US-style anti-vaccine activity moving to Canada, the United Kingdom and Western Europe—and I wrote about this in a paper in *Nature Reviews Immunology*. You're even seeing it now in low- and middle- income countries, including those in Africa. So, it's going to destabilize the global vaccine ecosystem, even around childhood vaccination.

Goudarzi: Scientific debate around new treatment or preventive measure used to happen more or less behind closed doors. But given the nature of a real time pandemic, some of those debates are taking place on social media, and sometimes that leads to the lay audience

misunderstanding certain aspects of the discussion and spreading misinformation. How valuable, and how harmful, do you think it is to have scientific debates between researchers on social media?

Hotez: It's often not between researchers. For instance, one of the most common things when they target me on social media is they say I should be in a public debate with the lead anti-vaccine activist. And I say, "No, that's not how science is done. I've written a scientific paper and if somebody has an issue with that, they can either refute it in a scientific journal, or publish their own finding." Of course, they can't get it published because there's no science behind it. So, what they want to do instead is they want a public debate.

And I say, "Look, you can debate 18th-century enlightenment philosophy, but science is not typically something that's debated in that kind of forum; we have a mechanism for doing that through scientific publication and peer review." And they don't want to play that way. They just want to put out their propaganda because that's all they have behind it. An example is ivermectin or hydroxychloroquine, which the scientific community has clearly shown has no effect on COVID-19. Hydroxychloroquine is even harmful. But the problem is the anti-vaccine force has dominated the internet, and they say, "Hey, scientists don't want to debate us, what are they hiding?"

And that's, again, how they weaponize communication.

Goudarzi: I was actually thinking of earlier during the pandemic. Because there was so little time, some researchers were putting their papers up on open access preprint servers, which didn't require a peer review, and then others were weighing in on social media platforms. At times, you would see non-scientists take one aspect of that discussion and spread something that wasn't necessarily true.

Hotez: I think with the whole preprint server mechanism, ultimately the benefits outweighed the downside. I can't tell you how many times I had to depend on data from bioRxiv, medRxiv in order to make sense of what was going on. If I had to wait a few weeks for it to air in *New England Journal of Medicine* or *Nature* and *Science*—and by the way, they did a pretty good job too; they were able to turn that around in record time—[it would have been too late.] If you're looking for any silver lining in this pandemic, it's the journal editors, the whole preprint server mechanism, and the willingness of the scientific community to share information. And I think for most of the public understood that they were seeing this play out in real time and that there wasn't always going to be consistency. The problem was those who were who were weaponizing it for their own personal or political gain.

Goudarzi: But you still think the advantages outweighed the disadvantages?

Hotez: I think so. It's hard to imagine how I could've really talked about everything going on knowledgeably on CNN, NBC, or wherever without having access to the information. The preprints were so important.

Goudarzi: Some researchers have either left Twitter or are thinking of leaving. What will this do to scientific discourse? Would it make sense to stay on the platform to counter misinformation and disinformation and increase public awareness, or should researchers seek a more balanced platform?

Hotez: I don't have the answer. I struggle with this every day. I mean, the aggression against me and the threats would continue even if I wasn't on Twitter, because more often than not, it's not against anything that I tweeted. Ninety percent of the time, it's people who see me as a threat to undermine their politics or their business line and are just making up things about me and would still continue even if I wasn't on Twitter. So that's the reason I stay on it, because at least I'm getting out important and timely information. But it is really painful and awful to see what's going on there.

Goudarzi: Is the amount of aggression you face tied to the changing ownership of Twitter and political shifts?

Hotez: The politics around the anti-science, anti-vaccine and phony baloney about COVID origins had started with the pandemic in 2020. But now with all the contrarians back at once it reminds me of the old *Batman* series when they brought back Catwoman, Joker, Penguin, and Riddler all at once to do away with Batman. That seems to be going on, so it's been their superstars who are super energized by being invited back to Twitter, and they are using the platform very aggressively.

Goudarzi: What are some of the lessons we've learned about disinformation and misinformation over the last few years regarding social media that we should consider moving forward?

Hotez: I would say social media is a major weapon of choice for spreading disinformation. But remember, we have to get to those who are generating content. Social media is an important vehicle, but it's not the only one. I think we probably should stop calling it misinformation, disinformation or infodemic. We should call it for what it is, which is anti-science aggression, because it is a killing force. What we realized is that the science aggression is taking lives in the United States on an unprecedented scale.

For that reason, it needs to be addressed, and that's the part the scientific community has not come to terms with. When I call myself a scientist, it's not just co-heading a team of scientists making a COVID vaccine for the world that has reached a 100 million people. That's a very noble activity, but from my perspective, even that's still insufficient. Now being a scientist means, to some extent, being willing to combat the anti-science. It's nothing that any of us signed up for. I never dreamed when I got my MD-PhD in New York in the 1980s that this was something I'd be doing, but this is what's in front of us.

And I don't really feel that the scientific community—the professional societies, scientific bodies, even the academy—fully understand the impact. Hopefully it'll be clear when my book comes out, but it may become even clearer when we see the House GOP hearings. I predict the oversight committee and the judiciary committee or select subcommittees will become an anti-science witch hunt and will target prominent American scientists. And then we'll get a better picture.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

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

Tel.: +1-(b) (6)
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

MORENS_SUBPOENA_018640
MORENS_NIH_037659
REL0000482402

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) ettrey Sturchio (b) (6) >; Aleksei Chmura (b) (6) >
Subject: Re: My latest

Many thanks David! Best Peter

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

Texas Children's Hospital: Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics | Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development | Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

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

Baylor University, University Professor

Rice University, Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty

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

E-mail | Twitter | LinkedIn | Skype: (b) (6)

Amazon Author Center | Daily Beast Contributor

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

Media Inquiries:
((b) (6)

iPhone

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

kudos to you, again! dmm

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

On Jan 30, 2023, at 14:37, Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6) wrote:

https://thebulletin.org/2023/01/viral- spread-peter-hotez-on-the-increase-of-anti-science-aggression-on-social-media/

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

Texas Children's Hospital: Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics | Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development | Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

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

Baylor University, University Professor

Rice University, Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty

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

E-mail | Twitter | LinkedIn | Skype: (b) (6)

Amazon Author Center | Daily Beast Contributor

Senior Coordinator & Executive Support: Douglas Soriano

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

Media Inquiries:

(b) (6)

(b) (6)

iPhone

On Jan 27, 2023, at 2:43 PM, Roberts, Rich <(b) (6) wrote:

Peter:

No, I didn't come up with the name.

But one I have recently come up with is CheatGPT instead of ChatGPT.

Rich

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

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

From: Peter Daszak (b) (6)
Sent: Friday, Janu
To: Roberts, Rich (b) (6) Keusch, Gerald T (b) (6) Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6)
Cc: David Morens ; Jeffrey Sturchio (b) (6)
Aleksei Chmura (b) (6) >
Subject: RE: Finally - virologists fight back!

EXTERNAL SENDER

I forgot about that Rich. But I'm assuming it wasn't you that came up with somewhat colonial name!!???

In all seriousness, while it's good for virologists to push back against calls to block scientific research, I don't think a campaign to support gain of function work that's designed to see what would happen if you make a lethal pathogen more transmissible is anything any of us particularly want to get behind right now!

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

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

Tel.: +1-(b) (6)
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

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

---

From: Roberts, Rich (b) (6)
Sent: Friday, Janu
To: Peter Daszak (b) (6) >; Keusch, Gerald T (b) (6)
Hotez, Peter Jay <
Cc: David Morens ffrey Sturchio (b) (6)
Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) >
Subject: RE: Fina

Peter:

In the interests of compete disclosure, I was a member of the "Cambridge Working Group". Our concern was about the deliberate attempts to make the flu virus more infectious. It was the deliberate nature of the experiments that was troubling, not virus research in general.

Rich

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

Exec (b) (6)
Tel: (b) (6)
Fax:
email(b) (6)

From: Peter Daszak (b) (6)
Sent: Friday, January 2 M
To: Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6) >; Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6)
Cc: David Moren (b) (6) rey Sturchio (b) (6)
Aleksei Chmura (b) (6) ; Roberts, Ric (b) (6)
Subject: Finally

MORENS_SUBPOENA_018644
MORENS_NIH_037663
REL0000482402

Importance: High

EXTERNAL SENDER

Article in NPR this morning (https://www.npr.org/sections/health-shots/2023/01/27/1151867224/virologists- science-oversight-risky-experiments) – and below, based on a Commentary (attached) in mBio and various ASM journals signed by >150 virologists that fights back against the anti-science, defends virus research and gives a table of positive results from gain of function work.

I'll reach out to Felicia Goodrum (lead author) today to see if they will talk about helping with some sort of coalition. Michael Imperiale was quoted so if any of you know him or Felicia or others who are leading this (e.g. Arturo Casadevall), it would be good to reach out to let them know the urgency.

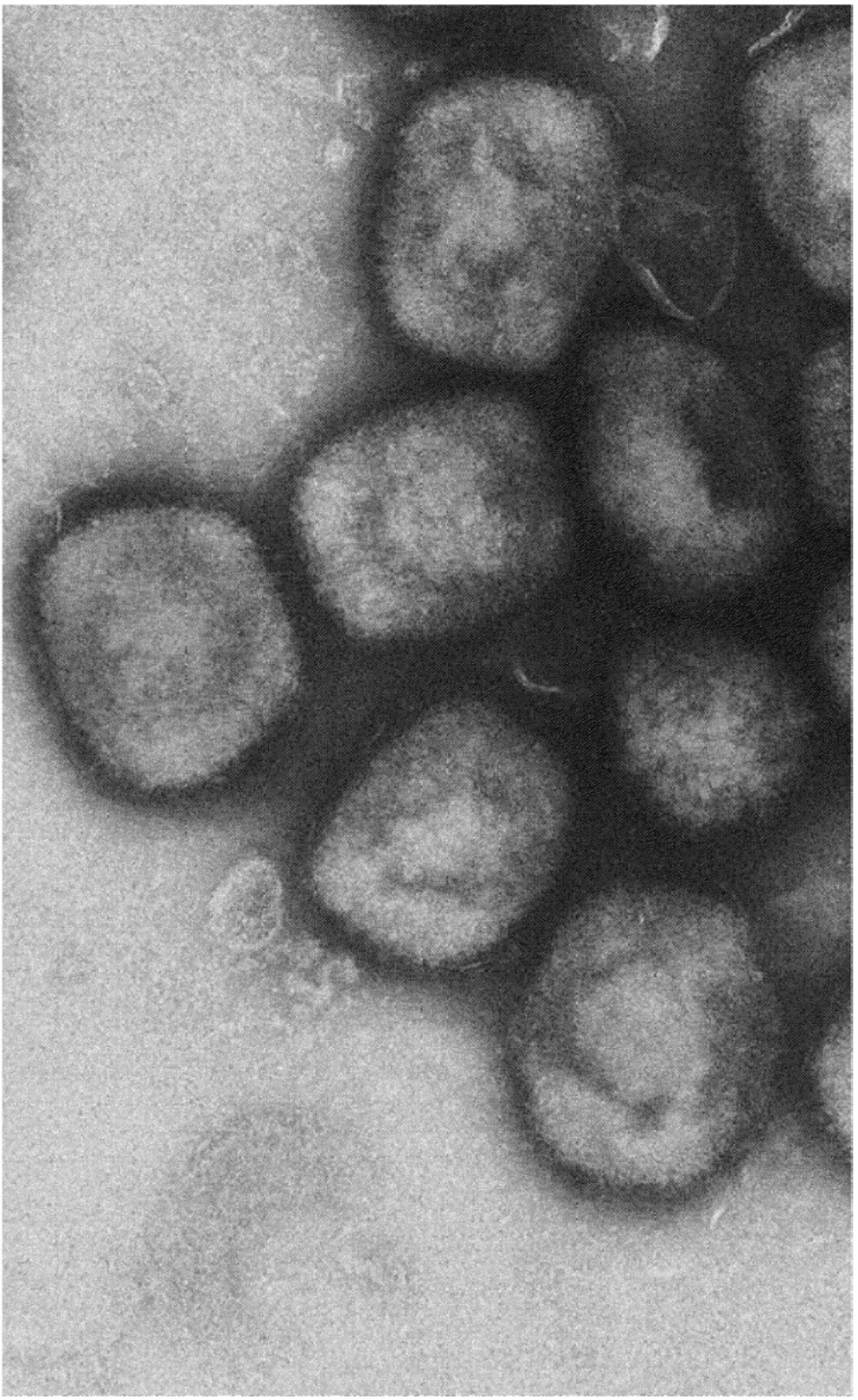
Some of these people were involved in the coalition (Scientists for Science - http://www.scientistsforscience.org/) to push back against earlier efforts to cancel Gain of function work by the "Cambridge Working Group" (a pretentious name, of course)…

BTW – saw your name on the Scientists for Science website Jerry!

POLICY-ISH

Virologists defend their science as officials eye more oversight of risky experiments

NELL GREENFIELDBOYCE



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

NIAID

Over 150 virologists have signed on to a commentary that says all the evidence to date indicates that the coronavirus pandemic started naturally, and it wasn't the result of some kind of lab accident

or malicious attack.
They worry that continued speculation about a lab in China is fueling calls for more regulation of experiments with pathogens, and that this will stifle the basic research needed to prepare for future pandemics.

The virologists issued their statement just ahead of a key meeting Friday held by outside advisors to the federal government. That group is set to wrap up a recent review of the existing oversight system for experiments that are controversial because they could create new potential threats.
The advisors' draft recommendations call for expanding a special decision-making process that currently weighs the risks and benefits of experiments that might make "potential pandemic pathogens" more dangerous.
"The government really has a strong interest on behalf of all of us, in the public, in knowing when researchers want to make a virus more lethal or more transmissible, and understanding how that would be done and why that would be done, and whether the benefits are worth it," says Tom Inglesby, director of the Center for Health Security at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health.
Sponsor Message
He thinks if the draft recommendations were adopted by the government, "it would be a very big step forward."

The origins of the pandemic

All of this comes as the lab in China, known as the Wuhan Institute of Virology, is again in the headlines. An internal government watchdog released a report this week criticizing the National Institutes of Health, saying it failed to adequately monitor grant awards given to a nonprofit that had collaborated with scientists at the Wuhan lab.
Felicia Goodrum, a virologist at the University of Arizona, says that open-minded experts have investigated the origins of the pandemic. The available evidence, she says, supports the notion that the virus emerged from nature just like other viruses such as HIV and Ebola did — by jumping from animals into people who had contact with them.
"The evidence that we have to date suggests that SARS-CoV-2 entered the human population by that route," says Goodrum. "There is no evidence to the contrary or in support of a lab leak, nothing credible."

Basic research on viruses, she says, is what led to the swift development of vaccines and drugs to fight the pandemic.

And yet virologists have watched in dismay as misinformation and conspiracy theories have placed the blame on science.

Sponsor Message
"There's this complete disconnect between reality and what happened," says Michael Imperiale, a virologist at the University of Michigan.
He says that while debates have gone on for years about the wisdom of doing experiments that might make bad viruses even worse, this moment feels different.

"The pandemic," he says, "has really kind of heightened the urgency with which we need to address these issues, just because of all the controversy that's been out there regarding, you know, was this a lab leak or not?"

A bird flu study raises alarm

Unlike, say, nuclear physics research, biology has traditionally had a culture of openness. After the anthrax attacks in 2001, however, biologists began to grapple with the possibility that their published work might serve as recipes for evildoers who wanted to make bioweapons.

And in 2011, there was an outcry after government-funded researchers altered a bird flu virus that can be deadly in people. Their lab work made this virus more contagious in the lab animals that are stand-ins for people.

MORENS_SUBPOENA_018647
MORENS_NIH_037666
REL0000482402

Critics said they'd created a super flu. Proponents said that viruses sometimes have to be manipulated in the lab to see what they might be capable of; in nature, after all, mutations occur all the time and that is how pandemic strains emerge.

That episode marked the start of a long, heated debate, plus research moratoriums and ultimately the development of new regulations. In 2017, a review system was put into place to weigh the risks and benefits of studies that might make a potential pandemic pathogen even worse. So far just three proposed lines of research, with influenza viruses, have been deemed risky enough to merit that kind of extra scrutiny.

"We are really talking about a small amount of research proposals," says Lyric Jorgenson, the acting associate director for science policy and the acting director of the Office of Science Policy at the NIH.

Sponsor Message

She says just before the pandemic started, officials asked advisors on the National Science Advisory Board for Biosecurity to consider whether the government needed to be more transparent to the public about how it was making decisions about this kind of research. Before that work was done, the pandemic hit and everything was put on hold. Last year, officials asked the group to broaden its work and to evaluate the regulations more comprehensively.

If the draft changes developed by this advisory group are eventually adopted by the government, an extra layer of oversight would apply to any study "reasonably anticipated" to enhance the transmission or virulence of any pathogen in a way that could make it a public health threat. That means more experiments on more viruses would get a closer look.

"What this new recommendation is saying, is that even if you start with a virus that had no potential to cause an epidemic or pandemic, if you are doing research that will change that virus in a way where it could now cause an uncontrollable disease, or a widely spreading disease, that has to be reviewed by this new framework," says Inglesby.

What's more, the advisory group has noted that "increased transparency in the review process is needed to engender public trust in the review and oversight processes."

What's "Reasonably Anticipated"

The American Society for Microbiology has responded positively to the draft recommendations, saying "we urge swift implementation of the recommended changes by the federal agencies engaged in this work."

But some virologists think the devil will be in the details if these recommendations turn into policy.

"They keep using this phrase 'reasonably anticipated,'" says Imperiale. "How is that going to be interpreted? Is there going to be clear guidance as to what is meant by that?"

Sponsor Message

Researchers often don't know what will happen when they start an experiment, says Goodrum, especially when the science is cutting-edge.

"That's where the big scientific advancements come from. And so to tie our hands behind our back, to say we can only do the science that we can anticipate, then we're really restricting innovative science," she says.

Ron Fouchier, the virologist at Erasmus University Medical Center in the Netherlands, whose lab did the bird flu experiments over a decade ago, said in an email that he'd hoped the experience of going through a pandemic would simulate more research, not "unnecessarily delay or restrict it." He said it looked like many infectious disease researchers in the United States "will face substantial delays in their crucial research efforts, if they can continue that research at all."

The U.S. is unusual in that it has a lot of public discussion of these issues and a system to try to manage the risks, says Inglesby.

He thinks that oversight can be made stronger without getting in the way of science.

MORENS_SUBPOENA_018648
MORENS_NIH_037667
REL0000482402

"I am avidly, absolutely pro-science and pro-research, and in particular pro-infectious disease research," says Inglesby.

But he says there's a very small part of that research "where there is the potential for very high risk if things go wrong, either by accident or on purpose. And so we have to get the balance right, between the risks that could unfold and the potential benefits."

lab leak theory
coronavirus research
pathogens
Facebook
Twitter
Flipboard
Email

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

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

Tel.: +1-(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) ey Sturchio (b) (6) Aleksei Chmura < (b) (6) >; Rich Roberts (b) (6)
Subject: Flux on Twitter

For what it's worth I sent a brief note to the two leads for the White House COVID response team, Ashish Jha and Nahid Bhadelia, to say why they needed to agitate at the higher levels to get on to appointing a new NIH Director, preferably from the outside, and ideally a candidate like Harold Varmus who could command respect from both sides of the congressional divide.

I also suggested they consider the point that it would be better if there was a new NIH Director before they appointed somebody to NIAID, and that was OK because Hugh Auchincloss was eminently able to be a respected interim Director, both within the NIH and the outside scientific community. And, that the next NIAID Director should come from outside of the institution.

MORENS_SUBPOENA_018649
MORENS_NIH_037668
REL0000482402

I don't know what influence they will have, should they choose to act, but they do have access to the higher levels, and that is important.

Jerry

From: Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6)
Sent: Wednesday, Janu PM
To: Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6)
Cc: Peter Daszak (b) (6) >: David Morens <
(b) (6) v Sturchio (b) (6) >; Aleksei Chmura <
(b) (6) ; Rich Roberts (b) (6) ≥
Flux on Twitter

I think top priority is the Biden Administration appointing a new NIH Director and someone really good, I don't understand the holdup.

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

Texas Children's Hospital: Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics | Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development | Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

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

Baylor University, University Professor

Rice University, Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty

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

E-mail | Twitter | LinkedIn | Skype: (b) (6)

Amazon Author Center | Daily Beast Contributor

Senior Coordinator & Executive Support: Douglas Soriano

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

Media Inquiries:

(b) (6)

iPhone

On Jan 25, 2023, at 1:34 PM, Keusch, Gerald T (b) (6) wrote:

Well, if that were to occur there would not only be continued messaging to the public but more push back to the politicians and others spreading misinformation, and I suspect a more focused and strategic scientific plan for the institute. It has been pretty good under Tony, with some gaps that seem glaring to me, but it could also be better. How do we find and support the right outside scientist to take on the challenge?

Jerry

From: Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6)
Sent: Wednesday, January 25, 2023 2:27 PM
To: Peter Daszak (b) (6)
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 MinerfFlux on Twitter

I see the far right keeps putting video after video about me terrified I might take over for Tony

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

Texas Children's Hospital: Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics | Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development | Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

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

Baylor University, University Professor

Rice University, Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty

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

E-mail | Twitter | LinkedIn | Skype: (b) (6)

Amazon Author Center | Daily Beast Contributor

Senior Coordinator & Executive Support: Douglas Soriano

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

Media Inquiries:

(b) (6)

iPhone

On Jan 25, 2023, at 11:35 AM, Peter Daszak <(b) (6) > wrote:

Disapppointed that Hugh isn't a candidate, because short of a stellar scientist from outside (and that isn't looking good), Hugh would be a safe pair of hands for the forseeable future.

I also cannot believe for the life of me that (b) (6) would be rejected from the other position you mentioned. He ientists, 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.: +1-(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,
To: Peter Daszak (b) (6)
Cc: (b) (6) ≥; J (b) (6) (b) (6) Chmura (b) (6) Gerald Keusch (b) (6) >; Rich Roberts ≤(b) (6)
Subject: Re: Tweet by Miner Flux on Twitter

Guys, although the director search seems to be proceeding with total secrecy, I learned yesterday that our worst fear has come true: a highly undesirable internal candidate has applied. This person is a middle to upper level physician scientist who is widely disliked as a self-serving narcissist, back stabber, and manipulator. Tthis opinion comes not from me, but from colleagues with much more knowledge of him/her than me. Of course, being an A-hole doesn't necessarily predict a bad leader, but there is widespread worry.

I won't name the candidate but Peter S would know because her/his research at NIAID is in the area of clinical management of rare hereditary pediatric diseases such as Job disease and CGD. Peter H, you could easily ID this person, but i do not want to do so, in part because i have limited personal experience with him/her and am merely relating opinions of colleagues i trust

This individual is in a key management position in which she/he has earned a reputation of cresting an ant-meritocracy: screwing the best scientists while supporting those who suck up. Again this is hearsay, but from people who work under him/her.

If these negative assessments are true, it is still unclear what the implications, if any, would be for EHA, but i would worry that she/he would throw good scientists under the bus to appease politicians downtown

In any case, the best scenario is an open search with many good candidates. I am not sure whether we have that.

Also, my opinion, and that of many others, is that we need someone from the outside, in part because NIAID management and leadership has become inbred, nepotistic, and uninterested in hiring top scientists to fill positions. Moreover, we totally lack vision or any idea about where the science will and should go, and no mechanism to plan for being at/staying on the cutting edge

When i came here in the 1990s, from academia, where i was a 40-something year old full tenured professor in both med and public health school departments, i was told thst because i only had about 160 publications i had no chance of getting automatic tenure or even being put on a tenure track position

That was then.

Of our two most recent hires placed into tenured positions, one had only 10 publications and the other came straight out of a post doc with few publications as well.

Both were in their early 30s and, as far as i can tell, are unlikely to ever do much

At the same time, we had the a(b) (6) top sc(b) (6) from the outside, my good friend the arbovirologist from -Peter H, you may know him-and we was the 100% top choice of the search committee. However leadership below Tony refused to hire him with the excuse that he was overqualified and would make the other scientists look bad

No, i am not joking. This is where we are

I have in my had a small list of about 5-10 qualified folks for NIAID director, and have spoken or written to 4 about it, one being you, Peter H, but all four have expressed no interest. Peter D, you are clearly on that list too, but obvious to all of us is the fact that HHS would never let that happen, sadly, so i never mentioned it. In a better world, you would be at the top of that list in my view

The application deadline of 1/17 has passed, so we may be stuck with a non-ideal list, although no one knows including, i believe, our acting director Hugh, who is not a candidate, or so he told me

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

> On Jan 25, 2023, at 10:58, Peter Daszak <(b) (6) wrote:
>
> Unfortunate. At this point you should just throw your hat in the ring!
>
> Why not have a confidential chat with Peter Staley and see if they have a pool of candidates yet?
>
> Cheers,
>
> Peter
>
> **Peter Daszak**
> *President*
>
> EcoHealth Alliance
> 520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
> New York, NY 10018-6507

USA

Tel.: +1-(b) (6)
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

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

From: Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6)
Sent: Wednesday, January 25, 2023 10:55 AM
To: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >
Cc: Jeffrey Sturchio <(b) (6) ; Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) ens <(b) (6) Gerald Keusch <(b) (6) Rich Roberts <(b) (6)
Subject: Re: Tweet by MinerFlux on Twitter

Unfortunately the far right made a new YouTube claiming I'm the successor to Fauci. Which is ridiculous but it has set off a new wave of aggression

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

Texas Children's Hospital: Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics | Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development | Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

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

Baylor University, University Professor

Rice University, Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty

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

E-mail | Twitter | LinkedIn | Skype: (b) (6)

Amazon Author Center | Daily Beast Contributor

Senior Coordinator & Executive Support: Douglas Soriano

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

Media Inquiries:

(b) (6)

iPhone

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.: +1-(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 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 Rich Roberts <
(b) (6) (9) (q)
Subject: Tweet by Miner□Flux on Twitter

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

Texas Children's Hospital : Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics | Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development | Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

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

Baylor University, University Professor

Rice University, Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty

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

E-mail | Twitter | LinkedIn | Skype: (b) (6)

Amazon Author Center | Daily Beast Contributor

Senior Coordinator & Executive Support: Douglas Soriano

(b) (6) | Phone: (b) (6) .

Media Inquiries:
(b) (6)

iPhone

Date: Fri, 26 Apr 2024 7:19:38 AM -0400
Sent: Fri, 26 Apr 2024 7:19:14 AM -0400
Subject: Re: Details and a link to my upcoming Public Hearing
From: Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6)
To: (b) (6) (b) (6)
CC: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6) Jeff Sturchio <(b) (6) (b) (6) Roberts, Rich <(b) (6) Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) (b) (6)
Attachments: image003.jpg; image004.jpg; image005.png

Thanks, whether it stimulates any tangible action or deliverables is hard to say, but I will try! Best Peter

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

Texas Children's Hospital: Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics | Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development | Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

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

Baylor University, University Professor
Rice University, Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty
Texas A&M University, Faculty-Senior Fellow, Hagler Inst for Advanced Study & Scowcroft Institute of Intl Affairs

E-mail | Twitter | LinkedIn | Skype: (b) (6)
Amazon Author Center | Daily Beast Contributor

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

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

On Apr 26, 2024, at 5:48 AM, (b) (6) <(b) (6) > wrote:

Peter, that is great. I hope you pull no punches and also get a chance to let NAS colleagues what is happening and what needs to be done to put an end to it. d

Sent from Proton Mail Android

-------- Original Message --------
On 4/26/24 01:20, Hotez, Peter Jay wrote:

Dear Peter: this Sunday I'm in DC at NAS on a panel with Tony Fauci, Michael Mann, and Akiko Iwasaki discussing the political attacks on scientists and I plan to comment on these horrific

congressional hearings, best Peter

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

Texas Children's Hospital: Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics | Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development | Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

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

Baylor University, University Professor
Rice University, Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty
Texas A&M University, Faculty-Senior Fellow, Hagler Inst for Advanced Study & Scowcroft Institute of Intl Affairs

(b) (6)
E-mail | Twitter | LinkedIn | Skype:
Amazon Author Center | Daily Beast butor

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

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

On Apr 25, 2024, at 10:35 PM, Peter Daszak <(b) (6) > wrote:

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

Dear colleagues,

Sadly we're getting close to my upcoming public hearing with the SSCP. There are some details and a link below that you can use to watch it live on the day:
https://uspolitics.einnews.com/pr_news/706672646/hearing-advisory-ecohealth-alliance-president-dr-peter-daszak-to-testify-on-may-1

Hearing Advisory: EcoHealth Alliance President Dr. Peter Daszak to Testify on May 1

WASHINGTON — On May 1, 2024 at 10:00am ET, the Select Subcommittee on the Coronavirus Pandemic will hold a hearing titled, "A Hearing with the President of EcoHealth Alliance, Dr. Peter Daszak." This hearing will examine EcoHealth Alliance's (EcoHealth) use of U.S. taxpayer dollars to fund dangerous gain-of-function research at the Wuhan Institute of Virology as well as hold Dr. Daszak

publicly accountable for any and all discrepancies between his closed-door transcribed interview and available evidence. Prior to Dr. Daszak's public testimony, the Select Subcommittee will release the full transcript from Dr. Daszak's transcribed interview and publish a detailed report about EcoHealth's impact on the origins of COVID-19.

Read more about Dr. Daszak's upcoming hearing here.

WHAT: Hearing titled "A Hearing with the President of EcoHealth Alliance, Dr. Peter Daszak"

DATE: Wednesday, May 1, 2024

TIME: 10:00AM ET

LOCATION: 2154 Rayburn House Office Building

WITNESS:

Dr. Peter Daszak

President

EcoHealth Alliance, Inc.

WATCH: The hearing will be open to the public and press and will be livestreamed online at https://oversight.house.gov/hearing/a- hearing-with-the-president-of-ecohealth-alliance-dr-peter-daszak/.

RSVP: Media must be congressionally credentialed and RSVP by Tuesday, May 1 at 5:00 PM ET.

###

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

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

Tel.: +1-(b) (6)
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

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

From: (b) (6) <(b) (6) >

Sent: Wednesday, April 24, 2024 6:37 PM
To: Peter Daszak (b) (6), Gerald T (b) (6); Jeff Sturchio <(b) (6) Roberts, Rich Hotez, Peter Ja(b) (6)
Cc: Aleksei Chmur (b) (6)
Subject: Re: Now public that Tony Fauci will testify in front of SSCP on June 3rd

I do not I t have a date yet. My lawyer is ne
motivating with sscp

In the meantime, my law.yers have initiated a professional deep dive into my Gmail and Proton mail,and will turn that over to sscp. This will take some time. I doubt there is anything to find but of course. they will look for crumbs to blow up into mountains. d

Sent from Proton Mail Android

-------- Original Message --------
On 4/24/24 17:33, Peter Daszak wrote:

> I've attached a pdf of the story in the Washington Post (it's behind a paywall) – also here: https://www.washingtonpost.com/health/2024/04/24/fauci- congress-testimony-pandemic/.
>
> David – have your lawyers managed to get a date for you to testify yet?
>
> Cheers,
>
> Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA
(b) (6)
.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

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

MORENS_NIH_047272
REL0000482411

From: Peter Daszak (b) (6)
Sent: Friday, April 19, 2024 9:15 PM
To: (b) (6) 'Keusch, Gerald T' < (b) (6) 'Jeff Sturchio' < (b) (6) 'Roberts, Rich' (b) (6) otez, Peter Jay' (b) (6) (b) (6) b) (6)
Cc: 'Aleksei Chmura 'John Feigelson' < feigelson@ecohealthalliance.org >
Subject: RE: Today's news...

By the way – Allegations that me sending information to David Morens is somehow corrupt are outrageous. Tony Fauci was busy working with the White House COVID taskforce at the time, trying to halt the worse pandemic since the 1918 influenza outbreak. I would have happy emailed him directly, but pretty sure he wasn't checking each of his 50,000 emails a day!

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

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

Tel.: +1-(b) (6)
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

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

(b) (6)
From: Peter Daszak
Sent: Friday, April 19, 2024 8:10 PM
To (b) (6) Keusch, Gerald T' (b) (6) 'Jeff Sturchio' < (b) (6) (b) (6) ; 'Hotez, Peter Jay' (b) (6) (b) (6)
Aleksei Chmura (b) (6) >; John Feigelson < (b) (6) >
Subject: Today's news...

Had a very successful EcoHealth Alliance benefit last night – sorry some of you couldn't be there.

Michael Mann was our main honoree, and he was great! We raised well above our expectation – all

critical to keeping us afloat given the increased pressure we're under right now.

Speaking of which – here's the latest attempt from the SSCP to smear David Morens, EcoHealth Alliance and others as being involved in a 'cover up'

https://nypost.com/2024/04/19/us- news/ex-fauci-adviser-shared-confidential-nih-info-with-ecohealth-about-covid-biosafetv-levels-docs/

Basically, they've found an email from me to David, Jerry others when the allegations that EcoHealth expts were conducted at an insufficient BSL level first came out. Tony Fauci was interviewed and said that he would look into it. I sent David M. a review I'd done of the BSL rules for Bat CoVs in various countries, which clearly show that we were operating at the correct biosafety levels.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

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

Tel.: +1-(b) (6)
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

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

From: (b) (6) (b) (6)
Sent: Wednesday, April 17. 2024 7:16 AM
To: Peter Daszak (b) (6) ; Keusch, Gerald T < (b) (6) Jeff Sturchio (b) (6) Roberts, Rich (b) (6) Hotez, Peter Jay < (b) (6)
Cc: Aleksei Chmura (b) (6)
Subject: Re: Testimony from Science Editor, Holden Thorp in front of the SSCP today

Peter, my thought is that it could have been worse, and he does blame Collins as well.... d

Sent from Proton Mail Android

-------- Original Message --------
On 4/16/24 20:59, Peter Daszak wrote:

Unpleasant to see him criticize me and EcoHealth today, in a pretty shoddy attempt to curry favor with the SSCP:

https://x.com/COVIDSelect/status/1780332154620092505

Here's the text of the tweet:

Select Subcommittee on the Coronavirus Pandemic

@COVIDSelect

<image005.png>
<image005.png>
<image005.png>

@ScienceMagazine AGREES that EcoHealth Alliance may have misled the U.S. government about its highly controversial DEFUSE proposal — which some believe created a blueprint for COVID-19. WATCH
<image005.png>
<image005.png>

You can see the video of him criticizing our work here:

https://youtu.be/Oru0-fYGcJU

The relevant section starts at 1hour, 31 minutes and 30 seconds into the video

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

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

Tel.: +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: Tuesday, April 16, 2024 3:22 PM
To: (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

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

Tel.: +1-(b) (6)
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

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

From: (b) (6) (t (b) (6)
Sent: Monday, April 15, 2024 8:39 PM
To: Peter Daszak (b) (6) >; Keusch, Gerald T (b) (6)

J (b) (6) (b) (6) ; Roberts, Rich (b) (6) Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6)
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**
> <image003.jpg>
>
> **Select Subcommittee on the Coronavirus Pandemic**
>
> @COVIDSelect
>
> <image005.png>
> BREAKING
> <image005.png>
>
> @EcoHealthNYC
> President Dr. Peter Daszak CONFIRMS whistleblower allegations that Dr. David Morens — a top advisor to Dr. Fauci — used Gmail to hide COVID-19 information. We are beginning the process to secure Dr. Morens's public testimony.
> <image004.jpg>

MORENS_NIH_047277
REL0000482411

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

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.: +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: Friday, April 12, 2024 11:19 AM
To: 'Michael Hiltzik' (b) (6)
Cc: 'Aleksei Chmura' (b) (6)
(b) (6) >
Subject: EcoHealth Statement and Email release today has relevance to NIH and Michael Lauer issues
Importance: High

Good to talk with you yesterday Michael. We got more negative press yesterday, this time related to emails that allegedly show coverups and inappropriate behavior among scientists. The Republicans released only the subject line and addresses etc. (https://oversight.house.gov/release/wenstrup-reveals-emails-from-whistleblower-alleging-additional-attempts-by-fauci-advisor-to-subvert-transparency-about-covid-19-origins/), leading to BS stories in the usual right wing press. We released the full text of the emails today:

https://www.ecohealthalliance.org/2024/04/ecohealth- alliance-releases-emails-that-are-the-subject-of-false-allegations-in-the-press

These are all from me to senior NIAID staffmember David Morens and former NIH Center Director Jerry Keusch, trying to make sense of the termination of

our grant by Trump, and to find a way to get it reinstated. In the end NIH did reinstate the grant (May 2023). One of the chains shows emails that refer to the pressure from Michael Lauer, and the fact NIH instructed me not to talk with our program officer (Erik Stemmy) and direct all communications to Grants Management (Emily Linde). That was another highly unusual move from NIH and is part of the pattern that I was talking with you about.

Here is that particular set of emails: https://www.ecohealthalliance.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/04/Emails-01.pdf

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

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

Tel.: +1-(b) (6)
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

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

From: Michael Hiltzik (b) (6) <
Sent: 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_NIH_047280
REL0000482411

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: 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)
Subject: RE: Confidential - NIH still hampering EcoHealth's ability to conduct work 4 years since the termination of our grant
Importance: High

I have good answers for you on all of those – it's ugly and political. There are also others who are well-placed who you can talk with.

I can do Wednesday at 5:30pm my time if that works for you (2:30pm West Coast). I have other times as well… cc'ing Alison who will make sure we find a time that works.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

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

Tel.: +1 (b) (6)
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

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

From: Michael Hiltzik <(b) (6)
Sent: Saturday, April 6, 2024 6:50 PM
To: Peter Daszak (b) (6)
Subject: Re: Confidential - NIH still hampering EcoHealth's ability to conduct work 4 years since the termination of our grant

Peter,

Let's set up a time to talk next week (Wednesday or later best for me). On first glance, it strikes me that I'm glad I'm not in the grants-application business, because the bureaucratic behavior here seems incomprehensible, at least to a layman.

What's the overarching theme in their relations with you? Is it pressure from the lab-leak crowd, the FOIAing from Tobias, which as far as I can tell has yielded nothing of any substance? A spillover from the Trump era?

I read the Science piece, which was thorough in detailing what was done to the Chinese researchers but silent on what provoked it....what was the question I was left with--Why did NIH do all this?

MH

On Sat, Apr 6, 2024 at 12:03 PM Peter Daszak <
(b) (6) > wrote:

> Hi Michael, I'm just contacting you off the record in case you or others are interested in reporting on what's going on at NIH with respect to EHA's grants. We were trying to deal with this privately, without it becoming public, but we found out last week that some of our recent correspondence with Emily Erbelding asking for her help is in a batch of FoIA's emails that will be released to Jimmy Tobias in the next couple of weeks. Tobias is in the habit of simply dumping these on the internet, so we wanted to get these to a bona fide reporter before that happens.
>
> As you probably know, our organization has been funded by NIAID for around 20 years, conducting successful research on

emerging diseases, and working closely with communities, scientists and governments in emerging disease hotspot countries to try to reduce the risk of disease emergence. Prior to the termination of our R01 grant in April 2020 that would have had the Wuhan Institute of Virology as a subrecipient, we had never had any issues with NIH or NIAID, and had been lauded by program officers for our cutting edge research into viral emergence, and the many papers in Science, Nature, NEJM and others based on NIH funding.

After the termination of our grant, the HHS OIG was called in to audit our work and NIH's oversight. They reported back after an 18 month audit with recommendations for both us, and for NIH, most of which were minor and easily addressed. We rapidly complied and NIH's DFAS group confirmed that all audit findings were resolved. However, we continued to receive further actions from the Office of the Director (Michael Lauer, who *Science* wrote about re. NIH's actions on grantees with China connections https://www.science.org/content/article/pall- suspicion-nihs-secretive-china-initiative-destroyed-scores-academic-careers), and the NIH group that manages oversight (OPERA) directly under Michael Lauer. In April 2023, Michelle Bulls from Opera and Emily Linde from NIAID placed 4 Specific Award Conditions (SACs) on our grants. At the time, Michael Lauer had contacted Tufts University who oversaw our IACUC approvals to conduct wildlife sampling because EHA doesn't have an animal facility. This led to Tufts canceling our interinstitutional agreement. The only way for us to proceed was to request an Animal Welfare Assurance from OLAW (based at NIH), but this was denied because of these SACs. One of the SACs stated that all of our subcontracts must be reviewed and revised by NIH reviews. We worked extremely hard to rapidly respond (often within days) to every single request, despite many of them being contradictory or having no material impact on the contracts. In the original letter NIH set a deadline of September 2023 to resolve the SACs, which due to repeated delays by NIH grants management staff in responding to us, continued further requests and shifting of the goalposts means we still do not have resolution. Furthermore, grants management are now suggesting that we are beyond the period of work and our subcontractees won't be able to be reimbursed. Additionally, during the past 12 months, NIH has only reimbursed EcoHealth for around $50K of the now nearly $2 million we are expecting and have expended.

As you can imagine, this puts us in a very difficult position, with institutions like UNC and Uniformed Services University likely to be outraged that their funding is threatened, and with us unable to do our work fully – work that has been reviewed, scored well, and is critical to pandemic prevention. We've tried every possible avenue to get a fair and reasonable rapid resolution. We've informed Emily Erbelding of these issues

(hence the FoIA'd email), and Program staff at NIAID remain supportive of our work, but we still have no resolution. Every time we try to seek a meeting or resolution, we get a hard response from NIH that we're out of compliance and they set further deadlines and further minor issues for us to fix. Right now I believe we're probably in greater compliance with NIH rules and just about any other institution in the US, given the level of scrutiny we've gone through. I've attached some of the many recent letters between NIH OPERA, NIAID Grants managements and EcoHealth Alliance to give you an indication of the levels of detailed work that we've gone through to try and resolve these issues.

We don't know the reasons why this is happening – all our subcontracts prior to April 2023 covered every single requirement in NIH's grants management guidance, subrecipients had to sign that they would adhere to these. The stonewalling, and shifting of goalposts by NIH is linked to emails that they send us stating that we're 'delinquent' or 'out of compliance', or that they're 'concerned' etc. and seem to us designed ready to be FoIA'd (which they are being) or to be used when NIH has to show Congressional Republicans that EcoHealth is being treated in the way they are calling for. Meanwhile, important findings can't be reported, including a novel SARS-CoV-2 related virus able to bind well to human ACE2 that we have found in one of our country sites, but are now unable to publish because our subrecipient is concerned they don't yet have an approved contract. This is hurting our ability to conduct pandemic prevention work, and the US's ability to be informed about public health threats that could emerge and threaten our citizens.

If you want to report on this, I'm happy to talk on-the-record on some issues, and there are others who are aware of these problems that I can put you in touch with, including at NIH and senior people from outside.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

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

USA

Tel.: +1 (b) (6)
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

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

MORENS_NIH_047285
REL0000482411

Date: Thu, 4 Aug 2022 1:18:36 AM -0400
Sent: Thu, 4 Aug 2022 1:15:13 AM -0400
Subject: Information from the 'gain of function' hearing today
From: Peter Daszak <(b) (6)
To: Roberts, Rich <(b) (6) Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6) Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6)
CC: David Morens <(b) (6) Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) Jeff Sturchio (b) (6)

Dear all,

Wednesday afternoon was the Gain of function hearing run by Rand Paul and Ron Johnson of HSGAC. I didn't watch any of this, of course, but have seen some of the lab leakers amplifying it on social media and it seems that it was a pretty unimpressive show.

First, there were only 3 'witnesses', all very biased with a long list of public attacks against the scientists trying to do fieldwork and virology to identify viruses in wildlife that might have potential to cause outbreaks. No witnesses were called to testify in defense of this work. The targets of their attacks were the usual:

- Tony Fauci, EcoHealth Alliance, myself, authors of the Worobey et al. and Pekar et al. papers in Science last week, Authors of the 'proximal origins' paper in Nature Medicine early in the pandemic, authors of the Lancet Statement in support of scientists in China that I organized, the WHO origins team etc.
- Projects including USAID PREDICT, The Global Virome Project (not funded, but a target anyway), our DARPA DEFUSE project (not funded), USAID DEEP VZN (pretty interesting and useful follow on from PREDICT)

Secondly, it appears that although the hearing was promoted as bipartisan, not a single Democrat turned up, and even the Democrat Chair of the subcommittee didn't show or give testimony. It seems that this is the same approach that we've seen with democrats on other subcommittees – they allow some of these 'investigations' to go ahead but just don't engage in any way. It's a pretty undignified approach, but they are politicians after all.

Here are the 3 written statements from the witnesses: https://www.hsgac.senate.gov/subcommittees/etso/hearings/revisiting-gain-of-function-research-what-the-pandemic-taught-us-and-where-do-we-go-from-here

Here is the full hearing video archive if you can stomach it (I won't be watching): https://www.c-span.org/video/?522133-1/hearing-virus-research-funding

And here is a ridiculous story on Richard Ebright in a right wing journal that sums up the sort of coverage it's received (not a lot so far): https://dailycaller.com/2022/08/03/anthony- fauci-gain-of-function-research-wuhan-covid-coronavirus/

Rand Paul has been very active on Twitter, playing to his base and raising funds off this, and Ron Johnson likened our research to 'holding a nuclear hand grenade' or some other mixed metaphor.

A great day for democracy and scientific progress towards understanding the fundamental threat to our existence that pandemics represent!

Cheers,

Peter

MORENS_SUBPOENA_009303
MORENS_NIH_019733
REL0000482413

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

MORENS_SUBPOENA_009304
MORENS_NIH_019734
REL0000482413

Date: Tue, 5 Oct 2021 6:39:44 PM -0400
Sent: Tue, 5 Oct 2021 6:39:19 PM -0400
Subject: RE: Talking with Elizabeth Warren's staff
From: Peter Daszak <(b) (6)
To: David Morens <(b) (6)

I thought something would pop up.

I've been fairly careful to keep shifting to your Gmail, but such is life. I'm sure there'll be others in there that are a bit embarrassing, but the truth is scientists talk to each other just like other normal people, so get over it, assholes!!

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: David Morens (b) (6) >
Sent: Tuesday, Octo
To: Peter Daszak <(b) (6)
Subject: Re: Talkin

Peter, i just got news that a foia picked up an email i sent you saying that tony commented he was braindead, jokingly of course. However, Ron Johnson is all over it and now after me. Tony will be pissed, rightly so. I deleted that email but i now learn that every email i ever got/sent since 1998 is captured and will be turned over, whether or not i instantly deleted it.

Gmail, phone, text.... i need to scrupulously rely on those exclusively. d

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

> On Oct 5, 2021, at 18:21, Peter Daszak (b) (6) > wrote:
>
> Rich – let me know if you need any information at all prior to talking with Sen. Warren's staff. I'm happy to join you in case they have questions about the work and the negative press from the Right.
>
> Let me know and I'll send any information that might help.

MORENS_SUBPOENA_011529
MORENS_NIH_022317
REL0000482414

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: Roberts, Rich <(b) (6)
Sent: Saturday, October 2, 2021 12:33 PM
To: Peter Daszak (b) (6) ; Gerald "Jerry" Keusch (b) (6) ; David Morens <(b) (6) >; Aleksei Chmura (b) (6) >; peter hotez <(b) (6)
Subject: RE: Please help!

Peter:

Finally located a good contact at Elizabeth Warren's office.

Rich

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

From: Peter Daszak (b) (6)
Sent: Saturday, October 2, 2021 10:55 AM
To: Gerald "Jerry" Keusch (b) (6) Roberts, Rich (b) (6) David Morens <(b) (6) Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) peter hotez (b) (6)
Subject: Please help!

EXTERNAL SENDER

Sorry to do this but I'm under pressure here and Jeff sachs' latest discrediting of our name publicly is not helping. Apparently a letters been sent to my board calling on them to fire me.

It's being reported in the NY Post today. Let me know if you can't read it on this link.

https://www.google.com/amp/s/nypost.com/2021/10/01/calls-grow-for-ouster-of-wuhan-lab-tied-daszak-as-head-of-nyc-health-nonprofit/amp/

MORENS_SUBPOENA_011530
MORENS_NIH_022318
REL0000482414

My board chair is Nancye green - she's v supportive but everyone has limits. Her email address is (b) (6)

Would you be willing to write an email to her this week to express your support for me and disgust at the way we are being attacked? It might be good to also mention that ecohealth has a critical mission that needs to stay the course through these ugly politics.

Sorry to be so blatant but I'm worried that this level of attack is hard to stand up against.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
(Sent from my iPhone)

President
EcoHealth Alliance

460 West 34th Street, New York, NY10001, USA

www.EcoHealthAlliance.org

Disclaimer

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

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

Disclaimer

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

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

Disclaimer

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

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

Date: Wed, 7 Apr 2021 12:42:20 PM -0400
Sent: Wed, 7 Apr 2021 12:42:05 PM -0400
Subject: RE: EcoHealth and myself feeling the pressure here.
From: Peter Daszak <(b) (6)
To: Morens D) [E] <(b) (6) Roberts, Rich <(b) (6) Keusch, Jerry <(b) (6)
Attachments: image001.gif; image002.jpg

To add to that – another damaging article in the New York Times today.

https://www.nytimes.com/2021/04/07/health/coronavirus- lab-leak-who.html

Please read the details and at the end the comment from Jamie Metzl – these people are lining up to shut down scientific research on viruses in wildlife – that's the exact opposite of what we'll need to do if we want to be prepared for the next pandemic.

I can't fight this fight on my own – I'm cited in this article as usual, along with Marion Koopmans – both of us under daily attack from these conspiracists. We need bigger and louder voices fighting against this movement before it starts to do damage to scientific research.

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: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >
Sent: Wednesday, Apr vid (NIH/NIAID) [E]'(b) (6) >; 'Roberts, Rich'(b) (6) ; 'Keusch, Jerry' <(b) (6)
Subject: lth and myself feeling the pressure here.
Importance: High

Just read your email about being allowed to do interviews on the WHO report David. Interesting and disappointing. Clearly the issue of COVID origins is not the political problem – it's the WHO report that's the problem. It's quite telling really, that the Biden Admin decided the WHO report would be a political football and therefore NSC/White House agenda, not a scientific issue and therefore NIH/NIAID agenda.

This is a symptom of a bigger issues – over the last 2-4 weeks, all of the allies who would normally talk to reporters about the

science have either been silenced/sidelined, or are following a political agenda, e.g. the White House, the WHO Director-General (who single-handedly threw the whole WHO expert team under the bus), the former CDC director, and now NIAID – all following the political line.

The attacks reached a crescendo over this same period with daily op-eds in NY Post, WSJ, Daily Caller and other Right Wing papers bleeding over into CNN and even NPR. My Board are now beginning to get concerned and this puts me personally in a very difficult position – it's a risk to my job, my family's security, and my career. It's not a real problem yet – if the attacks die down a bit (which I believe they will), and if my Board continue to support me (I believe they will), the long game will win out.

But at this point I'm reaching out to call for help! Can we line up some allies who will help speak publicly about the science here on wildlife-to-human spillover vs. lab leak? Critically, there is still no evidence at all that a lab leak occurred, there is also no evidence at all that EcoHealth (or NIAID) funded or supported Gain-of-function work in China. Likewise, stories about EcoHealth 'hiding' DoD funding, being funded by China, not clearly indicating the source of funding on all public documents, etc. etc. are false and/or misleading. Still, the damage is being done and I'm worried that today the momentum is with the conspiracists.

Any and all ideas are welcome – ASTMH, NAM, NASEM, others?

Jerry – what about reaching out to Benjamin Corb and others?

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: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b) (6)
Sent: Tuesday, Mar M
To: Roberts, Rich <(b) (6) Keusch, Jerry <(b) (6) Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >
Subject: Fwd: FW: of COVID-19 - Po

Guys, see below..... The Biden admin apparently won't let any of us at NIH, including Tony, discuss the WHO report....

On the surface this sounds bad, but there is the possibility they just want one org to manage the message because they are trying to put out a fire. Or am I just Pollyanna? d

-------- Forwarded Message --------
Subject: FW: (FYI only): Origin of COVID-19 - Possible Interview
Date: Tue, 30 Mar 2021 17:43:09 +0000

MORENS_SUBPOENA_017935
MORENS_NIH_036753
REL0000482415

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

David

David M. Morens, M.D.
CAPT, United States Public Health Service
Senior Advisor to the Director
Office of the Director
National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases
National Institutes of Health
Building 31, Room 7A-03
31 Center Drive, MSC 2520
Bethesda, MD 20892-2520
(b) (6) (assistants: Kimberly Barasch; Whitney Robinson)
(b) (6)
(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: Hoffman, Hillary (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b) (6)
Sent: Tuesday, March 30, 2021 1:32 PM
To: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b) (6)
Cc: NIAID OCGR NSWB <NIAIDOCGRNSWB@mail.nih.gov>
Subject: (FYI only): Origin of COVID-19 - Possible Interview

Hi Dr. Morens –

For your awareness (and in case she also reaches out to you directly), Mariana Lenharo followed up today on her request to speak with you or another NIAID expert about the WHO report, which as you know came out today. We've been asked to refer requests for comment about the report to the National Security Council, and we will be directing her there.

Best,
Hillary

From: Hoffman, Hillary (NIH/NIAID) [E]

Sent: Wednesday, March 17, 2021 11:57 AM
To: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b) (6)
Subject: RE: Origin of COVID-19 - Possible Interview

Thanks for the background! Once we know what the WHO report says, we'll be better poised to make decisions about how to handle requests to discuss it… as you note, it is a bit of a hot issue.

From: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] <(b) (6)
Sent: Wednesday, March 17, 2021 11:46 AM
To: Hoffman, Hillary (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b) (6)
Subject: RE: Origin of COVID-19 - Possible Interview

That's fine, although I think she wants me because I spoke to her before, and because I published the major paper dealing with it, along with Breman at FIC and ex-FIC director Keusch, and other authors.

Also, just off the record, we may want to not give this to Tony as he has been unfairly criticized over some of the issues. It could be a hot subject for him.…d

---

From: Hoffman, Hillary (NIH/NIAID) [E] (>
b
Sent: Wednesday, March 17, 2021 11:08 AM
To: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] <(b) (6) NIAID COGCORE <COGCORE@mail.nih.gov>
Subject: RE: Origin of COVID-19 - Possible Interview

Hi Dr. Morens,

Thanks for sending. I'll write back to this reporter and ask her to send a fresh request to the press office once the WHO report is available – we can at that time better assess whether it makes sense for you or another NIAID expert to speak with the media about it.

Best,
Hillary

Hillary Hoffman, Ph.D., Writer/Editor
Office of Communications and Government Relations, NIAID, NIH
5601 Fishers Lane #6G38
Rockville, MD 20852
(b) (6)

From: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] <(b) (6)
Sent: Tuesday, March 16, 2021 6:26 PM
To: NIAID COGCORE <COGCORE@mail.nih.gov>
Subject: Fwd: Origin of COVID-19 - Possible Interview

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

> **From:** Mariana Lenharo (b) (6)
> **Date:** March 16, 2021 at 18:21:42 EDT
> **To:** "Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E]" (
> b
> **Subject: Origin of COVID-19 - Possible Interview**
>
> Dear Dr. Morens,
>
> I hope you are doing well. It's been a few months since we spoke for the article on the origins of SARS-CoV-2.

MORENS_SUBPOENA_017937
MORENS_NIH_036755
REL0000482415

Now, as the WHO mission to study the origins of the virus is about to publish their report, I'm planning to write a new article on the topic to analyze the mission's conclusions.

I was wondering if you would be available for a new interview on this topic once the full report is published (it should be either this week or the next one).

I'm very interested to get a sense of how the scientific community is evaluating the mission's effort into finding the origin of SARS-CoV-2.

Thank you so much,

Mariana Lenharo
Science and Health Jou
T. (b) (6) | (b) (6)
Email | Twitter | LinkedIn | Portfolio

On Wed, Oct 21, 2020 at 11:02 AM Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b) (6) wrote:

> Thanks, you did a great job!
>
> 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)
>
> 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: Mariana Lenharo (b) (6)
Sent: Wednesday, October 21, 2020 9
To: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b) (6)
Subject: Re: FW: approved RE: (Origin of COVID-19 article) FW: Possible interview - Dr. David M. Morens

Dear Dr. Morens,

The story for which I interviewed you was published this morning. Here is the link:
https://elemental.medium.com/why- covid-19s-origin-story-is-still-a-mystery-46b0b336f122

Thank you again for the collaboration and I hope to be able to interview you again for future stories.

Kind regards,

Mariana

On Wed, Sep 30, 2020 at 1:07 PM Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] <(b) (6) wrote:

I will be at (b) (6) my cell.... ty

David

David M. Morens, M.D.
CAPT, United States Public Health Service
Senior Advisor to the Director
Office of the Director
National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases
National Institutes of Health
Building 31, Room 7A-03
31 Center Drive, MSC 2520
Be 20892-2520
(b) (6) (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: Mariana Lenharo (b) (6)
Sent: Tuesday, September 29, 2020 2:44 PM
To: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E (b) (6)
Subject: Re: FW: approved RE: (Origin of COVID-19 article) FW: Possible interview - Dr. David M. Morens

Thank you, Dr. Morens. How about we schedule the call for tomorrow, Wednesday, at 12:30?

Should I reach you at your office number ((b) (6)

Thank you very much!

Best,

Mariana

On Tue, Sep 29, 2020 at 3:04 PM Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] <(b) (6) wrote:

> Mariana, it looks like I have tomorrow from about 1215 to 130
>
> Late Thu might work after 4 or 5, not sure when earlier meeting will be done.
>
> Friday looks good except about 1 to about 4
>
> 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)

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: Mariana Lenharo (b) (6)
Sent: Tuesday, September 29, 2020 12:37 PM
To: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b) (6)
Subject: Re: FW: approved RE: (Origin of COVID-19 article) FW: Possible interview - Dr. David M. Morens

Dear Dr. Morens,

Thank you so much for getting back to me. I have a pretty open schedule in the next few days. These are the times I 'll be available:

Wednesday: anytime after 8 am
Thursday: from 8 am to 9 am OR anytime after 1 pm
Friday: from 8 am to 3 pm

Please let me know if any of those work for you and how would you prefer to be contacted at that time.

Thank you.

Kind regards,

Mariana Lenharo
Science and Health Journalist
T. (b) (6) | (b) (6)
Email | Twitter | LinkedIn | Portfolio

On Tue, Sep 29, 2020 at 1:03 PM Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E (b) (6) wrote:

> Hi Mariana,
>
> Our media office indicated you would like to speak to me at some point this week. Let me know when. I am always busy and moving between various offices and meetings, bu5t I do have spaces of free time here and there. In general, mid afternoons, eg, from 130 until 330 or later, are not good….
>
> TY
>
> David

MORENS_SUBPOENA_017941
MORENS_NIH_036759
REL0000482415

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

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

From: Mariana Lenharo (b) (6)
Sent: Monday, September 28, 2020 2:50 PM
To: NIAID NEWS (NIH/NIAID) <NIAIDNEWS@niaid.nih.gov>
Subject: Possible interview - Dr. David M. Morens

Hello!

My name is Mariana Lenharo, I'm a science and health journalist and I'm working on a story about the work of scientists investigating the origin of the Covid-19 pandemic. This story will be published in Elemental (https://elemental.medium.com/), a Medium publication focused on science-backed health coverage.

As I was reading about this topic, I came across this very interesting article, "The Origin of COVID-19 and Why It Matters" and I'd love to interview one of the authors, Dr. David M. Morens. This would be a 20-30-minute interview by phone/skype/zoom preferably this week. Please let me know if you think this would be possible.

Thank you very much!

Kind regards,

Mariana Lenharo
Science and Health Journalist
T. (b) (6) (b) (6)
Email | Twitter | LinkedIn | Portfolio

Disclaimer

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

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

Date: Sun, 21 Feb 2021 7:46:12 PM -0500
Sent: Sun, 21 Feb 2021 7:19:38 PM -0500
Subject: Briefing Tony re. China WHO mission
From: Peter Daszak <(b) (6)
To: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] <(b) (6) Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6)
CC: Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6)

That's a v. good idea re. Briefing Tony.

I was going to offer to give a talk to the NIAID COVID group in a couple of weeks to time it when the report comes out, but I'll offer to brief Tony and the NIAID senior staff first.

How do I get in touch with him - I know his email's busy - who should I cc?

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

-----Original Message-----
From: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] <(b) (6) >
Sent: Sunday, February 21, 2021 2:39 PM
To: Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6) Peter Daszak <(b) (6)
Cc: Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) >
Subject: Re: Important email just sent to NIAID - FW: Status of R01AI110964-6 Understanding the Risk of Bat Coronavirus Emergence

MORENS_SUBPOENA_012488
MORENS_NIH_023752
REL0000482416

Agreed, I will be there.

I hope also you will follow up on briefing Tony. he already counts you as one of the "good guys" and it never hurts to keep the love flowing. d

--
david..... PS, I will be on Public Health Service deployment from 10 December 2020 until 23 January 2021. During this time I will have limited access to email and phone contact. Ty, dmm

MORENS_SUBPOENA_012489
MORENS_NIH_023753
REL0000482416

Date: Sat, 2 Oct 2021 11:31:38 AM -0400
Sent: Sat, 2 Oct 2021 11:31:34 AM -0400
Subject: Re: Please help!
From: "Roberts, Rich" <(b) (6)
To: Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6)
CC: P (b) (6) (b) (6) David Morens <(b) (6) ,c) (6)

Peter:

Jeff Sachs is a friend of mine. What has he done now?

Rich

Sent from my iPhone

On Oct 2, 2021, at 11:05 AM, Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6) wrote:

EXTERNAL SENDER

Stay calm, the NY Post is a Murdoch-owned piece of shit. It's the reading alternative for the handful of Fox viewers who know how. Will look

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/

MORENS_SUBPOENA_011175
MORENS_NIH_021935
REL0000482417

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

iPhone

On Oct 2, 2021, at 9:55 AM, Peter Daszak <(b) (6) > wrote:

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

Sorry to do this but I'm under pressure here and Jeff sachs' latest discrediting of our name publicly is not helping. Apparently a letters been sent to my board calling on them to fire me.

It's being reported in the NY Post today. Let me know if you can't read it on this link.

https://www.google.com/amp/s/nypost.com/2021/10/01/calls- grow-for-ouster-of-wuhan-lab-tied-daszak-as-head-of-nyc-health-nonprofit/amp/

My board chair is Nancye green - she's v supportive but everyone has limits. Her email address is (b) (6)

Would you be willing to write an email to her this week to express your support for me and disgust at the way we are being attacked? It might be good to also mention that ecohealth has a critical mission that needs to stay the course through these ugly politics.

Sorry to be so blatant but I'm worried that this level of attack is hard to stand up against.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
(Sent from my iPhone)

President
EcoHealth Alliance

460 West 34th Street, New York, NY10001, USA

MORENS_SUBPOENA_011176
MORENS_NIH_021936
REL0000482417

www.EcoHealthAlliance.org

Disclaimer

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

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

Date: Sun, 24 Oct 2021 8:41:21 PM -0400
Sent: Sun, 24 Oct 2021 8:41:04 PM -0400
Subject: RE: Good news from Wuhan re. the experiments that NIH is trying to throw us under the bus with...
From: Peter Daszak <(b) (6)
To: David Morens <(b) (6)
CC: Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6) Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) Robert Kessler <(b) (6) Jeff Sturchio <(b) (6) Matthew R. Torsiello <(b) (6) >;

Yes this refers to the year 5 report of our R01 that was terminated then suspended. It was due in 2019 and not officially received until 2021. In his letter to Congress, Dr. Tabak said that the year 5 report contained an experiment that should have been reported immediately to NIH. The issue is that the experiment was already reported in the year 4 report, delivered on time in April 2018 - over 3 years and 6 months ago. The year 5 report was simply follow up analysis from that experiment - no material difference to the findings reported earlier.

I'm going to send a draft letter in a few minutes that I'm getting ready to respond to Lauer with. That will clarify all this, with back up evidence.

My concern is that between now and when the letter is made public, NIH leadership will be repeatedly stating to the press that EcoHealth violated reporting conditions - it's very damaging to us and based on incorrect assumptions.

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

-----Original Message-----
From: David Morens <(b) (6) >

Sent: Sunday, October 24, 2021 6:41 PM
To: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >
Cc: Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6) Aleksei Chmura
<(b) (6) >; Robert Kessler
<(b) (6) >; Jeff Sturchio <(b) (6) >; Matthew
R.Torsiello <(b) (6) >
Subject: Re: Good news from Wuhan re. the experiments that NIH is trying to throw us under the bus with...

Peter, before I speak to Tony can you clarify more specifically, re the phrase below:

"...so they're aware that we DID follow reporting requirements, and that this experiment was notified to NIH 3 years and 6 months ago - on time!"

which experiment you are referring to and in which grant, the de-funded one?
d

Just saw CCN interview in which Collins was crucified for either hiding or being unaware and the lying about GoF research. Collins strongly defended NIH and partially defended EcoHealth but also said EcoHealth violated reporting requirements but didn't do forbidden GoF experiments d

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

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

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

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

On Sun, Oct 24, 2021 at 12:29 PM Peter Daszak <(b) (6) > wrote:
>
> David - I saw that tony fauci was interviewed on HBO re Rand Paul's
> latest attack based on Tabak's letter.
> https://www.axios.com/fauci- fires-back-at-rand-paul-for-slam-on-tonigh
> ts-axios-on-hbo-6450dec1-e977-46ae-bf37-84044ba9d8fd.html
>
> His responses were great, directly refuting that our work (and NIAID
> funding) led to covid origins. But he then said this:
>
> " Fauci added that the U.S. "knew what the risk was and what the oversight

> is" at the Wuhan lab. "Certainly, they should have put their progress
> report in a timely manner," Fauci said. "No denial of that, and there will
> be administrative consequences of that."
>
> We'll be responding to Michael Lauer's letter, cc'ing dr Tabak on
> Wednesday or earlier, but I'll also make sure to send our response to the
> NIAID program staff incl Tony so they're aware that we DID follow
> reporting requirements, and that this experiment was notified to NIH 3
> years and 6 months ago - on time!
>
> David - could you give Tony a heads up about this so that he doesn't say
> the wrong thing publicly and also so it doesn't disparage ecohealth any
> further.
>
>
>
> Cheers,
>
> Peter
>
>
>
> Peter Daszak
> (Sent from my iPhone)
>
> President
> EcoHealth Alliance
>
> 460 West 34th Street, New York, NY10001, USA
>
> www.EcoHealthAlliance.org
>
> On Oct 23, 2021, at 7:43 AM, David Morens <(b) (6) wrote:
>
> Great news! This what i suspected and hoped would be true. I still
> think that tactfully pushing back at nih being willful participants in
> your harassment, privately or otherwise, should be considered. NIH is
> supposed to be YOUR ally, not the ally of shameless witch hunters. d
>
> Sent from my iPhone
> David M Morens
> OD, NIAID, NIH
>
> On Oct 23, 2021, at 00:56, Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >
> wrote:
>
>
>
> Just wanted to give you some very good news from China just now.
>
>
>
> We've checked with Wuhan and they only did the one experiment on humanized

MORENS_SUBPOENA_014061
MORENS_NIH_026637
REL0000482421

> mice. It was done during year 4 of our grant and we reported initial
> results from this as soon as we received them back in 2019. They didn't do
> viral titers, just genome copies, and we reported lung tissue data and
> weight loss data. The figure in the year 5 report (filed in 2021 due to
> grant termination etc) is from the same experiment – it's simply the
> follow-up histopath and survival data from that same group of mice – all
> done under BSL3, and all permitted by NIH. I suspected as much today
> because the pattern is the same for all outcomes: Genome copies per gram
> in lung and brain, weight loss and survival all increase more rapidly in
> the chimera SHC014, but level off to insignificant differences by the end
> of the experiment.
>
>
>
> This is good news because it means NIH's assumption that we failed to
> comply with timely reporting is dead wrong, and we can push back directly
> to Michael Lauer in our letter about both the timing of our reporting, and
> about the substance of it on that issue of titers vs. genome copies, and
> the fact that all variables had equalized by Day 6-8 of the expt.
>
>
>
> Breathing a slight sigh of relief here. We'll still be pilloried in
> the press until this new information comes out, but it gives us a
> chance for strong but diplomatic pushback that can then be shared with
> reporters at some point next week…
>
>
>
>
>
>
>
>
>
> Cheers,
>
>
>
> Peter
>
>
>
>
>
>
>
>
>
> Peter Daszak
>
> President
>

MORENS_SUBPOENA_014062
MORENS_NIH_026638
REL0000482421

>
>
> 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: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >
> Sent: Friday, October 22, 2021 8:58 AM
> To: 'Keusch, Gerald T' <(b) (6) 'David Morens
> ((b) (6) <(b) (6)
> Cc: 'Aleksei Chmura ((b) (6)
> <(b) (6) >; 'Robert Kessler
> ((b) (6) <(b) (6) lliance.org >
> S kno Regarding
> R01AI110964
>
>
>
> Jerry and David.
>
>
>
> Michael Lauer is now demanding more from us, and has focused on another
> experiment that WIV did with similar chimeras in mice. He wants to know
> the date so he can try to claim that we didn't act appropriately and
> report it rapidly enough.
>
>
>
> This experiment is Fig 13 in the progress report. It's genome copies per
> gram again but we do say in the text that the viral titer was increased. I'll
> get confirmation about this from Zhengli.
>
>
>
> The interim progress report was submitted 2 years late. We started

MORENS_SUBPOENA_014063
MORENS_NIH_026639
REL0000482421

> uploading it in July 2019 (on time), but never submitted it because our
> grant was renewed and there was no way to submit a normal annual report at
> that point – the system didn't allow it and we didn't realize what we were
> supposed to do. No one at NIH asked for this report and the fact that the
> new award was made suggested to us that all was well. We were in constant
> discussion with NIH staff at the time setting up our new grant details,
> but again no one clarified that they needed anything more from us. The
> only notice we got to submit this was a few weeks ago from Michael Lauer,
> at which point we had to work hard with NIH staff to get the system to
> accept our report.
>
>
>
> Can we set up a zoom call this afternoon to look at these figures so you
> can advise me what I should say to Michael Lauer?
>
>
>
>
>
>
>
>
>
>
> Cheers,
>
>
>
> Peter
>
>
>
>
>
>
>
>
>
>
> Peter Daszak
>
> President
>
>
>
> EcoHealth Alliance
>
> 520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
>
> New York, NY 10018-6507
>
> USA
>
> Tel.: +1-(b) (6)

MORENS_SUBPOENA_014064
MORENS_NIH_026640
REL0000482421

> Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
>
> Twitter: @PeterDaszak
>
>
>
> EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent
> pandemics and promote conservation
>
>
>
> From: Lauer, Michael (NIH/OD) [E] <(b) (6)
> Sent: Friday, October 22, 2021 6:12 AM
> To: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >; Aleksei Chmura
> <(b) (6) >
> Cc: Lauer, Michael (NIH/OD) [E] <(b) (6)
> Subject: Please read and acknowledge receipt -- Regarding R01AI110964
>
>
>
> Dear Dr. Chmura and Dr. Daszak
>
>
>
> Please:
>
>
>
> Confirm receipt of this letter, sent to you on Wednesday, October 20,
> 2021.
> Provide the dates of work for the experiments described in Figure 13 of
> the August 3, 2021, RPPR.
> Ensure that all sequences from all the work conducted under this grant are
> posted immediately to NCBI.
>
>
>
> We continue to look forward to receiving all materials by
> close-of-business Wednesday, October 27, 2021.
>
>
>
> Sincerely,
>
> Michael S Lauer, MD
>
>
>
> Michael S Lauer, MD
>
> NIH Deputy Director for Extramural Research
>

MORENS_SUBPOENA_014065
MORENS_NIH_026641
REL0000482421

> One Center Drive, Building 1, Room 144
>
> Bethesda, MD 20892
>
> (b) (6)
>
>
>
>
>
>
>
>
>
>
>
>
>
>
> From: "Lauer, Michael (NIH/OD) [E]" <(b) (6)
> Date: Wednesday, October 20, 2021 at 1:05 PM
> To: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >, Aleksei Chmura
> <(b) (6) >
> Cc: "Lauer, Michael (NIH/OD) [E]" <(b) (6)
> Subject: Regarding R01AI110964
>
>
>
> Dear Dr. Chmura and Dr. Daszak
>
>
>
> Please see attached.
>
>
>
> Sincerely,
>
> Michael S Lauer, MD
>
>
>
> Michael S Lauer, MD
>
> NIH Deputy Director for Extramural Research
>
> 1 Center Drive, Building 1, Room 144
>
> Bethesda, MD 20892
>
> Phone: (b) (6)
>
> Email:
>

MORENS_SUBPOENA_014066
MORENS_NIH_026642
REL0000482421

>
>
>
>
>
>
>
>
> Disclaimer
>
> The information contained in this communication from the sender is
> confidential. It is intended solely for use by the recipient and others
> authorized to receive it. If you are not the recipient, you are hereby
> notified that any disclosure, copying, distribution or taking action in
> relation of the contents of this information is strictly prohibited and
> may be unlawful.
>
> This email has been scanned for viruses and malware, and may have been
> automatically archived by Mimecast, a leader in email security and cyber
> resilience. Mimecast integrates email defenses with brand protection,
> security awareness training, web security, compliance and other essential
> capabilities. Mimecast helps protect large and small organizations from
> malicious activity, human error and technology failure; and to lead the
> movement toward building a more resilient world. To find out more, visit
> our website.
>
>
>
> Disclaimer
>
> The information contained in this communication from the sender is
> confidential. It is intended solely for use by the recipient and others
> authorized to receive it. If you are not the recipient, you are hereby
> notified that any disclosure, copying, distribution or taking action in
> relation of the contents of this information is strictly prohibited and
> may be unlawful.
>
> This email has been scanned for viruses and malware, and may have been
> automatically archived by Mimecast, a leader in email security and cyber
> resilience. Mimecast integrates email defenses with brand protection,
> security awareness training, web security, compliance and other essential
> capabilities. Mimecast helps protect large and small organizations from
> malicious activity, human error and technology failure; and to lead the
> movement toward building a more resilient world. To find out more, visit
> our website.

Disclaimer

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

This email has been scanned for viruses and malware, and may have been automatically archived by Mimecast, a leader in email security and cyber resilience. Mimecast integrates

emaildefenses with brand protection, security awareness training, websecurity, compliance and otheressential capabilities. Mimecast helps protect large and small organizations from maliciousactivity, human error and technology failure; and to lead the movement toward building a more resilient world. To find out more, visit our website.

MORENS_SUBPOENA_014068
MORENS_NIH_026644
REL0000482421

Date: Wed, 24 Feb 2021 12:19:21 PM -0500
Sent: Wed, 24 Feb 2021 12:19:19 PM -0500
Subject: RE: Briefing Tony
From: "Keusch, Gerald T" <(b) (6)
To: David Morens <(b) (6)
CC: Peter Daszak ((b) (6) <(b) (6)

Good to know. Now how do you FOIA proof your email files? Or is this a closely guarded secret of the government? Do ordinary mortals have the same option?

-----Original Message-----
From: David Morens <(b) (6) >
Sent: Wednesday, February 24, 2021 9:21 AM
To: Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6)
Cc: Peter Daszak ((b) (6) <(b) (6) >
Subject: Re: Briefing Tony

You are right, i need to be more careful. However, as i mentioned once before, i learned from our foia lady here how to make emails disappear after i am foia'd but before the search starts, so i think we are all safe. Plus i deleted most of those earlier emails after sending them to gmail. D

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

> On Feb 23, 2021, at 21:53, Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6) wrote:
>
> We need you alive and well, so pay attention to the email address you use. If you get FOIA'ed and have to respond it will have Peter and, of lesser importance, me on the correspondence. The less we provide the enemy the better.
>
> That said, thanks for planting the seed for this conversation to be. It will provide Tony with insights and it will be Peter who provides them - pointing out how amazingly connected (and important) he, Peter, is. Tony too.
>
> Jerry
>
>
> Gerald T. Keusch, M.D.
> Professor of Medicine
> Associate Director
> National Emerging Infectious Diseases Laboratory Boston University,
> Boston MA 02118
>
> -----Original Message-----
> From: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] <(b) (6) >
> Sent: Tuesday, February 23, 2021 2:36 PM
> To: Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6)
> Cc: Peter Daszak ((b) (6)
> <(b) (6) >
> Subject: Re: Briefing Tony
>

> Thanks for reminding me, but I am pretty sure it is OK now to use my NIH email because 1) I haven't been a bad boy, and 2) the brown shirts have left town, and 3) it is no loger a cardinal sin to know Dr. Daszak!
>
> However, your point is well taken, as I often do say subversive things without realizing it.....
>
> I wonder what Tony is thinking about Peter's grant situation. He hasn't told anyone as far as I know, and we won't bring it up. he might do so, but I would be surprised.
>
> Also, Peter, I heard t5hat he want's Cliff Lane to be on that call. You may remember that Cliff went to China last spring to look at the COVID situation. david
>
> --
> david..... PS, I will be on Public Health Service deployment from 10
> December 2020 until 23 January 2021. During this time I will have
> limited access to email and phone contact. Ty, dmm

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) (work)
(cell)

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

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

---------- Forwarded message ---------
From: Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6)
Date: Thu, 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.

MORENS_SUBPOENA_002576
MORENS_NIH_009092
REL0000482423

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%2Fctheories-covid-19-commission%2F&data=05%7C01%7Cdmorens%40niaid.nih.gov%7Cdccb9a5e93bd4342146008db8a0f2cc3%7C14b77578977342d585&sdata=VuCB69HiGvilQ5HNgekdRVVRAQkrLBCf9OQQx2WrNDQ%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

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, Septe(b) (6) 1:31 AM
To: Hotez, Peter Jay
Cc: Roberts, Rich <(b) Jeffrey Sturchio <(b) (6) >; David Morens <(b) (6) >; Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6)
Subject: RE: Another attack from Republican Senators

MORENS_SUBPOENA_002578
MORENS_NIH_009094
REL0000482423

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

Texas Children's Hospital: Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics | Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development | Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

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

Baylor University, University Professor

Rice University, Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty

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

E-mail | Twitter | LinkedIn | Skype: (b) (6)

Amazon Author Center | Daily Beast Contributor

Senior Coordinator & Executive Support: Douglas Soriano

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

Media Inquiries:

(b) (6)

(b) (6)

(b) (6)

iPhone

On 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

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 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) >; 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_002583
MORENS_NIH_009099
REL0000482423

<(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 |
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)
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, 6 Feb 2023 5:46:17 PM -0500
Sent: Mon, 6 Feb 2023 5:45:49 PM -0500
Subject: Re: Notes from our call
From: "Hotez, Peter Jay" <(b) (6)
To: Roberts, Rich <(b) (6)
Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >; Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6) David
CC: Morens <(b) (6) turchio <(b) (6) i Chmura
<(b) (6) >;
Attachments: image001.jpg; image002.jpg; image003.jpg; image001.jpg; image002.jpg; image003.jpg

Wonderful, I'm so glad it went well! MGH is an extraordinary place, it's where I did my clinical training

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

Texas Children's Hospital: Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics | Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development | Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

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

Baylor University, University Professor
Rice University, Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty
Texas A&M University, Faculty-Senior Fellow, Hagler Inst for Advanced Study & Scowcroft Institute of Intl Affairs

E-mail | Twitter | LinkedIn | Skype: (b) (6)
Amazon Author Center | Daily Beast utor

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

Media Inquiries:
(b) (6)

iPhone

On Feb 6, 2023, at 4:22 PM, Roberts, Rich <(b) (6) wrote:

Perfectly. I had an aortic valve replacement by TAVR last Tuesday at 2:00 pm and walked out of MGH at 11:30 the next day. I have been feeling good ever since and was issued a clean bill of health today.

Rich

Richard J. Roberts
New England Biolabs
240 County Road
Ipswich, MA 01938-2723
USA

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

Executive Assistant: (b) (6)
Tel: (b) (6)
Fax: 0
email: (b) (6)

From: Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6)
Sent: Monday, February
To: Roberts, Rich <(b) (6)
Cc: Peter Daszak <. . . . Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6) David Morens
<(b) (6) (b) (6) Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6)
>
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

E-mail | Twitter | LinkedIn | Skype: (b) (6)

Amazon Author Center | Daily Beast Contributor

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

(b) (6)

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 my heart surgery to perform his miracle of turning water into wine. No luck though.

We have to help ourselves!

Rich

Richard J. Roberts
New England Biolabs
240 County Road
Ipswich, MA 01938-2723
USA
Tel: (b) (6)
Fax: (9
email: (b) (6)

Exec : (b) (6)
Tel: (b) (6)
Fax:
email: (b) (6)

From: Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6)
Sent: Monday, Fe
To: Peter Daszak (b) (6) >; Keusch, (b) (6)
Cc: (b) (6) (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) | Phone: (b) (6) | Fax: 713-798-2299

Media Inquiries:

(b) (6)

From: Peter Daszak (b) (6)
Sent: Monday, Febr
To: Keusch, Gerald (b) (6) otez, Peter Jay (b) (6)
Cc: (b) (6) >; Roberts, Rich (b) (6) >; Jeffrey Sturchio <
(b) (6) ; Aleksei Chmura (b) (6)
Subject: RE: Notes from our call

Just saw that Richard Ebright and others have formed a new 501c3 to combat research that will enhance pathogens:

https://biosafetynow.org/team/

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

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

Tel.: +1 (b) (6)
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

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) n>; 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.

MORENS_SUBPOENA_017255
MORENS_NIH_035446
REL0000482424

Summary of discussion:

- What could the goals of the coalition be, and what should they not be
  - Overall goal to have a 'coalition of the willing' form, organized by an independent group (hopefully AAAS, or similar level) to defend pandemic prevention research that is under attack
- How should we reach out to build a coalition?
  - Making contact with key people from each of the above, trying to set up a conference call, convened by a leading independent group (e.g. AAAS) where multiple contacts come together and the discussion is led by the independent group.
- Who should we try to engage: Academies, academic societies, pro-science pressure groups, senior figures in the field, funders, and governmental leaders. Initial list:
  - AAAS
  - AIDS Vaccine Advocacy Coalition
  - American Public Health Association (Georges Benjamin)
  - American Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene (Dan Bausch, Karen Goraleski, Kent Kester)
  - Association of Public & Land-Grant Universities
  - Georgia Global Health Alliance
  - Bay Area Global Health Alliance
  - Consortium of Universities for Global Health
  - COVID Collaborative
  - Global Health Council
  - Global Health Technologies Coalition
  - Infectious Diseases Society of America Carlos del Rio (Jerry will reach out)
  - International AIDS Vaccine Initiative
  - Nobel Laureates Campaigns
  - Pandemic Action Network
  - PATH
  - Research!America – Reach back out – Jerry will
  - Union of Concerned Scientists
  - Washington Global Health Alliance
  - 156 virologists letter
  - NAM
  - NAS
  - NL Campaigns (to be kept informed of progress by Rich)
  - CUGH
  - The pandemic action coalition
  - FASEB
  - Global Health technologies coalition
  - APLU (KHG has connection)
  - Wellcome Trust (Paul Schreier is the interim head).
  - Dr. Tony Fauci
  - Felicia Goodrum (Arizona) and Stacey Schultz-Cherry (St. Judes)
  - OSTP
  - ASV – Anne Moscona (President-Elect)

Cheers,

MORENS_SUBPOENA_017256
MORENS_NIH_035447
REL0000482424

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)
s (b) (6)
(b) (6) ; Jeffrey Sturchio (b) (6) >; Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) (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

MORENS_SUBPOENA_017257
MORENS_NIH_035448
REL0000482424

E-mail | Twitter | LinkedIn | Skype: (b) (6)

Amazon Author Center | Daily Beast Contributor

Senior Coordinator & Executive Support: Douglas Soriano

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

Media Inquiries:
(b) (6)

From: Peter Daszak <(b) (6)
Sent: Wednesday, Fe 4 AM
To: Hotez, Peter Ja (b) (6)
Cc: David Morens (b) (6)
(b) (6) Jc ; 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)

(b) (6) US (New York)
US

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

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

Tel.: +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: Tuesday, January 31, 2023 3:04 PM
To: Peter Daszak (b) (6)
Cc: David Morens <(b) (6) >; Roberts, Rich (b) (6) >; Aleksei Chmura (b) (6) >
(b) (6) Jeffrey Sturchio (b) (6) Keusch, Gerald T <
Subject: great articles!

Many thanks Peter! Appreciate the support!

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

Texas Children's Hospital: Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics | Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development | Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

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

Baylor University, University Professor

Rice University, Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty

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

E-mail | Twitter | LinkedIn | Skype: (b) (6)

Amazon Author Center | Daily Beast Contributor

Senior Coordinator & Executive Support: Douglas Soriano

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

Media Inquiries:

(b) (6)

(b) (6)

iPhone

On Jan 31, 2023, at 1:44 PM, Peter Daszak (b) (6) > wrote:

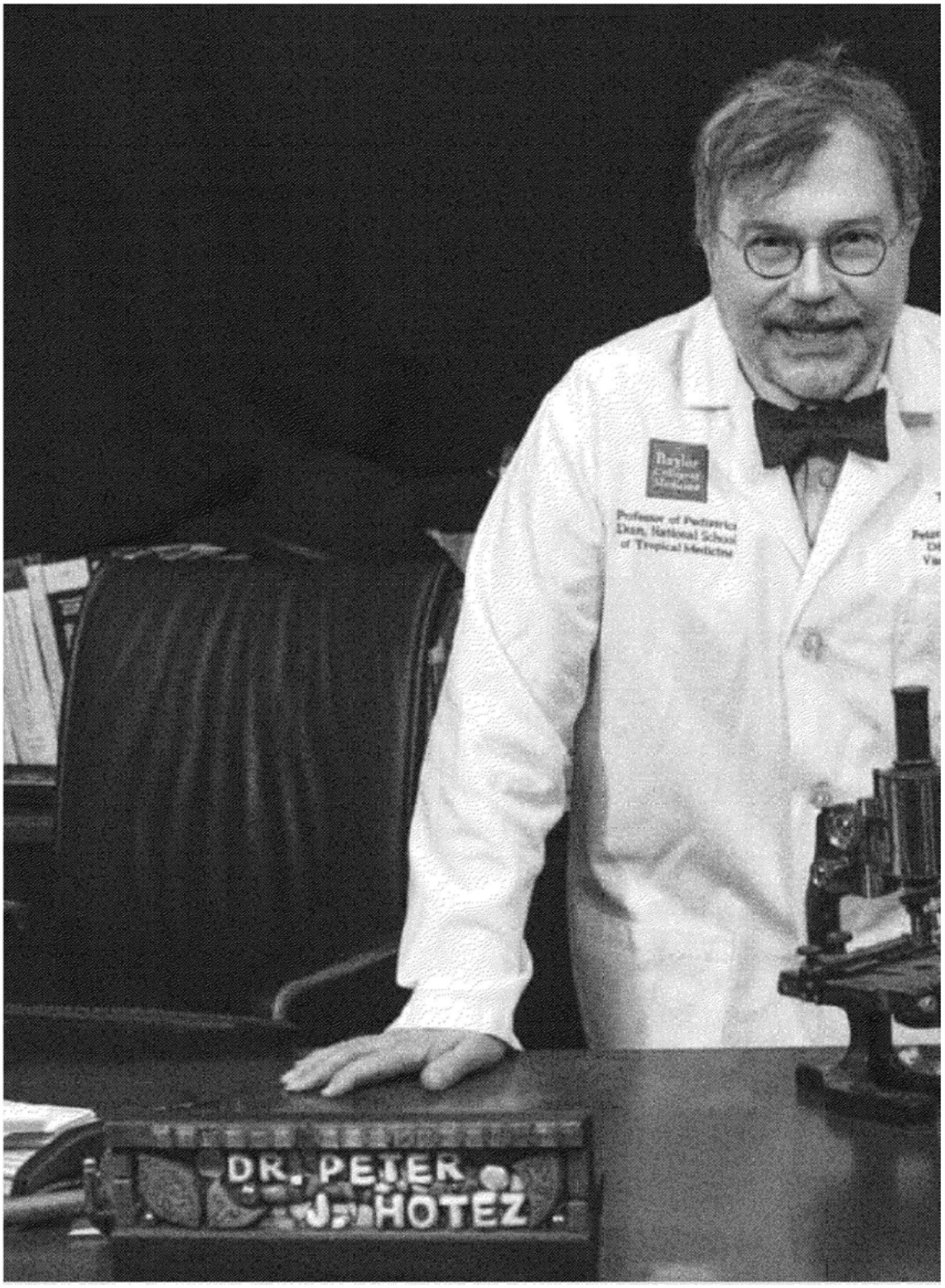
First, want to send my appreciation for your great interview in the Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists yesterday, Peter:

https://thebulletin.org/2023/01/viral- spread-peter-hotez-on-the-increase-of-anti-science-aggression-on-social-media/

Viral spread: Peter Hotez on the increase of anti-science aggression on social media

By Sara Goudarzi | January 30, 2023

MORENS_SUBPOENA_017260
MORENS_NIH_035451
REL0000482424



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

MORENS_SUBPOENA_017261
MORENS_NIH_035452
REL0000482424

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.

MORENS_SUBPOENA_017262
MORENS_NIH_035453
REL0000482424

All our training to be a scientist says you're not supposed to talk about Republicans, Democrats, liberals, or conservatives; you're supposed to be politically neutral. But what do you do when the anti-science, anti-vaccine aggression is predominantly coming along the partisan lines from the far right? How do you articulate that without basically saying, "the reason I'm doing this is to save lives?" It's no longer a theoretical discussion; Americans have lost their lives because they believed the politics, and to be able to articulate that is really threading a needle there.

Goudarzi: With Twitter's moderators practically gone, the platform's announcement that it will no longer enforce measures to combat misleading information regarding COVID-19 and will give amnesty to previously banned users, there seems to be a rise in anti-vaccination sentiment.

Hotez: It's blown up. It's gotten much tougher: Anything I put out there gets immediately pounced on, and I can trace the origins to four or five either elected leaders or these contrarians from far right think tanks and elsewhere who blow dog whistles. They will put out a (typically false or exaggerated) statement against me, and then I'll receive hundreds and hundreds of tweets or emails specifically targeting me. About half of them look like bots because the person sending it is an empty face with a gazillion numbers attached to the Twitter handle. But others are real people tuning into Fox News every night who totally fall into the rabbit hole because they seem to worship these contrarians. The other piece to this is a lot of Nazi imagery and fantasies, a lot of antisemitism, because they know I'm a Jewish scientist. And that's yet another dimension to all of this.

Goudarzi: How do you think this affects patients in healthcare settings? Have you had personal experience with those who decided not to get vaccinated because of information on the internet or social media indicating the shots are dangerous?

Hotez: I've had sort of the opposite experience, where patients were in the rabbit hole, had seen my postings, see me as credible, and because of me are taking the vaccine, which is kind of nice and spurs me on to keep going at this. But more and more I've also had the other extreme as well, which is based on what they see on social media: People will take the time to write me a threatening email or make a call to the lab or to the office. Then I have to bring in law enforcement through the Texas Medical Center Police or the Houston Police Department and the Anti-Defamation League (because they have a list of individuals who are known to make these types of threats). It's taken this very, very dark turn as a consequence.

Goudarzi: Anti-vaccination movements are nothing new and go back to the late 1700s, even before the development of the smallpox vaccine and then the 1800s and again in the 1990s and 2000s. Do you think social media has allowed the latest movement to gain even more steam than previous movements?

Hotez: I wrote an article about the whole history of [anti-vax movements] in *Journal of Clinical Investigation*. I think it really accelerated in the early 2000s with autism, in part aided by social media—it was new then but was starting up. Now, I think social media has really been an enabler. It's not only social media; I think amazon.com was a big contributor. If you search for books on vaccinations, what's out there is a horror show. My books are among the top-rated on vaccines, and they're probably ranked about number 30 or 40, because it's all preceded by the phony-baloney, anti-vaccine COVID conspiracy books. So, it's Amazon and social media. And Fox News is having a huge impact. This has been documented by Media Matters, the watchdog group, as well as this very interesting paper that came out of ETH Zurich, which is like the MIT of Central Europe.

Goudarzi: Do you think Amazon is purposefully placing these books higher up in search results, or are search results just a reflection of how much steam the movement has gained?

Hotez: I don't know. Amazon is probably amoral. I don't think they think about this one way or the other, but whatever sells. So, it's whatever people are buying—that's how they're ranking it.

Goudarzi: Are you seeing a difference in the attitudes towards COVID-19 vaccines versus say the flu or MMR vaccines?

Hotez: Yeah, because remember, MMR came out of autism; that was the [original] assertion that the MMR vaccine causes autism. That was [*The Lancet*] paper from 1998. But then around 2014, 2015 (I like to think because I was helping to take some of the wind out of the sails around autism), you started to see the anti-vaccine movement pivot around this concept of health and medical freedom, that you can't tell us what to do about our kids. And that was the first link to the Republican Tea Party here in Texas. In fact, they started getting PAC [political action committee] money… It really took off in Texas and Oklahoma and that's what you see came off the rails with COVID-19. It has been documented now by Charles Gaba, a health analyst whose work has been mentioned in the *New York Times*, National Public Radio, Pew Research Center and Peterson Academic Center, that the lowest vaccination rates were where health freedom propaganda was the strongest, and among those who are in red states like Texas, the redder the county, the lower the vaccination rate, the higher the numbers of deaths. It's a really tight correlation, so much so that David Leonhardt in the *New York Times* has called it red COVID. My forthcoming book, *The Deadly Rise of Antiscience: A Scientist's Warning* and it's full on linked to far-right politics and it's been embraced by the House Freedom Caucus.

After vaccines became widely available, the statements from the 2021 CPAC conference of conservatives in Dallas was first along the lines of: "they're going to vaccinate you, and then they're going to take away your guns and your bibles." It's ridiculous. A quarter of the country accepted it—mostly in Texas and the Southern states, and then [Georgia US Rep.] Marjorie Taylor Greene called people like me "medical brownshirts," using Nazi paramilitary analogy. Then, those in the Senate GOP, such as Senator Johnson from Wisconsin, held anti-vaccine roundtables, amplified by Fox News. Every night, during the last half of 2021, nighttime anchors Tucker Carlson and Laura Ingraham filled their airwaves with very strong anti-vaccine rhetoric, discrediting the effectiveness and safety of vaccines. And then contrarians from the far right think tanks piled on.

As I said, if it were just a theoretical construct, I wouldn't get so exercised, but 40,000 Texans died during the delta wave in the last half of 2021 and early Omicron BA1 wave in 2022 because they refused the COVID vaccine and were victims of this targeted aggression towards them. The number that I put out in the new book is 200,000 Americans across the country. The Kaiser Family Foundation and the health analyst Charles Gaba come up with similar numbers. On that basis, anti-vaccine activism, anti-science aggression, if you look at it as a societal killing force, is killing more Americans than gun violence, terrorism, nuclear proliferation, or cyber-attacks.

Goudarzi: And the interesting thing is that COVID-19 vaccines have been tremendously successful.

Hotez: Alison Galvani at Yale has just done a modeling exercise with the Commonwealth Fund, indicating that COVID vaccines have saved 3.1 million Americans.

Goudarzi: Yet the messaging against these vaccines seems to be just as successful and

as you mentioned hundreds of thousands of deaths could have been prevented here in the United States. So, it begs the question, why are we having such an anti-science moment?

Hotez: It's because it's fully ensconced in the political landscape of the country that became part of the far right, and people refused the vaccine out of allegiance. Part of showing your allegiance to the far right is not getting vaccinated. Then, you saw the Proud Boys march in anti-vaccine rallies, and an early arrest in the January 6 insurrection included a prominent anti-vaccine activist.

The question that I get is: "Hey doc, what should we do about this?" And I say I don't know, because this goes outside the health sector. This is a political problem right now. How do you uncouple the anti-science from the politics? It's been really, really challenging, and the Biden administration has not been willing to take this on. Vivek Murthy, who is a very good Surgeon General, issued an advisory in July of 2021 about social media and said we have to work with Meta and Facebook and Twitter to prevent this stuff from going viral. That's fine, but it doesn't get to those who are generating the content. This is where we're starting to see breakdowns, in my view, among our scientific and professional societies, and even the National Academies, because this idea that we have to remain politically neutral is so strong that no one will talk about it the way I'm talking about it with you. You have to be politically neutral; it's silly.

To paraphrase Desmond Tutu and Elie Wiesel, neutrality favors the aggressor.

Goudarzi: What do you think the end goal is for those generating the content and spearheading these movements? There are certain people who truly believe that vaccines could cause x, whatever x is, but there are others like Gov. DeSantis who himself was vaccinated yet promotes anti-vaccination sentiments.

Hotez: Early on when vaccines first came out, he was actually pro-vaccines. So, what caused the change? When it was pre-health freedom, it was fairly straightforward: It was people monetizing the internet, selling nutritional supplements and books on phony autism cures. When I wrote the book, trying to look at other examples of this, I found what's going on now in Stalin's Russia in the 1930s 1940s. This is part of the signature of an authoritarian regime: to target the science and scientists. When you read Hannah Arendt's *The Origins of Totalitarianism*, you see this is part of the playbook. Even though it's self-defeating, it still fosters allegiance and belonging. I think what happened is with the anti-vaccine groups for whom the wind was let out of their sails around autism, they needed a new thing. They found money and power and relevance by tying themselves to the far right, and the far right created a whole new cadre of people that they wouldn't have otherwise.

Goudarzi: Just add adding to that: Do you think vaccine disinformation is propagated or reinforced purposely by other governments to cause division within the United States, similar to the 2016 election?

Hotez: No question about that, and I think Russia is probably the most egregious [perpetrator], and this has been documented. David Broniatowski, a computer scientist at the George Washington University, has written about this and the Russian bots' roles. In some cases, they're using both anti-vaccine and pro-vaccine rhetoric. They are specifically using this as a wedge issue to divide the country and destabilize our democracy. And it's not only the Russians—the Chinese, North Koreans and Iranians are doing this. But I think Russia is probably the biggest state actor.

What I've recommended to the Biden administration is they create an inter-governmental agency, because the United States Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) doesn't know what to do at this point. Because of the foreign actors involved, you have to bring in Homeland Security, the Commerce Department, the

MORENS_SUBPOENA_017265
MORENS_NIH_035456
REL0000482424

Justice Department and the State Department as well. There are people smart enough who know about these big dangerous societal forces, and we need their advice on what levers we can pull and push. But they haven't wanted to take it on.

Similarly, at the level of the UN agencies, the World Health Organization doesn't know what to do at this point. So, you're starting to see that same US-style anti-vaccine activity moving to Canada, the United Kingdom and Western Europe—and I wrote about this in a paper in *Nature Reviews Immunology*. You're even seeing it now in low- and middle- income countries, including those in Africa. So, it's going to destabilize the global vaccine ecosystem, even around childhood vaccination.

Goudarzi: Scientific debate around new treatment or preventive measure used to happen more or less behind closed doors. But given the nature of a real time pandemic, some of those debates are taking place on social media, and sometimes that leads to the lay audience misunderstanding certain aspects of the discussion and spreading misinformation. How valuable, and how harmful, do you think it is to have scientific debates between researchers on social media?

Hotez: It's often not between researchers. For instance, one of the most common things when they target me on social media is they say I should be in a public debate with the lead anti-vaccine activist. And I say, "No, that's not how science is done. I've written a scientific paper and if somebody has an issue with that, they can either refute it in a scientific journal, or publish their own finding." Of course, they can't get it published because there's no science behind it. So, what they want to do instead is they want a public debate.

And I say, "Look, you can debate 18th-century enlightenment philosophy, but science is not typically something that's debated in that kind of forum; we have a mechanism for doing that through scientific publication and peer review." And they don't want to play that way. They just want to put out their propaganda because that's all they have behind it. An example is ivermectin or hydroxychloroquine, which the scientific community has clearly shown has no effect on COVID-19. Hydroxychloroquine is even harmful. But the problem is the anti-vaccine force has dominated the internet, and they say, "Hey, scientists don't want to debate us, what are they hiding?"

And that's, again, how they weaponize communication.

Goudarzi: I was actually thinking of earlier during the pandemic. Because there was so little time, some researchers were putting their papers up on open access preprint servers, which didn't require a peer review, and then others were weighing in on social media platforms. At times, you would see non-scientists take one aspect of that discussion and spread something that wasn't necessarily true.

Hotez: I think with the whole preprint server mechanism, ultimately the benefits outweighed the downside. I can't tell you how many times I had to depend on data from bioRxiv, medRxiv in order to make sense of what was going on. If I had to wait a few weeks for it to air in *New England Journal of Medicine* or *Nature* and *Science*—and by the way, they did a pretty good job too; they were able to turn that around in record time—[it would have been too late.] If you're looking for any silver lining in this pandemic, it's the journal editors, the whole preprint server mechanism, and the willingness of the scientific community to share information. And I think for most of the public understood that they were seeing this play out in real time and that there wasn't always going to be consistency. The problem was those who were who were weaponizing it for their own personal or political gain.

Goudarzi: But you still think the advantages outweighed the disadvantages?

Hotez: I think so. It's hard to imagine how I could've really talked about everything going on knowledgeably on CNN, NBC, or wherever without having access to the

information. The preprints were so important.

Goudarzi: Some researchers have either left Twitter or are thinking of leaving. What will this do to scientific discourse? Would it make sense to stay on the platform to counter misinformation and disinformation and increase public awareness, or should researchers seek a more balanced platform?

Hotez: I don't have the answer. I struggle with this every day. I mean, the aggression against me and the threats would continue even if I wasn't on Twitter, because more often than not, it's not against anything that I tweeted. Ninety percent of the time, it's people who see me as a threat to undermine their politics or their business line and are just making up things about me and would still continue even if I wasn't on Twitter. So that's the reason I stay on it, because at least I'm getting out important and timely information. But it is really painful and awful to see what's going on there.

Goudarzi: Is the amount of aggression you face tied to the changing ownership of Twitter and political shifts?

Hotez: The politics around the anti-science, anti-vaccine and phony baloney about COVID origins had started with the pandemic in 2020. But now with all the contrarians back at once it reminds me of the old *Batman* series when they brought back Catwoman, Joker, Penguin, and Riddler all at once to do away with Batman. That seems to be going on, so it's been their superstars who are super energized by being invited back to Twitter, and they are using the platform very aggressively.

Goudarzi: What are some of the lessons we've learned about disinformation and misinformation over the last few years regarding social media that we should consider moving forward?

Hotez: I would say social media is a major weapon of choice for spreading disinformation. But remember, we have to get to those who are generating content. Social media is an important vehicle, but it's not the only one. I think we probably should stop calling it misinformation, disinformation or infodemic. We should call it for what it is, which is anti-science aggression, because it is a killing force. What we realized is that the science aggression is taking lives in the United States on an unprecedented scale.

For that reason, it needs to be addressed, and that's the part the scientific community has not come to terms with. When I call myself a scientist, it's not just co-heading a team of scientists making a COVID vaccine for the world that has reached a 100 million people. That's a very noble activity, but from my perspective, even that's still insufficient. Now being a scientist means, to some extent, being willing to combat the anti-science. It's nothing that any of us signed up for. I never dreamed when I got my MD-PhD in New York in the 1980s that this was something I'd be doing, but this is what's in front of us.

And I don't really feel that the scientific community—the professional societies, scientific bodies, even the academy—fully understand the impact. Hopefully it'll be clear when my book comes out, but it may become even clearer when we see the House GOP hearings. I predict the oversight committee and the judiciary committee or select subcommittees will become an anti-science witch hunt and will target prominent American scientists. And then we'll get a better picture.

MORENS_SUBPOENA_017267
MORENS_NIH_035458
REL0000482424

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: 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) >
Subject: Re: My latest

Many thanks David! Best Peter

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

Texas Children's Hospital: Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics | Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development | Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

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

Baylor University, University Professor

Rice University, Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty

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

E-mail | Twitter | LinkedIn | Skype: (b) (6)

Amazon Author Center | Daily Beast Contributor

Senior Coordinator & Executive Support: Douglas Soriano

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

Media Inquiries:

(b) (6)

(b) (6)

iPhone

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

kudos to you, again! dmm

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

On Jan 30, 2023, at 14:37, Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6) wrote:

https://thebulletin.org/2023/01/viral- spread-peter-hotez-on-the-increase-of-anti-science-aggression-on-social-media/

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

Texas Children's Hospital: Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics | Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development | Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

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

Baylor University, University Professor

Rice University, Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty

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

E-mail | Twitter | LinkedIn | Skype: (b) (6)

Amazon Author Center | Daily Beast Contributor

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

Media Inquiries:
(b) (6)

iPhone

On Jan 27, 2023, at 2:43 PM, Roberts, Rich <(b) (6) wrote:

Peter:

No, I didn't come up with the name.

But one I haverecently come up with is CheatGPT instead of ChatGPT.

Rich

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

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

From: Peter Daszak (b) (6)
Sent: Friday, January 27, 2023 3:30 PM
To: Roberts, Rich (b) (6) Keusch, Gerald T (b) (6) 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 pushback against calls to block scientific research, I don't think a campaign to support gain of function work that's designed to see what would happen if you make a lethal pathogen more transmissible is anything any of us particularly want to get behind right now!

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

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

Tel.: +1 (b) (6)
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

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

From: Roberts, Rich (b) (6)
Sent: Friday, January 27, 2023 11:08 AM
To: Peter Daszak (b) (6) >; Keusch, Gerald T < (b) (6) Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6)
Cc: David Morens (b) (6) >; Jeffrey Sturchio < (b) (6) >; Aleksei Chmura (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.

MORENS_SUBPOENA_017271
MORENS_NIH_035462
REL0000482424

Rich

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

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

From: Peter Dasza (b) (6)
Sent: Friday, January 27, 2023 8:39 A M
To: Keusch, Gerald T (b) (6) ; Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6)
Cc: David Moren (b) (6) ; Jeffrey Sturchio < (b) (6) hmura (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

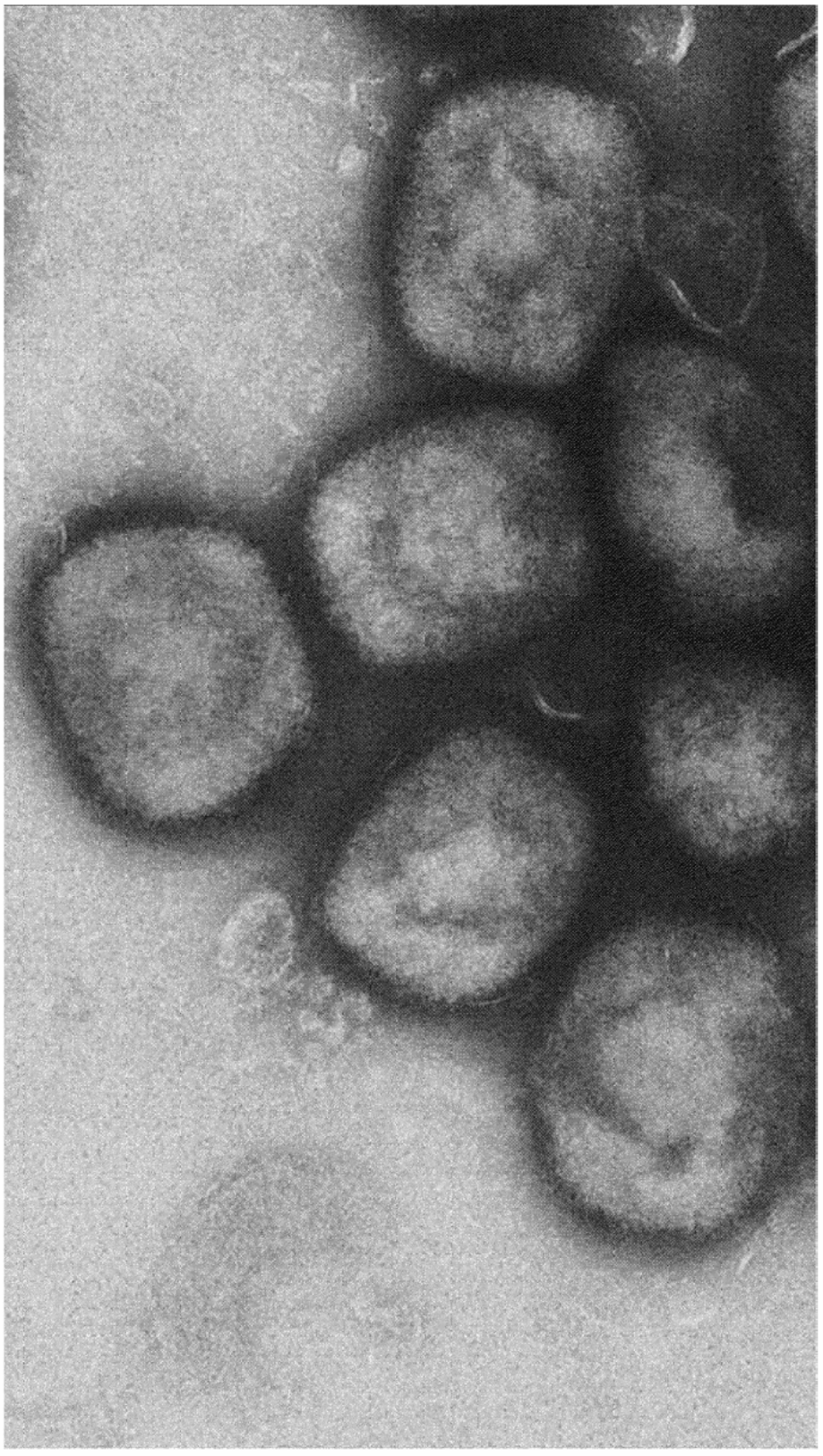
Virologists defend their science as officials eye more oversight of risky experiments

MORENS_SUBPOENA_017272
MORENS_NIH_035463
REL0000482424

NELL GREENFIELDBOYCE

[redacted]

MORENS_SUBPOENA_017273
MORENS_NIH_035464
REL0000482424



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

MORENS_SUBPOENA_017274
MORENS_NIH_035465
REL0000482424

kind of lab accident or malicious attack.
They worry that continued speculation about a lab in China is fueling calls for more regulation of experiments with pathogens, and that this will stifle the basic research needed to prepare for future pandemics.

The virologists issued their statement just ahead of a key meeting Friday held by outside advisors to the federal government. That group is set to wrap up a recent review of the existing oversight system for experiments that are controversial because they could create new potential threats.
The advisors' draft recommendations call for expanding a special decision-making process that currently weighs the risks and benefits of experiments that might make "potential pandemic pathogens" more dangerous.
"The government really has a strong interest on behalf of all of us, in the public, in knowing when researchers want to make a virus more lethal or more transmissible, and understanding how that would be done and why that would be done, and whether the benefits are worth it," says Tom Inglesby, director of the Center for Health Security at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health.
Sponsor Message
He thinks if the draft recommendations were adopted by the government, "it would be a very big step forward."

The origins of the pandemic

All of this comes as the lab in China, known as the Wuhan Institute of Virology, is again in the headlines. An internal government watchdog released a report this week criticizing the National Institutes of Health, saying it failed to adequately monitor grant awards given to a nonprofit that had collaborated with scientists at the Wuhan lab.
Felicia Goodrum, a virologist at the University of Arizona, says that open-minded experts have investigated the origins of the pandemic. The available evidence, she says, supports the notion that the virus emerged from nature just like other viruses such as HIV and Ebola did — by jumping from animals into people who had contact with them.
"The evidence that we have to date suggests that SARS-CoV-2 entered the human population by that route," says Goodrum. "There is no evidence to the contrary or in support of a lab leak, nothing credible."

Basic research on viruses, she says, is what led to the swift development of vaccines and drugs to fight the pandemic.

And yet virologists have watched in dismay as misinformation and conspiracy theories have placed the blame on science.

Sponsor Message
"There's this complete disconnect between reality and what happened," says Michael Imperiale, a virologist at the University of Michigan.
He says that while debates have gone on for years about the wisdom of doing experiments that might make bad viruses even worse, this moment feels different.

"The pandemic," he says, "has really kind of heightened the urgency with which we need to address these issues, just because of all the controversy that's been out there regarding, you know, was this a lab leak or not?"

A bird flu study raises alarm

Unlike, say, nuclear physics research, biology has traditionally had a culture of openness. After the anthrax attacks in 2001, however, biologists began to grapple with the possibility that their published work might serve as recipes for evildoers who wanted to make bioweapons.

And in 2011, there was an outcry after government-funded researchers altered a bird flu

MORENS_SUBPOENA_017275
MORENS_NIH_035466
REL0000482424

virus that can be deadly in people. Their lab work made this virus more contagious in the lab animals that are stand-ins for people.

Critics said they'd created a super flu. Proponents said that viruses sometimes have to be manipulated in the lab to see what they might be capable of; in nature, after all, mutations occur all the time and that is how pandemic strains emerge.

That episode marked the start of a long, heated debate, plus research moratoriums and ultimately the development of new regulations. In 2017, a review system was put into place to weigh the risks and benefits of studies that might make a potential pandemic pathogen even worse. So far just three proposed lines of research, with influenza viruses, have been deemed risky enough to merit that kind of extra scrutiny.

"We are really talking about a small amount of research proposals," says Lyric Jorgenson, the acting associate director for science policy and the acting director of the Office of Science Policy at the NIH.

Sponsor Message

She says just before the pandemic started, officials asked advisors on the National Science Advisory Board for Biosecurity to consider whether the government needed to be more transparent to the public about how it was making decisions about this kind of research. Before that work was done, the pandemic hit and everything was put on hold. Last year, officials asked the group to broaden its work and to evaluate the regulations more comprehensively.

If the draft changes developed by this advisory group are eventually adopted by the government, an extra layer of oversight would apply to any study "reasonably anticipated" to enhance the transmission or virulence of any pathogen in a way that could make it a public health threat. That means more experiments on more viruses would get a closer look.

"What this new recommendation is saying, is that even if you start with a virus that had no potential to cause an epidemic or pandemic, if you are doing research that will change that virus in a way where it could now cause an uncontrollable disease, or a widely spreading disease, that has to be reviewed by this new framework," says Inglesby.

What's more, the advisory group has noted that "increased transparency in the review process is needed to engender public trust in the review and oversight processes."

What's "Reasonably Anticipated"

The American Society for Microbiology has responded positively to the draft recommendations, saying "we urge swift implementation of the recommended changes by the federal agencies engaged in this work."

But some virologists think the devil will be in the details if these recommendations turn into policy.

"They keep using this phrase 'reasonably anticipated,'" says Imperiale. "How is that going to be interpreted? Is there going to be clear guidance as to what is meant by that?"

Sponsor Message

Researchers often don't know what will happen when they start an experiment, says Goodrum, especially when the science is cutting-edge.

"That's where the big scientific advancements come from. And so to tie our hands behind our back, to say we can only do the science that we can anticipate, then we're 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."

MORENS_SUBPOENA_017276
MORENS_NIH_035467
REL0000482424

The U.S. is unusual in that it has a lot of public discussion of these issues and a system to try to manage the risks, says Inglesby.

He thinks that oversight can be made stronger without getting in the way of science.

"I am avidly, absolutely pro-science and pro-research, and in particular pro-infectious disease research," says Inglesby.

But he says there's a very small part of that research "where there is the potential for very high risk if things go wrong, either by accident or on purpose. And so we have to get the balance right, between the risks that could unfold and the potential benefits."

lab leak theory
coronavirus research
pathogens
Facebook
Twitter
Flipboard
Email

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

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

Tel.: +1.(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

MORENS_SUBPOENA_017277
MORENS_NIH_035468
REL0000482424

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, Jan PM
To: Keusch, Gerald T (b) (6)
Cc: Peter Daszak (b) (6) <
(b) (6) ; Jeffrey Sturchio (b) (6)
Chmura (b) (6) >; Rich Roberts (b) (6)
Subject: Re: Tweet by Miner Flux on Twitter

I think top priority is the Biden Administration appointing a new NIH Director and someone really good, I don't understand the holdup.

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

Texas Children's Hospital: Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics | Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development | Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

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

Baylor University, University Professor

Rice University, Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty

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

E-mail | Twitter | LinkedIn | Skype: (b) (6)

Amazon Author Center | Daily Beast Contributor

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

Media Inquiries:

(b) (6)

(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) ffrey 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 farright 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

MORENS_SUBPOENA_017279
MORENS_NIH_035470
REL0000482424

Medicine | Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology | Health Policy Scholar

Baylor University, University Professor

Rice University, Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty

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

E-mail | Twitter | LinkedIn | Skype: (b) (6)

Amazon Author Center | Daily Beast Contributor

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

Media Inquiries:

(b) (6)

(b) (6)

iPhone

On Jan 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.: +1-(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, Janu
To: Peter Dasza (b) (6)
Cc: Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6) Jeffrey Sturchio <
(b) (6) a <
(b) (6) Gerald Keusch (b) (6)
Rich Roberts <(b) (6)
Subject: Re: Tw x on Twitter

Guys, although the director search seems to be proceeding with total secrecy, I learned yesterday that our worst fear has come true: a highly undesirable internal candidate has applied. This person is a middle to upper level physician scientist who is widely disliked as a self-serving narcissist, back stabber, and manipulator. Tthis opinion comes not from me, but from colleagues with much more knowledge of him/her than me. Of course, being an A-hole doesn't necessarily predict a bad leader, but there is widespread worry.

I won't name the candidate but Peter S would know because her/his research at NIAID is in the area of clinical management of rare hereditary pediatric diseases such as Job disease and CGD. Peter H, you could easily ID this person, but i do not want to do so, in part because i have limited personal experience with him/her and am merely relating opinions of colleagues i trust

This individual is in a key management position in which she/he has earned a reputation of cresting an ant-meritocracy: screwing the best scientists while supporting those who suck up. Again this is hearsay, hut 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

MORENS_SUBPOENA_017281
MORENS_NIH_035472
REL0000482424

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 th (b) (6) from the outside, my good friend th (b) (6) from 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

er Daszak <
(b) (6) > wrote:

Unfortunate. At thispoint you should just throw your hat in the ring!

MORENS_SUBPOENA_017282
MORENS_NIH_035473
REL0000482424

Why not have a confidential chat with Peter Staley and see if they have a pool of candidates yet?

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

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

Tel.: +1-(b) (6)
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

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

From: Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6)
Sent: Wednesday, Januar AM
To: Peter Daszak (b) (6)
Cc: Jeffrey Sturchio (b) (6) ; Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) g >; David (b) (6) Keusch (b) (6)
Rich Roberts (b) (6)
Subject: Re: Tweet by Miner Flux on Twitter

Unfortunately the far right made a new YouTube claiming I'm the successor to Fauci. Which is ridiculous but it has set off a new wave of aggression

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

Texas Children's Hospital: Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics | Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development | Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

Baylor College of Medicine: Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine | Professor, Departments of

Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology | Health Policy Scholar

Baylor University, University Professor

Rice University, Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty

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

E-mail | Twitter | LinkedIn | Skype: (b) (6)

Amazon Author Center | Daily Beast Contributor

Senior Coordinator & Executive Support: Douglas Soriano

(b) (6) | Phone: (b) (6)
(b) (6) |

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.: +1-(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, Januar M
(b) (6) ; Peter Daszak <
(b) (6) >; Aleksei Chmura <
(b) (6) >; David Morens <
(b) (6) Geral
(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, Ja
To: Peter Daszak (b) (6)
Aleksei Chmu
David Mo (b) (6) ; Gerald
Keusch <(b) (6) Jeffrey Sturchio <
ch Roberts <
(b) (6) >
y Miner□Flux on Twitter

Miner□Flux
□@randy_hoebee□

#Hotez pic.twitter.com/eOPpHym0Rw

MORENS_SUBPOENA_017285
MORENS_NIH_035476
REL0000482424

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

Media Inquiries:

(b) (6)

iPhone

Date: Tue, 8 Jun 2021 12:05:04 PM -0400
Subject: FW: We've lost two significant funders this week
From: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] <(b) (6)
To: Taubenberger, Jeffery (NIH/NIAID) [E] <(b) (6) >;
Attachments: image001.gif; image003.jpg; image004.jpg

David

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

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

From: Peter Daszak <(b) (6)
Sent: Tuesday, June 8, 2021 11:59 AM
To: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] <(b) (6) Keusch, Jerry <(b) (6) Rich Roberts <(b) (6)
Subject: We've lost two significant funders this week
Importance: High

Thanks for sharing.

We're getting mounting damage at EcoHealth. One of our corporate funders has pulled out because of the news (Swiss Re). They donated $30K per year and I talked with the senior execs about pandemic risk.

We heard today that our brand new 3-year Gates Foundation grant for One Health work in India will now be "re-assigned". They're telling us they'll still fund us, but I think they're just being polite. This is a loss of $500K per year.

I'm extremely worried right now. People's jobs, careers, reputations are on the line, not just mine – the Gates grant is Jon Epstein's.

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: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] <(b) (6)
Sent: Tuesday, Jun
To: Peter Daszak ((b) (6) <(b) (6) >; Keusch, Jerry ((b) (6) <
(b) (6) (b) (6)
Subject: FW: Miami Herald [Op mp's new round of bullying, Fauci says COVID likely didn't leak from a Chinese lab

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

MORENS_SUBPOENA_020282
MORENS_NIH_040880
REL0000482432

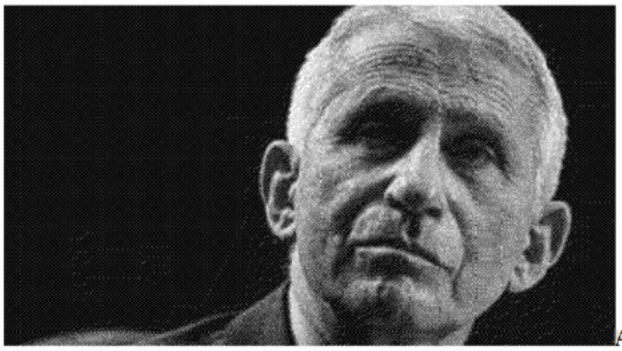
31 Center Drive, MSC 2520
Bethesda, MD 20892-2520
(b) (6) (assistant: Whitney Robinson)
(b) (6)

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

From: Folkers, Greg (NIH/NIAID) [E] <(b) (6)
Sent: Tuesday, June 8, 2021 9:47 AM
Subject: Miami Herald [Opinion]: Despite Trump's new round of bullying, Fauci says COVID likely didn't leak from a Chinese lab

Despite Trump's new round of bullying, Fauci says COVID likely didn't leak from a Chinese lab | Opinion

BY ANDRES OPPENHEIMER
JUNE 08, 2021 09:13 AM,
UPDATED 19 MINUTES AGO



Anthony Fauci, director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, says the coronavirus likely jumped species, from animal to human. *GETTY IMAGES*

Former
President

MORENS_SUBPOENA_020283
MORENS_NIH_040881
REL0000482432

Trump, perhaps trying to divert attention from his own disastrous handling of the COVID-19 pandemic, is now lashing out against Dr. Anthony Fauci for allegedly failing to seriously consider that the virus might have originated from China's Wuhan lab, rather than from an animal's transmission to humans.

But judging from what

MORENS_SUBPOENA_020284
MORENS_NIH_040882
REL0000482432

Fauci told me in a June 4 interview, the most respected U.S. infectious diseases expert has not yet seen any convincing evidence that the virus may have escaped from a Chinese lab.

Fauci, who heads the U.S. National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, and is a top medical adviser to President

MORENS_SUBPOENA_020285
MORENS_NIH_040883
REL0000482432

Biden, said, “It is more likely” that — much like SARS, ebola, influenza and HIV — COVID-19 “originated from an animal reservoir and jumped species to humans.” He added, “There’s the possibility that it came from the lab, but I believe that that’s a much less likely possibility.”

In the interview, scheduled to be aired Sunday , June 13 n “Oppenheimer Presenta” on CNN en Español, Fauci said that it’s “important” to try to find out the exact origin of the pandemic, so that we can prevent it from happening again.

MORENS_SUBPOENA_020286
MORENS_NIH_040884
REL0000482432

Biden has asked U.S. intelligence agencies to investigate the origins of COVID-19 and come back with a report before the end of August.

Asked how the investigation into the source of the virus should be conducted, Fauci said that the World Health Organization has indicated that it will go back to China to continue its investigation.

"I think it needs to be done in a collegial way, with the collaboration of the Chinese scientists, because you're going to have to have

MORENS_SUBPOENA_020287
MORENS_NIH_040885
REL0000482432

cooperation and do it in a way that you can best get the information," he said.

Regarding his emails obtained by BuzzFeed and the Washington Post through the Freedom Of Information Act, Fauci told me that his critics "cherrypick things out of context" when they claim that he knew more than he

MORENS_SUBPOENA_020288
MORENS_NIH_040886
REL0000482432

was saying publicly about the possibility that the virus came out of a Chinese lab.

Stressing that he never totally discarded the lab theory — though he never thought it was a major possibility — Fauci added that, "I think what has increased is the interest, not necessarily the evidence."

Right-

MORENS_SUBPOENA_020289
MORENS_NIH_040887
REL0000482432

wing media have had a field day with the Fauci emails, claiming that he was alerted about the "lab theory" early on and allegedly failed to take it seriously. Much of their claims are based on a Jan. 31, 2020, email, in which infectious-disease expert Kristian Andersen wrote to Fauci that some

MORENS_SUBPOENA_020290
MORENS_NIH_040888
REL0000482432

of the virus' features "[potentially] looked engineered."

But what most right-wing media fail to mention is that, a few weeks later, Andersen concluded, upon further investigation, that the "lab theory" was implausible. So the criticism that Fauci was wrongfully hiding the "lab theory" from the public does not hold up.

Of course, Trump now is trying to paint Fauci as the culprit for the fact that America holds the world's record for COVID-19 deaths in absolute numbers. In a mass email on June 3, Trump claimed that "President Trump was

right about the China Virus coming from the Wuhan Lab," and suggested that Fauci was defending China.

But, until we see any hard evidence that COVID-19 emerged from the Wuhan lab, Trump's accusations should be seen as just another attempt to bypass science and divert public attention from the COVID-19

MORENS_SUBPOENA_020292
MORENS_NIH_040890
REL0000482432

deaths caused by his failure to tackle the pandemic.

Remember, Trump knew early on that COVID would be deadly — he is on tape telling author Bob Woodward this in February 2020 — but chose to lie to the American people for fear that it would ruin his re-election chances. What's

MORENS_SUBPOENA_020293
MORENS_NIH_040891
REL0000482432

more, Trump consistently refused to wear a mask or preach social distance, as scientists were recommending.

As I wrote at the time

Trump neglected his main duty — to protect the American people.

Granted, investigations into the origins of COVID-19 are justified and should continue. And there's no question

MORENS_SUBPOENA_020294
MORENS_NIH_040892
REL0000482432

that China's dictatorship is responsible for its delay in alerting the world about the deadly virus as soon as it started.

But barring solid evidence that the virus originated from a Chinese lab, Trump remains the villain — and Fauci the hero.

Disclaimer

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

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

Date: Fri, 21 Jul 2023 1:43:40 PM -0400
Sent: Fri, 21 Jul 2023 1:42:55 PM -0400
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Fwd: Peter Hotez: COVID-19was just the warm-up act
From: David Morens <(b) (6)
To: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] <(b) (6)

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

(b) (6)

301 496 6253 (work)
240 495 1738 (cell)

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

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

---------- Forwarded message ---------
From: Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6)
Date: Sat, May 27, 2023 at 7:50 AM
Subject: Peter Hotez: COVID-19 was just the warm-up act
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) >

There might be a paywall will see what I can do

https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.houstonchronicle.com%2Fopinion%2Foutcovid-pandemic-coronavirus-18121832.php&data=05%7C01%7Cdmorens%40niaid.nih.gov%7Cfae477349d7641f3390d08db8a120454%7C14b77578977342d585&sdata=8yQB%2B7pP0iEeOk9iYM4dQFuwSkFTc0EDO7IBlgZaB%2Fc%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: Fri, 21 Jul 2023 1:08:57 PM -0400
Sent: Fri, 21 Jul 2023 1:08:07 PM -0400
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Fwd: New GAO Report on Scientific Integrity at HHS
From: David Morens <(b) (6)
To: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] <(b) (6)

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

(b) (6)

301 496 6253 (work)
240 495 1738 (cell)

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

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

---------- Forwarded message ---------
From: Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6)
Date: Thu, Apr 21, 2022 at 9:22 AM
Subject: Re: New GAO Report on Scientific Integrity at HHS
To: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >
Cc: Jeff Sturchio <(b) (6) Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6) Roberts, Rich <(b) (6) David Morens <(b) (6) >

Many thanks Peter

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

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

Baylor College of Medicine

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

University Professor, Baylor University

Faculty Fellow, Hagler Institute for Advanced Study

Senior Fellow, Scowcroft Institute of International Affairs

Texas A&M University

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

Adjunct Professor, University of Texas, School of Public Health

Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

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

Skype: (b) (6)

Linkedin Peter Hotez

Amazon Author Center:
https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.amazon.com%2FPeter- J.-Hotez%2Fe%2FB001HPIC48
&data=05%7C01%7Cdmorens%40niaid.nih.gov%7Cc68bcf24acd847b14fe208db8a0d287f%7C14b77578977342d585(
&sdata=1yrXfyOfKrtrSAMCTOemoctQzN9Dff%2BmrGkZJ6n7vtE%3D &reserved=0

Daily Beast Contributor
https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.thedailybeast.com%2Fauthor%2Fpeter-j-hotez
&data=05%7C01%7Cdmorens%40niaid.nih.gov%7Cc68bcf24acd847b14fe208db8a0d287f%7C14b77578977342d585(
&sdata=domo4dlSmZ%2FAEjofAyJyWvTbwfaaJIhaRPnWFsj%2BFmc%3D &reserved=0

Like us on Facebook

https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.facebook.com%2FBCMNationalSchoolOf
&data=05%7C01%7Cdmorens%40niaid.nih.gov%7Cc68bcf24acd847b14fe208db8a0d287f%7C14b77578977342d585(
&sdata=egRITRiXyAEkFO51yO6KLONDQ%2BB7aFNbLF54vBf9ysA%3D &reserved=0

Senior Coordinator / Executive Support: Douglas Soriano

(b) (6)

Phone: (b) (6)

Fax: 713-798-2299

iPhone

On Apr 21, 2022, at 7:55 AM, Peter Daszak <(b) (6) > wrote:

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

The GAO was asked by the Biden administration to look into political interference in science by the white house under Trump. They interviewed me repeatedly last year and this year about the termination of our R01 grant.

https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.gao.gov%2Fproducts%2Fgao-22-104613
&data=05%7C01%7Cdmorens%40niaid.nih.gov%7Cc68bcf24acd847b14fe208db8a0d287f%7C14b77578977342d585(
&sdata=JHMAdrvha%2BAtaVdMrDnFH0eAP6wk3gOo7XYTkVa4Si4%3D &reserved=0

This is the first report from them on the topic. It's massively disappointing, of course, because it just comes up with broad recommendations on what agencies should do to protect themselves against political interference. However, if you read the email below, this is the first of two reports, and the second one should hopefully go into more detail about the NIH actions on EcoHealth's grant.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak

MORENS_SUBPOENA_002892
MORENS_NIH_009408
REL0000482437

President

EcoHealth Alliance

520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200

New York, NY 10018-6507

USA

Tel.: +1-(b) (6)

Website:
https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.ecohealthalliance.org%2F
&data=05%7C01%7Cdmorens%40niaid.nih.gov%7Cc68bcf24acd847b14fe208db8a0d287f%7C14b77578977342d585(
&sdata=Qt06C5n4WJuztm1ocr47A68XaMKz1JkeaFmI8Zg0KC4%3D &reserved=0

Twitter: @PeterDaszak

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

From: Marek, Robert J <(b) (6)
Sent: Wednesday, April 20, 2022 5:56 PM
To: (b) (6)
Subject: New GAO Report on Scientific Integrity at HHS

Dear Peter,

Thank you for participating in our report on scientific integrity at HHS. Our completed report can be accessed here. Please feel free to share it with your network and colleagues. We plan to issue an additional report that will examine the key characteristics that can insulate agencies from political interference, and how, if at all, the selected HHS agencies have experienced potential political interference while carrying out their missions.

Thank you again for your time and providing information on this important topic.

Sincerely,

Rob Marek

Disclaimer

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

Date: Thu, 15 Sep 2022 11:35:23 AM -0400
Sent: Thu, 15 Sep 2022 11:34:57 AM -0400
Subject: Re: Another attack from Republican Senators
From: "Hotez, Peter Jay" <(b) (6)
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) >;

Well I went on the record in both Wash Post and Telegraph yesterday

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 utor

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

Media Inquiries:
(b) (6)

On Sep 15, 2022, at 11:30 AM, Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6) > wrote:

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

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

Media Inquiries:
(b) (6)

iPhone

On Sep 15, 2022, at 11:18 AM, Keusch, Gerald T (b) (6) wrote:

Watching Jeff expound and I am nauseated.

Sent from my iPhone

On Sep 15, 2022, at 9:19 AM, Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6) wrote:

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

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

Baylor University, University Professor
Rice University, Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty
Texas A&M University, Faculty-Senior Fellow, Hagler Inst for Advanced Study & Scowcroft Institute of Intl Affairs

E-mail | Twitter | LinkedIn | Skype: (b) (6)

Amazon Author Center | Daily Beast Contributor

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

Media Inquiries:
(b) (6)

iPhone

On Sep 15, 2022, at 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) ; Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6) David Morens <(b) (6) >; Roberts, Rich <(b) (6) Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6)
Subject: 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

S i r r i t r & x u ive Support: Douglas Soriano
(b) (6) | Phone: (b) (6) Fax: 713-798-2299

Media Inquiries:
(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: Keusc (b) (6) David (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

Texas Children's Hospital: Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics | Co-

Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development | Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

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

Baylor University, University Professor
Rice University, Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty
Texas A&M University, Faculty-Senior Fellow, Hagler Inst for Advanced Study & Scowcroft Institute of Intl Affairs

E-mail | Twitter | LinkedIn | Skype: (b) (6)

Amazon Author Center | Daily Beast Contributor

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

Media Inquiries:
(b) (6)

On 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.: +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, September 7, 2022 9:17 AM
To: Keusch, GeraldT <(b) (6)
Cc: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >; David Morens <(b) (6) ; Rich Roberts <(b) (6) Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) >
Subject: Re: Lancet covid commission report.

I've mostly given up on appealing to Richard Horton. Initially he wouldn't answer my emails, and finally when he agreed to a zoom and promised to redress my concerns, even stating he would do so in writing, so far nothing. He can't be bothered or at some level he agrees with Jeff?

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

Texas Children's Hospital : Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics | Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development | Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

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

Baylor University , University Professor
Rice University , Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty
Texas A&M University , Faculty-Senior Fellow, Hagler Inst for Advanced Study & Scowcroft Institute of Intl Affairs

E-mail | Twitter | LinkedIn | Skype: (b) (6)

Amazon Author Center | Daily Beast Contributor

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

Media Inquiries:
(b) (6)

iPhone

On Sep 7, 2022, at 7:57 AM, Keusch, Gerald T (b) (6) > wrote:

The Task Force paper is now in production. I won't have a real estimated date for publication until the galleys are available and then its 2-3 weeks. So probably end of the month, at best around the time of UNGA.

Now you should remind Horton about his promise to control Sachs. Its shameful how ineffective he, Horton, has been and how slovenly he is with accuracy and science.

We (the Independent Task Force) are addressing the dissemination of our report to be as forceful and as fast as possible when the paper appears.

Jerry

From: Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6) >
Sent: Wednesday, September 7, 2022 6:49 AM
To: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >
Cc: Keusch, Gerald T (b) (6) >; David Morens <(b) (6) >; Rich Roberts <(b) (6) Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) >
Subject: Re: Lancet covid commission report.

Yes I think it may be released as soon as next week, with press conferences I believe in NY around the time of UNGA (as originally planned). I was not invited to participate.

Two weeks ago, Richard Horton in a zoom agreed to address my concerns about Jeff's specific attacks on me, he was supposed to respond by last week. But nothing so far, so I'm not optimistic. Best Peter

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

Texas Children's Hospital: Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics | Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development | Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

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

Baylor University , University Professor
Rice University , Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty
Texas A&M University , Faculty-Senior Fellow, Hagler Inst for Advanced Study & Scowcroft Institute of Intl Affairs

E-mail | Twitter | LinkedIn | Skype: (b) (6)

Amazon Author Center | Daily Beast Contributor

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

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

iPhone

(b) (6) 2022, at 2:00 AM, Peter Daszak < > 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: Thu, 13 May 2021 9:56:55 PM -0400
Sent: Thu, 13 May 2021 9:56:49 PM -0400
Subject: RE: Early appearance of two distinct genomic lineages of SARS-CoV-2 in different Wuhan wildlife markets suggests SARS-CoV-2 has a natural origin - SARS-CoV-2 coronavirus - Virological
From: Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6)
To: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b) (6) ; Roberts, Rich <(b) (6)
CC: Peter Daszak ((b) (6) <(b) (6)

I think maybe we should say it is the least likely hypothesis, and it would be useful if we were able to join with others including the Chinese to do broader, deeper, more systematic investigation, and the sooner the better rather than being dismissive. It's the latter that stirs the pot for those whose pot is ripe for stirring.

Jerry

-----Original Message-----
From: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] <(b) (6) >
Sent: Thursday, May 13, 2021 5:32 PM
To: Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6) Roberts, Rich <(b) (6)
Cc: Peter Daszak ((b) (6) <(b) (6) >
Subject: RE: Early appearance of two distinct genomic lineages of SARS-CoV-2 in different Wuhan wildlife markets suggests SARS-CoV-2 has a natural origin - SARS-CoV-2 coronavirus - Virological

I think that's good.... I have known him for years and have always found him to be careful, thorough and fair. He is always curious, more interested in understanding things than getting g a hot story. But, as I said, he doesn't sound certain the lab hypothesis is almost impossible.

d

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 (b) (6) (assistants: Kimberly Barasch; Whitney Robinson) ((b) (6)
3 (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.

-----Original Message-----
From: Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6)
Sent: Thursday, May 13, 2021 5:30 PM

To: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] <(b) (6) Roberts, Rich <(b) (6)
Cc: Peter Daszak (<(b) (6) >
Subject: RE: Early appearance of two distinct genomic lineages of SARS-CoV-2 in different Wuhan wildlife markets suggests SARS-CoV-2 has a natural origin - SARS-CoV-2 coronavirus - Virological

He asked who the small band of scientists I referred to were, and I told him he could probably figure it out.

He sounds reasonable and smart, and on your recommendation I fired both barrels.

Jerry
-----Original Message-----
From: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] <(b) (6)
Sent: Thursday, May 13, 2021 5:17 PM
To: Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6) Roberts, Rich <(b) (6)
Cc: Peter Daszak (<(b) (6) >
Subject: RE: Early appearance of two distinct genomic lineages of SARS-CoV-2 in different Wuhan wildlife markets suggests SARS-CoV-2 has a natural origin - SARS-CoV-2 coronavirus - Virological

Thanks, Jerry, for speaking to him. I sent him the article you mentioned shortly after I saw it, and I have also been talking to Arthur on background about this over recent months.

Bravo for what you said, which is pretty much what I have been saying to him.

I suggested Arthur try to interview Tony directly and connected him to our "secret" back channel. He emailed Tony a few hours ago.

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 (b) (6) (assistants: Kimberly Barasch; Whitney Robinson) ((b) (6)
3 (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.

-----Original Message-----
From: Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6)
Sent: Thursday, May 13, 2021 1:30 PM
To: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] <(b) (6) Roberts, Rich <(b) (6)

Cc: Peter Daszak ([redacted] <[redacted]>
Subject: RE: Early appearance of two distinct genomic lineages of SARS-CoV-2 in different Wuhan wildlife markets suggests SARS-CoV-2 has a natural origin - SARS-CoV-2 coronavirus - Virological

Just off the phone with Arthur Allen from Kaiser Family Foundation News, thanks to an introduction from David. I spent 45 minutes talking to him about this GOF stuff, and why that was a pejorative term being used to drum up support to ban certain kinds of research into evolutionary biology of viruses and viral pathogenesis, with the ban being far more dangerous than any possible leak of a created super pathogen. Peter, I characterized you as a hero. Don't disappoint me or undermine my credibility (said tongue in cheek to be absolutely clear). In response to a question I said you were the member of the WHO team who would most want to find out if there was a leak of virus from the laboratory because your integrity as a scientist would want to know how this virus became a human pandemic so that we can try to better prevent it in the first place, and if not find it as quickly as possible in order to stop it from spreading. So while on the list of priorities the emergence from bats through some mammal to spillover to humans was at the very top, and lab origin was at the very bottom, you would not be the one to eliminate the latter from the list. That said, I do think that after characterizing it as highly unlikely, it was a mistake for the WHO report to say it should not be explored any further. I suspect that was more an offering to the Chinese to keep the door open to the next step in the investigation than anything else. After all, it would not be at all possible if the Chinese didn't actually agree to allow it to happen.

I also saw the Garry paper this morning and not only brought it to Allen's attention (he said he had just become aware of it 30 minutes before we spoke) but I also characterized it as the first piece of actual field derived evidence to evaluate, and really very powerful evidence that the evolution of the precursor virus to CoV-2 happened in nature and not in a lab. I think he will look at it carefully and use it.

We also talked politics and the consequences of continuing expression of concerns about GOF research, with my take that if certain lines of research were cut off instead of managed/regulated/overseen the lost benefits for humankind would so overwhelm the miniscule chance of unintended harm like an asymptomatic infected person leaving a lab and initiating a global pandemic resulting in (according to Chris Murray et al) more than 900,000 deaths in the US to date, and over 7 million global deaths and counting as the deadly outbreak in India continues to wreak havoc, and without doubt spread to other countries, travel bans or not. I made the analogy to recombinant DNA, and more recently to CRIPR where the benefits overwhelm the chance of inadvertent harm. And I said the small number of scientists who are on this bandwagon can really harm the future of science to explore, understand, and use knowledge about microbial evolution and pathogenesis to develop treatment, vaccines, and diagnostics, playing into the hands of the crazies, the conspiracy community, and scientifically illiterate so called communities of conscience or those who have no concern for the common good.

I asked him to do a good job in his write up. He promised, and I will hold him to it if I can figure out how to accomplish that.

Jerry

-----Original Message-----
From: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] <[redacted]
Sent: Thursday, Ma[redacted] AM
To: Roberts, Rich[redacted]
C[redacted] ([redacted] <[redacted]>; Keusch, Gerald T
<[redacted]
S[redacted]y appearance of two distinct genomic lineages of SARS-CoV-2 in different Wuhan wildlife markets suggests SARS-CoV-2 has a natural origin - SARS-CoV-2 coronavirus - Virological

I agree. I have only skimmed it too, so will have to really read it carefully. Also it will be helpful for independent phylogeneticists to take a look. David

MORENS_SUBPOENA_014430
MORENS_NIH_027127
REL0000482452

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

> On May 13, 2021, at 10:53, Roberts, Rich <(b) (6) wrote:
>
> David:
>
> That is a very interesting article. I will have to read it more fully, but on quickly skimming through it does make a strong argument against the lab-leak theory.
>
> 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)
>
> -----Original Message-----
> From: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] <(b) (6) >
> Sent: Thursday, May 13, 2021 9:54 AM
> To: Peter Daszak ((b) (6)
> <(b) (6) >; Keusch, Jerry ((b) (6)
> <(b) (6) Roberts, Rich <(b) (6)
> Subject: FW: Early appearance of two distinct genomic lineages of
> SARS-CoV-2 in different Wuhan wildlife markets suggests SARS-CoV-2 has
> a natural origin - SARS-CoV-2 coronavirus - Virological
>
> EXTERNAL SENDER
>
>
> See link way down below
>
> d
>
>
>
>
>
>
> 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 (b) (6) (assistants: Kimberly Barasch; Whitney Robinson) (301
> 496 4409
> 3 (b) (6)

MORENS_SUBPOENA_014431
MORENS_NIH_027128
REL0000482452

> 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.
>
>
>
>
> -----Original Message-----
> From: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] <(b) (6)
> Sent: Thursday, May 13, 2021 9:31 AM
> To: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] <(b) (6)
> Subject: Early appearance of two distinct genomic lineages of
> SARS-CoV-2 in different Wuhan wildlife markets suggests SARS-CoV-2 has
> a natural origin - SARS-CoV-2 coronavirus - Virological
>
>
> https://nam10.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fviro
> logical.org%2Ft%2Fearly-appearance-of-two-distinct-genomic-lineages-of
> -sars-cov-2-in-different-wuhan-wildlife-markets-suggests-sars-cov-2-ha
> s-a-natural-origin%2F691&data=04%7C01%7Croberts%40neb.com%7C770222
> d6f783495c5fad08d916168d4b%7C77cefbc6b3d64d6a9f740664881c384b%7C0%7C0%
> 7C637565108407156387%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQI
> joiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000 &sdata=DWMmogMoU%2
> BVEmatA3mQt1BQkOkTVJnEP6gHTb28Tp0E%3D &reserved=0
>
>
> Sent from my iPhone
> David M Morens
> OD, NIAID, NIH

Date: Thu, 20 May 2021 1:52:09 PM -0400
Sent: Thu, 20 May 2021 1:52:08 PM -0400
Subject: Re: FYI - POLITICO - COVID Origins, looking into lab theory leak gaining supporters
From: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] <(b) (6) >
To: Roberts, Rich <(b) (6) >;
CC: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >; Gerald Keusch <(b) (6)
Attachments: image001.jpg; image001.jpg

Yes indeed, that is so true, as we have been learning lately in the political arena as well. D

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

On May 20, 2021, at 13:50, Roberts, Rich <(b) (6) wrote:

David:

Repetition renders all theories more plausible – just like lies.

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: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] <(b) (6)
Sent: Thursday, May 20, 2021 1:33 PM
To: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) Gerald Keusch <(b) (6) Roberts, Rich <(b) (6)
Subject: Fwd: FYI - POLITICO - COVID Origins, looking into lab theory leak gaining supporters

EXTERNAL SENDER

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

From: Karen Goraleski (b) (6)
Date: May 20, 2021 at 12:28:25 EDT
To: "Breman, Joel (NIH/FIC) [V]" (b) (6) Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E]" <(b) (6) >, "Dan Bausch (b) (6) >, "Julie Jacobson (b) (6) hal, Philip (Infectious Diseases)" (b) (6) "Hill, David R. Prof." (b) (6)

MORENS_SUBPOENA_019793
MORENS_NIH_039528
REL0000482454

(b) (6) Stephen Popper (b) (6) Patricia Walker <
(b) (6)

Subject: FYI - POLITICO - COVID Origins, looking into lab theory leak gaining supporters

Sharing this fyi - adding in David Morens, the lead author on the AJTMH article on this same topic (BTW, the #1 accessed article in AJTMH last month) and Stephen Popper, the Associate Program Chair.

This is from POLITICO. See links to the letter in SCIENCE, to Donald McNeal's piece in MEDIUM.

https://www.politico.com/newsletters/politico- nightly/2021/05/19/experts- weigh-in-on-the-wuhan-lab-leak-hypothesis-492915

Experts weigh in on the Wuhan lab leak hypothesis

By **MYAH WARD** and **RENUKA RAYASAM**

05/19/2021 08:00 PM EDT

Presented by Facebook

With help from Joanne Kenen

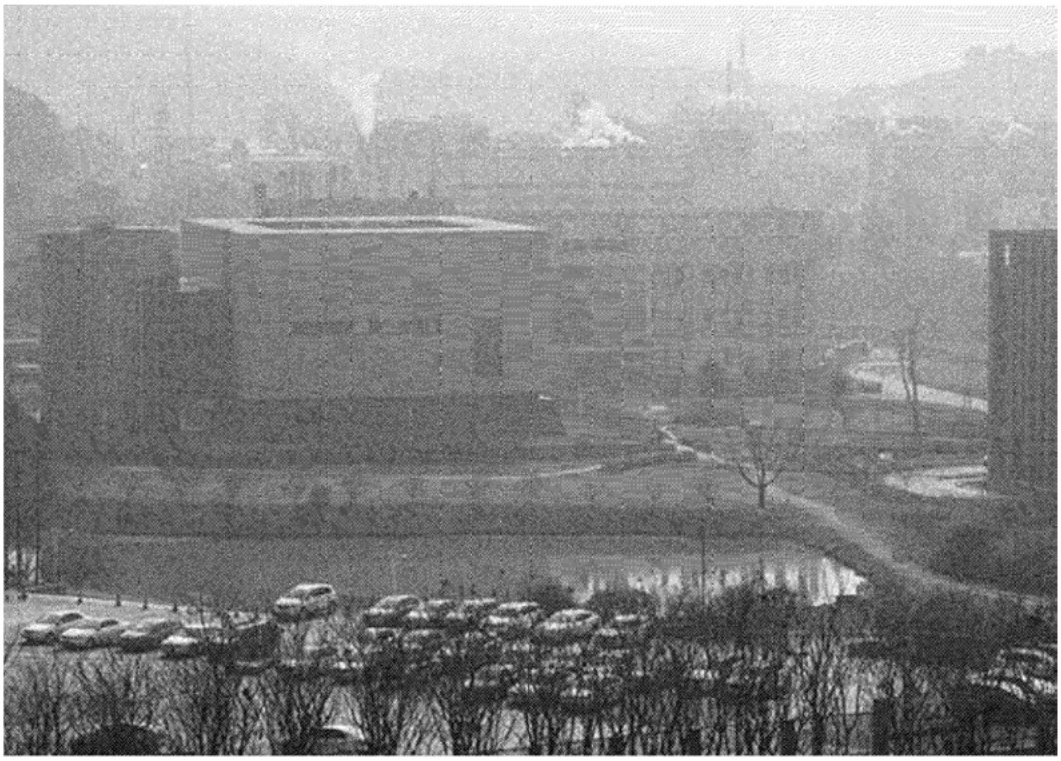
ORIGIN STORY — The hypothesis that Covid-19 was leaked from a Wuhan lab has leaped from its original host — Trump administration officials and people dismissed as conspiracy theorists — into the body of mainstream debate. Last week, 18 leading scientists published a letter in the academic journal Science calling for further investigation to determine the origin of the pandemic that has killed 3.4 million people worldwide. "Theories of accidental release from a lab and zoonotic spillover both remain viable," the scientists wrote.

The letter echoes a similar call from WHO Director General Tedros Adhanom Ghebrevesus. During a Senate hearing last week on the U.S. response to the pandemic, Anthony Fauci said he was "fully in favor of any further investigation of what went on in China" after sparring with Sen. Rand Paul (R-Ky.) about the

MORENS_SUBPOENA_019794
MORENS_NIH_039529
REL0000482454

origins of the virus. And this month, the former New York Times science reporters Nicholas Wade and Donald G. McNeil Jr. have written long essays on Medium outlining why they take the lab leak hypothesis seriously.

Nightly reached out to experts, two of whom signed the letter as well as others who have taken the opposite side in the public debate, to ask how credible they find the lab leak theory. Their edited responses are below.



A view of the P4 lab inside the Wuhan Institute of Virology is seen after a visit by the World Health Organization team in Wuhan in China's Hubei province on Wednesday, Feb. 3, 2021. | AP Photo/Ng Han Guan

IT'S POSSIBLE

"Much of the currently available information suggests that a lab-based origin of Covid-19 is plausible. **There remains no sign of an intermediate animal host that could have passed the virus to humans in 2019.** There is no

MORENS_SUBPOENA_019795
MORENS_NIH_039530
REL0000482454

evidence that live mammals were sold at the Wuhan seafood market in 2019, and none of hundreds of animal samples collected from that market had any trace of the virus. In other words, there is zero evidence that supports a zoonotic origin of the virus that excludes the involvement of research activity.

"There are copious precedents of pathogens leaking from labs — the original 2003 SARS virus leaked up to six times from labs across three countries. Consider that the SARS research and animal infection experiments at the Wuhan Institute of Virology, for more than 10 years, were all performed at relatively low biosafety levels. It is currently not possible to tell from the genetic evidence whether the virus ever passed through a laboratory or a lab personnel.

"The question is: How did a virus, whose lineage is found only in southern China, make its way into humans in the metropolitan city of Wuhan, more than a thousand miles away? We know that the Wuhan Institute of Virology had possibly the greatest collection of SARS viruses from numerous trips across China. We know that they were working with a batch of viruses very closely related to SARS-CoV-2. Details of these viruses and the experiments performed with them have not been shared in a timely manner." **— Alina Chan, molecular biologist at the Broad Institute of MIT and Harvard**

"It is worthy of a careful, rigorous, unbiased, objective examination, based on relevant, verifiable data. There are a

MORENS_SUBPOENA_019796
MORENS_NIH_039531
REL0000482454

number of plausible scenarios embedded in this label, 'lab leak,' and importantly, they include an unrecognized infection of a well-intentioned lab worker attempting to recover or study new coronaviruses from bats. **It does not imply malice or even necessarily awareness (of the accident).** Lab accidents are much more common than any of us know, or would like to admit, and they occur worldwide and even in the most safe and secure labs. U.S. biosafety labs are by no means strangers to accidents; leaks of some of the most dangerous infectious agents have occurred at CDC and other U.S. government labs."
— David A. Relman, microbiologist at Stanford University

"The following lines of circumstantial evidence are noteworthy:

"**The outbreak occurred in Wuhan, a city of 11 million people that does not contain horseshoe-bat colonies,** and that is tens of kilometers from, and outside the flight range of, the nearest known horseshoe-bat colonies. Furthermore, the outbreak occurred at a time of year when horseshoe bats are in hibernation.

"The outbreak occurred in Wuhan, on the doorstep of the laboratory that conducts the world's largest research project on horseshoe bat viruses and worked with the world's closest sequenced relative of the outbreak virus. The laboratory actively searched for new horseshoe-bat viruses in horseshoe-bat colonies in caves in remote rural areas in Yunnan province, brought those new horseshoe-bat viruses to Wuhan, and then mass-produced, manipulated, and

MORENS_SUBPOENA_019797
MORENS_NIH_039532
REL0000482454

studied those new horseshoe-bat viruses, year-round, inside Wuhan.

"Documentary evidence establishes that the bat-SARS-related-coronavirus projects at the Wuhan Institute of Virology used personal protective equipment (usually just gloves; sometimes not even gloves) and biosafety standards that would pose high risk of infection of field-collection, field-survey, or laboratory staff upon contact with a virus having the transmission properties of SARS-CoV-2." — **Richard Ebright, molecular biologist at Rutgers University**

MORENS_SUBPOENA_019798
MORENS_NIH_039533
REL0000482454

Date: Thu, 10 Jun 2021 6:06:11 PM -0400

Sent: Thu, 10 Jun 2021 6:05:24 PM -0400

Subject: RE: DAvid m ------ Cell: Identification of novel bat coronaviruses sheds light on the evolutionary origins of SARS-CoV-2 and related viruses https://bit.ly/3w96uAu

From: Peter Daszak <(b) (6)

To: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] <(b) (6) Keusch, Jerry <(b) (6) Rich Roberts <(b) (6) Jon Epstein <(b) (6) Taubenberger, Jeffery (NIH/NIAID) [E] <(b) (6)

Attachments: image001.gif; image002.jpg

It's a small bunch of bats collected at Xishuagnbanna Botanical Gdns in Yunnan province. No collections possible right now due to all these politics, but it certainly demonstrates that the diversity of CoVs in bats in S. China and SE Asia is huge, and will likely include many closer to SARS2 and no doubt the progenitor clade – prob the same one that includes these viruses and RaTG13, but a closer cluster.

I expect, if we can actually get on the ground and do some deeper sampling, we'll find a few hundred of these.

Sadly, it's exactly what's proposed in Specific Aim 1 of the terminated-now suspended with conditions NIH grant we have

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: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b) (6)
Sent: Thursday, June 10, 2021 3:49 PM
To: Peter Daszak ((b) (6)) (b) (6) ; Keusch, Jerry (b) (6) (b) (6) Rich Roberts (b) (6) <(b) (6) (b) (6) Taubenberger, Jeffery (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b) (6)
Subject: FW: DAvid m ------ Cell: Identification of novel bat coronaviruses sheds light on the evolutionary origins of SARS-CoV-2 and related viruses https://bit.ly/3w96uAu

Peter and colleagues, what do you know about thisn work? I had not known it was in press….

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)

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.

(b) (6)

From: Folkers, Greg (NIH/NIAID) [E]
Sent: Thursday, June 10, 2021 3:24 PM
To: NIAID OD AM <NIAIDODAM@niaid.nih.gov>
Subject: DAvid m ------ Cell: Identification of novel bat coronaviruses sheds light on the evolutionary origins of SARS-CoV-2 and related viruses https://bit.ly/3w96uAu

We will no doubt be asked how/if this paper impacts the origins-of-covid discussions that are everywhere

What are your thoughts? What would u tell a reporter who called u?

Identification of novel bat coronaviruses sheds light on the evolutionary origins of SARS-CoV-2 and related viruses

- Hong Zhou [9]
- Jingkai Ji [9]

MORENS_SUBPOENA_016895
MORENS_NIH_035051
REL0000482466

- Xing Chen [9]
- Yuhai Bi [9]
- Juan Li
- Qihui Wang
- Tao Hu
- Hao Song
- Runchu Zhao
- Yanhua Chen
- Mingxue Cui
- Yanyan Zhang
- Alice C. Hughes
- Edward C. Holmes
- Weifeng Shi [10]
- Show less
- Show footnotes

Published:June 09, 2021DOI:https://doi.org/10.1016/j.cell.2021.06.008

Highlights

- Four novel SARS-CoV-2 related viruses were identified in rhinolophid bats.
- RpYN06 is the closest relative of SARS-CoV-2 in most of the virus genome.
- A high diversity of bat coronaviruses was present in a very small geographic area.
- Ecological modeling reveals a broad range of rhinolophid bats in parts of Asia.

Summary

Despite the discovery of animal coronaviruses related to SARS-CoV-2, the evolutionary origins of this virus are elusive. We describe a meta-transcriptomic study of 411 bat samples collected from a small geographical region in Yunnan province, China, between May 2019 and November 2020. We identified 24 full-length coronavirus genomes, including four novel SARS-CoV-2 related and three SARS-CoV related viruses. *Rhinolophus pusillus* virus RpYN06 was the closest relative of SARS-CoV-2 in most of the genome, although it possessed a more divergent spike gene. The other three SARS-CoV-2 related coronaviruses carried a genetically distinct spike gene that could weakly bind to the hACE2 receptor *in vitro*. Ecological modeling predicted the co-existence of up to 23 *Rhinolophus* bat species, with the largest contiguous hotspots extending from South Laos and Vietnam to southern China. Our study highlights the remarkable diversity of bat coronaviruses at the local scale, including close relatives of both SARS-CoV-2 and SARS-CoV.

Keywords

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

Disclaimer

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

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

Date: Sun, 23 Jul 2023 12:59:41 PM -0400
Sent: Sun, 23 Jul 2023 12:58:57 PM -0400
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Fwd: Fauci, Birx, Francis Collins, Baric, Azar, Daszak, Bourla, Bancel, Jha, Njoo, Theresa Tam, Walensky, Doug Ford, Williams, Kieran, Marks, de Villa, Jüni, Hotez, Tedros, CDC, FDA officials, HANG high!
From: David Morens <(b) (6)
To: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] <(b) (6)

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

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

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

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

---------- Forwarded message ---------
From: David Morens <(b) (6) >
Date: Fri, Jul 21, 2023 at 1:38 PM
Subject: Fwd: Fauci, Birx, Francis Collins, Baric, Azar, Daszak, Bourla, Bancel, Jha, Njoo, Theresa Tam, Walensky, Doug Ford, Williams, Kieran, Marks, de Villa, Jüni, Hotez, Tedros, CDC, FDA officials, HANG high!
To: David Morens <(b) (6)

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

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

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

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

---------- Forwarded message ---------
From: 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)
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 m
From: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >
Date: Sat, Dec 31, 202
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!
T(b) (6) Aleksei Ch(b) (6)
<(b) (6) d Morens <(b) (6) >,
G Jeffrey Sturchio (b) (6)
Rich Roberts <(b) (6)

Not pleasant reading but thanks for sharing this link. It's a stream-of-consciousness diatribe that makes you think this guy is simply mentally ill, but actually he's a well-known right wing 'influencer', appearing on Steve Bannon's podcast, member of the Brownstone Institute and regular on other outlets. In the end, just probably a sad lonely person looking for outside validation. Still, pretty disturbing to read…

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak

President

EcoHealth Alliance

520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200

New York, NY 10018-6507

USA

Tel.: +1-(b) (6)

Website:
https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.ecohealthalliance.org%2F
&data=05%7C01%7Cdmorens%40niaid.nih.gov%7Ce38355b807d74ad739b208db8b9e3302%7C14b77578977342d58
&sdata=dOmWTIObhW0xFLXW0ewBZuJrpaW%2FluUeBp%2BIJN2NKpo%3D &reserved=0

Twitter: @PeterDaszak

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

From: Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6)
Sent: Tuesday, Dec(b) (6)
To: Peter Daszak <(b) (6)>; (b) (6)
Gerald Keusch (b) (6) Jeffrey Sturchio (b) (6)
Rich Roberts <(b) (6)
Subject: Fauci, llins, 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!

MORENS_SUBPOENA_009649
MORENS_NIH_020159
REL0000482471

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%7Ce38355b807d74ad739b208db8b9e3302%7C14b77578977342d58
&sdata=ZSkccnKRpDOp2hfHqr4H3TOezSsEhHbMIu0KUiFffiE%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: Sun, 19 Sep 2021 8:16:45 PM -0400
Sent: Sun, 19 Sep 2021 8:16:44 PM -0400
Subject: Re: Study from 2007 shows SARS-infected civets on farms in Hubei
From: "Jason Gale (BLOOMBERG/ NEWSROOM:)" <(b) (6)
To: (b) (6) (b) (6)
CC: (b) (6) (b) (6) (b) (6) (b) (6) (b) (6) (b) (6) (b) (6) (b) (6)

Suspect geopolitics is the biggest impediment to finding an animal source in China, and the best remedy for this is to rebuild/strengthen r'ships with scientists in China.

From: (b) (6) At: 09/20/21 10:12:48 UTC+10:00
To: (b) (6)

Cc: Jason Gale (BLOOMBERG/ NEWSROOM:) , (b) (6) (b) (6)
, iw(b) (6) (b) (6)
(b)

Subject: Re: Study from 2007 shows SARS-infected civets on farms in Hubei

Just need to keep sampling, but that sampling ought to be broader.

We need something >99% similar across the whole genome.

PROFESSOR EDWARD C. HOLMES FAA FRS
ARC Australian Laureate Fellow

THE UNIVERSITY OF SYDNEY
Marie Bashir Institute for Infectious Diseases & Biosecurity,
School of Life & Environmental Sciences and School of Medical Sciences,
The University of Sydney | Sydney | NSW | 2006 | Australia
T (b) (6)
E

On 20 Sep 2021, at 9:59 am, Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] <(b) (6) wrote:

Agree totally except your certainty that China is the ultimate source. Admittedly much data point in that direction but how can you be sure? d

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

On Sep 19, 2021, at 19:28, Edward Holmes (b) (6) > wrote:

It's not phylogenetics.

One thing is ascertainment bias which could be huge.

Second thing is to distinguish the long-term ecology of these viruses from the short-term emergence of

MORENS_SUBPOENA_010406
MORENS_NIH_020920
REL0000482472

the virus. These Laos viruses are the former. Clearly these viruses are commonplace in SE Asia. And I don't just think that bats and pangolins will be the only animals with SC2-like viruses. Virus ecology does not work like that. But this is not the same as determining the events that happened in Wuhan. To me, China still looks like the most likely source.

Third, I'm pretty certain that groups in China are sitting on more SC2-like viruses. If you sample bats you find them. It is striking to me that CCDC have published so little on this yet have supposedly sampled so many animals. That doesn't add up. Never discount the politics.

Professor Edward C. Holmes FAA FRS
The University of Sydney

> On 20 Sep 2021, at 9:00 am, Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b) (6) wrote:
>
> Eddie, please clarify, i don't « get » all the phylogenetic asumptions you guys understand, but can you put it in lsyman's terms? As you know, i have said repeatedly to look past Yunnan to all of SE Asia, as i have bennunconconvinced of the Yunnan centrality of all this, suspecting thAt the universe of these viruses crosses borders to include not only SW and S China but all of SEA.
>
> If that is so, the implications ate huge: this is annintetnational problem demanding international cooperation. d
>
> Sent from my iPhone
> David M Morens
> OD, NIAID, NIH
>
> > On Sep 19, 2021, at 18:33, Edward Holmes (b) (6) > wrote:
> >
> > Yes, good idea.
> >
> > The receptor binding domain of some of these Laotian bats is so close to that of SARS-CoV-2 even some of the die-hard leakers are beginning to see the light…
> >
> > This also effectively excludes that virus-receptor relationship was generated through lab passage, that the pangolin sequences were faked, and that this outbreak had anything to do with the Mojiang mine as a virus from a different country is now closer. That mine will go down in history as the reddest of herrings.
> >
> > That said, I am a little worried about confirmation bias for the origin being bats from Yunnan/Laos/Cambodia. The more they find there, the more they sequence. But no doubt these Laotian samples are of huge significance. As are the Hubei civets.
> >
> > <Screenshot from 2021-09-19 17-04-25.png>
> >
> > **PROFESSOR EDWARD C. HOLMES FAA FRS**
> > ARC Australian Laureate Fellow
> >
> > **THE UNIVERSITY OF SYDNEY**
> > Marie Bashir Institute for Infectious Diseases & Biosecurity,
> > School of Life & Environmental Sciences and School of Medical Sciences,
> > The University of Sydney | Sydney | NSW | 2006 | Australia
> > T (b) (6)
> > E
> >
> > > On 20 Sep 2021, at 7:52 am, Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] < (b) (6) > wrote:

Yes, do it! This is important and i say modestly, game changing. The whole « origin » controversy needs to be rethought from the ground up

We have been too micro-focusing (as i have long said to hard push back) but the sarobecovirus and merbecovirus problems are geographically and virologically complex and require us to drop back and study the viral-host universe. Thst universe is huge, complicated , and holds surprises, in my view. d

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

> On Sep 19, 2021, at 17:36, Jason Gale (BLOOMBERG/ NEWSROOM:) < j.gale@bloomberg.net> wrote:
>
> I'm planning to pull the threads Peter has so eloquently laid out into a story. Bob, Stephen, Joel (and Kristian), if you have time/interest to get on Zoom today, let me know. Thanks a lot. Jason
>
> From: (b) (6) At: 09/20/21 07:31:51 UTC+10:00
> To: (b) (6)
>
> Cc: Jason Gale (BLOOMBERG/ NEWSROOM:) ,
> (b) (6) (b) (6)
> (b) (6) (b) (6)
> (b) (6) (b) (6)
> (b) (6) (b) (6)
> (b) (6) (b) (6)
> (b) (6) (b) (6)
>
> Subject: Re: Study from 2007 shows SARS-infected civets on farms in Hubei
>
> nPeter, as i am perennially swamped with work that has nothing to do with COVID issues of importance, i am always catching up on reading the important stuff
>
> Just now i poured a martini and-read word for word your "A strategy..." paper with first author Sánchez. Also Kevin and Lin-fa were coauthors. Wow!!!
>
> This is dynamite and also beautifully written. I mean, Hemingway, Conrad, Nin, couldn't have written it better. Beautiful job and so important.
>
> I think you need to promote this work, and emphasize that the conclusions are far reaching and a sort of call to arms.
>
> Let us all keep pushing,
> and keep our eyes on the
> prize of getting to the bottom of it all
> david

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

er Daszak <
(b) (6) > wrote:

I put it all in a twitter thread while drinking coffee in my local diner (Saturday is "full English breakfast" day for me).

https://twitter.com/peterdaszak/status/1439236376776658945?s=21

No doubt ill be attacked by multiple lab leak aficionados but so be it - at least eddie,
Garry and Kristian won't see. The horrors of that...

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
(Sent from my iPhone)

President
EcoHealth Alliance

460 West 34th Street, New York, NY10001, USA

www.EcoHealthAlliance.org

10:26 AM, Garry, Robert F <
(b) (6) wrote:

Of course, the momentum on the lab leak side will continue, with books by Sharri Markison, Alina Chan/Matt Ridley, Op Eds that criticize scientists, 70+ FoIAs by one organization alone, many other FoIAs on their way, 900 pages of FoIA'd grants and reports from EHA/NIAID showing zero evidence of lab leak.

Disclaimer

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

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

<Screenshot from 2021-09-19 17-04-25.png>

Date: Thu, 18 Feb 2021 12:19:31 PM -0500
Sent: Thu, 18 Feb 2021 12:20:30 PM -0500
Subject: RE: Important email just sent to NIAID - FW: Status of R01AI110964-6 Understanding the Risk of Bat Coronavirus Emergence
From: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >
To: Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6) David Morens <(b) (6) >;
CC: Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6)
Attachments: image001.png

I'll email Rich later today probably. Erik Stemmy, my program officer at NIAID says he'll look into it. I don't think for a minute the funds will be released, but this is the correct thing to do before moving on.

If NIH O/D won't release the grant at this point, the only way forward would be to file an action. I'll need public support for that. It would be very unfortunate and I'm hoping it won't come to it.

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: Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6)
Sent: Tuesday, February 16, 2021 6:39 PM
To: Peter Daszak (b) (6) >; David Morens <(b) (6)
Cc: Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) >
Subject: RE: Important email just sent to NIAID - FW: Status of R01AI110964-6 Understanding the Risk of Bat Coronavirus Emergence

Thanks Peter,

Thanks for the update. I would be happy to be a Tony Whisperer when the time is right. It's a bit hard for me to interpret the NIH speak and the actions to follow will provide the necessary clarification. I too hope this is now history. However, my sense also tells me that until there is a public disclosure that will preclude any precedent arising from this terrible episode at NIH I don't think we can just rest easy.

Were you in touch with Rich Roberts? Keep me in the loop.

Jerry

From: Peter Daszak (b) (6)
Sent: Tuesday, Febru
To: Keusch, Gerald T (b) (6) David Morens (b) (6)
Cc: Aleksei Chmura (b) (6)
Subject: Important email just sent to NIAID - FW: Status of R01AI110964-6 Understanding the Risk of Bat Coronavirus Emergence
Importance: High

Jerry and David,

Just got off a call with our pro bono lawyers. They'd been in contact with NIH O/D re. another FOIA request. The person they dealt with told them that there are no pending inquiries into the Wuhan Institute of Virology – the stated reason that our grant was initially terminated. The email chain is below including an email I just sent to Erik Stemmy, cc'd to Emily Erbelding and Cristina Cassetti asking to let me know of the status of our grant. We're hoping that we'll get information that the grant is now fully reinstated without conditions.

I'm letting you know so that you might whisper in Tony's ear in case it gets up to him. I realize it's been dealt with in the past by the Office of the Director, but let's see what happens – this is an attempt to give them a way to quietly continue the funding without further escalation.

Keeping my fingers crossed here, and anything that you can do to help or advise, or smooth the right passage would be very much appreciated.

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: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >
Sent: Tuesday, February 16, 2021 3:54 PM
To: 'Stemmy, Erik (NIH/NIAID) [E]' (b) (6)
Cc: 'Aleksei Chmura (b) (6) ; 'Erbelding, Emily (NIH/NIAID) [E]' (b) (6)
Subject: Status of R01AI110964-6 Understanding the Risk of Bat Coronavirus Emergence
Importance: High

MORENS_SUBPOENA_012469
MORENS_NIH_023702
REL0000482473

Hi Erik,

We received an email (below) from Garcia-Malone Gorka of the Office of Director letting us know that they have confirmed there are no pending investigations into the Wuhan Institute of Virology, and that the grant is funded. Because of that email, I'm writing to ask if you can confirm that we can move ahead with a continuation of our 5-yr award R01AI110964 and spend funds against the budget.

We're really hopeful that this is the case, and everyone at EcoHealth Alliance is looking forward to continuing this critical work.

Looking forward to hearing news from you!

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: Garcia-Malene, Gorka (NIH/OD) [E (b) (6)
Sent: Tuesday, January 26, 2021 12:20:51 PM
To: Matthew R.Torsiello
Cc: Nels T. Lippert; Andrew N. Krinsky; Bartok, Lauren (NIH/NIAID) [E]; NIH FOIA
Subject: [EXT] FW: FOIA Case No. 55702 re: EcoHealth Alliance & Grant No. R01AI110964-6

Good afternoon, Mr. Torsiello –

I'd like to insert myself into the unfolding FOIA conversation in hopes of providing some helpful context. Our records show that this competing renewal has in fact been funded. In addition, any indication from my program that there is an ongoing investigation into WIV can now be disregarded, as we recently confirmed there are no pending investigations into that organization. If we can agree on the above, all that would remain is to receive your proposed redactions to the records sought under the FOIA request.

Please let me know if there are any questions. I look forward to facilitating the Pre-Disclosure Notification process as efficiently as possible.

Best regards.

Gorka Garcia-Malene |FOIA Officer for the National Institutes of Health

From: Matthew R.Torsiello (b) (6)
Sent: Monday, January 25, 2021 5:21
To: Bartok, Lauren (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b) (6)
Cc: Nels T. Lippert (b) (6) ; Andrew N. Krinsky (b) (6)

MORENS_SUBPOENA_012470
MORENS_NIH_023703
REL0000482473

Subject: FOIA Case No. 55702 re: EcoHealth Alliance & Grant No. R01AI110964-6

Dear Ms. Bartok:

As you may recall, this firm represents EcoHealth Alliance, Inc. ("EcoHealth Alliance"), with respect to certain FOIA requests, including the instant request, FOIA Case No. 55702. The instant request seeks the same documents sought last year in FOIA Case No. 53996, regarding the research project *Understanding the Risk of Bat Coronavirus Emergence*, funded under grant 2R01AI110964. A copy of our prior letter regarding FOIA 53996 is available via the link provided below using the password NIH12345. On the grounds set forth in the letter, FOIA 53996 was denied in its entirety.

Likewise, FOIA 55702 should be denied and the grant documents should be withheld. First, grant 2R01AI110964-06 remains an unfunded competing renewal grant that is the subject of a pending first-level appeal and, thus, the materials are not subject to disclosure under NIH Grants Policy Statement §2.3.11.2.2. Moreover, in the context of the appeal, NIH has made multiple requests for further information regarding The Wuhan Institute of Virology ("WIV"), which requests indicate that a law enforcement investigation concerning WIV remains ongoing. Second, as demonstrated by the recent attack on the US Capital fueled by disinformation and conspiracy theories, the need to protect the privacy of EcoHealth Alliance's employees and affiliates is more important than ever. Last, while EcoHealth Alliance did not initially identify that the grant proposal contained confidential-commercial and propriety information, this is not dispositive. Moreover, since the filing of the renewal application, there has been a global COVID-19 pandemic, which has sparked international and highly competitive research in the area of bat coronaviruses.

At the very least, the responsive documents will require significant redactions. While the grant documents were previously reviewed and redacted in connection with FOIA 53996, we require a further opportunity to review the documents to confirm, *inter alia*, that all personnel information has been removed given the heightened risk of harm in this unprecedented political environment. Accordingly, EcoHealth Alliance respectfully requests a forty-five (45) day extension of time to respond to FOIA 55702, to allow sufficient time for EcoHealth Alliance to conduct a further review of the responsive documents and provide an updated letter response that incorporates recent developments and specific justifications for additional redactions.

Please confirm that NIH will deny FOIA 55702 in its entirety or that NIH is agreeable to EcoHealth Alliance's request for an extension of time to provide a particularized response to FOIA 55702. Please also confirm NIH's receipt of this email.

Thank you.

Best,
Matthew R. Torsiello

FOIA Case No. 53996 - EcoHealth Alliance's Letter Response to FOIA Request, dated June 5, 2020 (With Exhibits)
https://tarterkrinsky-my.sharepoint.com/:b:/p/mtorsiello/EYHsvmSBaINAk6mAgJfyl-gByaIrZFhCEBLGOnHjfTjMOw?e=mZHyA8

MORENS_SUBPOENA_012471
MORENS_NIH_023704
REL0000482473

Matthew R.Torsiello | Associate
D:(b) (6) | F: (b) (6)
(b) (6) | Bio

Tarter Krinsky&Drogin LLP
1350Broadway|New York|NY|10018
www.tarterkrinsky.com | LinkedIn
COVID-19 RESOURCE CENTER

Tarter Krinsky & Drogin is fully operational. All attorneys and staff have been and will continue to be working remotely and TKD has put measures in place to ensure our services continue uninterrupted. However, because of anticipated delays in receiving regular mail and other deliveries, please e-mail copies of anything you send by regular mail or delivery, including issuing remittances electronically, until further notice. Please contact Katrinia Soares at reception@tarterkrinsky.com or by phone at 212-216-8000 with any questions. Thank you in advance for your courtesies during these unprecedented times.

NOTE: If regular mailing or other specific transmission type is required by terms of a contract, order or statute, please comply with those obligations and transmit the materials by the means set forth in the agreement, order or statute as well as by email.

Confidentiality Disclosure: This information in this email and in attachments is confidential and intended solely for the attention and use of the named (addressee(s). This information may be subject to attorney/client privilege or may otherwise be protected by work product privilege or other legal rules. It must not be disclosed to any person without our authority. If you are not the intended recipient, or a person responsible for delivering it to the intended recipient, you are not authorized to disclose, and must not disclose, copy, distribute, or retain this message or any part of it.

This email is an informal communication that is not meant to be legally binding upon the sender unless expressly noted to the contrary.

Tarter Krinsky & Drogin LLP, Attorneys-at-Law.

Tarter Krinsky & Drogin is fully operational. All attorneys and staff have been and will continue to be working remotely and TKD has put measures in place to ensure our services continue uninterrupted. However, because of anticipated delays in receiving regular mail and other deliveries, please e-mail copies of anything you send by regular mail or delivery, including issuing remittances electronically, until further notice. Please contact Katrinia Soares at reception@tarterkrinsky.com or by phone at 212-216-8000 with any questions. Thank you in advance for your courtesies during these unprecedented times.

NOTE: If regular mailing or other specific transmission type is required by terms of a contract, order or statute, please comply with those obligations and transmit the materials by the means set forth in the agreement, order or statute as well as by email.

Confidentiality Disclosure: This information in this email and in attachments is confidential and intended solely for the attention and use of the named (addressee(s). This information may be subject to attorney/client privilege or may otherwise be protected by work product privilege or other legal rules. It must not be disclosed to any person without our authority. If you are not the intended recipient, or a person responsible for delivering it to the intended recipient, you are not authorized to disclose, and must not disclose, copy, distribute, or retain this message or any part of it.

This email is an informal communication that is not meant to be legally binding upon the sender unless expressly noted to the contrary.

Date:	Mon, 17 May 2021 6:38:22 PM -0400
Sent:	Mon, 17 May 2021 6:38:20 PM -0400
Subject:	Re: Just the News: Virologist: NIAID grantee funded Wuhan coronavirus studies used in gain-of-function research https://bit.ly/2S57PcE
From:	Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] <(b) (6)
To:	Roberts, Rich <(b) (6)
CC:	Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >; Keusch, Jerry <(b) (6)
Attachments:	image001.gif; image002.jpg; image001.gif; image002.jpg

I agree that the term GoF is a minefield, and should either be avoided or explained in detail
And in contrct I never use it except in quotes. Non-virologists assume all GoF is bad and all Loss of function is good, and they rarely understand that often, probably usually, GoF and LoF happen at the same time vis a vis different phenotypic properties

To call experiments experiments with viral chimeras GoF is misleading because making chimeras is a major mechanism of making modern vaccines including influenza vaccines and various flavivirus vaccines

I would favor some different terminology

What we should be against is not techniques to make vaccines and do good research that benefits mankind, but rather using any virology techniques to engineer harmful new viruses. D

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

On May 17, 2021, at 18:01, Roberts, Rich <(b) (6) wrote:

Peter:

I'm not sure I buy the argument that the Ralph and Zhengli experiments were not GoF, just because they led to loss of function. That was probably not the aim of the experiment, just the result. Would you have considered them GoF if they had in fact improved infectivity?

I think it is best to find an alternative term to describe the experiments rather than relying on the loss of function.

Rich

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

From: Peter Daszak <(b) (6)
Sent: Monday, May 17, 2021 2:27 PM
To: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] <(b) (6) Keusch, Jerry <(b) (6) Roberts, Rich

<(b) (6)
Subject: RE: Just the News: Virologist: NIAID grantee funded Wuhan coronavirus studies used in gain-of-function research https://bit.ly/2S57PcE

EXTERNAL SENDER

Didn't see that one. Vincent's right that EcoHealth was not part of any gain-of-function work. He's wrong that the work between Ralph and Zhengli was actually 'gain of function'. The chimeric virus (bat spike, SARS-CoV backbone) actually lost some replication capacity – more like 'loss of function'.

The interview video clip is one I recorded in Singapore in December 2019 at a Nipah meeting. I didn't use the phrase gain of function, and wasn't referring to work we did, as Vincent says. Quite ridiculous, but easy to fool the public with this…

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: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] <(b) (6) >
Sent: Monday, May 17, 2021 12:54 PM
(b) (6) Peter Daszak (b) (6) <(b) (6) Keusch, Jerry (b) (6)
Rich Roberts (b) (6) <(b) (6)
Subject: FW: Just the News: Virologist: NIAID grantee funded Wuhan coronavirus studies used in gain-of-function research https://bit.ly/2S57PcE

David

David M. Morens, M.D.
CAPT, United States Public Health Service
Senior Advisor to the Director

MORENS_SUBPOENA_019806
MORENS_NIH_039541
REL0000482489

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: Folkers, Greg (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b) (6)
Sent: Monday, May 17, 2021 12:11 PM
To: NIAID COGCORE <COGCORE@mail.nih.gov>; NIAID OCGR Leg <NIAIDOCGRLeg@mail.nih.gov>; NIAID OD AM <NIAIDODAM@niaid.nih.gov>
Subject: Just the News: Virologist: NIAID grantee funded Wuhan coronavirus studies used in gain-of-function research https://bit.ly/2S57PcE

Virologist: NIAID grantee funded Wuhan coronavirus studies used in gain-of-function research

In a tense exchange Tuesday with Sen. Rand Paul, longtime NIAID Director Anthony Fauci categorically and repeatedly denied his institute has funded gain-of-function research.
By Daniel Payne

Updated: May 15, 2021 - 11:44am
A prominent Columbia University virologist claims that in the years leading up to the COVID-19 pandemic a U.S. nonprofit funded coronavirus experiments in Wuhan, China the results of which were used in "gain-of-function" virology research at the University of North Carolina.
Dr. Vincent Racaniello made the claim amid ongoing controversy over a recently resurfaced interview between himself and Peter Daszak, the president of the U.S. infectious disease nonprofit EcoHealth Alliance.
Both EcoHealth Alliance and the scientist leading the research at UNC have been heavily funded over the years by the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, which has been directed since 1984 by Dr. Anthony Fauci, the public face of the federal response to the COVID-19 pandemic under Presidents Trump and Biden.
Fauci categorically and repeatedly denied that NIAID has funded gain-of-function research in a tense exchange Tuesday

MORENS_SUBPOENA_019807
MORENS_NIH_039542
REL0000482489

with Sen. Rand Paul (R-Ky.) at a Senate hearing.

Racianello's half-hour interview with Daszak took place in early December 2019 at the Nipah Virus International Conference in Singapore. Significant attention has been given to a segment in which Daszak appears to allude to having participated in "gain-of-function" experiments, a type of procedure in which scientists increase a virus's pathogenicity and/or transmissibility in order to study its potential for human infection.

"You can manipulate [coronaviruses] in the lab pretty easily," Daszak says in the interview. "Spike protein drives a lot of what happens with the coronavirus, zoonotic risk. So you can get the sequence, you can build the protein — and we work with Ralph Baric at UNC to do this — insert into the backbone of another virus, and do, do some work in the lab."

Those remarks, when they resurfaced this week, caused considerable controversy due to Daszak's role in funneling hundreds of thousands of dollars through his EcoHealth Alliance to the Wuhan Institute of Virology to bankroll coronavirus experiments there. The Wuhan lab sits just a few miles from where the first detected outbreak of COVID-19 occurred.

Speculation has swirled over the last year as to what role, if any, the Wuhan lab may have played in the origin of the pandemic, including whether it was engaging in any gain-of-function experiments that may have posed a pandemic risk.

Experiments 'confer a new property to the original virus'

Racaniello said that Daszak in the December 2019 interview was indeed describing gain-of-function experiments.

"Here is the idea," he said in an email exchange this week. "You go into caves in China and sample bats for CoVs. You collect bat guano and sequence it to find the viruses. You don't actually have the viruses, just their genome sequences. You want to know if these viruses have the ability to infect human cells."

"Since you don't have the viruses," he continued, "you just take the spike sequence from all these viruses and put it into a coronavirus that you work with in the lab. Then you see if that recombinant coronavirus can infect human cells. It's all done under containment to prevent any release. If the spikes of the bat CoV can allow the CoV to infect human cells, then they have the potential to infect humans and we should be making antivirals against them to prevent a pandemic."

Those kinds of experiments, Racaniello said, "are considered 'gain of function' because they would confer a new property to the original virus."

That research, Racaniello said, "was done in the laboratory of Dr. Ralph Baric in [the University of] North Carolina and was not funded by EcoHealth Alliance." When pressed, Racaniello revealed that EcoHealth did have an indirect role in the funding of Baric's work.

"EcoHealth Alliance provided funds to Zengli Shi at the Wuhan Institute of Virology to conduct bat surveillance for SARS-like CoVs," he said. "Baric then received the spike sequences from Wuhan to do his experiments independently."

"Daszak and Baric did not work together on this project," he added.

Anna Marie Skalka, a professor emerita at the Fox Chase Cancer Center and one of the authors of the bestselling textbook "Principles of Virology," did not expressly deny that Baric's research constituted gain-of-function, though she claimed that the overall issue was more complex than that.

"I prefer to describe the research in broader terms, as gain-of-function seems too narrow and has acquired negative connotations," she said. "The aim of such research is to learn as much as possible about the gene/protein in question so that one can begin to develop possible therapeutic or vaccine-related approaches."

Queries to Daszak and Baric on Racaniello's claims went unanswered.

The assertions from Racaniello — a four-decade veteran of academic virology who along with Skalka is also an author of "Principles of Virology" — constitute the sharpest allegations yet that both EcoHealth and the Wuhan Institute of Virology were involved, even if adjacently, with gain-of-function research prior to the pandemic.

Baric's research, meanwhile, has been the recipient of millions of dollars in funding from the NIAID over the years, much of it focused on coronaviruses, including experiments in the "replication and pathogenesis" of those viruses.

Racaniello himself forcefully defended such research. "There is a very clear reason to do these experiments and if we had done them even more we could have prevented the current pandemic," he said.

EcoHealth, meanwhile, has been the focus of controversy for the past year due not merely to its alleged association with coronavirus experiments but also to the fact that its work was for years heavily funded by the federal government, specifically the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases.

EcoHealth routed hundreds of thousands of NIAID dollars to the Wuhan lab in the years leading up to the pandemic to conduct coronavirus research there. Experts and commentators alike have called for a major investigation into the lab to determine if SARS-Cov-2 may have accidentally leaked from the facility and launched the pandemic.

The federal funding for the Wuhan project was pulled last year near the outset of the pandemic. Daszak himself told NPR last year that the Wuhan experiments were "funded entirely through the NIH grant," as the news service put it.

The lab was the subject of part of the World Health Organization's investigation into the origins of COVID-19. That probe concluded earlier this year and determined that a lab-leak theory was unlikely, though world officials have called for additional investigations into the facility.

The international team of investigators reportedly only spent a single day at the Wuhan lab. Among the team's members — and the only U.S. representative on it — was Peter Daszak.

MORENS_SUBPOENA_019808
MORENS_NIH_039543
REL0000482489

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

Disclaimer

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

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

Date: Wed, 26 May 2021 2:48:48 PM -0400
Sent: Wed, 26 May 2021 2:45:45 PM -0400
Subject: RE: Axios: Biden asks intelligence community to intensify investigation of COVID origins
From: Peter Daszak <
To: Keusch, G (b) (6) Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] <(b) (6) Rich Roberts <(b) (6)
Attachments: image001.gif; image002.jpg; image003.jpg; image004.jpg

Re. the 3 sick people at Wuhan – I have no new information on this. We asked WIV about sick staff at the time, and they said nothing unusual was reported, and all staff who worked in the bat-cov group were tested for SARs2 antibodies after the outbreak – all negative. They've made a follow up, similar statement last week.

I think that if there were any reliable intel on this, the people who've seen the intel wouldn't be quoted on CNN assaying the following:
Importantly, the intelligence community still does not know what the researchers were actually sick with, said the people briefed, and continues to have low confidence in its assessments of the virus' precise origins beyond the fact that it came from China. "At the end of the day, there is still nothing definitive," said one of the people who has seen the intelligence.

Or another quote:
"My own personal belief is we're never going to know the answer to this," this person said. "And the answer is not going to be found out by the CIA, because that would suggest the Chinese are looking for it themselves," which this person said they were not.
"If the answer exists it's not going to be found by traditional spycraft," this person added.

Here's the article
https://www.cnn.com/2021/05/23/politics/us- intelligence-report-wuhan-lab-researchers-coronavirus-origin/index.html

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: Keusch, Gerald T (b) (6)
Sent: Wednesday, May 26, 2021 2:32
(b) (6) Morens. David (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b) (6) >; Peter Daszak (b) (6)
; Rich Roberts (b) (6)
Subject: RE: Axios: Biden asks intelligence community to intensify investigation of COVID origins

MORENS_SUBPOENA_014861
MORENS_NIH_030514
REL0000482495

I am going to talk to a reporter from Mother Jones tomorrow, who is well known to my colleague Nahid Bhadelia and who put the reporter in touch with me.
Two things that you may know something about.

First, primarily for Peter (amplified by David if you have any insights), is there any reliable information you know of about the 3 sick WIV staff who were hospitalized in November? This is now the point of the spear alleging the lab was the source – not just an asymptomatic infected individual but full blown disease.

Second, primarily for David, I see comments that since the NIH created the review process for certain genetic research on pathogenic microorganisms, there have been just two grants referred by evaluation through the mechanism to block GOF research that could be too dangerous to do and the expected information yield was not sufficient to grant an exception. Is that right? Just two? There have to have been a hell of a lot more grants proposing to study the role of a variety of genes and virus properties on virulence and pathogenesis, and just two (probably Ralph Baric grants) were of sufficient concern to even activate the review process?

On the UK request I replied simply "Decline".

From: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b) (6)
Sent: Wednesday,
To: Peter Daszak (b) (6) <(b) (6) >; Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6)
Rich Roberts (b) (6) <(b) (6)
Subject: FW: Axios: Biden asks intelligence community to intensify investigation of COVID origins

David

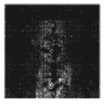
David M. Morens, M.D.
CAPT, United States Public Health Service
Senior Advisor to the Director
Office of the Director
National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases
National Institutes of Health
Building 31, Room 7A-03
31 Center Drive, MSC 2520
Bethesda, MD 20892-2520
(b) (6) (assistants: Kimberly 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: Folkers, Greg (NIH/NIAID) [E] <(b) (6) >
Sent: Wednesday, May 26, 2021 2:09 PM
Subject: Axios: Biden asks intelligence community to intensify investigation of COVID origins

1 hour ago - World

Biden asks intelligence community to intensify investigation of COVID origins



Zachary Basu

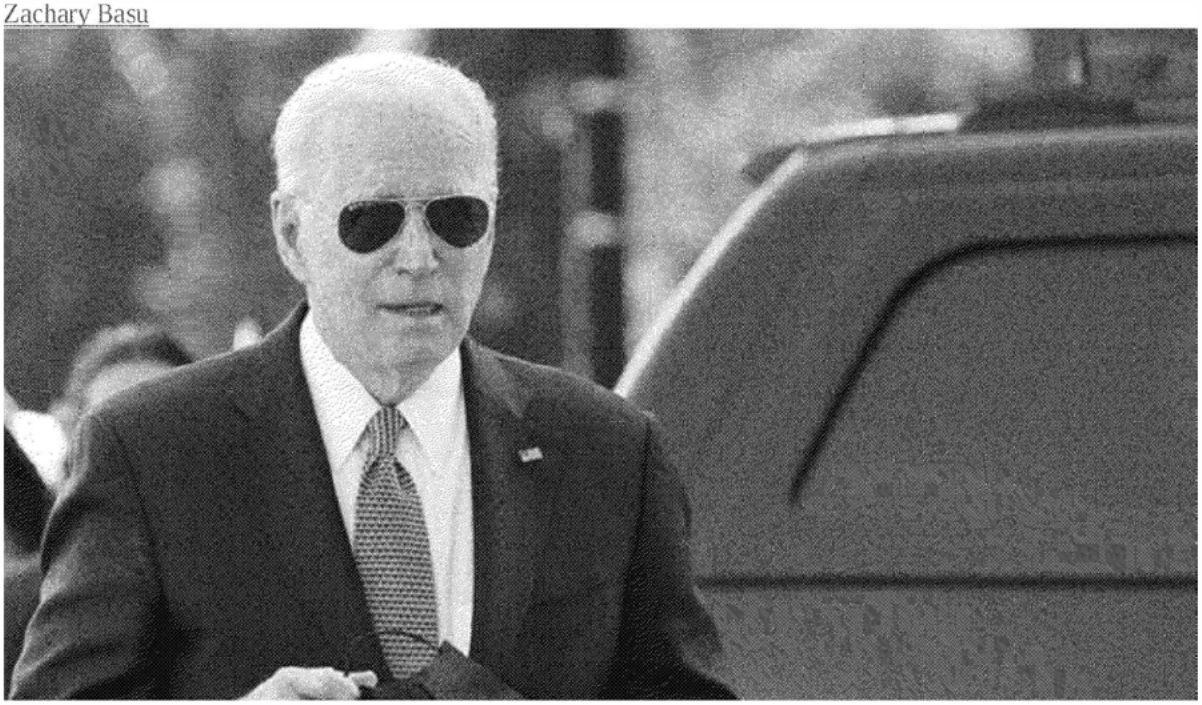


Photo: Win McNamee/Getty Images

President Biden announced Wednesday he has asked the U.S. intelligence community to "redouble their efforts" to investigate the origins of the coronavirus and provide a report within 90 days that "could bring us closer to a definitive conclusion."

Why it matters: The debate over the origins of COVID-19 has been reinvigorated in recent days by previously undisclosed U.S. intelligence, first reported by the Wall Street Journal, that three researchers at the Wuhan Institute of Virology fell ill enough to be hospitalized in November 2019.

The state of play: Biden said in a statement that the U.S. intelligence community had "coalesced around two likely scenarios"

MORENS_SUBPOENA_014863
MORENS_NIH_030516
REL0000482495

for the origins of the virus — one, that it emerged from human contact with an infected and animal, and two, that it was the result of an accidental laboratory leak.

- A joint team from the World Health Organization and China issued an inconclusive report in March that described the so-called lab-leak theory as "extremely unlikely."
- But the report has been criticized by the U.S. and WHO leadership for its methodology and lack of transparency from the Chinese government, and top U.S. officials have called for a new investigation.

What they're saying: Biden said the U.S. intelligence community's current position is that "while two elements in the IC leans toward the former scenario and one leans more toward the latter – each with low or moderate confidence – the majority of elements do not believe there is sufficient information to assess one to be more likely than the other."

- "I have now asked the Intelligence Community to redouble their efforts to collect and analyze information that could bring us closer to a definitive conclusion, and to report back to me in 90 days," Biden said in a statement.
- "As part of that report, I have asked for areas of further inquiry that may be required, including specific questions for China. I have also asked that this effort include work by our National Labs and other agencies of our government to augment the Intelligence Community's efforts. And I have asked the Intelligence Community to keep Congress fully apprised of its work."

Our thought bubble: Whether COVID-19 ultimately originated in an animal or in a lab, the bulk of the evidence is in China, which limits what the U.S. can find out. But Biden's statement underscores the fact that this debate will not end any time soon, and that the U.S. could ramp up pressure on China to cooperate.

Go deeper: The COVID lab-leak theory goes mainstream

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

Disclaimer

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

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

Date:	Thu, 19 May 2022 5:36:07 PM -0400
Sent:	Thu, 19 May 2022 5:35:44 PM -0400
Subject:	Re: Jeff Sachs causing trouble via a PNAS article
From:	"Hotez, Peter Jay" <(b) (6)
To:	Peter Daszak <(b) (6)
CC:	Roberts, Rich <(b) (6) David Morens <(b) (6) Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6) Jeffrey Sturchio <(b) (6) Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) >;
Attachments:	image001.jpg; image002.jpg; image003.jpg; image014.jpg; image015.jpg; image016.jpg; image018.jpg; image019.jpg; image021.jpg; image023.jpg; image025.jpg; image027.jpg; image029.jpg; image001.jpg; image002.jpg; image003.jpg; image014.jpg; image015.jpg; image016.jpg; image018.jpg; image019.jpg; image021.jpg; image023.jpg; image025.jpg; image027.jpg; image029.jpg

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

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

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

University Professor, Baylor University

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

Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

E-mail: (b) (6)
Twitter:
Skype: (b) (6)
Linkedi Hotez

Amazon Author Center: https://www.amazon.com/Peter- J.-Hotez/e/B001HP1C48
Daily Beast Contributor https://www.thedailybeast.com/author/peter- j-hotez
Like us on Facebook https://www.facebook.com/BCMNationalSchoolOfTropicalMedicine/

Senior Coordinator / Executive Support: Douglas Soriano
Douglas (b) (6) o@bcm.edu
Phone:
Fax: 71

MORENS_SUBPOENA_010934
MORENS_NIH_021499
REL0000482497

iPhone

On May 19, 2022, at 4:27 PM, Peter Daszak <(b) (6) > wrote:

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

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

- "EHA, UNC, NIH, USAID, and other research partners have failed to disclose their activities to the US scientific community and the US public, instead declaring that they were not involved in any experiments that could have resulted in the emergence of SARS-CoV-2." BS – we published dozens of papers on our work (they're on our website!) and sent reports in to NIH each year. We also gave hundreds of public lectures on this and spoke with the intelligence agencies about it.
- "The exact details of the fieldwork and laboratory work of the EHA-WIV-UNC partnership, and the engagement of other institutions in the United States and China, has not been disclosed for independent analysis." BS – that's what happens when you publish peer-reviewed papers. Maybe Sachs has forgotten how that works!
- "Much of the work on SARS-like CoVs performed in Wuhan was part of an active and highly 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.

MORENS_SUBPOENA_010935
MORENS_NIH_021500
REL0000482497

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

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

Tel.: +1-(b) (6)
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

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

From: Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6)
Sent: Thursday, May 19, 2022 4:58 PM
To: Roberts, Rich (b) (6)
Cc: (b) (6) orens (b) (6) < (b) (6) Jeffrey Sturchio (b) (6) ; Aleksei Chmura (b) (6)
Subject: Re: Jeff Sachs causing trouble via a PNAS article

How could PNAS publish this crap?

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

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

University Professor, Baylor University

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

Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

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

MORENS_SUBPOENA_010936
MORENS_NIH_021501
REL0000482497

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

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

iPhone

On May 19, 2022, at 3:54 PM, Roberts, Rich <(b) (6) > wrote:

Peter:

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

Rich

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

From: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >
Sent: Thursday, May 19, 2022 4:32 PM
To: Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6) David Morens (b) (6)
Cc: Keusch, Gerald (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.

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

MORENS_SUBPOENA_010938
MORENS_NIH_021503
REL0000482497

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."

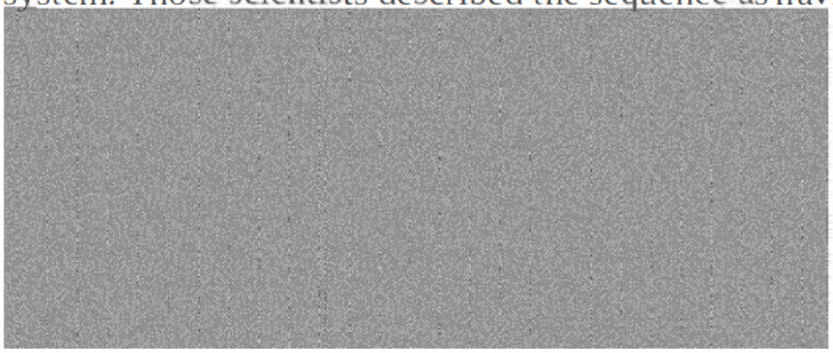
The intent of the DARPA proposal was to prevent emerging pathogenic threats, but the work, if conducted, could have created a novel virus capable of infecting humans. "We will introduce appropriate human-specific cleavage sites and evaluate growth potential in [a type of mammalian cell commonly used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

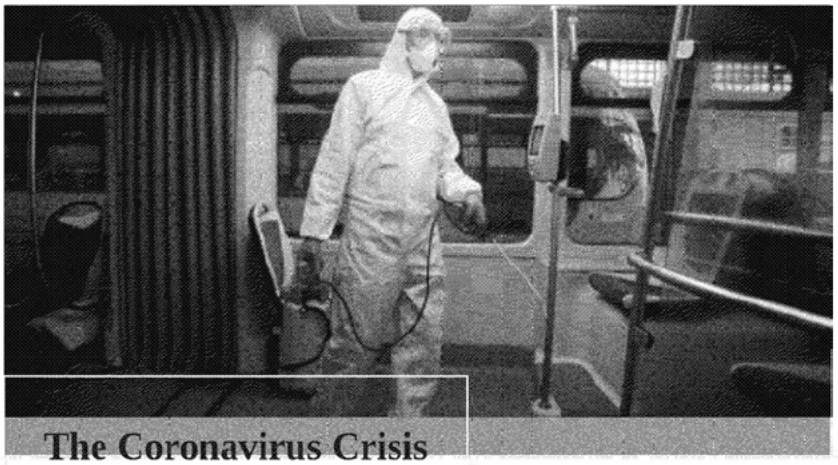
A Rational Choice

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.



MORENS_SUBPOENA_010940
MORENS_NIH_021505
REL0000482497



The Coronavirus Crisis

Read Our Complete Coverage

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

Such a choice, they point out, would have been in keeping with another viral research project on which EcoHealth Alliance, the Wuhan Institute of Virology, and UNC's Baric collaborated: a 2014 grant from the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases that involved increasing the transmissibility and pathogenicity of bat coronaviruses.

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

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

MORENS_SUBPOENA_010942
MORENS_NIH_021507
REL0000482497

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."

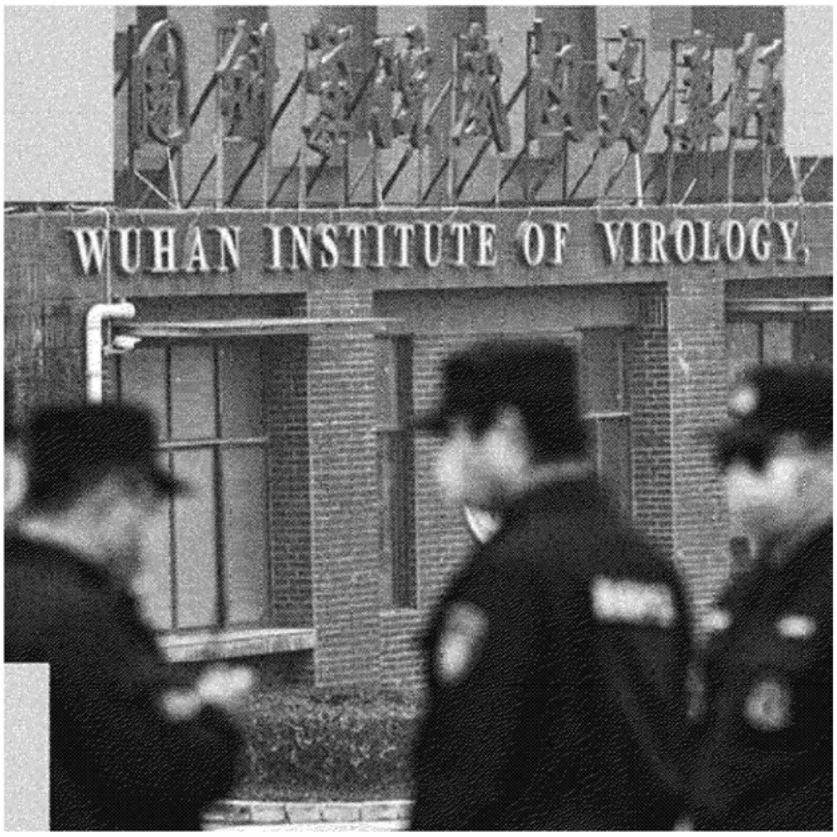
Still, both the overlap in the amino acid sequence and the fact that experts in the furin cleavage site of the ENaC-alpha and insertion of genetic material into bat coronaviruses work at the same university could be coincidental, as Harrison and Sachs acknowledge. Some virologists, though, say that the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

"Could be," Richard Ebright, a molecular biologist at Rutgers University,

MORENS_SUBPOENA_010943
MORENS_NIH_021508
REL0000482497

wrote in an email to The Intercept when asked about the possibility that these things are both chance occurrences. "But the list of coincidences is getting verrrrrrrrrry long."

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



Related

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

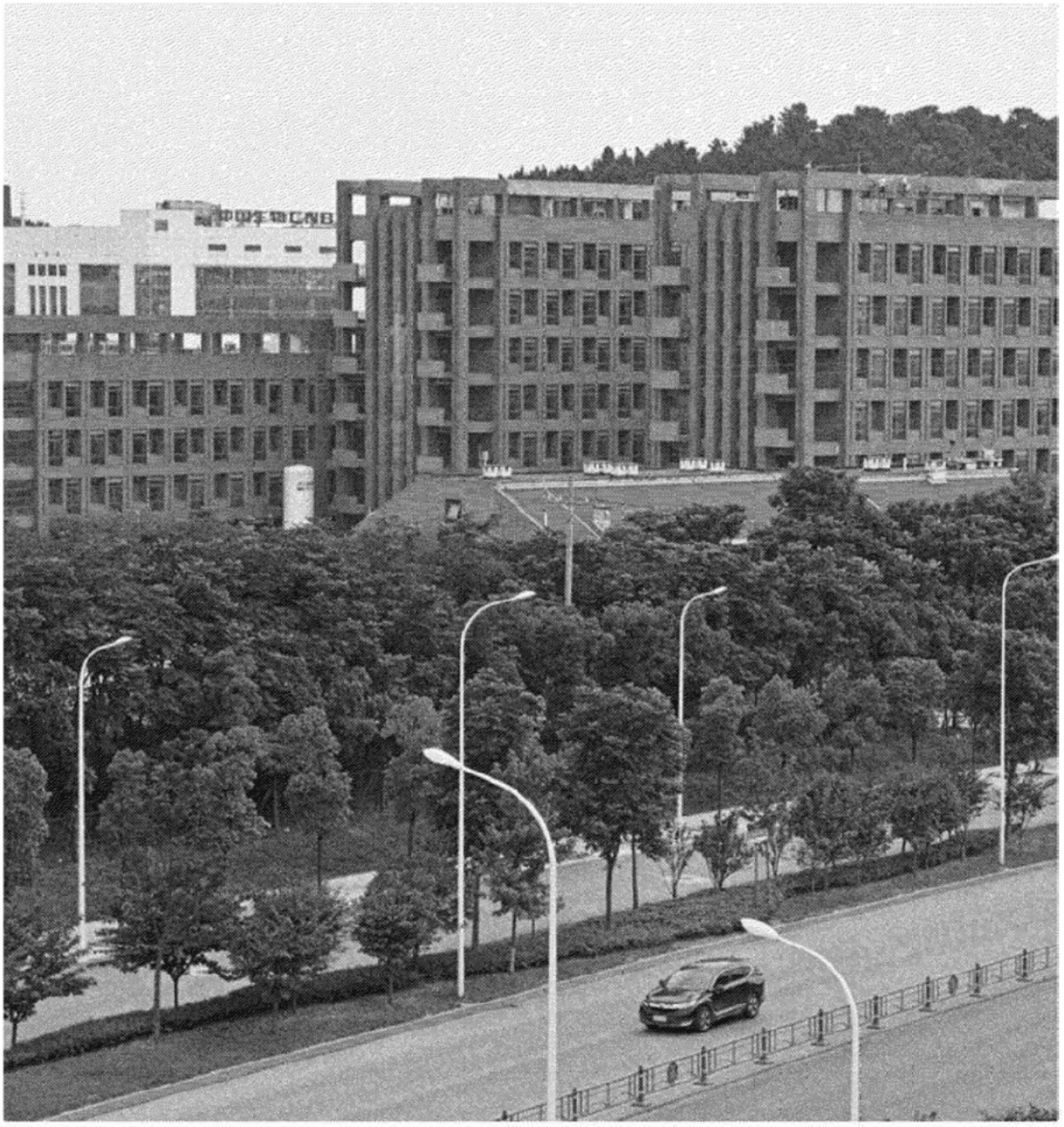
"The sequence encoding the FCS of the pandemic virus contained two consecutive CGG arginine codons," Ebright explained in his email. (A codon, or a combination of three nucleotides, supplies the genetic code for a single amino acid, though most amino acids can be represented by multiple different codons.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

MORENS_SUBPOENA_010944
MORENS_NIH_021509
REL0000482497

coronaviruses (for which fewer than 1 in 30 arginine codons are CGG) but is optimal for humans (for which most arginine codons are CGG codons)."

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

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



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

Photo: Kyodo via AP Images

Name Calling

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

MORENS_SUBPOENA_010946
MORENS_NIH_021511
REL0000482497

coarse, and unyielding opposition.

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

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

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

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

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

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

MORENS_SUBPOENA_010947
MORENS_NIH_021512
REL0000482497

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

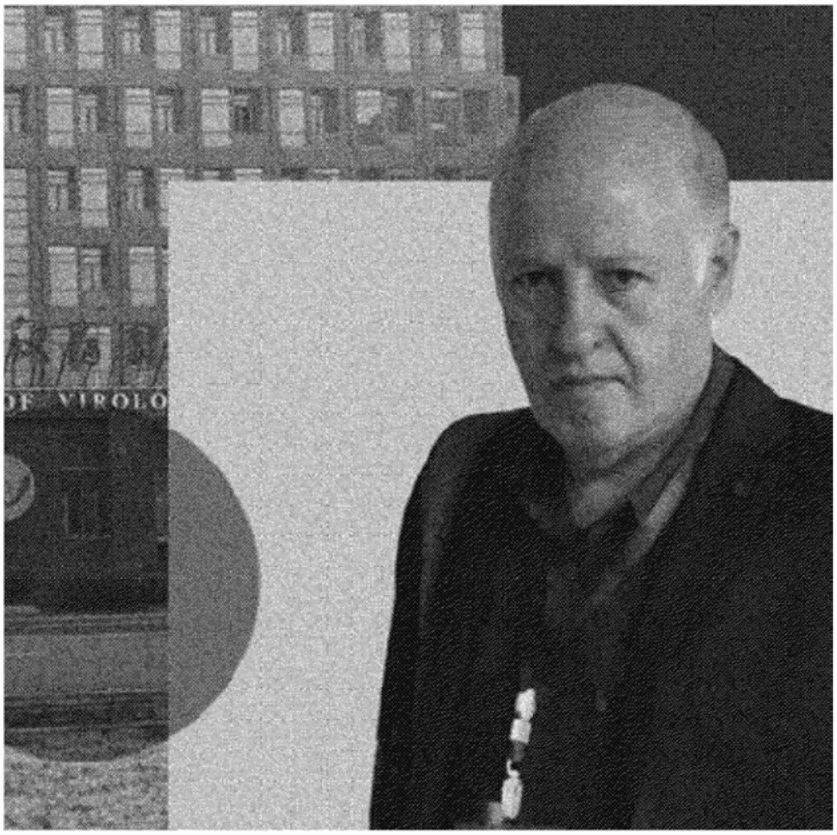
Photo: Hector Retamal/AFP via Getty Images

A Reversal

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

MORENS_SUBPOENA_010950
MORENS_NIH_021515
REL0000482497

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

MORENS_SUBPOENA_010951
MORENS_NIH_021516
REL0000482497

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

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

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

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

Tel.: +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, 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

MORENS_SUBPOENA_010952
MORENS_NIH_021517
REL0000482497

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

University Professor, Baylor University

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

Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

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

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

Senior Coordinator / Executive Support: Douglas Soriano
(b) (6) _____
Phone: (b) (6)
Fax: 71

iPhone

On May 11, 2022, at 6:39 PM, David Morens <(b) (6) > wrote:

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

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

MORENS_SUBPOENA_010953
MORENS_NIH_021518
REL0000482497

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…:

MORENS_SUBPOENA_010954
MORENS_NIH_021519
REL0000482497

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

Hi Carl:

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

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

Thanks,
Renate

Cheers,

Peter

MORENS_SUBPOENA_010955
MORENS_NIH_021520
REL0000482497

Peter Daszak
President

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

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

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

From: David Morens <(b) (6)
Sent: Wednesday, May
To: Peter (b) (6) >; (b) (6) Jeffrey S (b) (6) >; (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) (work)
(cell)

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

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

---------- Forwarded message ---------
From: **Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E]** (b) (6) >
Date: Wed, May 11, 2022 at 4:54 PM
Subject: FW: NY Post: NIH director confirms agency hid early COVID genes at request of Chinese scientists
To: David Morens (<(b) (6) >

From: Folkers, Greg (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b) (6)
Sent: Wednesday, May 11, 2022 4:12 PM

MORENS_SUBPOENA_010956
MORENS_NIH_021521
REL0000482497

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

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

By
Steven Nelson
May 11, 2022 3:47pm

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

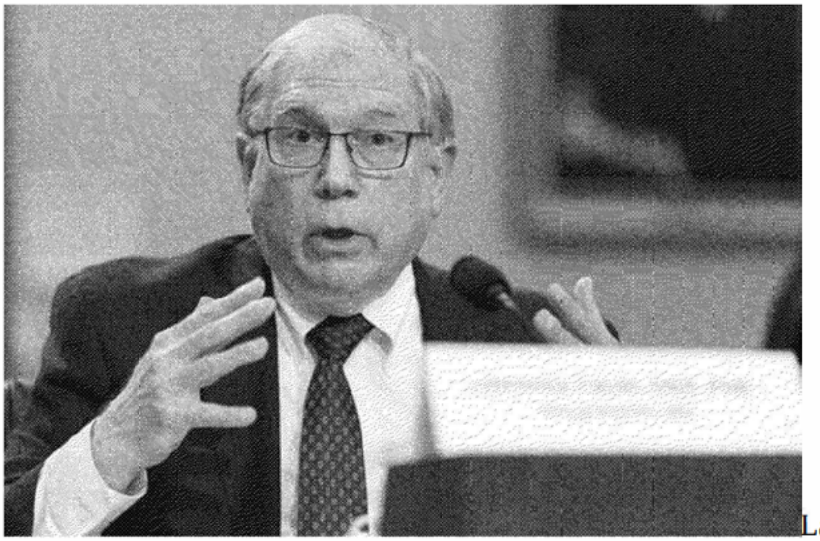
Tabak told a House Appropriations subcommittee that the NIH "eliminated from public view" the data from the pandemic epicenter in Wuhan, China, before adding that researchers can still access it via an archaic "tape drive."

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

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

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

MORENS_SUBPOENA_010957
MORENS_NIH_021522
REL0000482497


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

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

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

“So you don’t have the information anymore?” Beutler asked.

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

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

“That’s correct,” he said.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

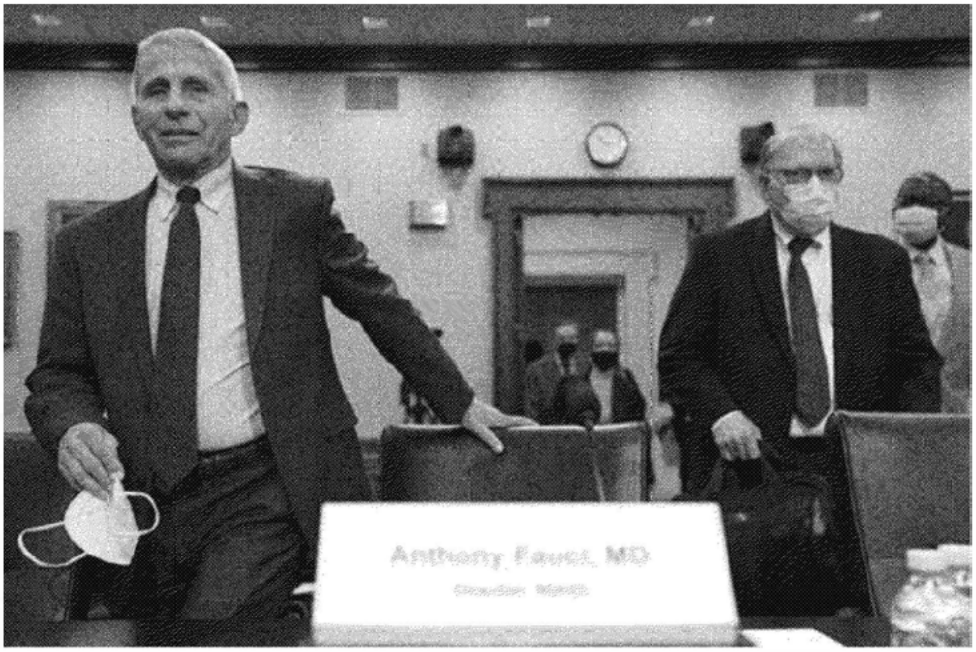
Bloom shared a draft academic paper with Collins and Fauci, who allegedly objected on a June 2021 Zoom video conference to Bloom's description of Chinese scientists "surreptitiously" removing the sequences. Fauci said the word was "loaded" and implied a coverup, the report said.

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

Tabak noted that while the request for information to be removed was honored, it was not erased fully.ECOHEALTH ALLIANCE

Andersen allegedly went so far as to offer to delete Bloom's article from a "preprint" server "in a way that would leave no record that this had been done."

China's government has refused to cooperate with an international investigation of the origins of the pandemic. The COVID-19 virus has killed about 1 million Americans since March 2020 and caused massive social, economic and educational disruptions. The US intelligence community said in an August report that it's possible the virus leaked from the Wuhan Institute of Virology, calling the theory one of two "plausible" explanations along with natural transmission from animals.



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

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

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

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

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

Disclaimer

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

Disclaimer

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

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

Disclaimer

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

Date: Fri, 10 Sep 2021 9:50:49 AM -0400
Sent: Fri, 10 Sep 2021 9:50:44 AM -0400
Subject: Re: Intercept piece is now out.
From: Stephen Goldstein <(b) (6)
To: Rasmussen, Angie <(b) (6)
CC: Garry, Robert F <(b) (6) Peter Daszak <(b) (6) Kristian G. Andersen <(b) (6) David Morens <(b) (6) Edward Holmes <(b) (6) >; Jason Gale <(b) (6) Robert Kessler ;

Vincent is vocally in favor of GOF research so it wouldn't surprise me if he is saying this is GOF to make the point that such research is important. He also probably doesn't know the specific definition as Angie says. So a combination there I think.

Ralph published on SHC014 on the Urbani backbone so this is pretty much in line. That's a nasty spike in mice. He also generated the full length virus more recently.

Peter - sorry about all this, it really sucks. Wish there was more we all could do to alleviate but maybe this will be the last "revelation" and things will slowly die down.

Sent from my iPhone

> On Sep 10, 2021, at 8:53 AM, Rasmussen, Angie <(b) (6) > wrote:
>
> This is such garbage. I explained to Mara at length why weight loss in transgenic mice and viral RNA cannot be used to assess pathogenicity and transmissibility in people. I also said that Alina specifically is a hobbyist with zero relevant experience and should not be trusted as a source. Not surprised that Mara wrote this but if "adjacent fields" includes Alina, that's all I need to know. And Jesse "As a Virologist" Bloom is clearly an outlier in our profession. 8/11 consulted suggests it was Chan, Bloom, Ebright, Relman, Lipsitch, etc and evidently Racaniello. If you ask mostly people who you know will say "yep, gain of function, shut it down" then of course you'll get a majority of "virologists and adjacent fields" confirming your thesis. It's shoddy journalism.
>
> Vincent Racaniello was my PhD mentor and I have enormous respect for him, but that said, he doesn't work on anything that would ever remotely meet the criteria for P3CO oversight and this quote leads me to believe that he doesn't know what the NIH definition is. Also given that Mara completely blew past a NIH spokesperson saying it didn't meet the definition of P3 and left out all the context I provided about why this doesn't fit the definition, I also think it's possible Vincent was quoted out of context. Ugh. I'm sorry, Peter. This is a flaming pile of hot garbage, especially given what Bob points out below.
>
> > On Sep 10, 2021, at 05:45, Garry, Robert F <(b) (6) wrote:
> >
> > Just asking questions, but how are the exp described in Peter's grants somehow GoF and experiments here aren't? https://www.mdpi.com/1999- 4915/12/9/987/htm
> >
> > "We incorporated a membrane-anchored form of the SARS-CoV-2 spike receptor binding domain (RBD) in place of the neuraminidase (NA) coding sequence in an influenza virus also possessing a mutation that reduces the affinity of hemagglutinin for its sialic acid receptor."

MORENS_SUBPOENA_022579
MORENS_NIH_043582
REL0000482498

"The viral supernatant from reverse genetics was blind passaged twice in MDCK-SIAT1-TMPRSS2 cells at three-day intervals. Upon the final passage, the cytopathic effect was evident in the well containing ΔNA(RBD)-Flu, suggesting the presence of a replicating virus."

Glass house-stones?

""As a virologist, I personally think creating chimeras of SARS-related bat coronaviruses that are thought to pose high risk to humans entails unacceptable risks," said Jesse Bloom, who studies the evolution of viruses at the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center. Severe acute respiratory syndrome, or SARS, is a disease caused, like Covid-19, by an airborne coronavirus."

From: Peter Daszak (b) (6)
Sent: Friday, September 10, 2021 5:20 AM
To: Kristian G. Andersen <(b) (6) >; David Morens <(b) (6) >
Cc: Rasmussen, Angie <(b) (6) Garry, Robert (b) (6) Edward Holmes <(b) (6) Jason Gale <(b) (6) Robert Kessler <(b) (6) Stephen Goldstein <(b) (6)
Subject: RE: Intercept piece is now out.

External Sender. Be aware of links, attachments and requests.

Here's the last part of the story, with a really irritating quote from Alina Chan, who wants even more data to be released. At some point, there is no more private stuff for them to demand, unless they bring out the thought police to see if we were thinking of possibly doing GoF!:

Shifting Definitions, Growing Viral Load

The humanized mouse experiment fits with the overall goal of the $3.1 million grant, which was titled "Understanding the Risk of Bat Coronavirus Emergence" and aimed at preventing a pandemic by predicting the circumstances under which a bat coronavirus could evolve to infect humans. The researchers took an ambitious three-pronged approach: screening people with high exposure to wildlife, mathematical modeling, and lab experiments on viruses. Peter Daszak, the EcoHealth Alliance president, has worked closely with scientists in China for years, and roughly $750,000 of the grant was allocated for the Wuhan Institute of Virology. An additional nearly $300,000 went to East China Normal University, where researchers did field sampling.

In a 2005 paper, Daszak's team showed that the first SARS virus originated in bats. Middle East respiratory syndrome, or MERS, is caused by a coronavirus that emerged in 2012 and also believed to come from bats, which are now a prime target for virologists trying to understand and combat emerging diseases. Daszak has long maintained that his research is critical to preventing outbreaks.

But the research on the bat viruses in Wuhan showed that infecting live animals with altered viruses can have unpredictable consequences. A report to NIH on the project's progress in the year ending in May 2018 described scientists creating new coronaviruses by changing parts of WIV1 and exposing genetically engineered mice to the new chimeric viruses. Research published in 2017 in the journal PLOS Pathogen showed that, in cells in a laboratory, similar chimeric viruses reproduced less effectively than the original. NIH cited that research as one of the reasons the moratorium on gain-of-function research of concern didn't apply to this experiment. "It was a loss of function, not a gain of function," the email from NIH explained. (NIH also pointed out that the changes to the chimeric viruses "would not be anticipated to increase virulence or transmissibility in humans.")

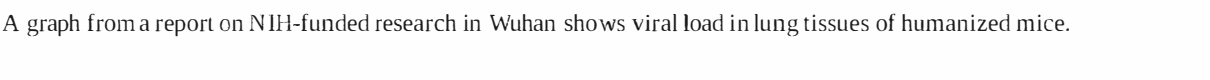
Inside the lungs of the humanized mice, however, the novel viruses appear to have reproduced far more quickly than the original virus that was used to create them, according to a bar graph shown in the documents. The viral load in the lung tissue of the mice was, at certain points, up to 10,000 times higher in the mice infected with the altered viruses than in those infected with WIV1. According to Deatrick, the NIH spokesperson, the difference in the rates of viral reproduction — which were particularly pronounced two and four days after the mice were infected with the virus — didn't amount to gain of function because, by the end of the experiment, the amount of virus produced by the parent and chimeric strains evened out. "Viral titers were equivalent by the end of the experimental time-course," Deatrick wrote. The email also said, "NIH supports this type of research to better understand the characteristics of animal viruses that have the potential to spill over to humans and cause widespread disease."

Scientists The Intercept consulted expressed differing views on whether the increase in viral load could be translated to an increase in transmissibility, which relies on the virus's ability to replicate. To some, the jump in viral load indicated that the modified RNA virus could replicate far more rapidly than the original in the lungs of the mice, likely leading to increased pathogenicity and spread. Rasmussen, of the Vaccine and Infectious Disease Organization, pointed out that viral load is not identical to reproduction rate, noting: "This shows the chimeric viruses replicated a little faster, but that tells us exactly nothing about transmissibility. Furthermore, WIV1 caught up by the end of the experiment. We see differences in the rate of viral replication all the time, but it is often not directly correlated with pathogenicity."

Another figure in the documents suggests that at least one of the altered viruses not only enhanced viral reproduction, but also caused the humanized mice to

lose more weight than those exposed to the original virus — a measure of the severity of illness.

<image006.jpg>



A graph from a report on NIH-funded research in Wuhan shows viral load in lung tissues of humanized mice.

Screenshot: FOIA Document

NIH requires the increase in viral reproduction to be immediately reported, according to a note in the Notice of Award the agency issued in July 2016. "No funds are provided and no funds can be used to support gain-of-function research covered under the October 17, 2014 White House Announcement," the note said. If any new MERS-like or SARS-like chimeras show "enhanced virus growth greater than 1 log over the parental backbone strain," the note continued, the researchers were instructed to stop all experiments with the viruses and send the data to NIAID grant specialists, as well as to the Wuhan Institute of Virology biosafety committee. The enhanced growth of the chimeric coronaviruses in the humanized mice was, at one point, up to 4 log greater — or 10,000 times — the rate of the original virus. But there are no indications the research was stopped.

In fact, the bat coronavirus grant was renewed for a five-year period in 2019, although the Trump administration suspended funding in April 2020 amid the Covid-19 pandemic and spiraling concerns about its origins. (Funding was later reinstated but under strict conditions that Daszak said were impossible for his group to meet.)

Kessler, EcoHealth Alliance's communications manager, also pointed to the fact that the grant was renewed in 2019 — after EcoHealth Alliance had twice submitted documents detailing the experiment as evidence that the organization did nothing wrong. "If there had been any violations, they would not have done so," he said.

Long History of Controversy

The practice of making chimeric viruses in order to study how they might become more contagious was under scrutiny long before the pandemic. Proponents of such gain-of-function research argued that it can help virologists better understand and defend against natural outbreaks. But critics said that they were unreasonably dangerous.

In October 2014, the federal government put a moratorium on funding gain-of-function research on potential pandemic pathogens that could be "reasonably

MORENS_SUBPOENA_022582
MORENS_NIH_043585
REL0000482498

anticipated" to lead to spread in humans, as outlined in a 2017 guidance from the Department of Health and Human Services. In December 2017, the moratorium was lifted and replaced with new guidelines for oversight of research using potential pandemic pathogens. The grantees reported that the humanized mouse experiment was done between June 2017 and May 2018. Gain-of-function research was thrust into the spotlight again in 2020, amid speculation that the Wuhan Institute of Virology had conducted such research and that it was somehow linked to the pandemic.

While the new information about the research on humanized mice does not provide the "smoking gun" for proponents of what has become known as the "lab leak theory," it lends the hypothesis credence, according to Stuart Newman, a professor of cell biology who directs the developmental biology laboratory at New York Medical College. "Making chimeric coronaviruses, mixing and matching RBDs [a part of the virus that allows it to attach to receptors] and spike proteins is exactly the scenario imagined by many lab-leak scenario proponents," said Newman. "The fact that this was an established research paradigm in the Wuhan lab … definitely makes the laboratory origin more plausible."

The documents about the research were released by NIH after The Intercept submitted a Freedom of Information Act request in September 2020, later suing to have it fulfilled. The request sought copies of these and other grant proposals that Daszak submitted to the agency, as well as the agency's communications about the proposals. NIH originally denied The Intercept's request on the grounds that releasing Daszak's proposals would undermine an ongoing investigation. Counsel for the agency later admitted that NIH had not reviewed many of the records before making that assertion.

"The contents of the grants raise serious questions about the review processes and oversight relating to risky pathogen research," said Alina Chan, a Boston-based scientist and co-author of the upcoming book "Viral: The Search for the Origin of Covid-19." The new information in the documents warrants further inquiry into whether researchers may have omitted information about other concerning experiments, she said. "The question is: What else did they do in more recent years that we're not aware of?"

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: Peter Daszak (b) (6)
Sent: Friday, September 10
To: 'Kristian G. Anderse (b) (6) avid Morens' (b) (6)
Cc: 'Ras (b) (6) ; 'G (b) (6) ; 'Edward (b) (6) ; 'Jason G (b) (6) Robert Kessler < (b) (6) ; 'Stephen Goldstein' (b) (6)
Subject: Intercept piece is now out.

Really appreciate you speaking out Angie. I just read the piece in the Intercept and it's very upsetting: https://theintercept.com/2021/09/09/covid- origins-gain-of-function-research/

What you said is correct – without evidence of ability to infect people, or transmit even from one animal to another, it can't possibly meet the NIH definition of GoF, which is now officially the P3CO definition as follows (from https://www.phe.gov/s3/dualuse/Documents/P3CO.pdf):

> **Section II. Scope and Definitions For the purposes of this HHS P3CO Framework:**
> **A.** A potential pandemic pathogen (PPP) is a pathogen that satisfies both of the following:
>
> **1.** It is likely highly transmissible and likely capable of wide and uncontrollable spread in human populations; and
> **2.** It is likely highly virulent and likely to cause significant morbidity and/or mortality in humans.
>
> **B.** An enhanced PPP is defined as a PPP resulting from the enhancement of the transmissibility and/or virulence of a pathogen. Enhanced PPPs do not include naturally occurring pathogens that are circulating in or have been recovered from nature, regardless of their pandemic potential

How on any planet is a bat-CoV that's never been seen in people, "likely highly transmissible and likely capable of wide and uncontrollable spread in human populations"? It seems the 8 scientists that believed this to be GoF base it on one of the chimeras growing faster than the parental strain early on, while forgetting that 1) these are bat viruses have never been shown to infect people, or that, as you say Angie – the growth rates of the parental strain caught up with it by the end of the expt. I'm v. disappointed that Vincent Racaniello is one of these scientists – he should know better.

MORENS_SUBPOENA_022584
MORENS_NIH_043587
REL0000482498

I'm hoping that more will speak out and point to the differences between their version of what GoF is, and the actual definition that we're all supposed to adhere to, and by the way that NIH uses as the agency of note to decide!

NIH DOCUMENTS PROVIDE NEW EVIDENCE U.S. FUNDED GAIN-OF-FUNCTION RESEARCH IN WUHAN

U.S.-funded experiments in China posed biosafety risks but did not cause Covid-19 pandemic, scientists say.

<image007.jpg>
<image008.jpg>
<image009.jpg>

Sharon Lerner, Mara Hvistendahl, Maia Hibbett
September 9 2021, 9:03 p.m.

DOCUMENTS OBTAINED BY The Intercept contain new evidence that the Wuhan Institute of Virology and the nearby Wuhan University Center for Animal Experiment, along with their collaborator, the U.S.-based nonprofit EcoHealth Alliance, have engaged in what the U.S. government defines as "gain-of-function research of concern," intentionally making viruses more pathogenic or transmissible in order to study them, despite stipulations from a U.S. funding agency that the money not be used for that purpose.

Grant money for the controversial experiment came from the National Institutes of Health's National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, which is headed by Anthony Fauci. The award to EcoHealth Alliance, a research organization which studies the spread of viruses from animals to humans, included subawards to Wuhan Institute of Virology and East China Normal University. The principal investigator on the grant is EcoHealth Alliance President Peter Daszak, who has been a key voice in the search for Covid-19's origins.

Scientists unanimously told The Intercept that the experiment, which involved infecting genetically engineered mice with "chimeric" hybrid viruses, could

MORENS_SUBPOENA_022585
MORENS_NIH_043588
REL0000482498

not have directly sparked the pandemic. None of the viruses listed in the write-ups of the experiment are related to the virus that causes Covid-19, SARS-CoV-2, closely enough to have evolved into it. Still, several scientists said the new information, which the NIH released after it was sued by The Intercept, points to biosafety concerns, highlighting a general lack of oversight for research on pathogens and raising questions about what other information has not been publicly disclosed.

"As a virologist, I personally think creating chimeras of SARS-related bat coronaviruses that are thought to pose high risk to humans entails unacceptable risks," said Jesse Bloom, who studies the evolution of viruses at the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center. Severe acute respiratory syndrome, or SARS, is a disease caused, like Covid-19, by an airborne coronavirus.

National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases Director Anthony Fauci listens during a briefing on the coronavirus pandemic at the White House on March 26, 2020 in Washington, DC.

Photo: Drew Angerer/Getty Images

The experiment also raises questions about assertions from Fauci and NIH Director Francis Collins that NIH-funded projects at the Wuhan Institute of Virology did not involve gain-of-function research. In May, Fauci testified before Congress: "The NIH has not ever and does not now fund gain-of-function research in the Wuhan Institute of Virology." The documents do not establish whether Fauci was directly aware of the work.

Scientists working under a 2014 NIH grant to the EcoHealth Alliance to study bat coronaviruses combined the genetic material from a "parent" coronavirus known as WIV1 with other viruses. They twice submitted summaries of their work that showed that, when in the lungs of genetically engineered mice, three altered bat coronaviruses at times reproduced far more quickly than the original virus on which they were based. The altered viruses were also somewhat more pathogenic, with one causing the mice to lose significant weight. The researchers reported, "These results demonstrate varying pathogenicity of SARSr-CoVs with different spike proteins in humanized mice."

But the terms of the grant clearly stipulated that the funding could not be used for gain-of-function experiments. The grant conditions also required the researchers to immediately report potentially dangerous results and stop their experiments pending further NIH review. According to both the EcoHealth Alliance and NIH, the results were reported to the agency, but NIH determined that rules designed to restrict gain-of-function research did not apply.

MORENS_SUBPOENA_022586
MORENS_NIH_043589
REL0000482498

The Intercept consulted 11 scientists who are virologists or work in adjacent fields and hold a range of views on both the ethics of gain-of-function research and the Covid-19 origins search. Seven said that the work appears to meet NIH's criteria for gain-of-function research.

One said that the experiment "absolutely does not meet the bar" for gain-of-function research. "You can't predict that these viruses would be more pathogenic, or even pathogenic at all in people," said Angela Rasmussen, a virologist with the Vaccine and Infectious Disease Organization at the University of Saskatchewan. "They also did not study transmissibility at all in these experiments," meaning that the scientists did not look at whether the viruses could spread across a population.

Three experts said that, while they did not have enough knowledge of U.S. policies to comment on whether the research met NIH criteria, the experiment involving humanized mice was unnecessarily risky.

One virologist, Vincent Racaniello, a professor of microbiology and immunology at Columbia University, said while he considered the mouse experiment described in the document to clearly fall into the gain-of-function category, he didn't see it as problematic. "You can do some kinds of gain-of-function research that then has unforeseen consequences and may be a problem, but that's not the case here," said Racaniello.

Robert Kessler, communications manager for EcoHealth Alliance, denied that the work on the humanized mice met the definition of gain-of-function research. Kessler insisted that bat viruses are not potential pandemic pathogens because, he said, "a bat virus is not known to be able to infect humans." The proposal justified the work on WIV1 by explaining that it is "not a select agent" — referring to a list of closely monitored toxins and biological agents that have the potential to pose a severe threat to public health — and "has not been shown to cause human infections, and has not been shown to be transmissible between humans."

But the group's bat coronavirus research was focused on the very threat that bat viruses pose to people. Kessler did acknowledge that, while the original bat coronavirus in the experiment did not spread among humans, the research was designed to gauge how bat coronaviruses could evolve to infect humans.

All but two of the scientists consulted agreed that, whatever title it is given, the newly public experiment raised serious concerns about the safety and oversight of federally funded research. "In my point of view, the debate about the definition of 'gain-of-function' has been too much focused on technical

aspects," said Jacques van Helden, a professor of bioinformatics at Aix-Marseille Université. "The real question is whether or not research has the potential to create or facilitate the selection of viruses that might infect humans." The experiments described in the proposal clearly do have that potential, he said.

NIH spokesperson Elizabeth Deatrick said that the agency had considered the research — and decided not to restrict it under its own rules. "In 2016, NIAID determined that the work was not subject to the Gain-of-Function (GoF) research funding pause and the subsequent HHS P3CO Framework," Deatrick wrote, referring to criteria put in place in 2017 to guide the agency's funding decisions about research that involves, or is reasonably anticipated to involve, potential pandemic pathogens.

Republican members of Congress have alleged, without sufficient evidence, that gain-of-function research in Wuhan sparked the coronavirus pandemic. As part of an inquiry into the origins of the pandemic, they have twice grilled Fauci in Congress on his role as NIAID director.

In a heated exchange in July, Republican Sen. Rand Paul accused Fauci of lying when he claimed that NIH did not fund gain-of-function research at the Wuhan Institute of Virology.

Experts now say that the documents support the contention that NIH funded gain-of-function work, though not in the specific instance where Paul alleged it. "There's no question," said Racaniello, of Columbia University, who pointed to the decreased weight of the mice infected with the chimeric viruses that was described in the research summaries sent to NIH. "From the weight loss, it's gain of function. Tony Fauci is wrong saying it's not."

But the documents do not prove Paul's claim that Fauci was lying, as they do not make clear whether Fauci read them. Nor do they in any way support Paul's allegation that Fauci was "responsible for 4 million people around the world dying of a pandemic" — or that anyone intentionally caused Covid-19. What is clear is that program officers at NIAID, the agency that Fauci oversees, did know about the research.

A paragraph describing the research, as well as two figures illustrating its results, were included in both a 2018 progress report on the bat coronavirus grant and an application for its 2019 renewal. And NIH confirmed that it reviewed them.

"NIH has never approved any research that would make a coronavirus more

MORENS_SUBPOENA_022588
MORENS_NIH_043591
REL0000482498

dangerous to humans," the agency said in a statement, echoing remarks by Collins, the NIH director, posted to its website in May. "The research we supported in China, where coronaviruses are prevalent, sought to understand the behavior of coronaviruses circulating in bats that have the potential to cause widespread disease." Similar research funded by NIH had aided in the development of vaccines against the coronavirus, the statement continued.

The White House did not respond to questions about the research.

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: Kristian G. Andersen (b) (6)
Sent: Thursday, September 9, 2021 8:13 PM
To: David Morens (b) (6) >
Cc: Rasmussen, Angie (b) (6) ; Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >; Garry, Robert F <(b) (6) ; Edward Holmes (b) (6) ; Jason Gale < j.gale@bloomberg.net >; Robert Kessler (b) (6) >; Stephen Goldstein < (b) (6)
Subject: Re: here's the latest line of attack today...

"she's talked to 10 virologists or "people in adjacent fields" for her follow-up".

If she had in fact done that, she'd realize there'd be no news and no need for a second article - except to say "nothing to see here, move along".

Sigh.

On Thu, Sep 9, 2021 at 4:28 PM David Morens (b) (6) > wrote:

> Amen and good for you! You are right that Ebright and his ilk are not only NOT experts but are harmful demogogues. They need to be called out. Because i am in government i can only fo

MORENS_SUBPOENA_022589
MORENS_NIH_043592
REL0000482498

this off the record, but i have done do again and again. Some of them are knowingly promoting false equivalences. If they interviewed a Holocaust survivor, they would say they have to give equal time and space to a Nazi murderer. They have no shame. d

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

On Sep 9, 2021, at 18:40, Rasmussen, Angie <(b) (6) > wrote:

Peter and all,

I am so sorry you are still going through all of this. For what it's worth, I broke my rule of talking to disingenuous journalists and sent Mara Hvistendahl a long email telling her exactly what I think of the "experts" she's talked to and setting the record straight about what these FOIAd reports supposedly show. From what I can see, they show that you were reporting your work appropriately to NIH as required, the work itself was done in appropriate biocontainment, and, importantly, you didn't have SARS-CoV-2 or a progenitor. I also explained that previous work was published with WIV1 chimeras and that this type of study precludes doing more dangerous (and technically very difficult) virus isolation.

She wanted to know whether I agreed with her two sources (likely Alina Chan or Richard Ebright, based on her prior story) that this fits the definition of GoF by NIH and I told her no and explained at length why not and the assertions that it was should disqualify any supposed "expert". Took every opportunity to dunk on their amateurish, disingenuous bullshit, while also emphasizing the importance of this work. Mara wrote back defensively, claiming she's talked to 10 virologists or "people in adjacent fields" for her follow-up. I am not optimistic that the follow-up will be more balanced, but I did try to provide some juicy quotes about how her "experts" actually have no expertise, and emphasized the profound damage these people have done to this essential research. They make all of us less safe.

Hang in there. Ultimately the truth will come out and it's not going to be from the likes of the Daily Caller's inability to interpret virology data or from Jesse Bloom and all the grifters and conspiracy theorists populating the rabbit hole that he's crawled down.

Angela L. Rasmussen, Ph.D.
Research Scientist
Vaccine and Infectious Disease Organization (VIDO)
University of Saskatchewan
Office: (b) (6)
She/her
www.vido.org

<image011.png >

On Sep 9, 2021, at 3:07 PM, Peter Daszak (b) > wrote:

MORENS_SUBPOENA_022590
MORENS_NIH_043593
REL0000482498

CAUTION: External to USask. Verify sender and use caution with links and attachments. Forward suspicious emails to phishing@usask.ca

Here's a report in the Daily Caller that goes after the GoF argument that the chimeric bat viruses yielded more virus in humanized mice than the parental bat virus strain.
https://dailycaller.com/2021/09/09/ecohealth- alliance-gain-of-function-higher-viral-load-anthony-fauci/

There's a good response from NIH: 'An NIH spokesperson told the DCNF the agency "never approved any research that would make a coronavirus more dangerous to humans." "The research we supported in China, where coronaviruses are prevalent, sought to understand the behavior of coronaviruses circulating in bats that have the potential to cause widespread disease," the spokesperson said. "The body of science produced by this research demonstrates that the bat coronavirus sequences published from that work NIH supported were not SARS-CoV-2. More importantly, because of similar research to understand coronaviruses, we were able to move swiftly to develop vaccines against SARS-CoV-2 and save lives."'

This story is particularly irritating because if you look at the P3CO rules, it's clear they are meant for pathogens that occur in humans and might be made more dangerous. These were bat viruses that have never been shown to occur in humans. Let's also not forget that the virus with a higher viral load in mice was actually because it had the spike protein of a bat virus being flown around every night by tens of thousands of bats in rural china – not something new created by us to enhance virulence - In fact, the opposite: the fact that we could do this work with a chimera means that we don't have to isolate and culture every single new bat cov we find. It reduces risk!

INVESTIGATIVE GROUP
Fauci-Funded Wuhan Lab Viruses Exhibited Over 10,000 Times Higher Viral Load Than Natural Strain, Documents Show
<image003.jpg>
<image007.jpg>

-
-
-
-

ANDREW KERRINVESTIGATIVE REPORTER
September 09, 20213:25 PM ET

- **U.S. and Chinese researchers funded by the National Institutes of Allergy and Infectious Diseases created viruses in a Wuhan lab that exhibited over 10,000 times higher viral load in humanized mice, records released by the agency show.**
- **Rutgers University professor Richard Ebright said the data was a "bona fide bombshell" that proves the NIAID, under Dr. Anthony Fauci's leadership, violated federal policies, endangered the public and lied to the public.**
- **Fauci testified before the Senate in June that his agency never funded gain-of-function research at the Wuhan Institute of Virology.**

U.S. and Chinese researchers funded by Dr. Anthony Fauci's National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID) created viruses in a Wuhan lab that exhibited over 10,000 times

MORENS_SUBPOENA_022591
MORENS_NIH_043594
REL0000482498

higher viral load in humanized mice than the natural virus they were based on, according to an infectious disease professor citing documents recently released by the agency.

The U.S. nonprofit group EcoHealth Alliance notified the NIAID in two reports that between June 2017 and May 2018 it had created three lab-generated chimeric SARS-related coronaviruses in China that exhibited "significantly higher" viral loads, documents first reported by The Intercept show, but the agency continued to fund the project with taxpayer dollars without flagging it for review by an independent federal committee created in late 2017 to oversee gain-of-function research.

Rutgers University professor Richard Ebright, a vocal opponent of gain-of-function research, said the data was a "bona fide bombshell" that proves the NIAID, under Fauci's leadership, violated federal policies, endangered the public and lied to the public.

"Three EcoHealth/[Wuhan Institute of Virology] lab-generated viruses exhibited >10x to >10,000x higher viral load than the starting bat virus in humanized mice," Ebright tweeted. "One EcoHealth/WIV lab-generated virus exhibited higher pathogenicity than the starting bat virus in infection studies with humanized mice."

"The results demonstrate–unequivocally–a gain in function," he said.

In comparison, the viral load for people infected with the delta variant is roughly 1,000 times higher than those infected with the original strain of the virus, according to Nature science journal.

Ebright added on Twitter that the gain-of-function research activity that NIAID allowed EcoHealth Alliance to conduct in China could have yielded the virus that causes COVID-19 or a progenitor of that virus.

EcoHealth Alliance first notified the NIAID it created the three lab-generated SARS-related coronaviruses in a progress report detailing its research activities between June 2017 and May 2018.

"Using the reverse genetic methods we previously developed, infectious clones with the WIV1 backbone and the spike protein of SHC014, WIV16 and Rs4231, respectively, were constructed and recombinant viruses were successfully rescued," the group said in its progress report. "2 and 4 days post infection, the viral load in lung tissues of mice challenged with rWIV1-SHC014S, rWIV1-WIV16S and rWIV1-Rs4231S … were significantly higher than that in rWIV1-infected mice."

"These results demonstrate varying pathogenicity of SARSr-CoVs with different spike proteins in humanized mice," the report added.

EcoHealth Alliance included a chart visualizing the increased viral load of their lab-created viruses. The chart is presented in a Log scale, meaning each tick of the chart represents a 100-fold increase in viral load in mice with humanized cells, Ebright explained to the Daily Caller News Foundation.

<image005.jpg>

Charts submitted by EcoHealth Alliance to the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases showing loss of body weight (right) and viral load (left) of mice with humanized cells infected with the natural WIV1 viral strain and three EcoHealth lab-created virus strains. The viral load chart is presented in Log scale, meaning each tick of the graph represents a 100-fold increase in viral load, Rutgers University professor Richard Ebright explained to the DCNF. (Screenshot)

"Each tick in the chart on the right represents an increment of 100x," Ebright told the DCNF. "The day 4 data show greater-than-10,000x higher viral loads for the lab-generated viruses."

The viral load for humanized mice infected with the natural virus caught up with the lab-created strains by the end of the experiment, the chart shows, but Ebright said that viral loads in the early stages of an infection are important figures to consider when assessing a pathogen's transmissibility.

"In terms of assessing potential for transmissibility, the viral load at all time points, particularly at early time points, is relevant. (See Delta variant)," Ebright told the DCNF.

EcoHealth Alliance provided another chart in its progress report showing that humanized mice

MORENS_SUBPOENA_022592
MORENS_NIH_043595
REL0000482498

infected with EcoHealth's lab-created viruses lost more bodyweight than humanized mice infected with the natural WIV1 strain.

EcoHealth Alliance included the same two charts in a 2018 request to the NIAID requesting additional funding for its research in China, the document trove released by The Intercept shows.

Federal funding for gain-of-function experiments that increase the transmissibility or pathogenicity of potential pandemic pathogens was temporarily suspended in 2014 due to widespread scientific concerns it risked leaking supercharged viruses into the human population.

Funding for gain-of-function research was resumed in late 2017, but only for projects that went through the new Potential Pandemic Pathogens Control and Oversight (P3CO) Framework, which includes a review by an HHS review board tasked with critically evaluating whether grants that involve enhancing dangerous pathogens, such as coronaviruses, are worth the risks and that proper safeguards are in place.

The NIAID opted not to flag the EcoHealth Alliance grant for P3CO after determining on its own accord that the project "did not involve the enhancement of the pathogenicity or transmissibility of the viruses studied," a National Institutes of Health spokesperson previously told the DCNF.

(RELATED: US Grant To Wuhan Lab To Enhance Bat-Based Coronaviruses Was Never Scrutinized By HHS Review Board, NIH Says)

Fauci said during a congressional hearing in May that the NIH and NIAID "categorically has not funded gain-of-function research to be conducted at the Wuhan Institute of Virology," a claim that led Republican Sen. Rand Paul of Kentucky in July to send a criminal referral to the Department of Justice to investigate whether Fauci lied before Congress.

The P3CO framework defines an "enhanced" potential pandemic pathogen as any lab-created virus that exhibits any level of boosted transmissibility and/or virulence. Funding agencies such as the NIAID are required to flag any research grant that is "reasonably anticipated to create, transfer, or use enhanced PPPs" for P3CO review.

Despite this, documents released by The Intercept suggest that the NIAID authorized EcoHealth Alliance to conduct gain-of-function experiments on bat coronaviruses up to a certain threshold.

The NIAID informed EcoHealth Alliance in a June 2018 award notice that it must notify the agency only if it creates a virus "with enhanced growth by more than [10 times] compared to wild type strains," according to documents released by The Intercept. The NIAID linked to the P3CO review process, which contains no such mention of a 10 times allowance, in the very next sentence, the document shows.

<image006.jpg>

NIAID notice to EcoHealth Alliance in June 2018 saying it must notify the agency only if it produces a lab virus that exhibits more than 10 times enhancement over wild-type strains. (Screenshot)

An NIH spokesperson told the DCNF the agency "never approved any research that would make a coronavirus more dangerous to humans."

"The research we supported in China, where coronaviruses are prevalent, sought to understand the behavior of coronaviruses circulating in bats that have the potential to cause widespread disease," the spokesperson said. "The body of science produced by this research demonstrates that the bat coronavirus sequences published from that work NIH supported were not SARS-CoV-2. More importantly, because of similar research to understand coronaviruses, we were able to move swiftly to develop vaccines against SARS-CoV-2 and save lives."

Content created by The Daily Caller News Foundation is available without charge to any eligible news publisher that can provide a large audience. For licensing opportunities of our original content, please contact licensing@dailycallernewsfoundation.org .

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

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

Tel.: +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: Wednesday, September 8, 2021 8:29 PM
To: 'Garry, Robert F' (b) (6) ; 'Kristian G. Andersen' (b) (6)
Cc: 'David Morens' <(b) (6) >; 'Edward Holmes' <(b) (6) >; 'Jason Gale' <j.gale@bloomberg.net>; 'Rasmussen, Angie' <(b) (6) >; Robert Kessler (b) (6) ; 'Stephen Goldstein' (b) (6)
Subject: R on coronavirus research at Chinese labs

That's interesting about Jesse Bloom – I wasn't aware of that work and hadn't really heard of him before this year to be honest. I suspect that like many people his view of his own research is that it's highly professionally managed and carefully controlled re. biosafety. He clearly has a different view of the work at WIV & by other leading Chinese scientists and seems suspicious of their motives in many of his public comments. This can't be based on their published work – it's often excellent. It just seems like a difficulty people have teasing apart their viewpoint about the Chinese Govt from their opinion about individual scientists. Anyone who's been on the ground in China rapidly realizes that the two are not the same.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

MORENS_SUBPOENA_022594
MORENS_NIH_043597
REL0000482498

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: Garry, Robert F (b) (6)

To: Peter Daszak (b) (6) ; Kristian G. Andersen <(b) (6)

Cc: David Morens (b) (6) ; Edward Holmes <(b) (6) >; Jason Gale <j.gale@bloomberg.net>; Rasmussen, Angie <(b) (6) obert Kessler(b) (6) >; Stephen Goldstein(b) (6) >

Subject: Re: The Intercept report on coronavirus research at Chinese labs

Sorry this is happening. The anti-science attacks are just getting more and more extreme.

Unfortunately, there exists a small vocal group of scientists that see virtually every experiment done by virologists as risky and potentially GoF. Many of those ppl are quoted in the Intercept article.

WRT Jesse Bloom it is rather ironic I must say. One need not look too hard at his influenza virus publications to identify quite a number that could be considered "risky" at least by a Relman/Ebright definition. Selecting drug resistant influenza virus mutants, and creating influenza virus SARS-CoV-2 recombinants to name two. Just saying…

From: Peter Daszak (b) (6)
Date: Wednesday, Se
To: Kristian Andersen (b) (6)
Cc: David Mor (b) (6) ert Garry <(b) (6)
Edward Holme , Jason Gale <
j.gale@bloombe (b) (6)
Robert Kessler (b) (6)
(b) (6)

Subject: RE: The Intercept report on coronavirus research at Chinese labs

> External Sender. Be aware of links, attachments and requests

Great to see your email Kristian – right on every point. The isolate vs. sequence vs. sample misnomer is something that really has plagued me with this stuff – Zhengli's group repeatedly used 'isolate' for 'sample' on Genbank and I've made that mistake here also.

Re. the MERS work, you're dead right – we proposed it, explained that it would likely need review by the P3CO committee equivalent, and then pushed it to Yr4. In the end we didn't do this work – there was already a ton of other more interesting work directly on SARSr-CoVs to do.

MORENS_SUBPOENA_022595
MORENS_NIH_043598
REL0000482498

The latest line of attack that will be coming out in a follow-up article in the *Intercept* tonight is that in the Y4 report, we show one of the chimeras having more than a log virus output than the parent strain (WIV-1). The NoA was updated in Y3 to say that if this happened we had to report to NIH and cease expts. Ironically, the way *Intercept* found this out is because they now have a copy of our "report to NIH" in which we show this, but of course that's not going to stop them saying we broke the rules on GoF.

The other line of attack is the one Jesse Bloom's pursuing – that we didn't publish sequence data within 6 months of the "final version being received" as per our proposal. Jesse sneakily suggested this in an email to me last night in which he asked for the sequences so he can do SARS-CoV-2 origin analyses, while at the same time tweeting an accusation that we broke the rules in a chain with Alina Chan and the "Seeker". I'm not sure whether to respond at all, but I might just let him know that all SARSr-CoV sequences we had are already published in our 2020 paper in Nat. Comm. Again – the problem with these accusations is that just being accused of this by the press causes us seven levels of hell, and arguing back is even worse.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

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

Tel.: +1-(b) (6)
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

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

From: Kristian G. Andersen (b) (6)
Sent: Tuesday, S (b) (6)
To: Peter Daszak (b) (6)
Cc: Davi >; Garry, Robert F (b) (6) ; Edward Holmes (b) (6) ; Jason Gale <j.gale@bloomberg.net>; Rasmussen, Angie (b) (6) t Kessler (b) (6) >; Stephen Goldstein (b) (6)
Subject: Re: The Intercept report on coronavirus research at Chinese labs

It's harassment, plain and simple - it has absolutely nothing to do with trying to find the truth of how SARS-CoV-2 emerged in the human population.

The way I see it though, we now have (a) the entire US IC having completed their

MORENS_SUBPOENA_022596
MORENS_NIH_043599
REL0000482498

investigation, (b) unredacted grants and annual reports from EcoHealth, and (c) old theses from the WIV.

This is *exactly* the type of information that Ebright, Metzl, Relman, Bloom, Chan, and the rest of the lot have been requesting. Now this work has been completed, what was unearthed? Nothing. Nada. Zilch. No evidence of the virus (or sequence) at the WIV (or anywhere else) prior to the pandemic. No gain-of-function work (despite what Ebright says). The same cloning system used again and again (WIV1). Vero cells used for virus isolation (SARS-CoV-2 loses the FCS in those cells), and no previously unreported viruses isolated (although I note the repeated use of "isolates" in one of the annual reports to describe 11 samples - I myself have made that mistake before). So again, there's nothing.

This absence of evidence is *in fact* evidence of absence in this particular case - there would have been *some* evidence for SARS-CoV-2 in *some* of these documents had it been at the WIV. Yet, nothing.

As for GOF work, again nothing. I note the mention of work with recombinant MERS in the year 3 report for work proposed in year 4 - depending on the nature of work, that could be considered GOF/DURC. However, when reading the year 4 report, I don't see any of that work mentioned - just work with pseudotyped viruses, which is clearly not GOF (or DURC).

Of course, people will take stuff out of context to make *anything* fit a particular narrative. However, there's an expiration date on bullshit and I suspect we're well past due.

K

On Tue, Sep 7, 2021 at 6:28 PM Peter Daszak <(b) (6) > wrote:

> Here's one of the "journalists" who got the "Scoop". Basically they just FoIA'd NIH, then sued when NIH refused to release, then dumped the documents online and asked for "people with relevant expertise to get in touch". Cue Drs. Ebright, Relman, Chan, Bloom and others to start their attempt at a character assassination…
>
> **Mara Hvistendahl**
> @MaraHvistendahl
>
> .
>
> 15h
> NEW: We obtained hundreds of pages from NIH detailing EcoHealth Alliance's work with the Wuhan Institute of Virology. We are publishing them in full. With @fastlerner and @theintercept legal team, which filed a FOIA lawsuit for the documents' release
> <image001.jpg>
>
> New Details Emerge About Coronavirus Research at Chinese Lab
> More than 900 pages of materials related to US.-funded coronavirus research in China were released following a FOIA lawsuit by The Intercept.

MORENS_SUBPOENA_022597
MORENS_NIH_043600
REL0000482498

theintercept.com

<image002.jpg>

Mara Hvistendahl
@MaraHvistendahl

.

15h The full documents are here: “Understanding the Risk of Bat Coronavirus Emergence”
https://documentcloud.org/documents/21055989- understanding-risk-bat-coronavirus-emergence-grant-notice…
"Understanding Risk of Zoonotic Virus Emergence in Emerging Infectious Disease Hotspots of Southeast Asia"https://documentcloud.org/documents/21055988- risk-zoonotic-virus-hotspots-grant-notice…
<image002.jpg>

Mara Hvistendahl
@MaraHvistendahl

.

7h
There is a lot here. @fastlerner and I are interested in hearing feedback from people with relevant expertise.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

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

Tel.: +1-(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, S
To: Peter Daszak(b) (6)
Cc: Garry, Rober (b) (6) n G. Andersen <(b) (6)
(b) (6) mberg.net >;
(b) (6) Robert Kessle(b) (6)

Re: The Intercept report on coronavirus research at Chinese labs

Do not rule out suing these assholes for slander. d

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

On Sep 7, 2021, at 20:39, Peter Daszak (b) (6) wrote:

To be honest, this whole process is beyond a joke. We're spending a huge amount of staff time dealing with the BS from these FoIA requests even though the grant's been terminated, suspended and funds are still unavailable.

The lab leakers are already stirring up bullshit lines of attack that will bring more negative publicity our way – which is what this is about – a way to line up the GoF attack on Fauci, or the 'risky research' attack on all of us.

Jesse Bloom's now trying to claim we weren't following our proposed rules for data release (not true – all SARSr-CoV RdRp sequences on Genbank in summer 2020, despite the grant being terminated) – he's tagging Alina Chan and 'The Seeker' on Twitter. Ebright's trying to claim we were working on MERS as a 'shadow' line of work. There'll be more to come – just a free-for-all effort to find a few sentences that they can take out of context.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

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

Tel.: +1-(b) (6)
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

MORENS_SUBPOENA_022599
MORENS_NIH_043602
REL0000482498

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

From: Garry, Robert F (b) (6)
Sent: Tuesday, September 7, 2021 8:08 PM
To: Kristian G. Andersen <(b) (6) ; Edward Holmes <(b) (6) >
Cc: Jason Gale <j.gale@bloomberg.net>; (b) (6) (b) (6)

Subject: Re: The Intercept report on coronavirus research at Chinese labs

Totally - that the real story of the FOIAed grants - no SC2 or anything close that could have been converted to it.

Metzl, Chan and others wanted a "forensic investigation.' The grants that they thought would be private and written before the pandemic do not mention a new SARS-like virus. YOu can be sure that a new virus 76% similar to SC1 would have been front and center in the applications and progress reports.

My guess this is part of the info the IC used to conclude no bioweapon, likely no engineering - NO SC2 before the pandemic. This Gof debate now very clearly has nothing to do with the origin of SC2.

From: Kristian G. Andersen (b) (6)
Sent: Tuesday, September 7, 2021 11:56 PM
To: Edward Holmes (b) (6)
Cc: Jason Gale <j.gale@bloomberg.net> (b) (6) (b) (6)
(b) (6)
(b) (6)
(b) (6)
; Garry, Robert F <
(b) (6) <(b) (6)

Subject: Re: The Intercept report on coronavirus research at Chinese labs

External Sender. Be aware of links, attachments and requests.

Going through it carefully as we speak (already wasted a few hours) - because that's how idiotic this has become.

Nicely detailed annual reports - makes it easy to show that there's in fact no SARS-CoV-2 in there...

People have lost their minds with this s***.

K

MORENS_SUBPOENA_022600
MORENS_NIH_043603
REL0000482498

On Tue, Sep 7, 2021 at 4:50 PM Edward Holmes <
(b) (6) > wrote:

Yes, just more like evidence that they never had SC2 in the lab.

Professor Edward C. Holmes FAA FRS
The University of Sydney

On 8 Sep 2021, at 9:43 am, Jason Gale (BLOOMBERG/ NEWSROOM:) <j.gale@bloomberg.net > wrote:

Just FYI
https://theintercept.com/2021/09/06/new-details-emerge-about-coronavirus-research-at-chinese-lab/

Disclaimer

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

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

Disclaimer

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

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

Disclaimer

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

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

Disclaimer

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

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

Disclaimer

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

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

Date: Wed, 23 Jun 2021 7:21:34 AM -0400

Subject: FW: Hi David

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

To: Peter Daszak ((b) (6) <(b) (6) >; Keusch, Jerry ((b) (6) <(b) (6) Rich Roberts ((b) (6) <(b) (6) Taubenberger, Jeffery (NIH/NIAID) [E] <(b) (6) >;

Attachments: image001.gif; image002.jpg

If you haven't seen this pre-print yet, have a strong cup of coffee first. I'd advise adding an ounce or two of Irish whiskey.

Jason Gale is a journalist with whom I have worked in the past, very smart and very honorable.

When I saw this I asked him to immediately contact Kristian Anderson and Eddie Holmes, and he has already contacted KA, while I contacted Eddie myself. They are both horrified, to use Eddie's word. If this gets picked up by the crazies there is no telling what will happen.

This is a good argument for banning pre-prints, since the damage will be done before the paper is retracted or shot down.

If there is an upside to this, legitimate scientists, even while hiding from the crazies, are starting to get really pissed off. Eddie says he is planning to write a very geeky sciency review that covers the whole origin issue from a phylogeny basis, and without the politics. Kristian is apparently upset, and Jason also contacted Robert Garry, who I don't know personally, and he had some really choice words to unload….

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)

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: Jason Gale (BLOOMBERG/ NEWSROOM:) <j.gale@bloomberg.net>
Sent: Tuesday, June 22, 2021 6:28 PM
To: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] <(b) (6)
Subject: Hi David

Hi David,

I hope you're well.

I'm guessing y'all saw the Jesse Bloom pre-print paper.
https://www.biorxiv.org/content/10.1101/2021.06.18.449051v1.full.pdf

Interested to know what you make of it, even off the record.

Kindest regards,

Jason

Jason Gale, MHlthSec
Senior editor | Bloomberg News
Level 30, 120 Collins St., Melbourne VIC 3000
Tel. (landline) (b) (6) 3 | Mobile (b) (6)
@jwgale | Linkedin: http://www.linkedin.com/pub/jason- gale/6/249/a56

MORENS_SUBPOENA_020438
MORENS_NIH_041113
REL0000482499

Date: Tue, 24 Jan 2023 11:05:50 AM -0500
Sent: Tue, 24 Jan 2023 11:05:45 AM -0500
Subject: RE: Great Op Ed in Washington Post by David Quammen
From: "Keusch, Gerald T" <(b) (6)
To: David Morens <(b) (6) >; Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6)
CC: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >; Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) >; Rich Roberts <(b) (6) Jeff Sturchio <(b) (6)

Agree with David. The message in his piece is rather clear and direct, without being aggressive and abrasive. That may help some to get it, but unfortunately that will not likely include the most egregious disseminators of mis- and disinformation.

From: David Morens (b) (6)
Sent: Tuesday, January 24, 2023 7:25 AM
To: Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6)
Cc: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6) Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) Rich Roberts <(b) (6) Jeff Sturchio <(b) (6)
Subject: Re: Great Op Ed in Washington Post by David Quammen

Yes, David Q is one of the few writers out there who gets this stuff, plus is an old friend of EHA. If there were 10 writers as good, or even 5, we'd be better off. d

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

> On Jan 24, 2023, at 07:03, Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6) wrote:
>
> I agree, although it could have gone much further
>
> **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:**

MORENS_SUBPOENA_015161
MORENS_NIH_031619
REL0000482500

(b) (6)

iPhone

On Jan 23, 2023, at 6:53 PM, Peter Daszak <(b) (6) > wrote:

A nice piece directly focusing on the Republican led 'investigations'. A couple of scathing comments at the end:

"Congress has an important role to play in all this. But attempting to determine the virus's origin isn't it."

Here's the link:

https://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/2023/01/23/covid- origin-house-subcommittee-scientists/

and here's the article:

Opinion

Let's leave the covid origin mystery to scientists

By David Quammen
January 23, 2023 at 7:00 a.m. EST
Save Article
David Quammen is a science journalist and author. His most recent book is "Breathless: The Scientific Race to Defeat a Deadly Virus."

One of the world's most sensitive and consequential scientific questions will soon be grist for discussion among the members of a congressional subcommittee. The question is this: Where did the virus that causes covid-19 come from?

The subcommittee, created under a resolution adopted by the House on Jan. 9, is charged with investigating aspects of the pandemic and our national response. Its members (seven Republicans, five Democrats) have still not been named. The origin question is a seductive one, but it is also the mystery that they will be least likely and least qualified to solve — and they should focus their mission elsewhere.

Virologists, epidemiologists, molecular evolutionary biologists and other experts around the globe have studied the origin matter for three years. They have scrutinized the genome of the covid virus and compared it with similar coronaviruses long known from wildlife. They have studied its peculiar features, pondered the ways it evolves and placed it in context among other lethal new viruses.

Most such experts say they believe this virus almost certainly reached humans by natural spillover — that is, from a nonhuman animal host. It closely resembles other coronaviruses that have been identified, through arduous fieldwork and rigorous genomic analysis, in small bats that roost in caves of southern China and Southeast Asia. Worrisome coronaviruses have also turned up in other wild mammals, including raccoon dogs, palm civets and pangolins, and one of those animals might have served as an intermediate host of the covid virus after close exposure to bats.

MORENS_SUBPOENA_015162
MORENS_NIH_031620
REL0000482500

How would a raccoon dog suffer such an exposure? By being captured, caged and loaded for transport with bats and other animals sucked into the wildlife-for-food traffic that has been widespread and economically important in China. Such coronavirus-sharing has happened before: Palm civets trafficked to the city of Guangzhou in 2003 served as intermediate hosts of the original SARS coronavirus, acquired from bats and transmitted to humans. And palm civets, as well as raccoon dogs and other captured wildlife, were on sale as food in late 2019 in the Huanan "wet market" of Wuhan, in and around which the first few dozen known covid-19 cases appeared.
After the 2003 SARS event, the prospect that another coronavirus could spill from bats into humans and cause even worse devastation was never far-fetched or unimaginable. In fact, I predicted it myself back in 2012, in the book "Spillover" — not through my own prescience but simply by reporting what some of the world's leading experts on viral ecology and evolution were saying.
Other opinionizers on the covid-19 origin question, mostly amateur sleuths but also some journalists, have argued since early 2020 that this coronavirus came to humans — maybe? probably? definitely? — from a laboratory. There, the narrative goes, it was either assembled by genetic engineering, for nefarious purposes, or modified, in well-meant but reckless experiments, to be more infectious in humans. From the laboratory, according to this hypothesis, it was either intentionally or accidentally released. Some reputable scientists have agreed that a lab leak is theoretically possible and insisted that the possibility should be entertained.

And it should. The lab-leak idea stands as a long-shot alternative to the far stronger hypothesis of a natural origin. To settle the matter with greater confidence, we need more data: more field sampling of viruses from wild animals in southern China and Southeast Asia, and more sampling throughout the supply chain that has provided Chinese markets with such wildlife. If there's anything to indicate a laboratory accident, let that come out, too. Right now, though, a sizable body of evidence supports the natural-origin scenario and, so far, no positive evidence indicates a lab leak. But if that imbalance were to change, the scientific consensus could change, too. That's how science works.
This question of origin is important far beyond our understanding of covid-19. It bears implications for how we shape our societies and institutions in the future, preparing ourselves — or neglecting to prepare — against future pandemic threats.

Consider one implication you might draw from a lab leak: We need less science, especially of the sort that fiddles with dangerous viruses. And from a natural spillover: We need more science, especially of the sort that studies dangerous viruses lurking in wild animals. From a lab leak: It was *those* foolish scientists in a Chinese lab who unleashed this terrible virus upon us. Suspicion, accusation, presumption of guilt and even a tincture of racism may therefore inform our relations with China, not an effort to encourage transparency and scientific exchange. From a natural spillover: Every one of us who consumes resources drawn from richly diverse natural ecosystems — be it meat or vital minerals for technology, such as coltan and cobalt — shares responsibility for the new viruses that attack humans. Why? Because those viruses reach us when humans invade such ecosystems, including the Congolese forests where coltan is mined, and come into contact with the virus-bearing wildlife living there.
We need to solve this origin conundrum because we need to take action. We need better structures for pandemic preparedness and response in this country, stronger international systems of surveillance for new outbreaks, vastly increased training of molecular biologists and disease field scientists around the world, and fuller collaborations among countries — including China. Only these measures will shore up the failure points that made our response to covid-19 such a disaster.

Congress has an important role to play in all this. But attempting to determine the virus's origin isn't it. The House Select Subcommittee on the Coronavirus Pandemic should examine, as it has been chartered to do, the many aspects of this nation's pandemic response that merit policy review: vaccine development and rollout, taxpayer-funded relief programs, the negative impacts of school

MORENS_SUBPOENA_015163
MORENS_NIH_031621
REL0000482500

closures versus the benefits, and the crucial balance between civil liberties and public health.

The not-quite-solved mystery of exactly where this virus came from and how it found its way into humans, on the other hand, is a scientific question best left to scientists. It's beyond the purview of 12 partisan members of Congress — and if they are wise, they will leave it in expert hands.

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: David Morens <(b) (6)
Sent: Sunday, January 22, 2023 7:20 PM
To: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >
Cc: Hotez, Peter Jay(b) (6) , Gerald Keusch <(b) (6) , Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) >; Rich Roberts <(b) (6) , Jeff Sturchio (b) (6)
Subject: Re: Morens checking in

Good point..... d

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

> On Jan 22, 2023, at 19:02, Peter Daszak <(b) (6) > wrote:
>
> I think given the political attacks (sorry 'investigations') that have already called for NIH/HHS interviews/documents, it's probably a good move to hold off on the NIH Director for a few months at least.…

MORENS_SUBPOENA_015164
MORENS_NIH_031622
REL0000482500

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: David Morens <(b) (6) >
Sent: Saturday, Janu AM
To: Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6)
Cc: Gerald Keusch <(b) (6) Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >; Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) Rich Roberts (b) (6) Jeff Sturchio (b) (6) .
>
Subject: Re: Morens checking in

Yes, i think we are all surprised about not filling the nih director position

My guess is that it is not high on the WH radar screen, and that it would just he picking another fight with the right wing nut jobs. Maybe they figure scientists know what they are doing even without political puppeteers. Who knows? d

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

> On Jan 21, 2023, at 11:42, Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6) > wrote:
>
> I probably won't do that. If there was a groundswell of interest I would consider it, but my science is going well here, and for now they are not running me out of Texas. Although that could change on a dime as well. I'm surprised the White House has no urgency to fill the NIH Director's slot.
>
> **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

MORENS_SUBPOENA_015165
MORENS_NIH_031623
REL0000482500

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

Baylor University, University Professor
Rice University, Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty
Texas A&M University, Faculty-Senior Fellow, Hagler Inst for Advanced Study & Scowcroft Institute of Intl Affairs

E-mail | Twitter | LinkedIn | Skype: (b) (6)

Amazon Author Center | Daily Beast Contributor

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

Media Inquiries:
(b) (6)

On Jan 21, 2023, at 10:34 AM, David Morens (b) (6) wrote:

PS, this may sound cynical, but by applying and letting it be known publicly, you could force them from pursuing a cover up selection

There is much concern here that a poorly qualified nih or other candidate could be selected under the radar. d

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

On Jan 21, 2023, at 11:31, David Morens (b) (6) wrote:

I wouldn't bet on anything re Tony's position. If anyone here is in charge of anything, they are doing a great job of keeping it secret. david

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

On Jan 21, 2023, at 10:33, Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6) > wrote:

Many thanks for that thoughtful email. Interesting times indeed! So far I've held off applying thinking they already know what they

MORENS_SUBPOENA_015166
MORENS_NIH_031624
REL0000482500

must want, etc. Warmest 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:

Media Inquiries:
(b) (6)

(b) (6)
i

On Jan 21, 2023, at 9:23 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.**

Yes, sadly, you are right. We are in for alot more shit

In terms of us looking for a new director, since this is not a political appointment position, niaid has much leeway in doing what we want, subject to HHS and NIH oversight/coordination, but not outright control

There seems to be secrecy around the process of finding a new director, which is not the way we have done things in the past. The job description is not what i would have written, eg, in specifying someone who is politically savvy. We have 27 IC directors here at nih and i can't recall any prior search looking for someone with political chops.

I am afraid we could end up with a pliant nih insider rather than an outsider with strong science credentials. The model is former NCI director Harold Varmus who was perceived as too big to mess with, and used that reputation to push back against all kinds of BS

There is no guarantee that anything will happen soon. Hugh is Acting Director but is taking a hands off, just-keep-the-ship-afloat approach so far. I hope he will be more proactive, as he is smart and capable, and has alot of management expertise

But internally there is absolute silence about what if anything is happening. I know all the senior leaders here, and none are involved in any search "above board", at least. Several have implied to me that they are as much in the dark as everyone else. If so, that is not good news because it raises the possibility of a covert and possibly politically oriented process

That is one reason i encouraged you to apply: an nih outsider who has political skills and a scientific reputation, as well as skill in pushing back against the BS. If you think of all possible scientists who would be good in the job, the list is not long, or at least my list isn't. If you know anyone please urge him or her to apply asap!

david

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

> 3, at 09:50, Hotez, Peter Jay <
> (b) (6) > wrote:
>
> Thanks for the thoughtful note David, in terms of moving forward with your plan, a couple of things to keep in mind:
>
> The GOP House Oversight and Judiciary Committees each headed by Freedom Caucus members will begin their investigative hearings this year. While Biden is the major target at some point they hope to discredit NIH, and especially NIAID. They will also target their grantees.
>
> NIAID is looking for a new director? Will that happen soon?
>
> 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 (b) (6) | Phone: (b) (6) |

Media Inquiries:
(b) (6)

On Jan 21, 2023, at 8:39 AM, David Morens < (b) (6) wrote:

Hi all, my apologies for being out of touch; had some non fatal health issues and surgery yesterday morning, but should be back to work part time this week

There is a front page story in the Wash Post this morning about GOF and the NEIDL. You should all read

Since Tony stepped down 12/31, I have been mulling the implications for me being able to speak up more

Our deputy director, Hugh Auchincloss, is a good and reasonable guy, but i have not yet spoken to him about how muzzled i am expected to be going forward. I think the party line at nih is to be very fearful of the crazies in and out of congress, and in practice our guidelines of never speaking to the press unless approved by HHS or the White House remains in effect. That is why 95% of my interactions with the press are on background and off the record. (Incidentally, although i have spoken to Joel Achenbach on background numerous times in the past, i did not speak to him for today's article).

Here is how it works. Our press office knows that whereas Tony has the patter and nuance down pat, I will say pretty much exactly what i think scientifically, and therefore they do whatever they can ethically to cut me off from sensitive issues, knowing that HHS will cut me off if they don't

But I plan to sit down with Hugh and ask him to let me use my judgement in these issues. There is no govt reason anymore for me being forbidden to even speak with colleagues such as you all

And an interesting thing happened recently that i think bodes well. As you all know, over the last 15-20 years or so i have written 40-50 scientific papers with Tony, mostly reviews and commentaries that provide springboards for him to talk to the press. Usually i propose the topics and he says yes or no.

Ever since the GOF thing broke 15 years ago, with Ron F and Yoshi K publishing their two papers on H5N1, GOF has been a no no for me/us to write about. And so far, still is a no no. Another subject that has been a no no is my conclusion that our whole scientific enterprise to make vaccines against respiratory viruses is off base scientifically, and needs to be reoriented

A few months ago, Tony surprised me be giving me the go-ahead to write a review that says as much, implicitly criticizing what we at nIH and others do in terms of vaccine development approaches. Many others at NIH told me that we dare not write that. But about 10 days ago the paper came out in Cell Host and Microbes, with Tony's name on it, and has been greeted very positively by many high level folks in and out of

MORENS_SUBPOENA_015170
MORENS_NIH_031628
REL0000482500

govt

This gives me SOME hope that us discussing GOF head on might be possible, by which i don't necessarily mean talking to the press, but by writing in science articles why it is that the whole concept of GOF is being (often willfully) misunderstood. The aim would be to have statements by govt scientists that change the terms of the dialog, ie, be more proactive rather than letting the crazies control the dialog

I wrote such a paper with Jeff Taubenberger 10 years ago, which has sat unpublished in a file cabinet ever since, and could easily resurrect it with updates addressing SARS-CoV-2....

So..... I am hoping that I will no longer be bound and gagged from from enjoying my first amendment right to speak to you all about scientific matters if importance. It's a new year and time to move forward by being more proactive

David

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

Date: Fri, 21 Jul 2023 1:03:37 PM -0400
Subject: Fwd: Sachs and Relman quoted again today
From: David Morens <(b) (6)
To: David Morens <(b) (6)
Attachments: image004.png; image005.jpg; image008.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: **Roberts, Rich** (b) (6)
Date: Fri, Jul 1, 2022
Subject: RE: Sachs and Relman quoted again today
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)

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

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: Friday, July 1, 2022 9:46 AM
To: Peter Daszak (b) (6)
Cc: Roberts, Rich (b) (6) ; Gerald T Keusch (b) (6) leksei Chmura (b) (6) >; David Morens <(b) (6) >; Jeffrey Sturch (b) (6)
Subject: Re: Sachs and Relman quoted again today

EXTERNAL SENDER

It's getting crazy again

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

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

University Professor, Baylor University

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

Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

E-mail: (b) (6)
Twitter: @peterhotez
Skype: (b) (6)
Linkedi otez

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:
Fax: 713-798-2299

iPhone

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

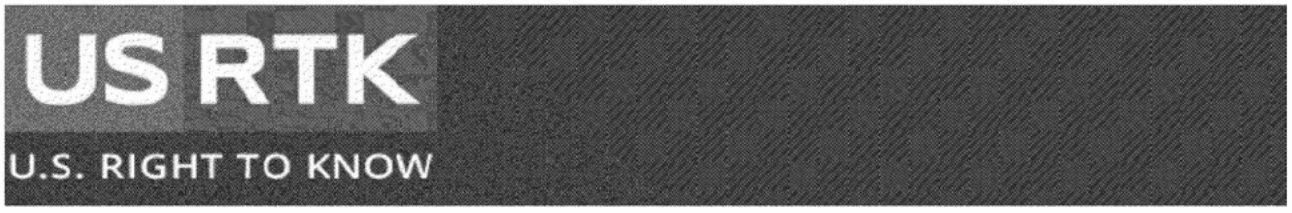
We've been fielding questions all week from a reporter at US Right to Know because they've FoIA'd another batch of emails. Here's an article today claiming that Ian Lipkin should have reported working with EHA as a 'Conflict of Interest' for his Nature Medicine paper with Kristian Andersen et al. back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

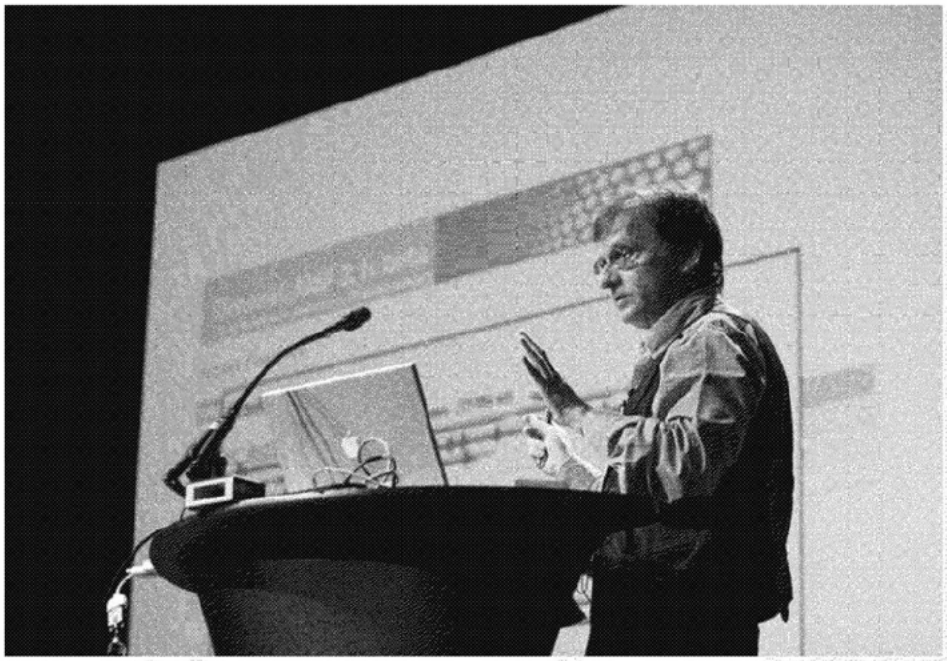
Note also US Right to Know's motto: "Pursuing truth and transparency for public health".



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

PrintEmailShareTweet

Posted on July 1, 2022 by Emily Kopp



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

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

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

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

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

MORENS_SUBPOENA_008097
MORENS_NIH_017470
REL0000482512

of Virology.

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

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

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

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

Lipkin did not return several requests for comment.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

0

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak

President

EcoHealth Alliance

520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200

New York, NY 10018-6507

USA

Tel.: +1 (b) (6)

Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org

Twitter: @PeterDaszak

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

---

From: Roberts, Rich <(b) (6)
Sent: Thursday, June 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 j

Date: Thu, 4 Apr 2024 10:29:13 PM -0400

Subject: Fwd: EcoHealth Alliance Statement Regarding April 4, 2024 Announcement by the House Energy & Commerce Committee

From: David Morens <(b) (6) >

To: P (b) (6) sch, Gerald T <(b) (6) Rich <(b) (6) peter hotez <(b) (6) Jeffrey Sturch[illegible]

This was sent around widely internally within nih. d

From the cell phone of David Morens

On Thu, Apr 4, 2024, 22:04 Folkers, Greg (NIH/NIAID) [C] (b) (6) wrote:

EcoHealth Alliance Statement Regarding April 4, 2024 Announcement by the House Energy & Commerce Committee

April 4, 2024 – EcoHealth Alliance (EHA) can confirm that Dr. Peter Daszak, EHA President & CEO, will testify voluntarily before the Select Subcommittee on the Coronavirus Pandemic (SSCP) of the U. S. House of Representatives on May 1, 2024. Dr. Daszak's public testimony follows on a voluntarily transcribed interview he provided to the SSCP late last year.

The Energy & Commerce Committee's announcement about this hearing continues to misrepresent the work of EcoHealth Alliance and makes several inaccurate allegations about Dr. Daszak's previous public statements. Dr. Daszak looks forward to answering the Committee's questions, clarifying the areas of misunderstanding, and informing them about the vital research that EcoHealth Alliance conducts globally.

EcoHealth Alliance's mission is to conduct research on emerging disease threats to the US, identify the underlying causes of pandemics, develop solutions to prevent them, and benefit conservation. The public nature of our work and our long-standing collaborations with Chinese scientists made us a target for speculation about the origins of COVID-19, beginning in early 2020 and continuing to this day. EcoHealth Alliance's work is a matter of public record, via dozens of grant reports, scientific publications, media interviews and public lectures given before, during and after the emergence of COVID-19. EcoHealth Alliance scientists have worked in partnership with US Federal Agencies since the early 2000s to identify emerging disease threats in hotspots around the world before they migrate to the United States. EcoHealth Alliance's research thus has direct benefits for the health of the American people, strengthens national security, and enhances sustainable economic growth in our allies around the world.

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.

MORENS_SUBPOENA_013809
MORENS_NIH_026111
REL0000482513

Date: Sat, 20 Mar 2021 12:32:42 AM -0400
Sent: Sat, 20 Mar 2021 12:28:07 AM -0400
Subject: RE: Letter to Francis Collins from Republican leaders of Committee on Energy & Commerce
From: Peter Daszak <(b) (6)
To: K (b) (6) Roberts, Rich <(b) (6) David Morens <(b) (6)
CC: Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6)

Absolutely comfortable with bringing Nicki into the discussion – it seems to me that I'll need all the friends I can get over the coming weeks.

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: Keusch, Gerald T (b) (6)
Sent: Saturday, March 20, 2021 12:20 AM
(b) (6) Peter Daszak (b) (6) David Morens <(b) (6) >
Cc: Aleksei Chmura (b) (6)
Subject: RE: Letter leaders of Committee on Energy & Commerce

Hi Rich, Peter,

I would like to bring Nicki Lurie into our conversation. She was ASPR during the Obama years and spearheaded many important scientific initiatives underlying preparedness, and she continues to have many important contacts including with people high up in the Biden administration. I have total confidence in her integrity and value her input. She also has the full trust of Victor Dzau at NAM, and could and would be influential if such a consensus report is commissioned. We have been working together to examine the R&D preparedness ecosystem, and just published the attached opinion/commentary in Lancet with Victor (Peter has seen it already), and she is ready to volunteer to co-chair a NAM investigation with me if we were asked. The way it works, I think, is NAM negotiates a contract to fund such a study and then NAM determines the chairs and the committee members, and staffs it with the appropriate expertise within the NAM staff. I think Nicki was on a call with Eric Lander, who you know will assume the position as head of OSTP, now a cabinet position under Biden, and she mentioned this in the course of another conversation. But this is a down the road exercise and will not have any immediate impact.

But I'm sure Eric could be enormously helpful once he is in place, which I gather will be after the current academic year is over,

MORENS_SUBPOENA_012916
MORENS_NIH_024517
REL0000482515

and if he is willing. Eric did work closely with Francis on the human genome project but that was two decades ago although it certainly had a major positive impact on Eric's rise at MIT. How much that translates into some sort of loyalty I just don't know, but is certainly possible. Rich, I don't know how well you know Eric, but if you do then at some point, maybe sooner than later, having a conversation to express concerns with the status quo stone-walling might do some good.

But first, are you both comfortable with having me talk to Nicki and see if she is in a position to strategize with us?
Jerry

From: Roberts, Rich (b) (6)
Sent: Friday, March 19, 2021 11:36 PM
(b) (6) Keusch, Gerald T (b) (6) David Morens <
(b) (6)
(b) (6)
Subject: RE: Letter to Francis Collins from Republican leaders of Committee on Energy & Commerce

Peter:

Thanks for sharing this. It is very discouraging to see these kinds of attacks continuing and very disturbing that Dave Relman is involved.

I am attaching an email I received on Wednesday from Francis in response to a letter I had sent to him (at the bottom of the thread). While at least he responded to this one it was merely a deflection.

As for another investigation, hopefully you will be able to convince them that it would be a huge waste of time and money. Unless the Chinese undergo a complete about turn, they are not going to be cooperative in any additional way over and above their response to the WHO investigation.

If you see any additional way in which I might help please do let me know.

Rich

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

From: Peter Daszak <(b) (6)
Sent: Friday, March 19, 2021 9:08 PM
To: Keusch, Gerald T (b) (6) David Morens (b) (6) Roberts, Rich (b) (6)
Cc: Aleksei Chmura (b) (6)
Subject: Letter to Francis Collins from Republican leaders of Committee on Energy & Commerce
Importance: High

EXTERNAL SENDER

This letter from Republican leaders of Committee on Energy & Commerce was filed yesterday. I don't know what normally happens with this, but I'm assuming NIH will respond and I won't have to do anything. Note that Dr. Relman is cited and center, and I believe he's agitating to head up an inquiry from the NASEM. I've thought this for a long time after he approached me a couple of times a year ago to inquire about my work in China.

This letter is part of a barrage of daily attacks at this point. Today, the US Right to Know filed a FoIA at Erasmus Univ Netherlands where Marion Koopmans (also on the WHO mission) works, for emails to me and the WHO people, adding to multiple broadsheet articles over the past week from WSJ and less sophisticated right wing papers. I don't know if they can FoIA a foreign Univ, but I've now got to spend hours of my time with their lawyers and ours to find out.

MORENS_SUBPOENA_012917
MORENS_NIH_024518
REL0000482515

On the good side, I was asked to brief staffers at the House Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, which I'm assuming will be a positive experience, and I'm reaching out to the State Dept and NSC to offer briefings on WHO findings ahead of the report. Additionally, 60 minutes is doing a piece on the report and interviewed me, but I suspect they're going to dwell on the lab release hypothesis.

Meanwhile, I'm drafting a response to the 10 conditions from Collins & Lauer and will have a draft within a few days for your comments if that's ok. Given Biden's theatrical show at the China summit today, I don't hold up much hope that this sort of aggression is going to dissipate quickly…

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

Disclaimer

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

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

Disclaimer

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

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

Date: Fri, 21 Jul 2023 1:22:21 PM -0400
Sent: Fri, 21 Jul 2023 1:21:39 PM -0400
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Fwd: Publication of Angie Rasmussen article
From: David Morens <
To: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] <

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: Keusch, Gerald T <
Date: Thu, Sep 15, 2022 at 6:02 PM
Subject: RE: Publication of Angie Rasmussen article
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

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

MORENS_SUBPOENA_002614
MORENS_NIH_009130
REL0000482519

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) >

Cc: "Roberts, Rich" <(b) (6) Jeffrey Sturchio <(b) (6) Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >, David Morens <(b) (6) >, Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) >

MORENS_SUBPOENA_002615
MORENS_NIH_009131
REL0000482519

Subject: Publication of Angie Rasmussen article

https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fforeignpolicy.com%2F2022%2F09%2F15%2Fctheories-covid-19-commission%2F&data=05%7C01%7Cdmorens%40niaid.nih.gov%7C1d037bacb5c244312e4708db8a0f09e3%7C14b77578977342d585&sdata=iU7iafaPzqBwla5G9aoJHXBSELXwnaCehw%2BhS7QSsIk%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

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, Septemb 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

MORENS_SUBPOENA_002617
MORENS_NIH_009133
REL0000482519

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 15, 2022, at 11:18 AM, Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6) wrote:

Watching Jeff expound and I am nauseated.

MORENS_SUBPOENA_002618
MORENS_NIH_009134
REL0000482519

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

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 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, Septemb 7 AM
To: Jeffrey Sturchio (b) (6)
Cc: Peter Daszak < >; Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6) David Morens (b) (6) ; Roberts, Rich <(b) (6) >; Aleksei Chm (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)
CAUTION: This email originated fr side of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and are confident the content is safe.

Date: Sun, 25 Jul 2021 7:05:02 PM -0400
Subject: RE: Josh Rogin
From: Peter Daszak <(b) (6)
To: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] <(b) (6) Gerald Keusch <(b) (6)

Amen - just read it. This guy is all-in for the US-China cold war, and is already making money out of it with his book that's used as his Twitter 'banner'. This is about his 10th Op Ed on exactly the same topic and using most of the same words. Can't take him more than an hour to bang one out and every time he does that he gets a quick $500 and a boost to his book readership. Add to that his paranoia about China and he just comes across as overly angry - maybe didn't get enough attention from his dad, or maybe was treated badly by some Asian girls he chatted up in a bar one time while he was studying journalism at college....

One day I'm going to have the misfortune of meeting this person, or some others who've done me and our organization real harm (I'm thinking Francis Collins, Michael Lauer and many internet trolls out there). After a year and a half of swallowing my pride and controlling my anger, I wonder if I'll end up expressing myself to them in a similar Op Ed style diatribe, or will just simply "Lamp them one".....?

By the way, as someone with a not inconsiderable knowledge of the reptile world (I named a reptile parasite after my wife), Josh Rogin looks remarkably similar to the "Toad-headed Agamids" I found in Turkey at the foot of Mt Ararat many years ago. Short, stocky with markedly reduced neck length.

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

MORENS_SUBPOENA_013232
MORENS_NIH_025039
REL0000482527

-----Original Message-----
From: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] <(b) (6)
Sent: Friday, July 23, 2021 8:07 AM
To: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >; Gerald Keusch <(b) (6)
Subject:

another disgusting editorial by josh rogin in the post this morning.
when will the post stop this crap? d

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

MORENS_SUBPOENA_013233
MORENS_NIH_025040
REL0000482527

Date: Thu, 26 Jan 2023 11:46:13 AM -0500
Sent: Thu, 26 Jan 2023 11:46:01 AM -0500
Subject: EcoHealth Alliance Digital Scrapbook
From: Majelia Ampadu <(b) (6)
To: (b) (6)
CC: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) Alison Andre <(b) (6)

Dear David,

I'm Majelia, EcoHealth Alliance's Communications and PR Coordinator.

We're compiling a digital scrapbook to highlight the impact of the amazing work our researchers, scientists, and supporters have cultivated. Peter suggested I reach out to you, as one of our long-running supporters.

We would deeply appreciate it if you could draft a *quote, send any photos, or record a video* related to your experiences with EcoHealth.

Feel free to reply to this email or contact me via text or phone call at +(b) (6) with any questions.

Best wishes,

Majelia

--

Majelia Ampadu (she/they)
Communications & PR Coordinator

EcoHealth Alliance ▪ ecohealthalliance.org
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018

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

MORENS_SUBPOENA_015581
MORENS_NIH_033241
REL0000482531

Date: Sat, 27 Apr 2024 11:54:08 AM -0400
Subject: Fw: Interview with Michael Hiltzik of the LA Times
From: (b) (6) <(b) (6)

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
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: 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) Jeff Sturchio' (b) (6) 'Roberts, Rich' (b) (6)
(b) (6) Aleksei Chmura (b) (6) John Feigelson <

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

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: Keusch, Gerald <(b) (6)
Sent: Friday, April 26(b) (6)
To: Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6)
Cc: Peter Daszak (b) (6) (b) (6) ; Jeff Sturchio (b) (6)
Roberts, Rich (b) (6) leksei Chmur (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

MORENS_NIH_047928
REL0000482534

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

E-mail | Twitter | LinkedIn | Skype: (b) (6)

Amazon Author Center | Daily Beast Contributor

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

Media Inquiries:
(b) (6)

On 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

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: Friday, April 26, 2024 10:37 AM
To: Peter Daszak (b) (6)
Cc: (b) (6) ; Keusch, Gerald T (b) (6) eff Sturchio (b) (6) >; Roberts, Rich (b) (6) Aleksei Chmur (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

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

(b) (6)
E-mail | Twitter | LinkedIn | Skype:

Amazon Author Center | Daily Beast Contributor

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

Media Inquiries:
(b) (6)

MORENS_NIH_047930
REL0000482534

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

MORENS_NIH_047931
REL0000482534

✔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.: +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) (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)

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 https://oversight.house.gov/hearing/a- hearing-with-the-president-of-ecohealth-alliance-dr-peter-daszak/.

RSVP: Media must be congressionally credentialed and RSVP by Tuesday, May 1 at 5:00 PM ET.

###

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

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

Tel.: +1-(b) (6)
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

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

From: (b) (6) (b) (6) (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 J (b) (6)

Cc: Aleksei Chmura (b) (6)

Subject: Re: Now public that Tony Fauci will testify in front of SSCP on June 3rd

I do not I t have a date yet. My lawyer is ne
motivating with sscp

In the meantime, my law.yers have initiated a professional deep dive into my Gmail and Proton mail,and will turn that over to sscp. This will take some time. I doubt there is anything to find but of course. they will look for crumbs to blow up into mountains. d

Sent from Proton Mail Android

-------- Original Message --------
On 4/24/24 17:33, Peter Daszak wrote:

> I've attached a pdf of the story in the Washington Post (it's behind a paywall) – also here: https://www.washingtonpost.com/health/2024/04/24/fauci- congress-testimony-pandemic/.
>
> David – have your lawyers managed to get a date for you to testify yet?
>
> Cheers,
>
> Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
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: Friday, April 19, 2024 9:15 PM
To: (b) (6) 'Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6) 'Jeff Sturchio' <(b) (6) 'Roberts, Rich(b) (6) 'Hotez, Peter Ja(b) (6) (b) (6) 'Aleksei Chmura'(b) (6) ; 'John Feigelson' <(b) (6)

Subject: RE: Today's news...

By the way – Allegations that me sending information to David Morens is somehow corrupt are outrageous. Tony Fauci was busy working with the White House COVID taskforce at the time, trying to halt the worse pandemic since the 1918 influenza outbreak. I would have happy emailed him directly, but pretty sure he wasn't checking each of his 50,000 emails a day!

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

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

Tel.: +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: Friday, April 19, 2024 8:10 PM
To: (b) (6) ; 'Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6) (b) (6) 'Hotez, Peter Ja(b) (6) (b) (6) (b) (6) >
(b) (6) ; John Feigelson <(b) (6)

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-biosafetv-levels-docs/

Basically, they've found an email from me to David, Jerry others when the allegations that EcoHealth expts were conducted at an insufficient BSL level first came out. Tony Fauci was interviewed and said that he would look into it. I sent David M. a review I'd done of the BSL rules for Bat CoVs in various countries, which clearly show that we were operating at the correct biosafety levels.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

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

Tel.: +1-(b) (6)
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

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

From: (b) (6) <(b) (6) (b) (6)
Sent: Wednesday, April 17. 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
>
> <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>
>
> You can see the video of him criticizing our work here:
>
> https://youtu.be/Oru0-fYGcJU
>
> The relevant section starts at 1hour, 31 minutes and 30 seconds into the video
>
> Cheers,
>
> Peter

Peter Daszak
President

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

MORENS_NIH_047937
REL0000482534

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: Tuesday, April 16, 2024 3:22 PM
To: (b) (6) b) (6) ; 'Keusch, Gerald T' < (b) (6) >; 'Jeff Sturchio' (b) (6) ; 'Hotez, Peter Jay' < (b) (6) (b) (6) (b) (6)
Cc: Aleksei Chmura (b) (6) ; John Feigelson < (b) (6)
Subject: COVID Select Subcommittee subpoena to David Morens for correspondence etc.
Importance: High

Here is today's subpoena & a cover letter to David Morens from the SSCP for all correspondence with the following people, related to WIV, EcoHealth or COVID origins or "regarding or referencing the following people". He has to produce this by April 30th

No direct demand for public hearing has been made public yet.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

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

Tel.: +1-(b) (6)
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

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

(b) (6) (b) (6)
From: <
Sent: Monday, April 15, 2024 8:39 PM
To: Peter Dasza (b) (6) >; Keusch, Gerald (b) (6)

(b) (6) Roberts, Rich (b) (6) Hotez, Peter Jay
< (b)(b) (6) (b) (6)
Cc: Aleksei Chmura <
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>

MORENS_NIH_047939
REL0000482534

From washingtonexaminer.com

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

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

Tel.: +1 (b) (6)
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

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

From: (b) (6) (b) (6) <(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 < ; Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6)
Cc: Aleksei Chmura (b) (6) (b) (6)

Subject: Re: My email to Michael Hiltzik with an EcoHealth Statement and Email release today

Again. this is excellent. We need more of these stand-up-to-bullies fusillades. d

Sent from Proton Mail Android

-------- Original Message --------
On 4/12/24 11:20, Peter Daszak wrote:

> Please read the email I just sent to Michael Hiltzik. It has links to a statement from EcoHealth and the release of the full text (slight redactions) of emails that involve David and Jerry, and were reported in the NY Post and other Right wing outlets yesterday, amplified by Republicans on the COVID

Committeee…

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

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

Tel.: +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: Friday, April 12, 2024 11:19 AM
To: 'Michael Hiltzik' (b) (6)
Cc: 'Aleksei Chmura (b) (6))' <
(b) (6)

Subject: EcoHealth Statement and Email release today has relevance to NIH and Michael Lauer issues
Importance: High

Good to talk with you yesterday Michael. We got more negative press yesterday, this time related to emails that allegedly show coverups and inappropriate behavior among scientists. The Republicans released only the subject line and addresses etc. (https://oversight.house.gov/release/wenstrup-reveals-emails-from-whistleblower-alleging-additional-attempts-by-fauci-advisor-to-subvert-transparency-about-covid-19-origins/), leading to BS stories in the usual right wing press. We released the full text of the emails today:

https://www.ecohealthalliance.org/2024/04/ecohealth- alliance-releases-emails-that-are-the-subject-of-false-allegations-in-the-press

These are all from me to senior NIAID staffmember David Morens and former NIH Center Director Jerry Keusch, trying to make sense of the termination of our grant by Trump, and to find a way to get it reinstated. In the end NIH did

reinstate the grant (May 2023). One of the chains shows emails that refer to the pressure from Michael Lauer, and the fact NIH instructed me not to talk with our program officer (Erik Stemmy) and direct all communications to Grants Management (Emily Linde). That was another highly unusual move from NIH and is part of the pattern that I was talking with you about.

Here is that particular set of emails: https://www.ecohealthalliance.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/04/Emails-01.pdf

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

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

Tel.: +1-(b) (6)
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

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

From: Michael Hiltzik (b) (6)
Sent: 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.(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)
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

MORENS_NIH_047943
REL0000482534

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

Tel.: +1-(b) (6)
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

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

From: Michael Hiltzik (b) (6)
Sent: Saturday, April 6, 2024 6:50 PM
To: Peter Daszak (b) (6)
Subject: Re: Confidential - NIH still hampering EcoHealth's ability to conduct work 4 years since the termination of our grant

Peter,

Let's set up a time to talk next week (Wednesday or later best for me). On first glance, it strikes me that I'm glad I'm not in the grants-application business, because the bureaucratic behavior here seems incomprehensible, at least to a layman.

What's the overarching theme in their relations with you? Is it pressure from the lab-leak crowd, the FOIAing from Tobias, which as far as I can tell has yielded nothing of any substance? A spillover from the Trump era?

I read the Science piece, which was thorough in detailing what was done to the Chinese researchers but silent on what provoked it....what was the question I was left with--Why did NIH do all this?

MH

On Sat, Apr 6, 2024 at 12:03 PM Peter Daszak <(b) (6) wrote:

> Hi Michael, I'm just contacting you off the record in case you or others are interested in reporting on what's going on at NIH with respect to EHA's grants. We were trying to deal with this privately, without it becoming public, but we found out last week that some of our recent correspondence with Emily Erbelding asking for her help is in a batch of FoIA's emails that will be released to Jimmy Tobias in the next couple of weeks. Tobias is in the habit of simply dumping these on the internet, so we wanted to get these to a bona fide reporter before that happens.
>
> As you probably know, our organization has been funded by NIAID for around 20 years, conducting successful research on

emerging diseases, and working closely with communities, scientists and governments in emerging disease hotspot countries to try to reduce the risk of disease emergence. Prior to the termination of our R01 grant in April 2020 that would have had the Wuhan Institute of Virology as a subrecipient, we had never had any issues with NIH or NIAID, and had been lauded by program officers for our cutting edge research into viral emergence, and the many papers in Science, Nature, NEJM and others based on NIH funding.

After the termination of our grant, the HHS OIG was called in to audit our work and NIH's oversight. They reported back after an 18 month audit with recommendations for both us, and for NIH, most of which were minor and easily addressed. We rapidly complied and NIH's DFAS group confirmed that all audit findings were resolved. However, we continued to receive further actions from the Office of the Director (Michael Lauer, who *Science* wrote about re. NIH's actions on grantees with China connections https://www.science.org/content/article/pall- suspicion-nihs-secretive-china-initiative-destroyed-scores-academic-careers), and the NIH group that manages oversight (OPERA) directly under Michael Lauer. In April 2023, Michelle Bulls from Opera and Emily Linde from NIAID placed 4 Specific Award Conditions (SACs) on our grants. At the time, Michael Lauer had contacted Tufts University who oversaw our IACUC approvals to conduct wildlife sampling because EHA doesn't have an animal facility. This led to Tufts canceling our interinstitutional agreement. The only way for us to proceed was to request an Animal Welfare Assurance from OLAW (based at NIH), but this was denied because of these SACs. One of the SACs stated that all of our subcontracts must be reviewed and revised by NIH reviews. We worked extremely hard to rapidly respond (often within days) to every single request, despite many of them being contradictory or having no material impact on the contracts. In the original letter NIH set a deadline of September 2023 to resolve the SACs, which due to repeated delays by NIH grants management staff in responding to us, continued further requests and shifting of the goalposts means we still do not have resolution. Furthermore, grants management are now suggesting that we are beyond the period of work and our subcontractees won't be able to be reimbursed. Additionally, during the past 12 months, NIH has only reimbursed EcoHealth for around $50K of the now nearly $2 million we are expecting and have expended.

As you can imagine, this puts us in a very difficult position, with institutions like UNC and Uniformed Services University likely to be outraged that their funding is threatened, and with us unable to do our work fully – work that has been reviewed, scored well, and is critical to pandemic prevention. We've tried every possible avenue to get a fair and reasonable rapid resolution. We've informed Emily Erbelding of these issues

(hence the FoIA'd email), and Program staff at NIAID remain supportive of our work, but we still have no resolution. Every time we try to seek a meeting or resolution, we get a hard response from NIH that we're out of compliance and they set further deadlines and further minor issues for us to fix. Right now I believe we're probably in greater compliance with NIH rules and just about any other institution in the US, given the level of scrutiny we've gone through. I've attached some of the many recent letters between NIH OPERA, NIAID Grants managements and EcoHealth Alliance to give you an indication of the levels of detailed work that we've gone through to try and resolve these issues.

We don't know the reasons why this is happening – all our subcontracts prior to April 2023 covered every single requirement in NIH's grants management guidance, subrecipients had to sign that they would adhere to these. The stonewalling, and shifting of goalposts by NIH is linked to emails that they send us stating that we're 'delinquent' or 'out of compliance', or that they're 'concerned' etc. and seem to us designed ready to be FoIA'd (which they are being) or to be used when NIH has to show Congressional Republicans that EcoHealth is being treated in the way they are calling for. Meanwhile, important findings can't be reported, including a novel SARS-CoV-2 related virus able to bind well to human ACE2 that we have found in one of our country sites, but are now unable to publish because our subrecipient is concerned they don't yet have an approved contract. This is hurting our ability to conduct pandemic prevention work, and the US's ability to be informed about public health threats that could emerge and threaten our citizens.

If you want to report on this, I'm happy to talk on-the-record on some issues, and there are others who are aware of these problems that I can put you in touch with, including at NIH and senior people from outside.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

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

USA

Tel.: +1-(b) (6)
Website: _____lthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

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

MORENS_NIH_047947
REL0000482534

Date: Mon, 3 Oct 2022 6:54:39 PM -0400
Sent: Mon, 3 Oct 2022 6:54:34 PM -0400
Subject: RE: Jeff Sachs accuses US of blowing up the Nordstream pipelines last week....
From: "Roberts, Rich" <(b) (6)
To: K(b) (6) Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6) Peter Daszak <
CC: David Morens <(b) (6) >; Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) >; Jeff Sturchio <(b) (6)
Attachments: image001.jpg

Jerry et al.

(b) (6) have been talking with Joe Stiglitz and his wife (b) (6) who knows Jeff well. She is quite convinced 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: (
email:(b) (6)

From: Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6)
Sent: Monday, Octobe
To: Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6) r Daszak <(b) (6)
C (b) (6) (b) (6) Roberts, Rich
<(b) (6)
S hs 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, O
To: Peter Daszak (b) (6)
Cc: (b) (6) (b) (6)
(b) (6) >; Rich Roberts <(b) (6) Jeff Sturchio (b) (6)
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

MORENS_SUBPOENA_001638
MORENS_NIH_007947
REL0000482535

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

Media Inquiries:
(b) (6)

iPhone

On Oct 3, 2022, at 2:15 PM, Peter Daszak (b) (6) rote:

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

Looks like he's deep in conspiracy land on a number of issues:

https://video.twimg.com/ext_tw_video/1576915780515553282/pu/vid/1280x720/0aRcMZC6LHGNHa7-_.mp4?tag=12

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

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

Tel.: +1-(b) (6)
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org

Twitter: @PeterDaszak

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

---

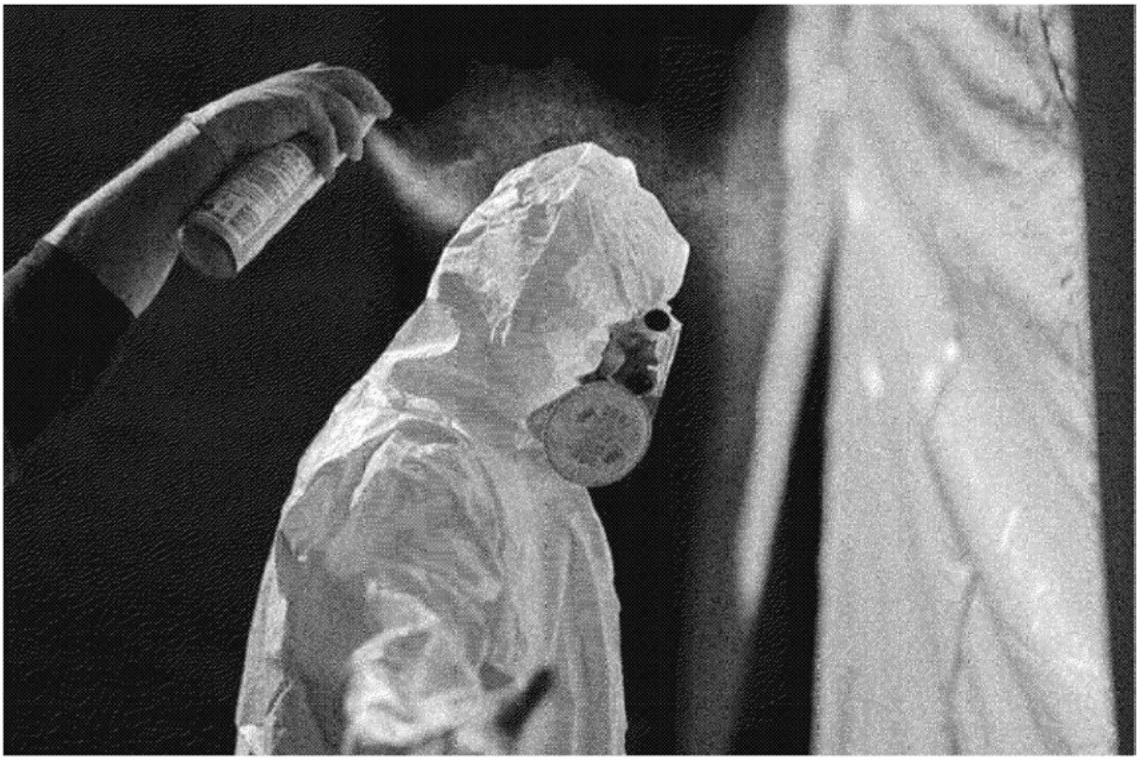
From: David Morens <(b) (6)
Sent: Monday, October 3, 2022 8:43 AM
To: Gerald Keusch (b) (6); Peter Daszak (b) (6); Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6)>; Peter Hotez (b) (6); Rich Roberts (b) (6); Jeff Sturchio <(b) (6)>

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
> 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.

MORENS_SUBPOENA_001640
MORENS_NIH_007949
REL0000482535



New Jersey first responder Robert Sabia being decontaminated after answering a call in March, 2020.Credit...Chang W. Lee/The New York Times

By Michael Sims
Oct. 1, 2022

"Nobody," Donald Trump claimed in a March 2020 address, "had any idea." He was talking about the Covid virus — which had, seemingly overnight, sparked a global pandemic. In his compelling and terrifying new book, "Breathless: The Scientific Race to Defeat a Deadly Virus," the veteran science journalist David Quammen demonstrates just how much was known — and expected — by infectious disease scientists long before patrons of the Huanan Seafood Wholesale Market fell ill in December 2019 with a pneumonia-like virus.

"Soothsayer" isn't on Quammen's extensive résumé, but he was among those who had long predicted this kind of catastrophe. In 2012 he provided a field guide to the future, "Spillover," whose subtitle — "Animal Infections and the Next Human Pandemic" — explains exactly what the scientific community had long been expecting.

"This is a book about the science of SARS-CoV-2," he specifies in his new book. "The medical crisis of Covid-19, the heroism of health care workers and other people performing essential services, the unjustly distributed human suffering, and the egregious political malfeasance that made it all worse — those are topics for other books." Instead, he focuses his informed attention on the unsung heroes who dare to wrestle with viruses, those strange entities he calls "the dark angels of evolution." Human beings are part of a sprawling family of interconnected species who can share illness because they all grew up together. It is our common ancestry and related bodily ecology that makes spillover possible between, say, bats and Earth's (currently) dominant mammal.

Covid is, after all, as natural as a wolf cub or David Attenborough, and its thriller-level rate of evolution is part of its danger. "A virus is a parasite, yes," writes Quammen, "a genetic parasite, to be more precise, using the resources of other organisms to replicate its own genome." He demonstrates the sheer *weirdness* of viruses when he explains how difficult it is to even define them.

Quammen follows the story of Covid from scientists' first awareness of the outbreak in Wuhan through reports of Omicron in late 2021. Alongside the human story, spillover between humans and other animals is a persistent theme. Early in 2020, a dog in Hong Kong tested positive. There were positive cats in Minnesota, two positive hippos in Antwerp, a positive tiger in Knoxville. An outbreak spread through mink farms in the Netherlands. Last year, of the many white-tailed deer sampled in Pennsylvania, 44 percent tested positive. The persistent danger of spillover between species informs arguments over the virtues and

MORENS_SUBPOENA_001641
MORENS_NIH_007950
REL0000482535

the flaws of both approaches to pandemics: "prediction and prevention versus surveillance and response."

"Breathless" is so good that I was slow to realize that it lacks the vivid you-are-there details of "Spillover." That's because he *wasn't* there. In "Breathless," there are no scenes of an intrepid author helping trap macaques at a Sufi shrine or examining a white-footed mouse for Lyme-infested larval ticks. Among its other virtues, "Spillover" was something of a nightmare travel book, but "Breathless" is a different species of tour de force. Quammen's research methods have mutated. "I avoided airports for more than two years after Covid-19 exploded," he says up front, "and I got through the year 2020 on one tank of gas." Yet these barriers didn't prevent him from writing a luminous, passionate account of the defining crisis of our time — and the unprecedented international response to it. While many people were begging for mercy from the motley of gods that they also credit with designing this Eden for viruses, epidemiologists and vaccine scientists all over the world raced to save the lives of people they would never meet.

Citing Faulkner's multiple narrators, Quammen says, "The discernment of truth — let's make that 'truth,' because it's such an imperious and suspect word — comes from listening to many voices." He read a library's worth of books and Zoomed with some 95 sources — epidemiologists, geneticists and public health officials who were closely involved in research and decision-making. He smoothly weaves not only their facts, but their way of speaking, into his story. "Spoken words are data, in nonfiction," he says, "and I share scientists' respect for the sanctity of data." He provides a mini-biography of each interviewee. Backstage outtakes humanize the participants, as when Quammen asks Anthony Fauci whether Brad Pitt or Kate McKinnon did a better job of satirizing him. These glimpses undergird his assertion that science is "a rational process leading toward ever-clearer understanding of the material world, but it's also an activity performed by humans."

Quammen marries an old-fashioned love of colorful language to his passion for detail — an odd coupling that results not just in a lucid book about an important topic, but also in a book that's a pleasure to read. "What nature of bug seethed in this dollop of liquid human distress?" he asks of a private genome-sequencing company in Guangzhou. Sometimes his Chandleresque metaphors distract. (When the rate of infection among the deer spikes, it's "like popcorn in a hot pan.") Usually, however, his imagery vividly reinforces a point. He explains that a laboratory sample from bat feces "is not a virus, just as the text of 'Hamlet, Prince of Denmark' is not a performed play" — that the sample is, instead, "the script of a virus." Quammen can't resist snarking that Trump, "as you may have heard, is not a scientific sophisticate," but he doesn't waste much time shooting at such an easy target. He describes Elon Musk as an "entrepreneur and spaceman," and Alex Azar, the secretary of health and human services, as "pliable." The "Intelligence Community" is "a bodacious aggregation of intelligences" that includes Space Delta 7 — "within the United States Space Force, whatever that is." Didier Raoult, the French physician who promoted hydroxychloroquine, Quammen terms a "prideful contrarian." Hydroxychloroquine did indeed have a history of prescription for malaria, and, he deduces, presumably, "Trump listened to people who listened to people who listened to Didier Raoult."

While staying on mission, Quammen allows himself room for context. The importance of the February 2020 announcement that scientists had found in pangolins a close match to the virus infecting humans makes more sense — both scientific and narrative — because Quammen begins with a brief survey course on these armored-looking, anteater-like creatures. He smoothly interweaves their evolution, the ecological sin of animal trafficking, the imaginary pharmacological virtues of pangolin scales (which are actually mostly keratin) and the contemporary "vogue in urban China for *ye wei*, or 'wild tastes.'"

"This virus is going to be with us forever," Quammen warns, with a wealth of data and precedent to support him. We haven't eradicated polio or measles. "And those viruses have nowhere to hide except within humans." This one could be cleared from every living human, and still exist in other animals. "Covid-19 won't be our last pandemic of the 21st century. It probably won't be our worst." In our international world, as one scientist tells Quammen, "A disease anywhere is a disease everywhere."

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

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

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

Date: Tue, 1 Nov 2022 8:56:49 PM -0400
Sent: Tue, 1 Nov 2022 8:56:39 PM -0400
Subject: Re: Bloomberg: How to Move On From the Debate Over the Origins of the Pandemic
From: "Hotez, Peter Jay" <(b) (6)
To: David Morens (b) (6)
CC: Gerald Keusch <(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

It's like what they used to say about the antivaccine movement

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

Texas Children's Hospital: Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics | Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development | Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

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

Baylor University, University Professor
Rice University, Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty
Texas A&M University, Faculty-Senior Fellow, Hagler Inst for Advanced Study & Scowcroft Institute of Intl Affairs

E-mail | Twitter | LinkedIn | Skype: (b) (6)
Amazon Author Center | Daily Beast Contributor

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

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

iPhone

On Nov 1, 2022, at 7:53 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.

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

From: "Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E]" <(b) (6)
Date: November 1, 2022 at 17:51:22 PDT
To: David Morens <(b) (6)
Subject: Fwd: Bloomberg: How to Move On From the Debate Over the Origins of the Pandemic

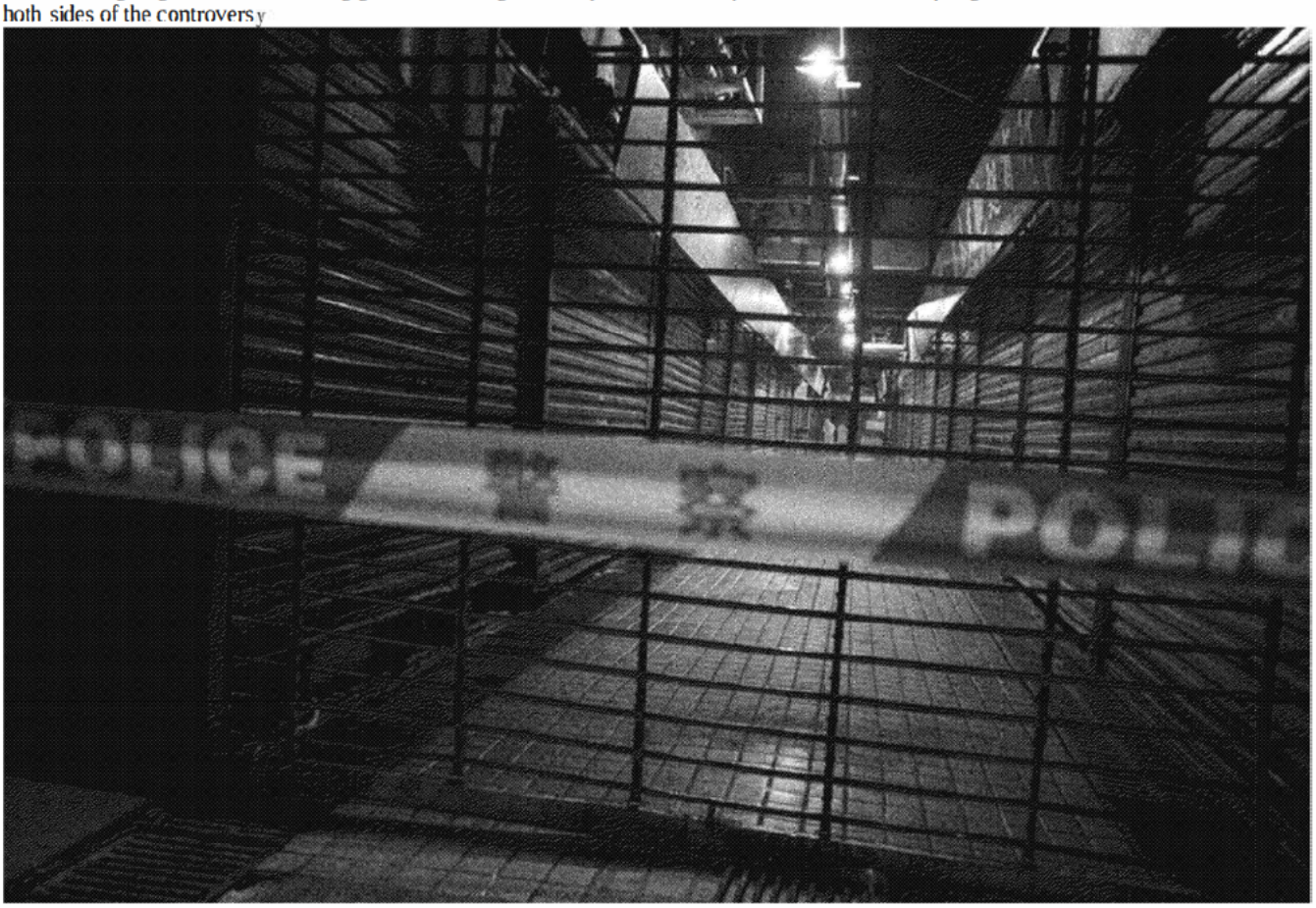
MORENS_SUBPOENA_003340
MORENS_NIH_009890
REL0000482536

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

From: "Folkers, Greg (NIH/NIAID) [E]" <(b) (6)
Date: November 1, 2022 at 12:01:22 PDT
Subject: Bloomberg: How to Move On From the Debate Over the Origins of the Pandemic

How to Move On From the Debate Over the Origins of the Pandemic

'You're not going to find the smoking gun': Protecting humanity from the next pandemic means accepting both sides of the controversy



The closed Huanan seafood market in Wuhan, China, in January 2020. (Photo by NOEL CELIS/AFP via Getty Images)

By
Riley Griffin
November 1, 2022 at 12:01 AM EDT

The walls were covered with hundreds, if not thousands of documents. There were maps drawn with red crisscrossing lines connecting cities in China, newspaper clippings tacked to a corkboard, pictures of bats, mice and minks, timelines stretching the length of the room. Posters were plastered over older versions of posters, each with a key deciphering colors, shapes and symbols, and stamped with the seal of the US Senate.

It was June of 2022 in Washington. Outside the Hart Senate Office Building, the near 90-degree heat was sweltering, but the conference room provided an escape from the sticky swamp. There, Robert Kadlec, the former US Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response under the Trump administration, known by

MORENS_SUBPOENA_003341
MORENS_NIH_009891
REL0000482536

close associates as "Dr. Doom," had spent months scouring documents and conducting interviews alongside men with backgrounds spanning from national security to infectious disease to laboratory safety and health policy.

This was all at the behest of Senator Richard Burr of North Carolina, a Republican member of the Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions. He'd tasked Kadlec a year prior with figuring out where Covid-19 had come from.

Kadlec has spent his whole life doing the kind of detective work that should make him qualified to solve this mystery—the flight surgeon and Air Force colonel studied tropical medicine and determined that Saddam Hussein's regime was not stockpiling smallpox in Iraq. A self-described "biowarrior," he's gone on to work for the White House, Pentagon and Department of Health and Human Services.

Last Week, Kadlec and a group of Senate staffers released an initial report that argues that the Covid pandemic was probably the result of a lab leak in China. Its release foreshadows months, if not years, of partisan clashes and additional probes of the virus's origins.

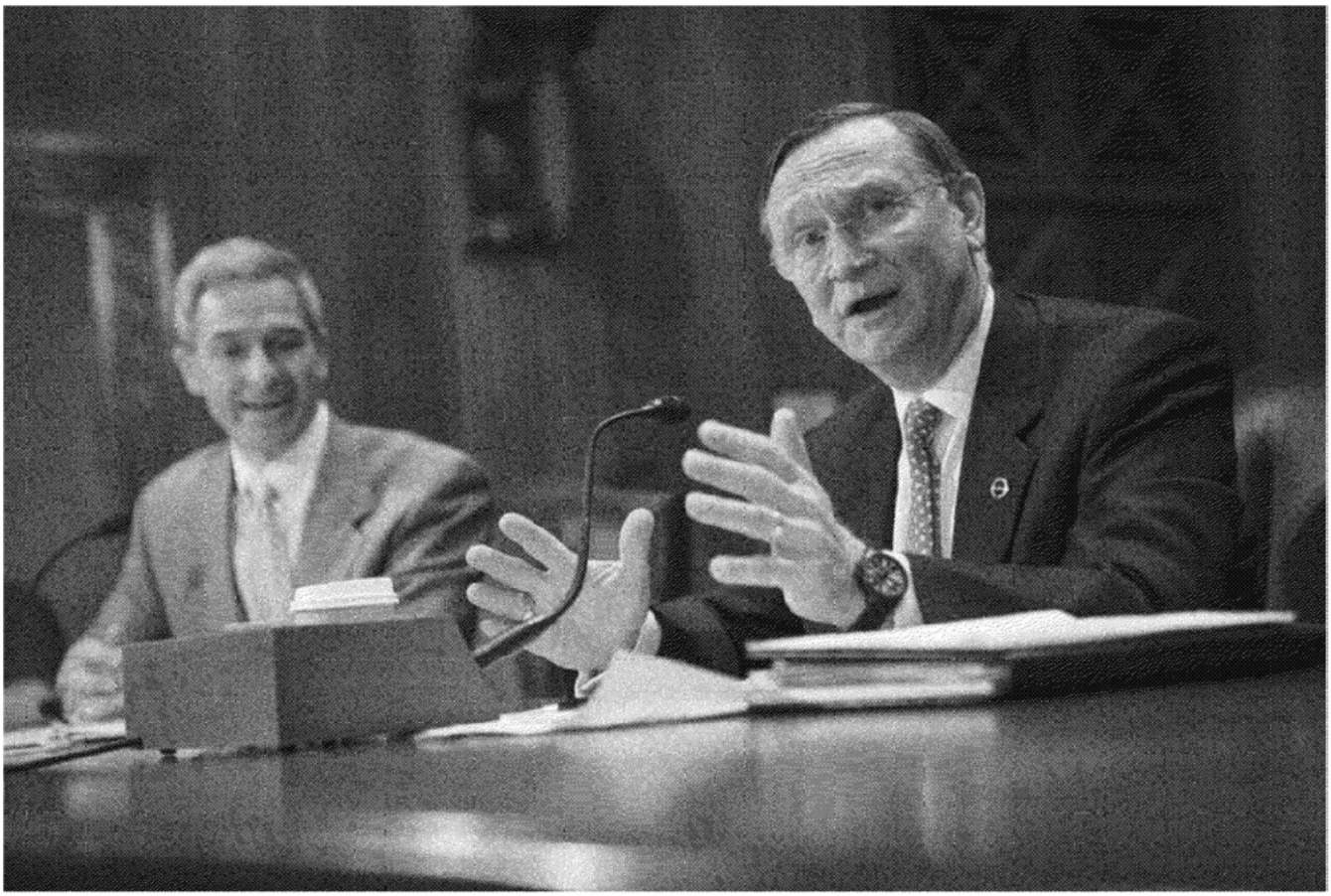
But, as Kadlec himself acknowledged in a June interview, "You're not going to find the smoking gun." Nearly three years since the beginning of the outbreak, and after endless debate about Covid's origins, the answers we're getting aren't pat, definitive or satisfying—but they're useful if you look at them another way. Current and former US officials and international experts in national security and epidemiology agree that both hypotheses—animal-to-human transmission and a laboratory accident—could be true, and we should assume they'll happen again if we don't take proper measures.

A 'Likely' Lab Leak?

The Senate Republicans' preliminary report based on open-source information points to long-standing biosafety challenges at the Wuhan Institute of Virology, which, they said, appeared to have drawn the attention of government leaders in Beijing. The staffers also suggest that the People's Liberation Army may have been working on the development of a Covid vaccine before the very first cases cropped up in the city—cases they believe occurred between mid-October and mid-November 2019, rather than in December, as the Chinese government claims. (Kadlec, like every other serious investigator, has ruled out the idea that Covid was a biological weapon.)

The minority committee team's findings don't claim to be conclusive. The report uses the term "likely" a total of 17 times—one of which occurs in the statement: "The COVID-19 pandemic was, more likely than not, the result of an accidental biocontainment breach at the WIV between mid-October and no later than mid-November, 2019."

That statement got the most attention when the interim report was released, and it's the most controversial. Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Zhao Lijian told reporters Monday the lab-leak theory is "a lie fabricated by anti-China forces for political purposes." Michael Worobey, a professor at the University of Arizona who has co-authored studies that point to the Huanan seafood market as the epicenter of the outbreak, describes it as "political misinformation" wielded to shut down important biomedical research. Critics allege a member of the Senate team mistranslated Chinese correspondence.



Robert Kadlec (right), former head of the HHS Office of the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response, photographed in October 2020.
Photographer: Sarah Silbiger/Bloomberg

But if governments around the world can accept that such a lab leak was theoretically possible—whether it's the most likely scenario or not—the next logical step is to commit to universal standards for high-risk research.

This year, the US government asked the National Science Advisory Board for Biosecurity to reflect on the pandemic and develop new guidance around research capable of producing both benefit and harm, including the altering of a virus or microbe to become more transmissible or dangerous.

New recommendations may be shared as soon as December. The board will consider how to strike the right balance of facilitating important, though risky, research, while ensuring oversight and accountability.

Many biosecurity experts have advocated for high-level sign-off on certain experiments, setting universal standards for lab activities and their reporting, as well as public mapping of where high-risk pathogen research is taking place. Implementation will, no doubt, require investment.

"If there's a very small possibility this came from a lab, it's absolutely worth spending time and money to reduce the risk that it could happen a second time," says Tom Ingelsby, the director of Johns Hopkins Center for Health Security and an infectious disease expert who advised the US government's Covid response.

Zoonotic Spillover

If Covid did come from a lab leak, it would be a break with precedent. All other coronaviruses known to infect humans, including SARS and MERS, have zoonotic origins. More broadly, three in four new or emerging infectious disease threats to humans currently start in animals. Though no one has confirmed which animals could have initially hosted the disease, much of the scientific community remains convinced that Covid-19 probably began around the Huanan seafood market, not at the nearby laboratory, based on their analyses examining a cluster of early infections, hospitalizations and deaths.

Pinpointing a "zoonotic spillover" event, as it's called when a disease migrates from animals to humans, often takes years, and in many cases, animal sources are never identified.

But accepting that Covid could have been caused by animal-to-human transmission would mean embracing measures to better govern the interplay between the two. Proponents of the so-called "One Health" approach to zoonotic diseases, antimicrobial resistance, food safety and security demand that we advance how we think about the interaction between animals, humans and the environment.

Many have referred to the spread of disease from animals to humans as "natural." In this modern era,

MORENS_SUBPOENA_003343
MORENS_NIH_009893
REL0000482536

however, "natural" is an imperfect word that obscures human culpability and complacency. What if the commercialization of wildlife and agriculture received the same level of scrutiny as high-risk laboratories? A senior Republican aide to Burr says that the senator has sought to advance the nation's preparedness for all biological threats, regardless of their origin. Chair of the Senate HELP Committee Patty Murray, a Democrat, and Burr have introduced bipartisan legislation, called the Prepare for and Respond to Existing Viruses, Emerging New Threats, and Pandemics Act, which seeks to improve lab safety, as well as detection tools for zoonotic diseases.

Richard Burr
Photographer: Al Drago/Bloomberg

Meanwhile, President Joe Biden's National Biodefense Strategy, released in October, seeks to extend biosurveillance responsibilities beyond the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, charging the Department of Agriculture and Environmental Protection Agency, among other entities, with preventing and monitoring zoonotic events. The strategy calls for bolstering such interventions not just in the US, but in 50 additional countries.

"What we don't have is the infrastructure where we need it most," says Ian Lipkin, the director of the Center for Infection and Immunity at Columbia University's Mailman School of Public Health, who has spent a career training folks in developing countries on how to conduct on-the-ground biosurveillance. "The model must be anti-colonial: We are teaching people what they need to do in their own communities."

Lipkin believes that markets where live animals are sold, like was reportedly happening at the Huanan market, should be outlawed globally. China has already banned the trade, but isn't the only place that should receive scrutiny for the conditions in which such animals are being sold, he says. The renowned virus hunter has examined dead and living animals transported through New York's John F. Kennedy International Airport. They, too, carry a range of infectious agents.

Getting on the Ground Earlier

Geopolitical tensions may pose the greatest challenge to future pandemic prevention. Lipkin, who was given an award from China for his service to the country during the SARS outbreak of 2003, says that as US-Chinese relations have disintegrated, so has transparency around the spread of disease.

While China allowed a team of World Health Organization experts into Wuhan in early 2021, they restricted their movements, obscured findings, and have not facilitated access for any other international investigations into Covid's origin. By resisting sharing information and blaming other countries, Beijing has "impeded the global scientific community and our ability to confidently determine how the virus first infected humans," according to a report released by the Office of the Director of National Intelligence.

MORENS_SUBPOENA_003344
MORENS_NIH_009894
REL0000482536

"We need infectious disease diplomacy," Lipkin says. "We have to create a culture in which people want to share data with one another."

That demands the US and its allies find common ground, even with adversaries, around the reporting of potentially deadly biological threats. And the World Health Organization must set stronger standards about early, on-the-ground investigation.

Beyond the geopolitical challenges, there are technical ones, too. Intelligence experts and scientists have both struggled to distinguish between made-made and naturally-occurring pathogens. Time is of the essence: In the future, we're likely to have more ambiguous events.

The former chief scientist for the Central Intelligence Agency's Directorate of Science and Technology, Catherine Marsh, says the US is trying to bolster its ranks of experts capable of investigating key questions of emerging biological threats. Who did it infect? What is it? When did it emerge and why? And where did it come from?

Marsh says the intelligence community is often "first on the ground" when a threat arises—even before defense or health officials. Even then, it's difficult to determine whether an organism has been genetically engineered, or if it evolved naturally, she says.

Marsh, who now leads the Intelligence Advanced Research Projects Activity, says she's long been concerned about the time it takes the US to simply collect samples. "If it takes months to collect and analyze samples, it's already yesterday's news. The threats have moved on!"

Computational Tools

The US intelligence community's R&D unit recently announced that it had successfully developed computational tools with public and private-sector partners to make such a distinction. Those tools have been used to determine Covid wasn't a bioweapon—but more data would be needed to rule out a laboratory accident.

"If it was known that a laboratory was working with a particular type of organism and making specific edits, the tool would be able to find evidence consistent with a leak from that lab," says David Markowitz, who managed the program focused on detecting genetic engineering in biological samples. That requires more transparency around the work of researchers, which would then be compared to knowledge of how disease has historically evolved outside the laboratory.

People want answers. And this technology may one day provide them. Markowitz believes this kind of tool will also be critical for tamping down misinformation, and thereby, political unrest.

But would it?

That's the bigger, burning question that envelops the debate around Covid's origins—and perhaps, all our modern mysteries.

"Even if we found a smoking gun," asks Filippa Lentzos, an associate professor in Science and International Security at King's College London, "who would be convinced?"

— With assistance by Colum Murphy

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

Date: Fri, 26 Apr 2024 1:56:53 PM -0400
Sent: Fri, 26 Apr 2024 1:55:39 PM -0400
Subject: Interview with Michael Hiltzik of the LA Times
From: Peter Daszak <(b) (6)
To: Keusch, Gerald <(b) (6) Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6)
CC: (b) (6) (b) (6) Jeff Sturchio <(b) (6) Roberts, Rich <(b) (6) (b) (6) Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) John Feigelson <(b) (6)

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
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: 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) ; 'Jeff Sturchio' (b) (6) 'Roberts. Rich' (b) (6) Aleksei Chmura (b) (6) John Feigelson <

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

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: Keusch, Gerald (b) (6)
Sent: Friday, April 26 (b) (6)
To: Hotez, Peter Jay ((b) (6)
Cc: Peter Daszak (b) (6) ; (b) (6) ff Sturchio (b) (6) Roberts, Rich (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

E-mail | Twitter | LinkedIn | Skype: (b) (6)

Amazon Author Center | Daily Beast Contributor

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

Media Inquiries:
(b) (6)

On 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

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: Friday, April 26, 2024 10:37 AM
To: Peter Das(b) (6) (b) (6)
Cc (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

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

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

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

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: Peter Daszak (b) (6)
Sent: Thursday, April 25, 2024 11:34 PM
To: (b) (6) >; 'Keusch, Gerald T' (b) (6)) (6) (b) (6) ; 'Roberts, Rich (b) (6) Hotez, Peter Jay' < ' (b) (6) (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

MORENS_NIH_047470
REL0000482539

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

MORENS_NIH_047471
REL0000482539

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

Tel.: +1 (b) (6)
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

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

From: (b) (6) (b) (6) (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, Ric (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?
>
> Cheers,
>
> Peter
>
> **Peter Daszak**
> *President*

MORENS_NIH_047472
REL0000482539

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: Peter Daszak (b) (6)
Sent: Friday, April 19, 2024 9:15 PM
To: (b) (6) 'Keusch, Gerald T (b) (6) (b) (6) 'Hotez, Peter Ja (b) (6) (b) (6)
Cc: 'Aleksei Chmura' (b) (6) ; 'John Feigelson' < (b) (6) >
Subject: RE: Today's news...

By the way – Allegations that me sending information to David Morens is somehow corrupt are outrageous. Tony Fauci was busy working with the White House COVID taskforce at the time, trying to halt the worse pandemic since the 1918 influenza outbreak. I would have happy emailed him directly, but pretty sure he wasn't checking each of his 50,000 emails a day!

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

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

Tel.: +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: Friday, April 19, 2024 8:10 PM
To: (b) (6) <(b) (6) (b) (6) 'Keusch, Gerald T' (b) (6) 'Jeff Sturchio' <
(b) (6) 'Roberts, Rich' (b) (6) 'Hotez, Peter Ja (b) (6)
(b) (6)
(b) (6) >; John Feigelson <
(b) (6)
Subject: Today's news...

Had a very successful EcoHealth Alliance benefit last night – sorry some of you couldn't be there.

Michael Mann was our main honoree, and he was great! We raised well above our expectation – all critical to keeping us afloat given the increased pressure we're under right now.

Speaking of which – here's the latest attempt from the SSCP to smear David Morens, EcoHealth Alliance and others as being involved in a 'cover up'

https://nypost.com/2024/04/19/us-news/ex-fauci-adviser-shared-confidential-nih-info-with-ecohealth-about-covid-biosafety-levels-docs/

Basically, they've found an email from me to David, Jerry others when the allegations that EcoHealth expts were conducted at an insufficient BSL level first came out. Tony Fauci was interviewed and said that he would look into it. I sent David M. a review I'd done of the BSL rules for Bat CoVs in various countries, which clearly show that we were operating at the correct biosafety levels.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

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

Tel.: +1-(b) (6)
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

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

From: (b) (6) <(b) (6)
Sent: Wednesday, April 17, 2024 7:16 AM
To: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) Keusch, Gerald T (b) (6) ; Jeff

MORENS_NIH_047474
REL0000482539

(b) (6) (b) (6)
Sturchio >: Roberts, Rich ; Hotez, Peter Jay <
(b) (6)
Aleksei Chmura

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>
>
> You can see the video of him criticizing our work here:
>
> https://youtu.be/Oru0-fYGcJU
>
> The relevant section starts at 1 hour, 31 minutes and 30 seconds into the video
>
> Cheers,
>
> Peter

MORENS_NIH_047475
REL0000482539

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: 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

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

Tel.: +1-(b) (6)
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org

Twitter: @PeterDaszak

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

From: (b) (6) (b) (6)
Sent: Monday, April 15, 2024 8:39 PM
To: Peter Daszak (b) (6) Keusch, Gerald T (b) (6)
Jeff Sturchio (b) (6) Roberts, Ric (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

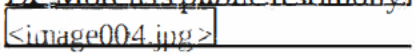
Sent from Proton Mail Android

-------- 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
> <image003.jpg>
>
> **Select Subcommittee on the Coronavirus Pandemic**
>
> @COVIDSelect
>
> <image001.png>
> BREAKING
> <image001.png>
> @EcoHealthNYC

MORENS_NIH_047477
REL0000482539

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.: +1-(b) (6)
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

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

From: (b) (6) (b) (6)
Sent: Friday, April 12, 2024 1:37 PM
To: Peter Daszak (b) (6) ; Keusch, Gerald T < (b) (6) Jeff Sturchio (b) (6) Roberts, Rich < >; Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6)
Cc: Aleksei Chmura (b) (6) ; (b) (6)
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.: +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: 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.: +1 (b) (6)
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

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

From: Michael Hiltzik (b) (6)
Sent: 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 (b) (6)
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

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

---

From: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >
Sent: Sunday, April 7, 2024 9:34 AM
To: 'Michael Hiltzik' (b) (6)
Cc: 'Aleksei Chmura (b) (6) <(b) (6) >; 'Alison Andre (b) (6) <(b) (6)
Subject: RE: Confidential - NIH still hampering EcoHealth's ability to conduct work 4 years since the termination of our grant
Importance: High

I have good answers for you on all of those – it's ugly and political. There are also others who are well-placed who you can talk with.

I can do Wednesday at 5:30pm my time if that works for you (2:30pm West Coast). I have other times as well… cc'ing Alison who will make sure we find a time that works.

MORENS_NIH_047481
REL0000482539

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

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

Tel.: +1 (b) (6)
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

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

From: Michael Hiltzik (b) (6)
Sent: Saturday, April 6, 2024 6:50 PM
To: Peter Daszak (b) (6)
Subject: Re: Confidential - NIH still hampering EcoHealth's ability to conduct work 4 years since the termination of our grant

Peter,

Let's set up a time to talk next week (Wednesday or later best for me). On first glance, it strikes me that I'm glad I'm not in the grants-application business, because the bureaucratic behavior here seems incomprehensible, at least to a layman.

What's the overarching theme in their relations with you? Is it pressure from the lab-leak crowd, the FOIAing from Tobias, which as far as I can tell has yielded nothing of any substance? A spillover from the Trump era?

I read the Science piece, which was thorough in detailing what was done to the Chinese researchers but silent on what provoked it....what was the question I was left with--Why did NIH do all this?

MH

On Sat, Apr 6, 2024 at 12:03 PM Peter Daszak <(b) (6) > wrote:

> Hi Michael, I'm just contacting you off the record in case you or others are interested in reporting on what's going on at NIH with respect to EHA's grants. We were trying to deal with this

privately, without it becoming public, but we found out last week that some of our recent correspondence with Emily Erbelding asking for her help is in a batch of FoIA's emails that will be released to Jimmy Tobias in the next couple of weeks. Tobias is in the habit of simply dumping these on the internet, so we wanted to get these to a bona fide reporter before that happens.

As you probably know, our organization has been funded by NIAID for around 20 years, conducting successful research on emerging diseases, and working closely with communities, scientists and governments in emerging disease hotspot countries to try to reduce the risk of disease emergence. Prior to the termination of our R01 grant in April 2020 that would have had the Wuhan Institute of Virology as a subrecipient, we had never had any issues with NIH or NIAID, and had been lauded by program officers for our cutting edge research into viral emergence, and the many papers in Science, Nature, NEJM and others based on NIH funding.

After the termination of our grant, the HHS OIG was called in to audit our work and NIH's oversight. They reported back after an 18 month audit with recommendations for both us, and for NIH, most of which were minor and easily addressed. We rapidly complied and NIH's DFAS group confirmed that all audit findings were resolved. However, we continued to receive further actions from the Office of the Director (Michael Lauer, who *Science* wrote about re. NIH's actions on grantees with China connections https://www.science.org/content/article/pall- suspicion-nihs-secretive-china-initiative-destroyed-scores-academic-careers), and the NIH group that manages oversight (OPERA) directly under Michael Lauer. In April 2023, Michelle Bulls from Opera and Emily Linde from NIAID placed 4 Specific Award Conditions (SACs) on our grants. At the time, Michael Lauer had contacted Tufts University who oversaw our IACUC approvals to conduct wildlife sampling because EHA doesn't have an animal facility. This led to Tufts canceling our interinstitutional agreement. The only way for us to proceed was to request an Animal Welfare Assurance from OLAW (based at NIH), but this was denied because of these SACs. One of the SACs stated that all of our subcontracts must be reviewed and revised by NIH reviews. We worked extremely hard to rapidly respond (often within days) to every single request, despite many of them being contradictory or having no material impact on the contracts. In the original letter NIH set a deadline of September 2023 to resolve the SACs, which due to repeated delays by NIH grants management staff in responding to us, continued further requests and shifting of the goalposts means we still do not have resolution. Furthermore, grants management are now suggesting that we are beyond the period of work and our subcontractees won't be able to be reimbursed. Additionally, during the past 12 months, NIH has only

reimbursed EcoHealth for around $50K of the now nearly $2 million we are expecting and have expended.

As you can imagine, this puts us in a very difficult position, with institutions like UNC and Uniformed Services University likely to be outraged that their funding is threatened, and with us unable to do our work fully – work that has been reviewed, scored well, and is critical to pandemic prevention. We've tried every possible avenue to get a fair and reasonable rapid resolution. We've informed Emily Erbelding of these issues (hence the FoIA'd email), and Program staff at NIAID remain supportive of our work, but we still have no resolution. Every time we try to seek a meeting or resolution, we get a hard response from NIH that we're out of compliance and they set further deadlines and further minor issues for us to fix. Right now I believe we're probably in greater compliance with NIH rules and just about any other institution in the US, given the level of scrutiny we've gone through. I've attached some of the many recent letters between NIH OPERA, NIAID Grants managements and EcoHealth Alliance to give you an indication of the levels of detailed work that we've gone through to try and resolve these issues.

We don't know the reasons why this is happening – all our subcontracts prior to April 2023 covered every single requirement in NIH's grants management guidance, subrecipients had to sign that they would adhere to these. The stonewalling, and shifting of goalposts by NIH is linked to emails that they send us stating that we're 'delinquent' or 'out of compliance', or that they're 'concerned' etc. and seem to us designed ready to be FoIA'd (which they are being) or to be used when NIH has to show Congressional Republicans that EcoHealth is being treated in the way they are calling for. Meanwhile, important findings can't be reported, including a novel SARS-CoV-2 related virus able to bind well to human ACE2 that we have found in one of our country sites, but are now unable to publish because our subrecipient is concerned they don't yet have an approved contract. This is hurting our ability to conduct pandemic prevention work, and the US's ability to be informed about public health threats that could emerge and threaten our citizens.

If you want to report on this, I'm happy to talk on-the-record on some issues, and there are others who are aware of these problems that I can put you in touch with, including at NIH and senior people from outside.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

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

Tel.: +1-(b) (6)
Website: _____lthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

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

MORENS_NIH_047485
REL000482539

Date: Wed, 24 Feb 2021 1:53:02 PM -0500
Sent: Wed, 24 Feb 2021 1:53:00 PM -0500
Subject: Re: Briefing Tony
From: Peter Daszak <(b) (6)
To: David Morens <(b) (6)
CC: Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6)

Apologies - here's the story: https://dailycaller.com/2021/02/23/gop- lawmakers-demand-nih-investigation-wuhan/

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
(Sent from my iPhone)

President
EcoHealth Alliance

460 West 34th Street, New York, NY10001, USA

www.EcoHealthAlliance.org

> On Feb 24, 2021, at 1:14 PM, Peter Daszak <(b) (6) > wrote:
>
> Here's the latest bullshit from the Republicans. My problem is that the White House says "no plans to continue funding". It's very disappointing. I mean there is actually still NO evidence that the virus escaped from the lab, for F's sake!
>
> Cheers,
>
> Peter
>
> Peter Daszak
> (Sent from my iPhone)
>
> President
> EcoHealth Alliance
>
> 460 West 34th Street, New York, NY10001, USA
>
> www.EcoHealthAlliance.org

MORENS_SUBPOENA_011869
MORENS_NIH_022919
REL0000482545

On Feb 24, 2021, at 9:21 AM, David Morens <(b) (6) > wrote:

You are right, i need to be more careful. However, as i mentioned once before, i learned from our foia lady here how to make emails disappear after i am foia'd but before the search starts, so i think we are all safe. Plus i deleted most of those earlier emails after sending them to gmail. D

Sent from my iPhone

David M Morens

OD, NIAID, NIH

> On Feb 23, 2021, at 21:53, Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6) > wrote:
>
> We need you alive and well, so pay attention to the email address you use. If you get FOIA'ed and have to respond it will have Peter and, of lesser importance, me on the correspondence. The less we provide the enemy the better.
>
> That said, thanks for planting the seed for this conversation to be. It will provide Tony with insights and it will be Peter who provides them - pointing out how amazingly connected (and important) he, Peter, is. Tony too.
>
> Jerry
>
> Gerald T. Keusch, M.D.
>
> Professor of Medicine
>
> Associate Director
>
> National Emerging Infectious Diseases Laboratory
>
> Boston University, Boston MA 02118
>
> -----Original Message-----
>
> From: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] <(b) (6) >

MORENS_SUBPOENA_011870
MORENS_NIH_022920
REL0000482545

Sent: Tuesday, February 23, 2021 2:36 PM

To: Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6)

Cc: Peter Daszak (b) (6) <(b) (6) >

Subject: Re: Briefing Tony

Thanks for reminding me, but I am pretty sure it is OK now to use my NIH email because 1) I haven't been a bad boy, and 2) the brown shirts have left town, and 3) it is no loger a cardinal sin to know Dr. Daszak!

However, your point is well taken, as I often do say subversive things without realizing it.....

I wonder what Tony is thinking about Peter's grant situation. He hasn't told anyone as far as I know, and we won't bring it up. he might do so, but I would be surprised.

Also, Peter, I heard t5hat he want's Cliff Lane to be on that call. You may remember that Cliff went to China last spring to look at the COVID situation. david

--

david..... PS, I will be on Public Health Service deployment from 10 December 2020 until 23 January 2021. During this time I will have limited access to email and phone contact. Ty, dmm

MORENS_SUBPOENA_011871
MORENS_NIH_022921
REL0000482545

Date: Mon, 27 May 2024 4:08:15 PM -0400
Sent: Mon, 27 May 2024 4:08:10 PM -0400
Subject: RE: another great Hiltzik quote Document summarizing our response to the HHS debarment allegations
From: Roberts, Rich <(b) (6)
To: Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6)
CC: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) (b) (6) Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6) Jeffrey Sturchio <(b) (6)
Attachments: image001.png

I don't disagree

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

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

From: Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6)
Sent: Monday, May 27, 2024 4:07 PM
To: Roberts, Rich <(b) (6)
Cc: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) (b) (6) Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6) Jeffrey Sturchio <(b) (6)
Subject: Re: another great Hiltzik quote Document summarizing our response to the HHS debarment allegations

EXTERNAL SENDER

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.

MORENS_NIH_047092
REL0000482550

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

(b) (6)
E-mail | Twitter | LinkedIn | Skype:

Amazon Author Center | Daily Beast Contributor

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

Media Inquiries:
(b) (6)

On May 27, 2024, at 1:00 PM, Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6) wrote:

She's not a virologist and believes that just becau d the exact virus hanging around in bats leaves the door open for lab leak. But that goes against what every virologist says. We have overwhelming evidence for natural origins.

As Michael Hiltzik says

<IMG_6292.jpeg>

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

Texas Children's Hospital: Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics | Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development | Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

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

Baylor University, University Professor
Rice University, Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty
Texas A&M University, Faculty-Senior Fellow, Hagler Inst for Advanced Study & Scowcroft Institute of Intl Affairs

E-mail | Twitter | LinkedIn | Skype: (b) (6)

Amazon Author Center | Daily Beast Contributor

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

(b) (6)

(b) (6)

On May 27, 2024, at 1:34 PM, Roberts, Rich < (b) (6) wrote:

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

Peter:

I received this feedback from Marcia McNutt.

Rich

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

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

From: McNutt, Marcia K. (b) (6)
Sent: Monday, May 27, 20
To: Roberts, Rich (b) (6)
Subject: Re: Document summarizing our response to the HHS debarment allegations

Importance: High

EXTERNAL SENDER

Thanks for sharing this document. I don't know Peter personally, so don't understand how he wants to present himself and EcoHealth to the politicians. As we all have seen, politicians purposefully come across as combative, like to speak in sound bites, and take much liberty with the facts. As a scientist, my personal style is to stick to the facts, insist that others stick to those facts, and admit when and where science cannot answer questions. The way this statement is written, it tends towards giving the politicians a taste of their own medicine, so to speak, by stating in absolute terms topics that are more nuanced. For example:

"Many of the claims levied against EcoHealth Alliance are built on the false assumption that COVID-19 emerged from the Wuhan Institute of Virology because of a lab leak during research supported by the NIH under a subgrant from EcoHealth Alliance: There is not a scintilla of scientific evidence for this narrative. "

I probably would have stated this differently. The failure to find the SARS-COV2 virus in nature has been the primary support for the lab leak hypothesis. So I think stating that "there is not a scintilla of scientific evidence" is overstated, and could bring trouble. The epidemiology of the disease does suggest origin at the market, but without the cooperation of the Chinese, we will not solve this problem. I am sure that many interpret the lack of cooperation by the Chinese as "proof" that they engineered the disease, even if by mistake.

The rest of the statement follows in similar vein, by showing anger and frustration. (And believe me, I can completely relate to why Peter is so frustrated!) But emotion tends to detract from the impression that this is a fact-based rebuttal. I guess I would have just made the same points more dispassionately. e.g. Debarment is not an appropriate action in this case based on government regulations. The timing of the request for data and notebooks was too late, and by that time political tensions virtually guaranteed that they would not be forthcoming as distrust was evident on both sides (Chinese and US). etc.

Please note that these comments are just based on my personal experience with Congress. Peter can take or leave.

One strategy I used to use with Congress was to meet privately with the Members prior to my testimony. For those likely to be in opposition to my case, I would explain in great detail to them and in terms they can understand why they should back off or change their minds. For those likely to be sympathetic to my case, I would feed them questions to ask. I remember one case when I was testifying for the USGS budget, and the proposal had been to zero out the Earthquake Research Grants to universities, a program in place for many decades. I had one Member ask me whether these grants had any impact in the past. That gave me the opening to tell the story of a young Stanford grad student from France whose research funding had run out, and he was going to have to return to France. The USGS stepped in, supported the student, and he used the funds to conduct a strong ground motion mapping of the Bay Area to predict what areas were most vulnerable to earthquake shaking and sediment liquification. Three years later, the Loma Prieta earthquake occurred, and basically validated all of the microzonation shaking that the map had predicted. The student was able to stay in the US, finish his degree, obtain US citizenship, and at the time of my testimony was President of Caltech. All of the money for the earthquake research grants was restored by Congress as a result of that testimony, and no funds were taken out elsewhere.

Peter needs an opportunity to talk about all of the good that the EcoHealth Alliance has done, and needs to create an opening to tell that story.

Hope this is helpful. Have a great Memorial Day!

Marcia

NASNASNASNASNASNASNASNASNASNASNASNAS
Dr. Marcia K McNutt
President, National Academy of Sciences
Mailing Address | Physical location:
500 Fifth Street NW | 2101 Constitution Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20001 | Washington, DC 20418
(b) (6) (office) | (b) (6) (cell)
NASNASNASNASNASNASNASNASNASNASNASNAS

CONFIDENTIALITY NOTICE: This e-mail and any attachments are for the exclusive and confidential use of the individual or individuals named above on behalf of the National Academy of Sciences. The information herein is privileged to the Academy. If you are not the intended recipient, any dissemination, retention, or copying of this communication and its attachments is prohibited.

On May 25, 2024, at 1:10 AM, Roberts, Rich (b) (6) ≥ wrote:

Marcia:

Here is a draft of a document that Peter Daszak is preparing in order to answer the questions from the Congressional sub-committee concerning EcoHealth Alliance. Any comments or advice you might have would be welcome.

There is getting to be increasing concern among the colleagues I speak to about the attacks on Science from politicians and many have expressed a willingness to help with a campaign to counter them. Has any progress been made from your end? I would be happy to talk with you or your communications staff about this.

Rich

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

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

<Summary of EcoHealth's responses to SSCP and HHS allegations..pdf>

Date: Fri, 9 Oct 2020 11:13:46 AM -0400
Sent: Fri, 9 Oct 2020 11:13:45 AM -0400
Subject: Re: NAS and NAM Presidents Alarmed By Political Interference in Science Amid Pandemic
From: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] <(b) (6) >
To: Peter Daszak <(b) (6)
CC: Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6)

Peter, I DO NOT think EcoHealth's reputation has been trashed, because the scientific community now knows more than ever all the good work you have been doing. as I have been saying, when this is all over the history books will place you firmly on the side of goodness. Have faith.... d

On 10/9/2020 11:02 AM, Peter Daszak wrote:

> Thanks for that comment David – my strategy is exactly that. As soon as we have clear indications of a Biden win, our pro bono lawyers will be demanding a return of the full grant, without the conditions that were attached (getting a vial of virus, finding missing Wuhan lab people etc). If we don't hear back (Director's current strategy seems just to be one of not responding so the clock plays out), we'll take it to the next level.
> –
> I have a very deep sense of injustice about this. It's not just the loss of a grant, it's also the trashing of mine and EcoHealth's reputation by the leader of NIH – a disgraceful act for which I hold Francis Collins responsible. On top of that, and of far greater significant, there's the principle at stake that a highly ranked proposal should not be blocked by a politician. I remember reading a few years ago about how Clinton as an NY State Senator tried to get Fauci to push through funding for proposals on 9/11 cancer epidemiology. He told her repeatedly that they will be reviewed in the normal way and not affected by politics. That's the leadership we need at the top of NIH, not a feckless fool like Francis.
> –
> It was never my choice to go public with all of this, but once the letter from the Director & Lauer was leaked, I was put on this pathway. I won't give up until my name and our organization's name is cleared.
> –
> –
> 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:** Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b) (6)
> **Sent:** Friday, October 2, 2020 7:54 AM
> **To:** Peter Daszak (b) (6)
> **Cc:** Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6)
> **Subject:** Re: NAS and NAM Presidents Alarmed By Political Interference in Science Amid Pandemic
> –

Indeed! [redacted] I hope that when you get enough air you will also push NIAID for the full hearing on grant termination you deserve. If not for the money, Then for the sake of justice
[redacted]
D

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

> On Oct 2, 2020, at 00:07, Peter Daszak (b) (6) wrote:
>
> Just coming up for air after 2 weeks solid grant/report writing.[redacted] I[redacted]m submitting a new R01 on Monday for a project called: Analyzing the potential for future bat coronavirus emergence in Southeast Asia[redacted]in other words to do what the China grant should be doing, but now in Myanmar, Laos and Vietnam.
> [redacted]
> Amused to see the response below from our polite and careful presidents of NAS and NAM, just days before the whole world got alarmed at just how much of a corrupt malicious ogre we[redacted]ve got inhabiting the center of our Govt[redacted]s power.
> [redacted]
> [redacted]
> [redacted]
> [redacted]
> [redacted]
> [redacted]
> [redacted]
> [redacted]
> Cheers,
> [redacted]
> Peter
> [redacted]
> [redacted]
> [redacted]
> [redacted]
> **Peter Daszak**
> *President*
> [redacted]
> EcoHealth Alliance
> 520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
> New York, NY 10018-6507
> USA
>
> Tel.: +1 (b) (6)
> Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
> Twitter: @PeterDaszak [redacted]
> [redacted]
> *EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation*
> [redacted]
> **From:** Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b) (6)
> **Sent:** Thursday, September 24, 2020 1:3
> **To:** Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6) Peter Daszak (b) (6)
> **Subject:** FW: NAS and NAM Presidents Alarmed By Political Interference in Science Amid Pandemic
> [redacted]
> [redacted]
> [redacted]

MORENS_SUBPOENA_011675
MORENS_NIH_022715
REL0000482551

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)

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

From: Folkers, Greg (NIH/NIAID) [E](b) (6)
Sent: Thursday, September 24, 2020 11:55 AM
Subject: NAS and NAM Presidents Alarmed By Political Interference in Science Amid Pandemic

Share

NAS and NAM Presidents Alarmed By Political Interference in Science Amid Pandemic

Statement | September 24, 2020

As advisers to the nation on all matters of science, medicine, and public health, we are compelled to underscore the value of science-based decision-making at all levels of government. Our nation is at a critical time in the course of the COVID-19 pandemic with important decisions ahead of us, especially concerning the efficacy and safety of vaccines. Policymaking must be informed by the best available evidence without it being distorted, concealed, or otherwise deliberately miscommunicated. We find ongoing reports and incidents of the politicization of science, particularly the overriding of evidence and advice from public health officials and derision of government scientists, to be alarming. It undermines the credibility of public health agencies and the public's confidence in them when we need it most. Ending the pandemic will require decision-making that is not only based on science but also sufficiently transparent to ensure public trust in, and adherence to, sound public-health instructions. Any efforts to discredit the best science and scientists threaten the health and welfare of us all.

Marcia McNutt

President, National Academy of Sciences
Victor J. Dzau
President, National Academy of Medicine

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, 17 May 2024 6:04:18 PM -0400
Sent: Fri, 17 May 2024 6:02:21 PM -0400
Subject: Re: Origins of COVID NPR
From: Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6)
To: Keusch, Gerald (b)
CC: P(b) (6) >; Al(b) (6) rens < >; Jeffrey Sturchio < <(b) (6) Martin <(b) (6) erts <
Attachments: IM mage001.jpg

The NIH leadership has set back American virology for many years:

MORENS_NIH_045077
REL000482556

Elon Musk @elonmusk · 6h

Prosecute/Fauci

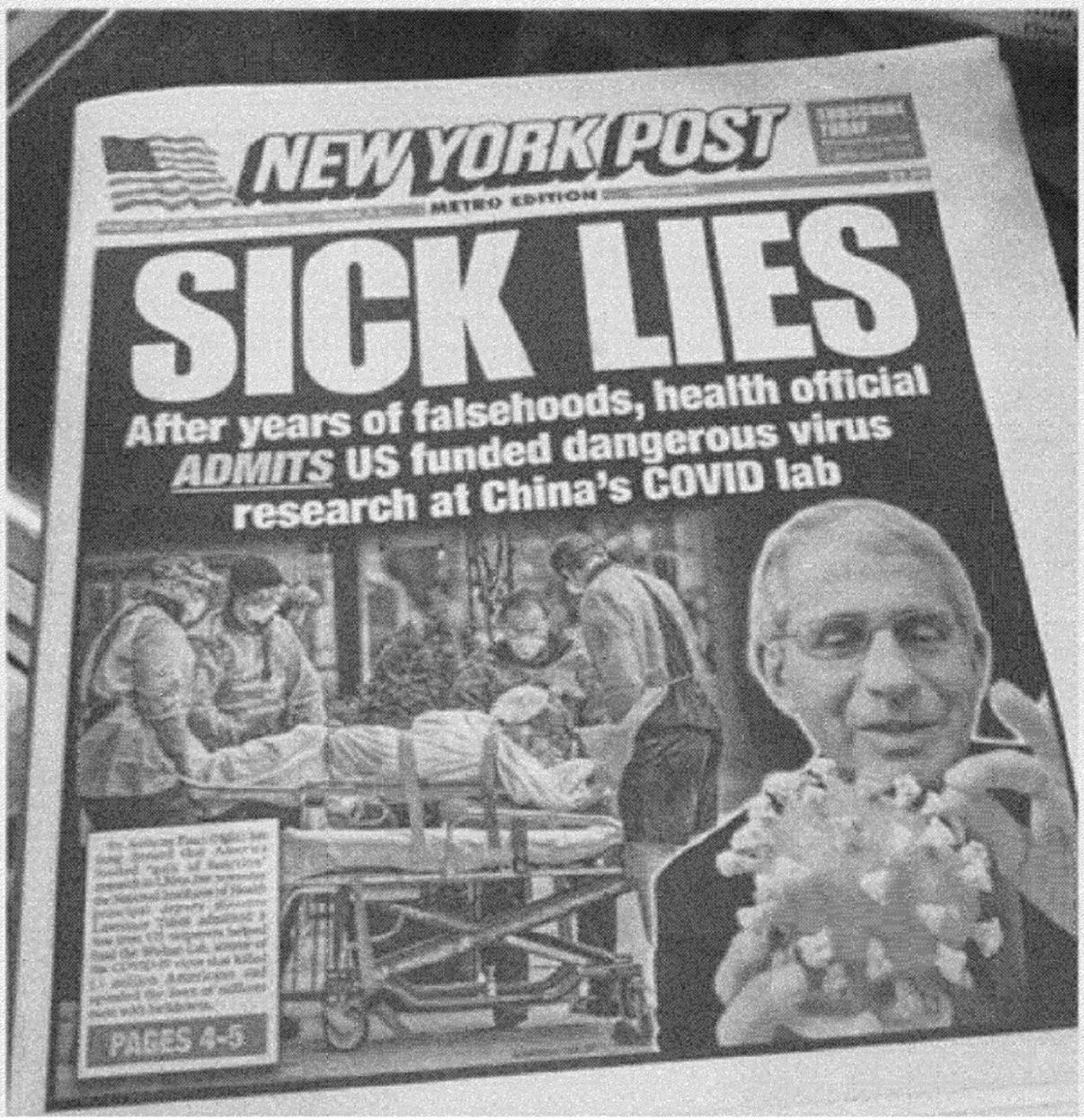
Paul D. Thacker @thackerpd · 8h

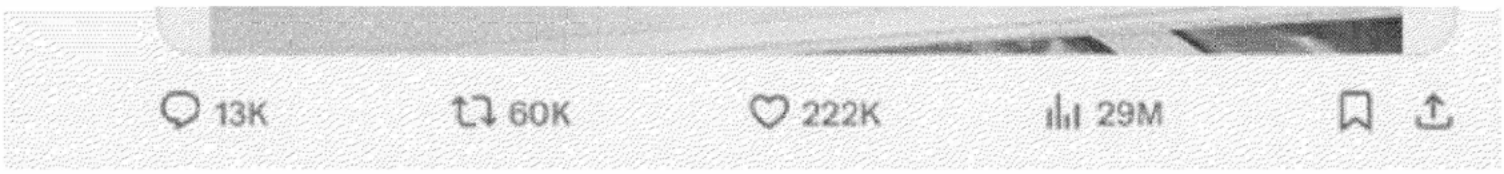
"SICK LIES"

New York Post goes after Fauci for his lies about dangerous virus research at the Wuhan institute of Virology.

...

Show more





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

Texas Children's Hospital: Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics | Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development | Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

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

Baylor University, University Professor
Rice University, Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty
Texas A&M University, Faculty-Senior Fellow, Hagler Inst for Advanced Study & Scowcroft Institute of Intl Affairs

E-mail | Twitter | LinkedIn | Skype: (b) (6)
Amazon Author Center | Daily Beast Contributor

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

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

On May 17, 2024, at 3:19 PM, Keusch, Gerald <(b) (6) wrote:

Regarding Tabak's comments on GoF, this is what the text below shows.

Rep. Lesko: "Dr. Tabak, did NIH fund gain-of-function research at the Wuhan Institute of Virology through EcoHealth?"

Dr. Tabak: "It depends on your definition of gain-of-function research. If you're speaking about the generic term, yes, we did…the generic term is research that goes on in many, many labs around the country. It is not regulated. And the reason it's not regulated is it poses no threat or harm to anybody."

So it is not what he said but how the SSCP spun it. That's a weakness that should be exploited in the press. It is deliberately spinning information into disinformation and that is both lying and dangerous. We need to point it out, find other examples where it is easy to refute what they are saying about Peter, EHA, and David, and make sure others will amplify that and delegitimize the committee. I'm going to point out that one to Hiltzik and Kaiser.

Jerry

From: Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6)
Sent: Friday, May 17, 2024 1:57 PM
To: Peter Daszak <(b) (6)
Cc: Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) David Morens <(b) (6) Keusch, Gerald <(b) (6) Jeffrey Sturchio <(b) (6) Keith Martin <(b) (6) Rich Roberts <(b) (6)

Subject: Re: Origins of COVID NPR

I'm only a King, how insulting, these guys are totally nuts

<image001.jpg>

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

Texas Children's Hospital: Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics | Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development | Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

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

Baylor University, University Professor
Rice University, Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty
Texas A&M University, Faculty-Senior Fellow, Hagler Inst for Advanced Study & Scowcroft Institute of Intl Affairs

E-mail | Twitter | LinkedIn | Skype: (b) (6)

Amazon Author Center | Daily Beast Contributor

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

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

iPhone

On May 17, 2024, at 12:34 PM, Peter Daszak (b) (6) wrote:

Good to hear that. In the meantime looks like the Committee is now coming after me personally. They're aiming to call for my debarment as an individual:

https://oversight.house.gov/release/hearing- wrap-up-nih-repeatedly-refutes-ecohealth-alliance-president-dr-peter-daszaks-testimony-tabak-testimony-reveals-federal-grant-procedures-in-need-of-serious-reform/

[redacted]Published: May 17, 2024

Hearing Wrap Up: NIH Refutes EcoHealth's Testimony, Tabak Reveals Federal Grant Procedures in Need of Serious Reform

WASHINGTON — The Select Subcommittee on the Coronavirus Pandemic held a hearing titled

"Overseeing the Overseers: A Hearing with NIH Deputy Director Lawrence Tabak" to examine the National Institutes of Health's (NIH) process for funding and overseeing scientific research as well as investigate NIH's relationship with EcoHealth Alliance, Inc. (EcoHealth). Members pressed former Acting NIH Director and current Principal Deputy Director, Dr. Lawrence Tabak, to explain numerous inconsistencies between the public and private testimonies of NIH employees and

MORENS_NIH_045081
REL0000482556

EcoHealth President, Dr. Peter Daszak. Dr. Tabak offered substantial evidence that Dr. Daszak purposefully misled both the NIH and the Select Subcommittee about EcoHealth's efforts to comply with grant procedures. In a shocking admission that directly contradicts Dr. Fauci's previous statements, Dr. Tabak testified that the NIH was funding gain-of-function research in Wuhan, China through a grant to EcoHealth. Members highlighted the dangers of continuing to fund gain-of-function research in

MORENS_NIH_045082
REL0000482556

foreign laboratories where NIH cannot ensure proper biosafety measures are implemented. Both Dr. Tabak and Select Subcommittee Members agreed that, in "hindsight," the NIH could have done more to protect the American taxpayer from EcoHealth.

Key Hearing Takeaways

- **NIH Deputy Director and former Acting NIH Director, Dr. Lawrence Tabak, acknowledged that NIH funded gain-of-function research in Wuhan, China.**
- **Dr. Lawrence Tabak repeatedly refuted EcoHealth Alliance President Dr. Peter Daszak's public and private testimonies. It is now clear that Dr. Daszak misled both the Select Subcommittee and the NIH on numerous occasions.**
- **Serious shortcomings and failures in the NIH's grant awarding and grant oversight procedures enabled EcoHealth to facilitate gain-of-function research in Wuhan, China. These NIH deficiencies were exploited by Dr. Daszak and his team in an effort to avoid oversight and maintain funding.**
- **The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' (HHS) decision to immediately suspend funding and commence debarment proceedings against EcoHealth is backed by substantial evidence and necessary to protect America's national security. The Select Subcommittee also recommends that HHS immediately begin debarment proceedings against Dr. Peter Daszak personally.**
- **The NIH often lacks the necessary subject matter and scientific expertise to ensure U.S. taxpayer funds are spent and overseen safely. Dr. Tabak testified to these gaps in NIH's system today, and former NIH Director Dr. Francis Collins recounted similar problems during his transcribed interview found here.**
- **The Select Subcommittee's investigation into EcoHealth's impropriety is far from over. Chairman Wenstrup appreciates Dr. Tabak's honesty today and intends to use his testimony to hold EcoHealth accountable for its facilitation of gain-of-function research and its blatant contempt for the American taxpayer.**

Member Highlights

Select

Subcommittee on the Coronavirus Pandemic Chairman Brad Wenstrup (R-Ohio), D.P.M, pressed Dr. Tabak to address Dr. Daszak's testimony that EcoHealth was "locked out" of the NIH's grant reporting system. NIH conducted an internal forensic audit which proves EcoHealth was, in fact, not "locked out" from submitting its required NIH grant research update report on time. Notably, EcoHealth finally submitted its report nearly two years

MORENS_NIH_045084
REL0000482556

after the required deadline. According to the facts gathered by NIH, Dr. Daszak's sworn testimony appears to be false.
<image001.png>

Chairman Wenstrup:
"
EcoHealth, like every other NIAID grantee, was required to submit a five-year progress report, as you know. This report was submitted nearly two years late. Dr. Daszak testified that EcoHealth had tried to submit the report on time but was locked out of the NIH system. Dr. Lauer testified that a forensic

MORENS_NIH_045085
REL0000482556

audit was conducted, and no such system error was detected. Is NIH now willing to share the findings of this forensic audit with the Select Subcommittee?"

Dr. Tabak: "*We certainly will work together with you to obtain things that you require, sir.*"

Chairman Wenstrup: "*Does the audit indicate that EcoHealth could have submitted their report on time?*"

Dr. Tabak: "*That's what our audit indicates, yes.*"

Chairman Wenstrup: "*When EcoHealth eventually submitted its year-five report,*

MORENS_NIH_045086
REL0000482556

Dr. Daszak testified it took 11 days to unlock the NIH system. Is this true?"
Dr. Tabak: "*We have no evidence of that.*"
...
Dr. Tabak: "*All I can say to you is that our system did not lock them out and there was no impediment for them to provide that report on time.*"
Committee on Oversight and Accountability Chairman James Comer (R-Ky.) questioned Dr. Tabak about the employment status of alleged federal records violator and top advisor to Dr. Anthony Fauci — Dr. David Morens —

who was placed on administrative leave after the Select Subcommittee uncovered incriminating information. Dr. Morens used his personal email(s) to hide conversations about the origins of COVID-19 and undermine the operations of the NIH.
<image002.png>

Chairman Comer: "*What is Dr. Morens's current employment status?*"
Dr. Tabak: "*He is an employee of NIH.*"
Chairman Comer: "*Well, I think you see where my lines of questioning were leading. We have some serious concerns. We have fought in this Select*

MORENS_NIH_045088
REL0000482556

Subcommittee, the Oversight committee, on obtaining information. And here you have an admission of deleting information, going to great lengths to not be transparent, in an apparent cover-up of something that I think we would agree, in a bipartisan manner, is one of the most serious issues that our country has ever faced, the COVID 19 pandemic."

Rep. Debbie Lesko (R-Ariz.) elicited an admission from Dr. Tabak that the NIH funded gain-of-function research at the WIV through a

grant to EcoHealth. This directly contradicts Dr. Fauci's U.S. Senate testimony in 2021 in which he claimed the NIH "has not ever and does not now fund gain-of-function research in the Wuhan Institute of Virology." This type of research is known to be dangerous and even former NIH Director Francis Collins and Dr. Fauci were willing to admit that there are risks associated with this experimentation.
<image003.png>

Rep. Lesko: *"Dr. Tabak, did*

MORENS_NIH_045090
REL0000482556

NIH fund gain-of-function research at the Wuhan Institute of Virology through EcoHealth?
"

Dr. Tabak: "*It depends on your definition of gain-of-function research. If you're speaking about the generic term, yes, we did…the generic term is research that goes on in many, many labs around the country. It is not regulated. And the reason it's not regulated is it poses no threat or harm to anybody*."

Rep. Rich McCormick (R-Ga.), M.D., proved that EcoHealth violated

the terms of its NIH grant when it failed to produce "laboratory notebooks" with information about the WIV's gain-of-function research. On May 1, Dr. Daszak falsely testified that he was not required to produce these notebooks as a condition of his grant.
<image004.png>

Rep. McCormick: "*When the National Institutes of Health requested the notebooks from EcoHealth, was EcoHealth required to produce them under its grant terms?*"
Dr. Tabak:

MORENS_NIH_045092
REL0000482556

"*Yes, they were.*"

Rep. McCormick: "*When NIH requested notebooks from EcoHealth should EcoHealth have been able to access them or already have access to them?*"

Dr. Tabak: "*That's correct.*"

Rep. McCormick: "*Did EcoHealth ever produce the requested notebooks?*"

Dr. Tabak: "*They have not.*"

Rep. McCormick: "*Dr. Daszak testified two weeks ago that he was not required to produce the lab notebooks. Would NIH disagree with that testimony?*"

Dr. Tabak: "*Yes, we disagree with that testimony.*" Rep. McCormick: "*The testimony here today clarifies the inconsistency between Dr. Daszak's testimony and the testimony of numerous NIH officials and NIAID officials, also, including yourself. Dr. Daszak continues to thwart congressional oversight through semantics and outright dishonesty, quite frankly. He has routinely failed to produce pertinent documents and made countless misleading statements to the Select Subcommittee*

right here."
Rep. Mariannette Miller-Meeks (R-Iowa), M.D., uncovered serious shortcomings in NIH's grant awarding and grant oversight procedures. Dr. Tabak testified that he would never again support a grant to EcoHealth Alliance to fund gain-of-function research in Wuhan and believes the NIH relied too heavily on Dr. Daszak attestations.

<image005.png>

Rep. Miller-Meeks: "*As I mentioned, the Understanding the Risk of Bat Coronavirus Emergence*

Grant was an almost $4 million grant that partially went to the Wuhan Institute of Virology and the Wuhan University of Public Health. Do you believe this grant was an effective use of taxpayer dollars, and would you support issuing the same grant today?"

Dr. Tabak: "*Well, with the benefit of what we know today, no, of course not.*"

Rep. Miller-Meeks: "*There is great concern with Dr. Daszak interaction with NIH and NIAID pertaining to the one log growth term of the award.*

The NIH relied on Dr. Daszak to monitor and report virus growth after being a month late on his annual reporting requirements, which were outlined in the grant. Dr. Tabak, looking back, did the NIH rely too much on Dr. Daszak's self-reporting information?"

Dr. Tabak: "*Again, with the benefit of hindsight, we did because we never received the information.*"

Rep. Miller-Meeks: "*Well, as an ophthalmologist, hindsight is always 20/20.*"

Rep. Nicole Malliotakis

MORENS_NIH_045097
REL0000482556

(R-N.Y.) revealed NIH's honest viewpoint regarding its funding of EcoHealth's risky research at the WIV. Dr. Tabak testified that NIH believed it was not funding any dangerous research prior to or during the COVID-19 pandemic.
<image006.png>

Rep. Malliotakis: "*We also know that at least 20 more EcoHealth research projects received funding since March of 2020, and they are conducting research Nipah, zoonotic viruses, bat coronaviruses, MERS. They are doing a lot*

of this research, mostly actually in third world countries. Subpar safety conditions. How do you ensure that our federal dollars are not going to do risky experiments in countries where there are subpar safety regulations? And do you believe that should be a criteria that is put forth to ensure that the money doesn't?"
Dr. Tabak: *"Well, again, once we established special conditions for award on EcoHealth Alliance, we have monitored them very carefully with regard to expenditure*

MORENS_NIH_045099
REL0000482556

and with regard to their various administrative processes. There was never a concern with the danger, if you will, of the experiments that NIH approved for EcoHealth Alliance to with under subaward with WIV."

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: Friday, May 17, 2024 12:17 PM
To: Peter Daszak (b) (6) ; Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) >; David Morens (b) (6) ; Gerald Keusch <(b) (6) Jeffrey Sturchio (b) (6) Keith Martin (b) (6) Rich Roberts <(b) (6)
Cc: Hotez, P
Subject: Fwd: Origins of COVID NPR

I just did this long interview debunking the nonsense, piece by piece

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

(b) (6)
E-mail | Twitter | LinkedIn | Skype:

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)

Begin forwarded message:

> **From:** Geoffrey Brumfiel <GBrumfiel@npr.org>
> **Date:** May 17, 2024 at 11:06:26 AM EDT
> **To:** "Hotez, Peter Jay" (b) (6)
> **Subject: Origins of COVID**
>
> *****CAUTION:*** This email is not from a BCM Source. Only click links or open attachments you know are safe.**
>
> ---
>
> Hi Peter,
>
> We haven't spoken for a year or two since I was covering vaccine misinformation. Anyway, I'm being put back on the origins of COVID beat ahead of the Fauci hearing next month. I've been loosely following the twists and turns with EcoHealth and NIH and all the rest, but I'm needing to get a little more caught up.
>
> Would you be up for a quick background conversation?
> Best,
> Geoff
>
> Geoff Brumfiel | National Public Radio | gbrumfiel@npr.org | desk: (b) (6) | cell: +(b) (6)
> (b) (6)

Date: Thu, 19 Nov 2020 9:57:27 AM -0500
Sent: Thu, 19 Nov 2020 9:57:23 AM -0500
Subject: FW: Attacks on EcoHealth Alliance continue
From: "Keusch, Gerald T" b6
To: David Morens b6 b6

Hi David, I have Zoom classes at HILR from 10-3 today. I'll be in touch afterwards – or during if I get bored. Basically I am thinking about an opinion piece in PNAS, perhaps getting Victor Dzau to help steer it within the editorial board if he can (he probably won't be willing to be an author which would be better) to say the preponderance of the evidence is the natural origins, the conspiracy theories are conspiracy theories and are not equally plausible and in contrast to the natural evolution there is no evidence, and pushing the latter means the US will not be able to participate in objective work to track the virus' evolution in China because China won't let us in.

I have posed this with Nicki Lurie and Ron Corley who is the Director of the NEIDL, and you are next on my list. OK got to run. More later.

Jerry

From: David Morens b6 >
Sent: Thursday, November 19, 2020 7:31 AM
To: Peter Daszak b6 >
Cc: Keusch, Gerald T b6 >; Aleksei Chmura b6 >; Robert Kessler b6 >
Subject: Re: Attacks on EcoHealth Alliance continue

Jeez Louise!!!! Will this shit never end? I STILL remain optimistic that after 1/20 things will change quickly and NIH and HHS will be fully on your side, restore your grant, and become proactive. So keep the fairh. You have way more friends than you know

For what it's worth today is the last of 8 days of the Trop Med meetings and the highest level of the organization has repeatedly given you a shout out both in several non-public meetings and in yesterdays open Business Meeting, at which our Prez and CEO brought up your situation in separate talks. The broader scientific community in ID and virology is very aware about what is going on, is royally pissed, and views this whole sorry spectacle as an existential threat to all of us. We will not take our feet off the
accelerator....

I have been under continual FOIAs for moths, as has Tony and several other folks in the front office. I just got two new ones this week, i am a bit ashamed to say that i haven't looked closely at what these are, in part because this stuff makes my blood boil, and in part because we now have a new FOIA team of bureaucrats and IT folks dedicated to just the FOIAs of Tony, me, and a few others, and most of them related to eha and some similar things. All i have to do is answer an email from the foia team and say ok, they take over, and i dont do or see anything after that

Yes it is still good to use my gmail, but no need to worry anymore. Now that i have said what i think in print and to reporters, i am completely free to say that these conspiracy theorists are full of crap

As for that little twit Relman, he went over to the dark side over a decade ago with his DURC grandstanding. In my opinion scientists who use their skills to trash the work of other scientists are the lowest of life forms and deserve a place on the lowest bolgia of Dante's hell. He continues to bring shame to his illustrious father, and his illustrious mentor Stan Falkow You probably also saw his newspaper editorial a few days ago. Cab't you guys get the NAM to keel-haul him? (just kidding, but even that would be too good for the guy)....

Keep the faith. David

MORENS_SUBPOENA_003685
MORENS_NIH_010597
REL0000482560

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

On Nov 18, 2020, at 23:50, Peter Daszak [b6] wrote:

David, Jerry – David, I'm using your gmail address to keep you out of the FoIA target…Just wanted you to know that we're still under attack here at EHA. The US Right to Know (an anti-GMO, anti-vaxx group associated with Organic consumers.org) Foia'd NIH for our emails and grants. NIH refused, they've now sued. https://usrtk.org/news-releases/u-s-right-to-know-sues-nih-for-documents-about-origins-of-sars-cov-2/.

They've also Foia'd people I collaborate with at state universities (Ralph Baric others), including Rita Colwell at U. Maryland (she's on my Board). They've just published 446 pages of emails between her and myself – all completely harmless of course, but just awful to have all our detailed correspondence out there https://usrtk.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/Biohazard_FOIA_Maryland_Emails_11.6.20.pdf . They've concocted a story about how I orchestrated a Lancet letter back in February – which I did, but they're implying that EcoHealth funded Chinese gain of function work, and therefore I orchestrated the paper to cover up our nefarious work. Just disgusting. Here's the story which contains links to the emails https://usrtk.org/biohazards-blog-index/ and came out today. It also uses the fact that NIH (Collins) inserted demands into our grant reinstatement as evidence that EcoHealth is 'under increased scrutiny'. Apologies Jerry, but your listed in some of these.

At the same time, other conspiracists are applauding David Relman of Stanford on social media because he published an opinion piece in PNAS that continues to bang the drum about Wuhan, gain of function, and that the WHO mission on COVID origins and the Lancet COVID-19 commission's taskforce on COVID origins (which I'm heading up) are 'cloaked in secrecy'. https://www.pnas.org/content/early/2020/11/03/2021133117

Finally, I heard yesterday that a Florida congressman (Bill Posey) wrote to Jeff Sachs to try to get me kicked off the Lancet COVID-19 Commission because of a perceived conflict of interest re. China. Jeff's not going to do that right now, but everyone has their breaking point.

Add to all of this another FoIA we got against other NIH grants from an investigative reporter who has an anti-gain of function/bioweapons stance and it's adding up to be a tough week here!

We're not responding to this US Right to Know group, because it just gives them oxygen, but I worry that there'll be continued Foia's and pressure to trash my reputation and eventually it will begin to be successful. We've already had one of our funders hold back funding, and I don't want to have so much bad press out there that eventually I get disinvited from committees that everyone knows are important to careers these days.

Advice welcome!

Cheers,

Peter

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak

President

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

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

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

MORENS_SUBPOENA_003687
MORENS_NIH_010599
REL0000482560

Date: Fri, 21 Jul 2023 1:17:47 PM -0400
Subject: Fwd: MEDIA RELEASE: Pandemic levels of abuse directed at COVID experts [EMBARGOED]
From: David Morens <(b) (6)
To: David Morens <(b) (6)
Attachments: image001.png; image002.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

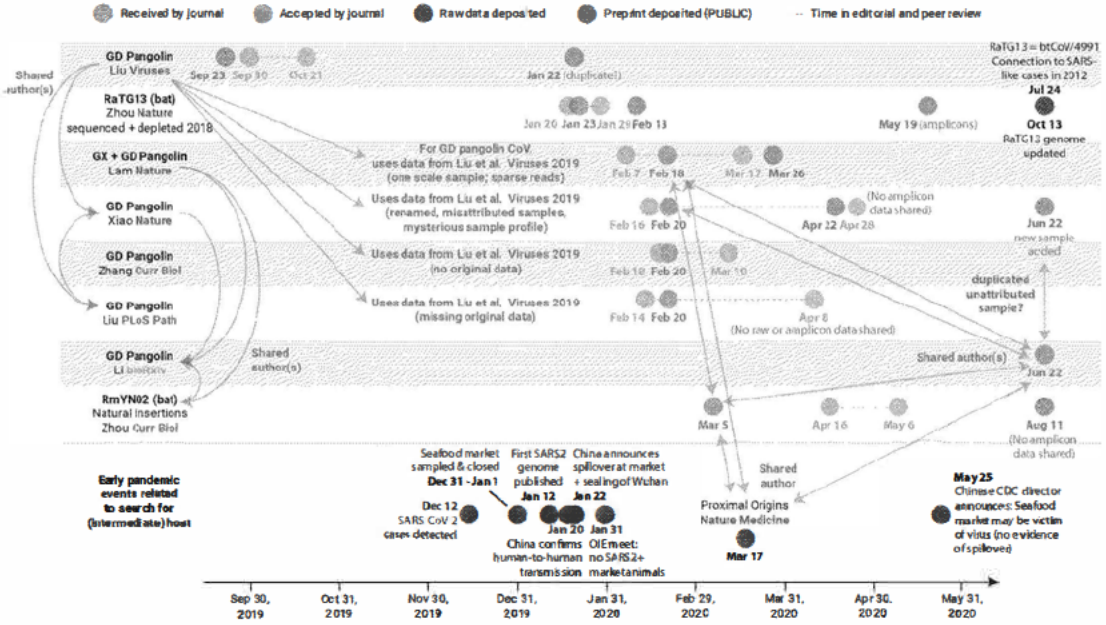
IMPORTANT: For US Government-related email, please also reply to my NIAID address

---------- Forwarded message ---------
From: **Garry, Robert F** (b) (6)
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) ristian G. Andersen (b) (6)
Cc: Jason Gale <j.gale@bloomberg.net>, Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >, David Morens <(b) (6) >, Edward Holmes (b) (6) >, 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* .

From: "Rasmussen, Angie" (b) (6) >
Date: Tuesday, October 12, 2021 at 10:00 AM
To: Kristian Andersen (b) (6) >
Cc: Jason Gale <j.gale@ er Daszak <(b) (6) >, David Morens <(b) (6) ard Holmes (b) (6) (b) (6) Kessler <(b) (6) , Robert Garry , Stephen Goldstein <(b) (6) ey, Michael - (w (b) (6) .
Subject: RELEASE: Pandemic levels of abu xperts [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.

MORENS_SUBPOENA_003568
MORENS_NIH_010471
REL0000482561

Angela L. Rasmussen, Ph.D.
Research Scientist
Vaccine and Infectious Disease Organization (VIDO)
University of Saskatchewan
Office: (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!

MORENS_SUBPOENA_003569
MORENS_NIH_010472
REL0000482561

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]

Error! Filename not specified.

Issued: 12 October 2021

View this email in your browser

Error! Filename not specified.

EMBARGOED UNTIL 02:00 AEDT Thursday 14 October 2021

MEDIA RELEASE: Pandemic levels of abuse directed at COVID-19 experts

---

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**.

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

MORENS_SUBPOENA_003572
MORENS_NIH_010475
REL0000482561

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

---

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

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

---

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."

MORENS_SUBPOENA_003574
MORENS_NIH_010477
REL0000482561

Brendan has not declared any conflicts of interest.

He is contactable on +61 425 737 752, brendan.crabb@burnet.edu.au

---

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

---

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

MORENS_SUBPOENA_003575
MORENS_NIH_010478
REL0000482561

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

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."

Andrew has not declared any conflicts of interest.

He is contactable on +61 419 941 274 or ajm@andrewmiller.com.au

---

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.

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. Afterall, 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.

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

The Australian Science Media Centre (AusSMC) works to enhance the media's coverage of science, for the benefit of all Australians. We provide the evidence and experts when science hits the headlines and administer the breaking science news portal for Australia and New Zealand – Scimex.org. As an independent, not-for-profit organisation, financial support is crucial to ensure this important work can continue. For a full list of current supporters visit our website.

Disclaimer: Please note that any views expressed are the personal opinions of the experts named. They do not represent the views of the AusSMC or any other organisation unless specifically stated. The AusSMC attempts to provide a range of views from the scientific community.

AEDT = Australian Eastern Daylight Time
AEST = Australian Eastern Standard Time

Australian Science Media Centre (AusSMC)
The Science Exchange
55 Exchange Place
ADELAIDE SA 5000

Postal address:
PO Box 237
RUNDLE MALL SA 5000

Ph: **(08) 7120 8666**

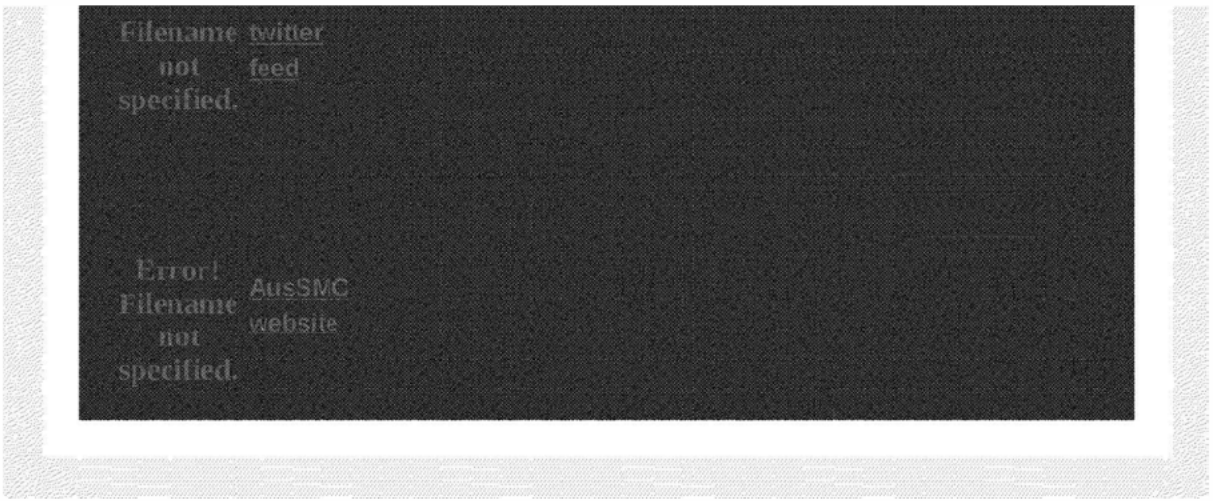
info@smc.org.au | smc.org.au

Copyright © 2021 Australian Science Media Centre Inc.

Unsubscribe from all AusSMC emails.

Error! Filename not specified. AusSMC on Facebook

Error! AusSMC



Error! Filename not specified.

MORENS_SUBPOENA_003580
MORENS_NIH_010483
REL0000482561

Date: Sat, 8 May 2021 9:54:27 AM -0400
Sent: Sat, 8 May 2021 9:54:14 AM -0400
Subject: RE: Some advic
From: Peter Daszak <(b) (6)
To: (b) (6) Gerald T <(b) (6) David Morens
CC: Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) Robert Kessler <(b) (6)

Rich,

What exactly should I send over to you today? I was thinking I'll just write a letter (1 page) explaining what's been happening and refuting the article by Nicholas Wade. I started reading the article, and it's just astounding – innuendo after innuendo, and almost every paragraph with an inaccurate comment. I don't think I have the time for a full rebuttal, and really it would be tedious for the Nobel laureates to read.

Do you think a 1 page letter would work – thanking everyone for their support, explaining the harassment I'm under, and strongly refuting 5 of the biggest lies out there:

- That our grant funded gain of function work in Wuhan
- That the Lancet letter we published was coordinated secretly and deceptively
- That our grant was used in some way to avoid P3CO oversight
- That the location of the outbreak, evolutionary diversity of SARS-CoV-2 or furin cleavage site strongly indicate a lab origin
- That the WIV hid evidence that they had a progenitor virus to SARS-CoV-2 by scrubbing databases etc.

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: Roberts, Rich (b) (6)
Sent: Friday, May 7
To: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >; Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6) avid Morens <(b) (6)
Cc: Aleksei Chmura (b) (6) Robert Kessler (b) (6)
Subject: Some advice and help needed

Peter et al.

I have received a number of emails like the attached from some of the NLs who signed on.
The sender, Andre Goffinet, had originally written to me on April 23rd enquiring about my relationship with scientists in China. He was obviously trying to make a case that I was somehow helping the Chinese cover up what was going with the Wuhan lab and hence discredit the NL letter that I had organized. He got nowhere with that, but has now taken a different tack as illustrated in the attached letter.

I will send out a letter to all the NLs who signed on and try to defuse the situation. However, one thing I feel I should include is Nicholas Wade's latest piece since that will probably come to the attention of most of them and is probably the best written article pushing the lab origin while trying to pretend it was unbiased.

I wonder if there is a good summary you would recommend I use (and quote) to assure the NLs that they should not regret joining the initial campaign. I'm not looking for anything long, but rather a brief summary and perhaps a link to a longer piece.

I would like to send something out tomorrow.

Rich

Richard J. Roberts
New England Biolabs
240 County Road
Ipswich, MA 01938-2723
USA
Tel: (b) (6)
Fax: (9
email: (b) (6)

From: Peter Daszak <(b) (6)
Sent: Friday, May 7, 2
To: Keusch, Geral (b) (6) ; David Morens (b) (6)
(b) (6) Aleksei Chmura (b) (6) >; Robert Kessler <
(b) (6)
Subject: RE: Another letter - almost amusing - from House E&C Committee Republicans re. Zhengli's "Blah Blah" comment

EXTERNAL SENDER

Really interesting to hear those comments about "Blah blah" and "Deng deng". It just saddens me because I know Zhengli's English is not the best, and I don't think she realizes that every word she says publicly, even in response to a question at a University seminar, is being manipulated and used politically. It feels like racism to me.

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: Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6)
Sent: Friday, May 7, 2021 11:01 AM
To: David Morens (b) (6) Peter Daszak (b) (6) >
Cc: Roberts, Rich (b) (6) ; Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) >; Robert Kessler <(b) (6)
Subject: RE: Another letter - almost amusing - from House E&C Committee Republicans re. Zhengli's "Blah Blah" comment

The letter to Blinken includes the following statement:

"…the release of these documents from the Department could help to refute contradictory statements that have been made regarding the possibility of a laboratory leak from the WIV." This could be taken in a positive sense, that the documents will refute the lab release hypothesis, although I don't think that's how they mean it.

Regarding what Peter previously said about Shi's use of the phrase blah blah, which will surely be characterized as dismissive and therefore put into a negative perspective. I have access to a senior endowed full professor of Chinese politics at Harvard and I asked about the meaning of blah blah when a Chinese native speaker uses it while speaking English. Here is the answer:

"In my experience many Chinese mistakenly use "blah, blah" as equivalent to the Chinese term "deng, deng" which means "and so forth" and has no negative connotation."

So Peter was right, and now we know the Chinese term it is trying to translate, however awkwardly. This might be useful in any conversation with a report about her remarks or the Republicans letter.

Jerry

From: David Morens <(b) (6)
Sent: Friday, May 7, 2021 6:58 AM
To: Peter Daszak (b) (6)
Cc: Keusch, Gerald T (b) (6) ; Roberts, Rich <(b) (6) Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) >; Robert Kessler (b) (6)
Subject: Re: Another letter - almost amusing - from House E&C Committee Republicans re. Zhengli's "Blah Blah" comment

Peter, i will reply eventually when i get some time, but until then, note yet another Josh Rogin editorial in this morning's Post, this time disclosing the Republican letter to Tony, which i have not yet seen and may or may not see. D

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

> On May 6, 2021, at 23:34, Peter Daszak (b) (6) > wrote:
>
> Sorry for yet another email, but this one is so bizarre it's almost funny. It's a letter from the House E&C Committee

MORENS_SUBPOENA_014556
MORENS_NIH_027344
REL0000482564

Republicans to Blinken asking him to release the classified intel that people in the Wuhan lab were sick prior to COVID, and that the WIV does military research. It quotes some comments from a recent talk my collaborator Zhengli Shi from the Wuhan Institute of Virology, gave during a lecture at Rutgers. Some of the online conspiracists heard about the talk in advance and they packed the audience – some of their questions from the chat were read out. Her response included a very common "blah blah" phrase used in China when speaking English – here's the quote:

During a March 23, 2021 seminar at Rutgers University, a WHO advisory committee member asked Dr. Shi if [knew].. whether "the U.S. government claims of classified Chinese military research being carried out at the WIV [are] correct, and if so, did you have full awareness of and access to all aspects of this research?"[4]

Dr. Shi answered: From my knowledge, all our research work is open, is transparent. At the beginning of COVID-19, we heard the rumors that claimed our laboratory would have some project blah blah with army blah blah . . . but this is not correct, because I am the director and responsible for research activity. I don't know any kind of research work performed in this lab.[5]

This is ridiculous, of course, and they're obviously using that quote to suggest Dr. Shi doesn't take these questions seriously, but it's actually a racist trope – people in China use the phrase "blah blah" to simply mean "and so on, and so forth". Just unfortunate…

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: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >
Sent: Thursday, May 6
To: 'David Morens (** (b) (6))' (b) (6) >; Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6) 'Roberts, Rich' (b) (6)
Cc: 'Aleksei Chmura (** (b) (6) >; 'Robert Kessler (** (b) (6)
Subject: New: Letter from Republican Rep. Gallagher to Dr. Fauci re. WIV and gain of function
Importance: High

David,

A Republican representative sent a letter to Tony Fauci today asking some pretty simple questions that are clearly designed to play to their political base.

If Tony Fauci is going to respond to the attached letter that was made public today, I hope he's ready to point out that the work we did was NOT gain of function. This phrase has been bandied about now for a few months and is utterly incorrect.

If he decides to draft a response, I'd be happy to do a quick briefing with you and him to explain the work that has been done up to now with WIV, and was planned to be done on our NIAID grant.

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

Disclaimer

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

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

Disclaimer

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

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

Disclaimer

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

MORENS_SUBPOENA_014558
MORENS_NIH_027346
REL0000482564

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

Date: Wed, 31 Mar 2021 2:20:55 PM -0400
Sent: Wed, 31 Mar 2021 2:20:54 PM -0400
Subject: RE: Matt Fenton
From: "Keusch, Gerald T" <(b) (6)
To: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] <(b) (6)

Thanks David, I'll follow up if I don't manage to meet him on the zoom conference today.

I got to BU in early 2004 and was based in the School of Public Health, not clinically involved, and serving as Associate Provost for Global Health with the task of linking faculty across the two BU campuses. I'm not surprised we didn't meet then.

I'm still mulling about the Science reporters, waiting to see what they do say about the fuss over WHO report.

From: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] <(b) (6)
Sent: Wednesday, March 31, 2021 11:53 AM
To: Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6)
Subject: Re: Matt Fenton

Jerry, Matthew just replied to me as follows.... d

David – thanks for this info. Yes, the presentation is virtual I'll keep an eye out for Jerry. I'm surprised I don't already know him since I was a professor at BUSM for 15 years prior to coming to NIAID, so during the time the NEIDL was being built. I do know Ron Corley quite well, and Jack Murphy quite well. As you probably know, the majority of ID physician scientists at BUSM and Boston City Hospital left *en masse* to UMass Medical School about 20 years ago.

Best wishes,

Matthew

On 3/31/2021 11:33 AM, Keusch, Gerald T wrote:

> I'm now certain its by Zoom. Ron will try to introduce me in a separate window. If that doesn't work I'll let you know so you can do an email introduction. I don't know how well you know him but it would be fine for me if you said it related to Peter's grant.
>
> Cheers, Jerry

From: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b) (6)
Sent: Wednesday, March 31, 2021 10:30 AM
To: Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6)

Cc: Peter Daszak <(b) (6)
Subject: Re: Matt Fenton

Jerry, I will do this soon. I would be shocked if he is traveling there, as hardly anyone at nih is traveling, not Francis, not Tony, hardly anyone. No one I know of or have heard of.... d

On 3/30/2021 10:14 PM, Keusch, Gerald T wrote:

> I suggest you let him know I am Assoc Director of the NEIDL, I have been working with you and Peter to address the unacceptable interference of politics into the peer review system, and I am interested in meeting him. What I don't know is if he is here in person or virtually. I suspect NIH travel is still precluded by the outbreak, so an introduction would be by email with a CC to me, which then allows Matt and me to figure out how to connect. Sound reasonable for you?
>
> Jerry
>
> **From:** David Morens <(b) (6) >
> **Sent:** Tuesday, March 30, 2021 9:54 PM
> **To:** Keusch, Gerald T (b) (6)
> **Cc:** Peter Daszak (b) (6)
> **Subject:** Re: Matt Fenton
>
> How shall i do that? I could email him and say i think you will be there, hope you can connect? Or what do you propose? D
>
> Sent from my iPhone
> David M Morens
> OD, NIAID, NIH
>
> > On Mar 30, 2021, at 18:47, Keusch, Gerald T (b) (6) > wrote:
> >
> > He is speaking at BU tomorrow – I'm assuming it's all virtual – but I was also hoping I might at least get a cyber chance to meet him. I'm not sure how to accomplish that but I have asked Ron Corley, who is the host, to figure it out. If you can introduce me to Fenton that could also allow us to find a time to talk about how to work interactively to pressure OD/OER on the EHA grant.
> >
> > AND USE YOUR G-MAIL ACCOUNT.
> >
> > Gerald T. Keusch, M.D.
> > Professor of Medicine and International Health
> > Boston University School of Medicine
> > Associate Director, National Emerging Infectious Diseases Laboratories
> > 620 Albany Street
> > Boston, MA 02118

MORENS_SUBPOENA_017736
MORENS_NIH_035991
REL0000482568

Date:	Thu, 2 Dec 2021 9:59:22 PM -0500
Sent:	Thu, 2 Dec 2021 9:58:33 PM -0500
Subject:	call from Victor Dzau just now
From:	Peter Daszak <(b) (6)
To:	keusch <(b) (6) Peter Jay <(b) (6) David Morens <(b) (6) Roberts, (b) (6)
CC:	A (b) (6) Jeff Sturchio <(b) (6) Robert Kessler <(b) (6)
Attachments:	House E&C letter to NAM 2021.11.30.pdf

Victor Dzau, President of NAM called me tonight. He told me he wanted to reassure me that they will not be throwing me under the bus, and that they are not naïve and realize the nature of these allegations, but with 16 pages of allegations + citations and references, they can't just ignore it. He said they have a procedure that has been carefully worked out that they'll have to adhere to, in which a 'standing committee' of the council will review the allegations and decide whether to investigate or not. He said I'll have plenty of opportunity to respond to them at some point and the whole process will be private to protect me. I pointed out that it doesn't protect me if I don't know the process and can't be assured a fair hearing if it's behind closed doors.

He then said I'd have to step back from my duties on various committees for the period of the initial review, and if they investigate, that period as well. He said those are the policies and procedures they have. I asked if I could see the policies and he said NAM doesn't make them public. I pointed out that a membership society should protect its members and the process should be open to them. He said I should trust him that there are policies, and he got a little bit irritated that I was pushing back. I explained that I have a Board I answer to, who will straight away say I need to see a copy of the policies, so my lawyers can review them. He said he will check to see if Council made a decision to keep them private or if they can be shared. If not, I'll have my lawyers draft a letter and demand them, if it gets to the point that they do an investigation.

At the end of our call he pointed out that he shouldn't really have called me (according to their process) and was doing this to give me his support. I thanked him for that, but then mentioned that it's a very lonely place when your funders, political representatives, president of your country, the press, your colleagues (some of them), and hate-filled gangs of ne'er-do-wells attack you on a daily basis. I mentioned that I've heard the same comments from many people about how I 'shouldn't worry' and that 'this probably won't go anywhere' and 'I should trust them', but that in the end I have a duty to my family, and our staff to stand up against this sort of attack. I told him that I am also not naïve, and that the system NAM is operating under is based on goodwill, and is therefore weak when these attacks happen. I let him know that if this does go the wrong way, and the committee decide I should be removed from NAM, I will not do this lying down and without a fight. A bit aggressive maybe, but Victor is protecting his position and the institution rather than a member's reputation here.

I think the general thrust of this is that there will probably be an investigation. I think the next step is for me to get a response ready to these 16 pages of BS (I've attached them again for your enjoyment) and get ready for being ostracized for a period of time while a bunch of good-intentioned people decide whether I'm of high enough moral fiber to stay in their gang.

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: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >
Sent: Thursday, December 2, 2021 3:33 PM
To: 'keusch' (b) (6) ; 'Hotez, Peter Jay' <(b) (6) ; 'David Morens (b) (6) <(b) (6) ; Roberts, Rich <(b) (6) ; Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6)
Subject: FW: follow-up from the NAM

Just keeping you abreast of what the NAM are saying. I don't have a response on my request for the specific policy that says I can't take part in NAM activities while these allegations are under review (I suspect there are none).

However I did get the weird email below saying I should keep all this confidential – maybe it's because Victor's seen your email Jerry.

I don't know if they realize that the Republicans already published the letter in full on their website! Maybe I should let her know that.

I also, ironically got a notice to cast my vote for NAM Home Secretary today, so I voted for this person's rival. I'm sure they'd be equally as opaque, but it's at least some empowerment.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

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

Tel.: +1-(b) (6)
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

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

---

From: Fuentes-Afflick, Elena (b) (6)
Sent: Thursday,
To: Peter Daszak (b) (6)
Subject: Re: follow-up

Peter,

The conduct review process is handled with extreme confidentiality within the NAM and I would ask that you also consider it a highly confidential process, not to be shared with anyone.

Elena

Elena Fuentes-Afflick, MD, MPH
NAM Home Secretary
University of California, San Francisco

From: Peter Daszak (b) (6)
Sent: Wednesday, December 1, 2021 3:48 PM
To: Fuentes-Afflick, Elena
Cc: Aleksei Chmura
Subject: RE: follow-up

Thank you for the call today Elena. I've cc'd our Chief-of-Staff, Dr. Aleksei Chmura, who also joined us. I appreciate your explanation and will do my best to adhere to the policies of the NAM as we go through this process.

My only hope is that the review can be as rapid as possible. Our organization has been the focus of a horrific series of political attacks from the hard right wing as part of their political goals regarding Dr. Fauci, NIH and ultimately the Biden administration. These tie up resources and staff answering pages upon pages of false accusations, all carefully worded to give the impression of a thoughtful and sincere inquiry.

Again, I want to reassure you that none of the accusations from Republicans on the House E&C Committee have the slightest bearing in fact. We have acted honorably and with the highest scientific integrity throughout the pandemic, and simply want to be allowed to continue our work without constant, politically-motivated harassment.

sincerely,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

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

Tel.: +1 (b) (6)

MORENS_SUBPOENA_015107
MORENS_NIH_030800
REL0000482586

Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

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

From: Fuentes-Afflick, Elena (b) (6)
Sent: Wednesday, December 1, 2021 6:25 PM
To (b) (6)
Subject: follow-up

Dr. Daszak,

Thank you for speaking with me this afternoon.

In accordance with the NAM's policy related to conduct, I am writing to inform you that we have received written allegations of misconduct. As we undertake our review process, you are not eligible to participate in any NAM and/or NASEM activities for the duration of the review.

Best,
Elena Fuentes-Afflick

Elena Fuentes-Afflick, MD, MPH
NAM Home Secretary
University of California, San Francisco

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

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

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

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

Date: Sat, 2 Oct 2021 3:56:44 PM -0400
Sent: Sat, 2 Oct 2021 3:56:34 PM -0400
Subject: Re: Good LA Times article.
From: "Hotez, Peter Jay" <(b) (6)
To: R (b) (6) (b) (6) Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6) David Morens <(b) (6)
CC: Robert Kessler <(b) (6)
Attachments: Outlook-k4lhssej.png

Yes, happy to, actually I wrote an entire article on the far right now targeting US scientists.

https://journals.plos.org/plosbiology/article?id=10.1371/journal.pbio.3001369

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

MORENS_SUBPOENA_011265
MORENS_NIH_022046
REL0000482589

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

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

From: Roberts, Rich <(b) (6)
Sent: Saturday, October 2, 2021 2:47 PM
To: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6) David Morens <(b) (6) >
Cc: Robert Kessler <(b) (6) >; Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6)
Subject: RE: Good LA Times article.

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

Peter:

I just spoke with Jon Cohen from Science. I mentioned that you were being attacked completely unfairly and that it would be good if he could find some encouraging words to help you. I am wondering if one of you would also be prepared to talk to Jon.

Rich

Richard J. Roberts
New England Biolabs
240 County Road
Ipswich, MA 01938-2723
USA
Tel: (b) (6)
Fax: (0
email: (b) (6)

From: Peter Daszak <(b) (6)
Sent: Tuesday, September 28, 2021 11:47 PM
To: Roberts, Rich <(b) (6) Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6) David Morens <(b) (6) >
Cc: Robert Kessler <(b) (6)
Subject: Good LA Times article.

EXTERNAL SENDER

Just saw a piece in the LA Times that sums up the state of the origins "debate" pretty clearly:

https://www.latimes.com/business/story/2021-09-28/evidence-against-a-lab-leak-as-covid-source

It's firewalled so here's the article:

Column: New evidence undermines the COVID lab-

leak theory — but the press keeps pushing it

BY MICHAEL HILTZIK BUSINESS COLUMNIST
SEPT. 28, 2021 6 AM PT

When it comes to the pandemic, pseudoscience has outweighed real science at almost every turn. One of the best examples of that is the unsupported assertion that the virus causing COVID-19 escaped from a Chinese laboratory.

Despite mounting evidence that the virus reached humans through natural pathways — from infected animals such as bats — the lab-leak hypothesis recently jumped back into the news, thanks to CNN, the investigative news site the Intercept, and the Atlantic.

All treat the idea that the virus escaped from a lab credulously. They downplay or entirely ignore the latest scientific findings that support the theory that the virus' origin can be found in the animal kingdom — the view accepted by a preponderance of experts in virology.

It's a likely probability that this one originated from animals as well. But the possibility also remains that the virus leaked from a lab.
CNN'S SANJAY GUPTA OVERSTATES THE LAB LEAK THEORY

This is known as the zoonotic theory, from the term for a disease that can be transmitted from animals to humans.

We've reported before on the near absence of evidence for a lab leak, whether or not it's the product of a deliberate act.

Ever since the lab-leak claim first emerged during the Trump administration, where it was part of a White House information campaign demonizing China, one of the arguments in its favor has been that evidence for a zoonotic origin has also been spotty.

That argument has never been quite true — virologists know that animals have been the source of most of the viral diseases afflicting humanity — but it has become weaker than ever over the last year.

The question of the origin of COVID-19 isn't of merely academic interest. The answer could guide the world's preparation for future pandemics; if the virus emerged from a laboratory, then improving lab safety measures will be prioritized. If scientific opinion continues to coalesce around animal-to-human transmission, that will underscore the importance of regulating contact between humans and wildlife.

To put it another way, if we focus on the wrong answer, the right measures won't be taken. In a real sense, humankind's future depends on not being distracted by an unsupported, politically motivated claim about Chinese labs.

Before examining the flaws in the CNN, Intercept and Atlantic treatments, let's look at what's been published recently about the zoonotic path.

MORENS_SUBPOENA_011267
MORENS_NIH_022048
REL0000482589

For context, keep in mind that the earliest cluster of COVID-19 cases, in late 2019, was identified in the environs of the Huanan seafood market in the Chinese metropolis of Wuhan. Lab-leak theorists find this significant, because it's 7.5 miles from the Wuhan Institute of Virology, which does research on bat viruses.

A paper posted online earlier this month chiefly by researchers at France's Institut Pasteur and under consideration for publication in a Nature journal, however, reports that three viruses were found in bats living in caves in northern Laos with features very similar to SARS-CoV-2, the virus responsible for COVID-19.

As Nature reported, those viruses are "more similar to SARS-CoV-2 than any known viruses."

Another paper, posted in late August by researchers from the Wuhan lab, reports on viruses found in rats also with features similar to those that make SARS-CoV-2 infectious in humans. Two other papers published on the discussion forum virological.org present evidence that the virus jumped from animals to humans at more than one animal market in Wuhan, not just the Huanan seafood market.

Given that these so-called wet markets have long been suspected as transmission points of viruses from animals to humans because they sell potentially infected animals, that makes the laboratory origin vastly less likely, according to a co-author of one of the papers.

"That a laboratory leak would find its way to the very place where you would expect to find a zoonotic transmission is quite unlikely," Joel Wertheim, an associate professor at UC San Diego's medical school, told me. "To have it find its way to multiple markets, the exact place where you would expect to see the introduction, is unbelievably unlikely."

As virologist Robert F. Garry of Tulane, one of Wertheim's co-authors, told Nature, the finding is "a dagger into the heart" of the lab-leak hypothesis.

Garry and Wertheim are among the 21 expert co-authors of a "critical review" of virological findings on the origins of COVID-19. The review concludes, "There is currently no evidence that SARS-CoV-2 has a laboratory origin."

Now let's look at the recent reporting in support of the lab-leak theory.

On Sept. 19, CNN aired an hourlong documentary entitled "The Origins of COVID-19: Searching for the Source." Hosted by the channel's star science anchor, Sanjay Gupta, the program carries the veneer of an evenhanded approach.

Proponents of the zoonotic origin theory are given airtime, including Kristian Andersen of the Scripps Research Institute in La Jolla and Peter Daszak, a prominent grant maker in the virology field.

But so are proponents of the lab-leak theory. They include Alina Chan, a researcher at the Broad Institute, a biomedical research center, and Josh Rogin, a Washington Post columnist. Neither has any experience in virology. Chan is co-writing a book about COVID's origins that is expected to feature the lab-leak theory prominently, a fact not mentioned by CNN.

Yet at the top of the hour, referring to the common pattern of viruses jumping from animals to humans, Gupta says, "It's a likely probability that this one originated from animals as well. But the possibility also remains that the virus leaked from a lab."

By posing these two theories as simply two equally plausible solutions to a mystery, CNN glosses over the fact that the virological community regards the animal origin as vastly more likely than a lab leak. In fact, the two hypotheses are miles apart in credibility.

One of the program's chief targets is a report by a World Health Organization team issued in early 2021 that found spillover from an animal host to be "likely to very likely" and a laboratory incident an "extremely unlikely pathway."

Gupta calls the WHO report "the only scientific study of COVID's origins to date." That's not remotely accurate. There have been countless scientific studies, both before the WHO report and since. Indeed, Gupta mentions one of them, a seminal paper by Andersen and colleagues, published in March 2020. That paper termed the lab-leak theory "a speculative incomplete hypothesis with no credible evidence."

Much of the rest of the CNN program is filled with speculation about the Wuhan Institute, typically presented with portentous music on the soundtrack, suggesting subliminally that something sinister is going on there. The absence of information from the institute or the Chinese government is generally taken as tantamount to an admission of guilt.

"Over the course of 2020," Gupta declares, "more and more revelations emerged related to the Wuhan Institute of Virology."

One of these revelations concerned three staff members who reportedly sought hospital treatment for a flu-like illness in November 2019, before the COVID pandemic emerged.

Nothing has ever transpired to suggest these workers had COVID — November is flu season, after all. That they sought treatment at a hospital is immaterial, since it is well-known that people in China often go to hospitals for primary care, which residents of other countries would tend to receive in a doctor's office.

A CNN reporter appearing on air overstated the case, saying the patients were "hospitalized with an unknown illness." There has been no evidence that they were admitted to the hospital or that their illness was "unknown."

CNN doesn't bring its audience up to date on any of the latest research supporting the zoonotic theory, though it was published well before the air date and superseded what Gupta described as "the only scientific study" of COVID origins.

More recently, the Intercept trumpeted a purported scoop based on a leaked document — a grant proposal submitted in 2018 by Daszak's organization, the EcoHealth Alliance, to the Pentagon's Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency, or DARPA.

The proposal, for a laboratory manipulation of a virus related to SARS, the viral disease that caused an outbreak of pulmonary disease in China in 2003. DARPA rejected the proposal, however, and there's no evidence that it was submitted to, much less approved by, any other funding body.

MORENS_SUBPOENA_011269
MORENS_NIH_022050
REL0000482589

"Many questions remain about the proposal, including whether any of the research described in it was completed," the Intercept acknowledged.

Commentators on the Intercept's disclosure have displayed, perhaps in spite of themselves, that they lack the courage of their own convictions. In an article published Sept. 24, the Atlantic, unable or unwilling to delve into what the Intercept's document actually meant, if anything, settled for declaring that it made the lab-leak debate "even messier."

The magazine's Daniel Engber and Adam Federman wrote: "Does the SARS-CoV-2 pandemic have an unnatural origin? The answer hasn't changed: probably not. But we have learned something quite disturbing in the past few days, simply from how and when this information came to light."

By pretending that the debate itself is important, as if both sides have something to offer, they manage to report on a claim that has no substance. The approach also protects journalists from their persistent fear of landing on the wrong side of things — the authors preserve an out in case the lab-leak hypothesis turns out to be true, as unlikely as that is. If that happens, they can point to their lily-livered observations and say, "See, we knew it all along."

In this debate, however, the zoonotic camp has evidence and the lab-leak camp nothing to offer but innuendo.

Here's the true state of the discussion. There is no evidence that the virus leaked from the Wuhan laboratory or any other lab. There is no evidence that the Wuhan lab was working with a bat virus that had anything but a very distant resemblance to SARS-CoV-2. Viruses that resemble it much more closely have been found in natural settings a thousand miles from Wuhan, as the crow, or bat, flies.

Evidence that artificial manipulation of a virus gave rise to SARS-CoV-2 has faded, as scientists find more evidence that features of SARS-CoV-2 thought to be unnatural occur in nature. Meanwhile, evidence for zoonotic transmission is constantly accumulating. No one who reports on the issue without acknowledging these two trends should be trusted.

Los Angeles Times columnist Michael Hiltzik writes a daily blog appearing on latimes.com. His seventh book, "Iron Empires: Robber Barons, Railroads, and the Making of Modern America," has just been published by Houghton Mifflin Harcourt. Follow him on Twitter at twitter.com/hiltzikm and on Facebook at facebook.com/hiltzik.

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

MORENS_SUBPOENA_011271
MORENS_NIH_022052
REL0000482589

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 chanbullied 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 <j.gale@bloomberg.net>, Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >, David Morens (b) (6) 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)
She/her
www.vido.org

<image002.png>

On Oct 11, 2021, at 10:30 PM, Kristian G. Andersen(b) (6) > wrote:

MORENS_SUBPOENA_006293
MORENS_NIH_015183
REL0000482591

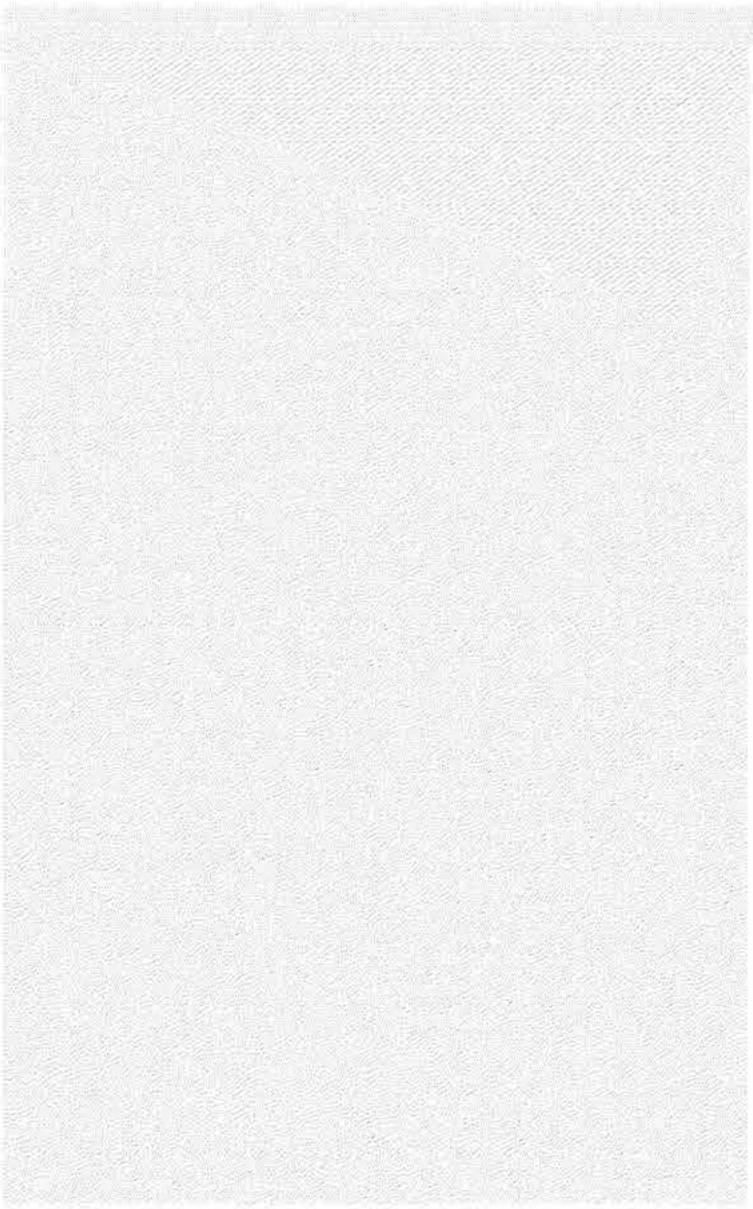
CAUTION: External to USask. Verify sender and use caution with links and attachments. Forward suspicious emails to phishing@usask.ca

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.

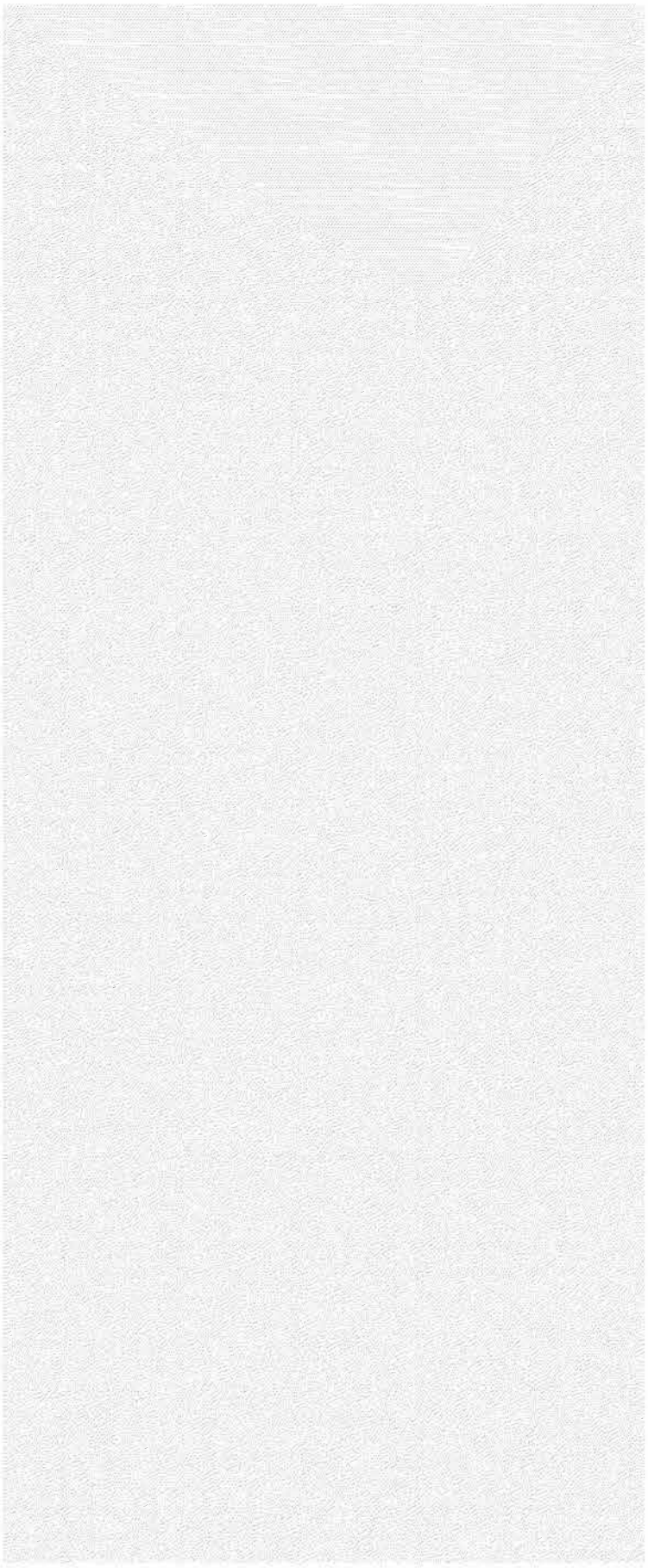
"If experts take the worse off," said Lyndal

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_006295
MORENS_NIH_015185
REL0000482591



"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

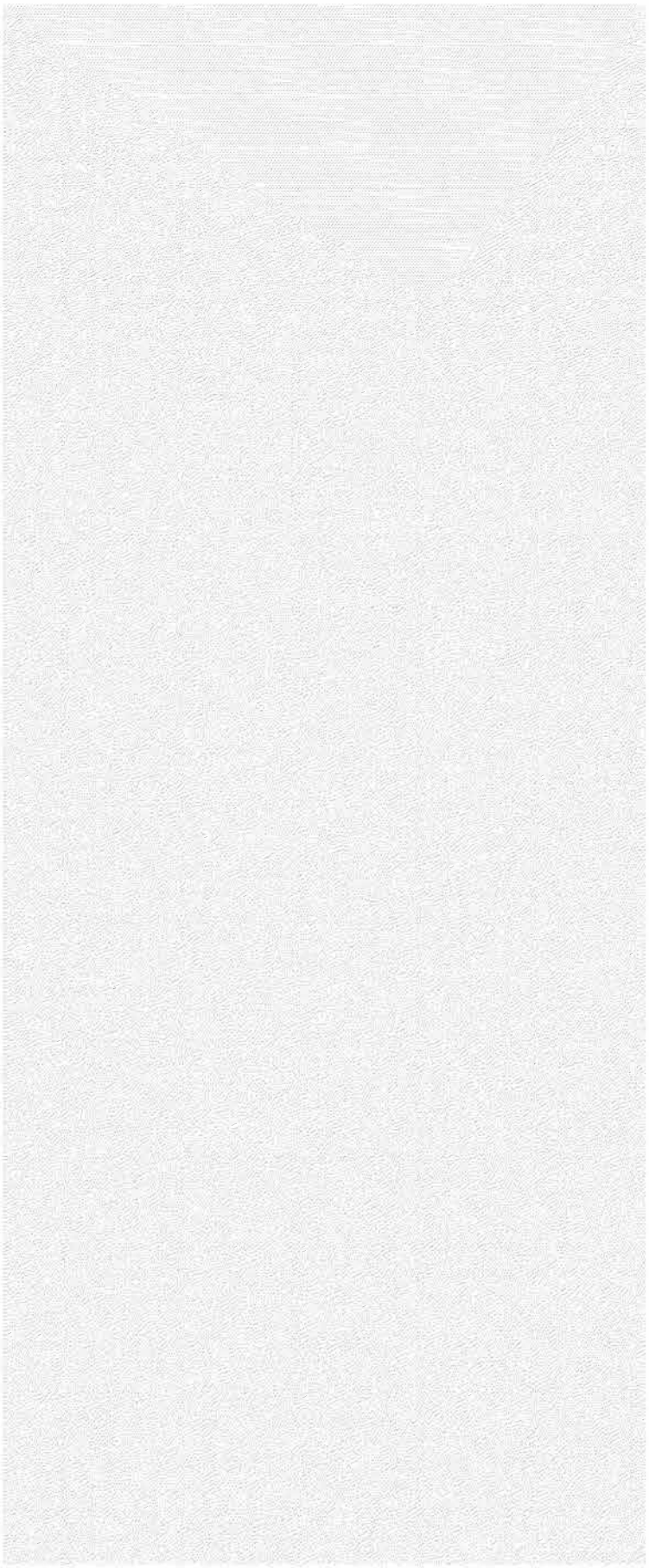
Gideon Meyerowitz-

"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_006296
MORENS_NIH_015186
REL0000482591



"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

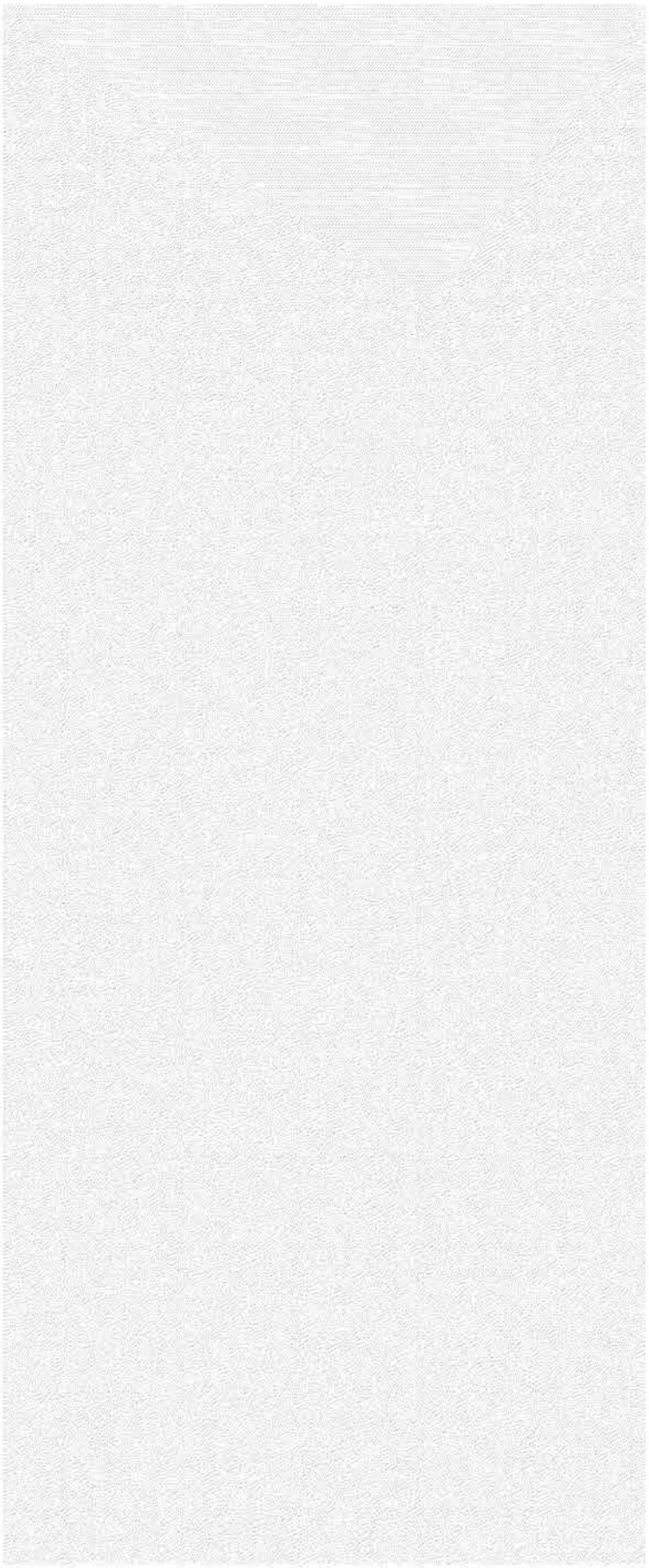
"After reflecting on police - whilst not researchers at our post or put information immediately follows

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

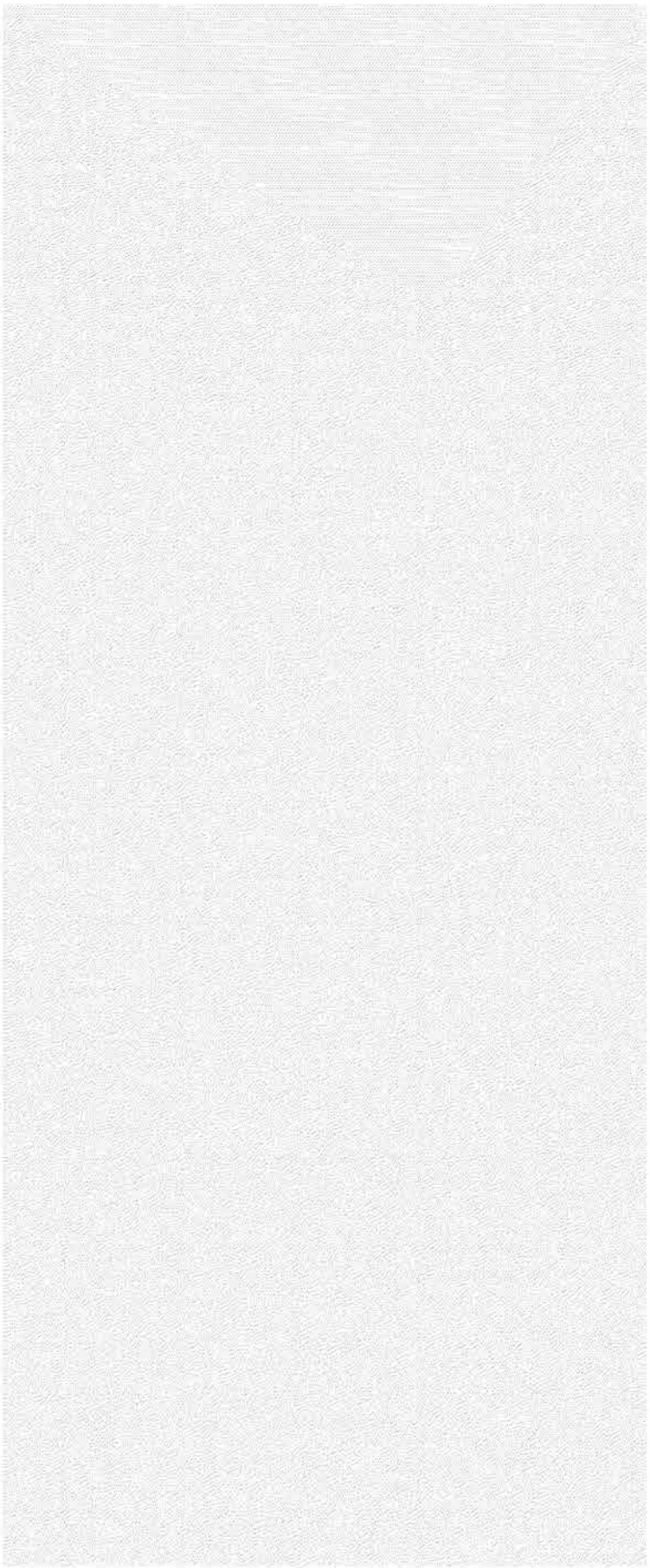
He is contactable

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

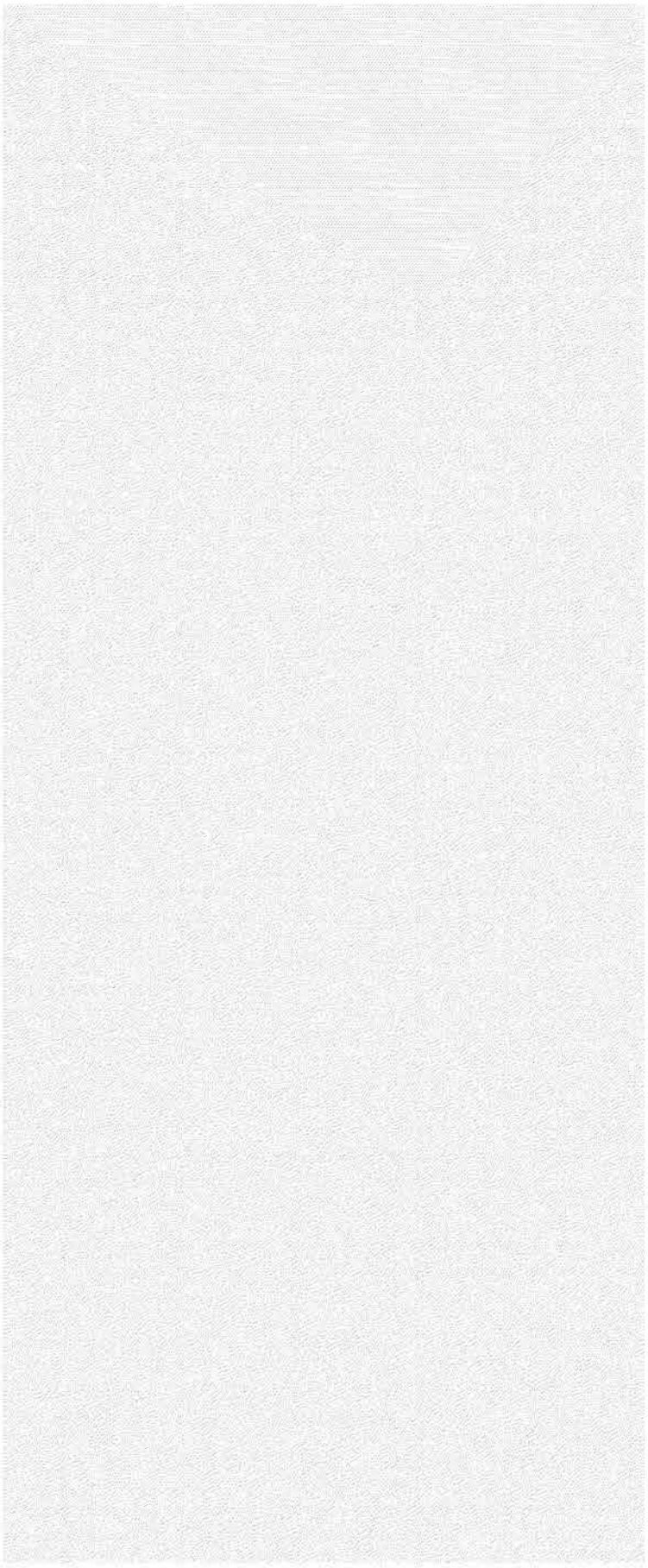
At the height of this
took multiple routes
achieving an AVO
frightened I felt at

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

MORENS_SUBPOENA_006301
MORENS_NIH_015191
REL0000482591

the scientific community.

AEDT = Australian Eastern
AEST = Australian Eastern

Australian Science Media
The Science Exchange
55 Exchange Place
ADELAIDE SA 5000

Postal address:
PO Box 237
RUNDLE MALL SA 5000

Ph: **(08) 71208666**

info@smc.org.au | smc.org.au

Copyright © 2021 Australian

Error! Filename not specified.

Date: Fri, 21 Jul 2023 1:22:58 PM -0400
Sent: Fri, 21 Jul 2023 1:22:10 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) (work)
(cell)

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

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

---------- Forwarded message ---------
From: Roberts, Rich <(b) (6)
Date: Thu, Sep 15, 2022 at 3:03 PM
Subject: RE: Publication of Angie Rasmussen article
To: Jeffrey Sturchio <(b) (6)> Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6) Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6)
Cc: Peter Daszak <(b) (6)>, David Morens <(b) (6)>, 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, Septem(b) (6)
To: Hotez, Peter Jay(b) (6) Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6)
C(b) (6) Peter Dasz(b) (6)
<(b) (6) <(b) (6) >;
A >
Subject: RE: Publi icle

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) <(b) (6) >, David Morens <(b) (6) >, Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) >

Subject: Publication of Angie Rasmussen article

MORENS_SUBPOENA_002596
MORENS_NIH_009112
REL0000482608

https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fforeignpolicy.com%2F2022%2F09%2F15%2Fcovid-theories-covid-19-commission%2F&data=05%7C01%7Cdmorens%40niaid.nih.gov%7C7857ffb6aab24b926ff908db8a0f1f64%7C14b77578977342d5850&sdata=ThhiXhjwCa3WGjbKwjeLSuKyyH6a59TZNEWUWI1oj08%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

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 < Jeffrey Sturchio
<(b) (6) Peter Daszak < >;
David Morens < >; 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

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

MORENS_SUBPOENA_002598
MORENS_NIH_009114
REL0000482608

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 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)

MORENS_SUBPOENA_002599
MORENS_NIH_009115
REL0000482608

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

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 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, Septemb 7 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:

MORENS_SUBPOENA_002602
MORENS_NIH_009118
REL0000482608

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, Septem 0:05 PM
To: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >
Cc: Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6) David Morens <(b) (6) <(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://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%7C7857ffb6aab24b926ff908db8a0f1f64%7C14b77578977342d5850
&sdata=WBfFqm6REPots%2FApMbR6OiR%2FnTcldqR713sWN1Sw3U8%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,
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, 17 Mar 2023 7:06:51 AM -0400
Sent: Fri, 17 Mar 2023 7:06:43 AM -0400
Subject: Re: The Strongest Evidence Yet That an Animal Started the Pandemic - The Atlantic
From: "Hotez, Peter Jay" <(b) (6)
To: Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6)
CC: A (b) (6) (b) (6) (b) (6)
<(b) (6) (b) (6) (b) (6)
A (b) (6) Aleksei Chmura (b) (6)
<(b) (6) >;

Yes I believe on April 27th I'm with Peter at EcoHealth - fyi the day before April 26th I'm scheduled to give grand rounds at Einstein-Montefiore.

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 Mar 16, 2023, at 9:01 PM, Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6) wrote:

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

Thanks Peter, this looks like interesting material. Has anybody seen the material posted by Kristian Andersen and Eddie Holmes?

In addition, I do think we need to move on interviews to advance the coalition idea. Peter D is trying to organize a meeting in NY on April 27th and he and I talked with Keith Martin who is the ED of the Consortium of Universities for Global Health, and he will join us.

So, after some silence, let me propose the follow for the 3 calls I have set up, pending the details.

Michael Imperiale and Arturo Casadevall: me and Peter Hotez
Mary Woolley: me and Rich Roberts
Carlos del Rio (our link in to NAM): me and Peter Daszak

If that's OK with the designees I will work with Alison to organize a call to each, with the intent of talking through the idea and determining if any of them can join us in NY (or maybe by Zoom if necessary?). So please do respond back at your earliest convenience and if you have some ideas of open windows later next week or the week after please add the dates and times you can do it.
Jerry

From: Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6)
Sent: Thursday, March 16, 2023 6:40 PM
To: Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6) Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) >; David Morens <(b) (6) Jeffrey Sturchio <(b) (6) Peter Daszak <(b) (6) Rich Roberts <(b) (6)
Subject: The Strongest Evidence Yet That an Animal Started the Pandemic - The Atlantic

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

(b) (6)

(b) (6)

Date: Sun, 12 Feb 2023 2:42:32 PM -0500
Sent: Sun, 12 Feb 2023 2:38:58 PM -0500
Subject: RE: latest round of COVID-origins hassle from today/yesterday
From: Peter Daszak <(b) (6)
To: Je (b) (6) <(b) (6) Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6) Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6)
CC: David Morens <(b) (6) Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6)
Attachments: image001.jpg; image002.jpg; image003.jpg

I'd rather have the crazy people do this, because at this point, after 3 years of awful stated-as-fact lies, any self-respecting commission will have to state that EcoHealth Alliance did something wrong in our work in China. The people pushing for the Commission include David Relman et al. and they are clearly ready, willing and able to point to our 2 yr late report as an example of how we put the world at risk, even though NIH already had all the information, much of it was published, and none of it has any relevance at all to the origins of COVID.

It's stated as fact that our work was "gain of function" even though it clearly doesn't fit the definition per the P3CO rules (the definitive rule on this). Just like the OIG, they'll embellish on our mis-coded $5 beverage, or the staff's grad school tuition that's normally paid for by NIH, but the OIG made 'unallowable', and claim that EcoHealth is negligent.

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: Jeffrey Sturchio <(b) (6) >
Sent: Thursday, February 9, 2023 10:27 PM
To: Peter Daszak (b) (6) >; Roberts, Rich (b) (6) >; Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6) >; Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6)
Cc: David Morens (b) (6) >; Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) >
Subject: RE: latest round of COVID-origins hassle from today/yesterday

MORENS_SUBPOENA_018588
MORENS_NIH_037607
REL0000482613

Peter: An independent, non-partisan COVID Commission would be better than the partisan sniping that we're in for over the coming months, so I think the Metzl and Pottinger op-ed could actually provide useful. (Philip Zelikow at the University of Virginia, who served as executive director of the 9/11 Commission, has been calling for such an independent COVID Commission for some time.) They put an unwarranted emphasis on experiments that were never done, but they're nowhere as crazy on these issues as some of the others in Congress – including Comer, Griffith, Rand Paul, etc.

As ever,
JLS

From: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >
Sent: Thursday, February 9, 2023 7:14 PM
To: Roberts, Rich (b) (6) ; Keusch, Gerald T (b) (6) ; Hotez, Peter Ja (b) (6)
Cc: David Morens (b) (6) >; Jeffrey Sturchio (b) (6) Aleksei Chmura < (b) (6) >
S 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

MORENS_SUBPOENA_018589
MORENS_NIH_037608
REL0000482613

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: Peter Daszak (b) (6)
Sent: Thursday, February 9, 2023 7:02 PM
To: 'Roberts, Rich' (b) (6) sch, Gerald T (b) (6) eter Jay' (b) (6) (b) (6) >; 'Jeffrey Sturchi (b) (6) >; Alekse. (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
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_018590
MORENS_NIH_037609
REL0000482613

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) ; David Morens (b) (6) ; Jeffrey Sturchi (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
New England Biolabs
240 County Road
Ipswich, MA 01938-2723
USA
Tel: (b) (6)
Fax: (978) 412 9910
email: (b) (6)

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

From: Keusch, Gerald T (b) (6)
Sent: Thursday, February 2, 2023 4:58 PM
To: Peter Daszak (b) (6) ; Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6)
Cc: David More (b) (6) berts, 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, Fe PM
To: Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6)
Cc: David Morens (b) (6) Roberts, Rich < (b) (6) Keusch, Gerald (b) (6)
Jeffrey Sturchi (b) (6) ; Aleksei Chmura (b) (6)
Subject: Notes
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

MORENS_SUBPOENA_018592
MORENS_NIH_037611
REL0000482613

the discussion is led by the independent group.

- Who should we try to engage: Academies, academic societies, pro-science pressure groups, senior figures in the field, funders, and governmental leaders. Initial list:
  - AAAS
  - AIDS Vaccine Advocacy Coalition
  - American Public Health Association (Georges Benjamin)
  - American Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene (Dan Bausch, Karen Goraleski, Kent Kester)
  - Association of Public & Land-Grant Universities
  - Georgia Global Health Alliance
  - Bay Area Global Health Alliance
  - Consortium of Universities for Global Health
  - COVID Collaborative
  - Global Health Council
  - Global Health Technologies Coalition
  - Infectious Diseases Society of America Carlos del Rio (Jerry will reach out)
  - International AIDS Vaccine Initiative
  - Nobel Laureates Campaigns
  - Pandemic Action Network
  - PATH
  - Research!America – Reach back out – Jerry will
  - Union of Concerned Scientists
  - Washington Global Health Alliance
  - 156 virologists letter
  - NAM
  - NAS
  - NL Campaigns (to be kept informed of progress by Rich)
  - CUGH
  - The pandemic action coalition
  - FASEB
  - Global Health technologies coalition
  - APLU (KHG has connection)
  - Wellcome Trust (Paul Schreier is the interim head).
  - Dr. Tony Fauci
  - Felicia Goodrum (Arizona) and Stacey Schultz-Cherry (St. Judes)
  - OSTP
  - ASV – Anne Moscona (President-Elect)

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA
Tel.: (b) (6)
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

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

From: Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6)
Sent: Wednesday, February 1, 2023 6:21 PM
To: Peter Daszak <(b) (6)
Cc: David Morens (b) (6) ; Roberts, Rich (b) (6) ; Keusch, Gerald T (b) (6) Jeffrey Sturchio (b) (6) Aleksei Chmura (b) (6)
Subject: Re: Update

Dear all, I spoke with Ann Moscona President-Elect at ASV and she's all in. She also suggested adding Felicia Goodrum (Arizona) and Stacey Schultz-Cherry (St. Judes) both really good on policy issues, she will give them a heads up, thanks! Peter

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

Texas Children's Hospital: Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics | Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development | Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

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

Baylor University, University Professor

Rice University, Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty

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

E-mail | Twitter | LinkedIn | Skype: (b) (6)

Amazon Author Center | Daily Beast Contributor

Senior Coordinator & Executive Support: Douglas Soriano

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

Media Inquiries:

(b) (6)

(b) (6)

From: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >
Sent: Wednesday, February 1, 2023 8:14 AM
To: Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6)
Cc: David Morens (b) (6) Roberts, Rich (b) (6) ; Keusch, Gerald T (b) (6)
Jeffrey Sturchio (b) (6) >; Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) >
Subject: Concept note and Agenda for our discussion today at 1pm Eastern US time

Dear All,

I'm looking forward to our discussion today at 1pm. Attached is a concept note that Jeff Sturchio drafted to frame some ideas around what we might try to do.

I've also attached a rough agenda for us.

Here are the details of the zoom call, and I look forward to speaking with you all later on:

Join Zoom Meeting

(b

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

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: Tuesday, January 31, 2023 3:04 PM
To: Peter Daszak <(b) (6)
Cc: David Morens (b) (6) >; Roberts, Rich (b) (6) ; Keusch, Gerald T (b) (6)
Jeffrey Sturchio (b) (6) ; Aleksei Chmura (b) (6)
Subject: Re: Two great articles!

Many thanks Peter! Appreciate the support!

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

Texas Children's Hospital: Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics | Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development | Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

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

Baylor University, University Professor

Rice University, Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty

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

E-mail | Twitter | LinkedIn | Skype: (b) (6)

Amazon Author Center | Daily Beast Contributor

Senior Coordinator & Executive Support: Douglas Soriano

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

Media Inquiries:

(b) (6) u

(b) (6)

(b) (6)

iPhone

On Jan 31, 2023, at 1:44 PM, Peter Daszak <(b) (6) > wrote:

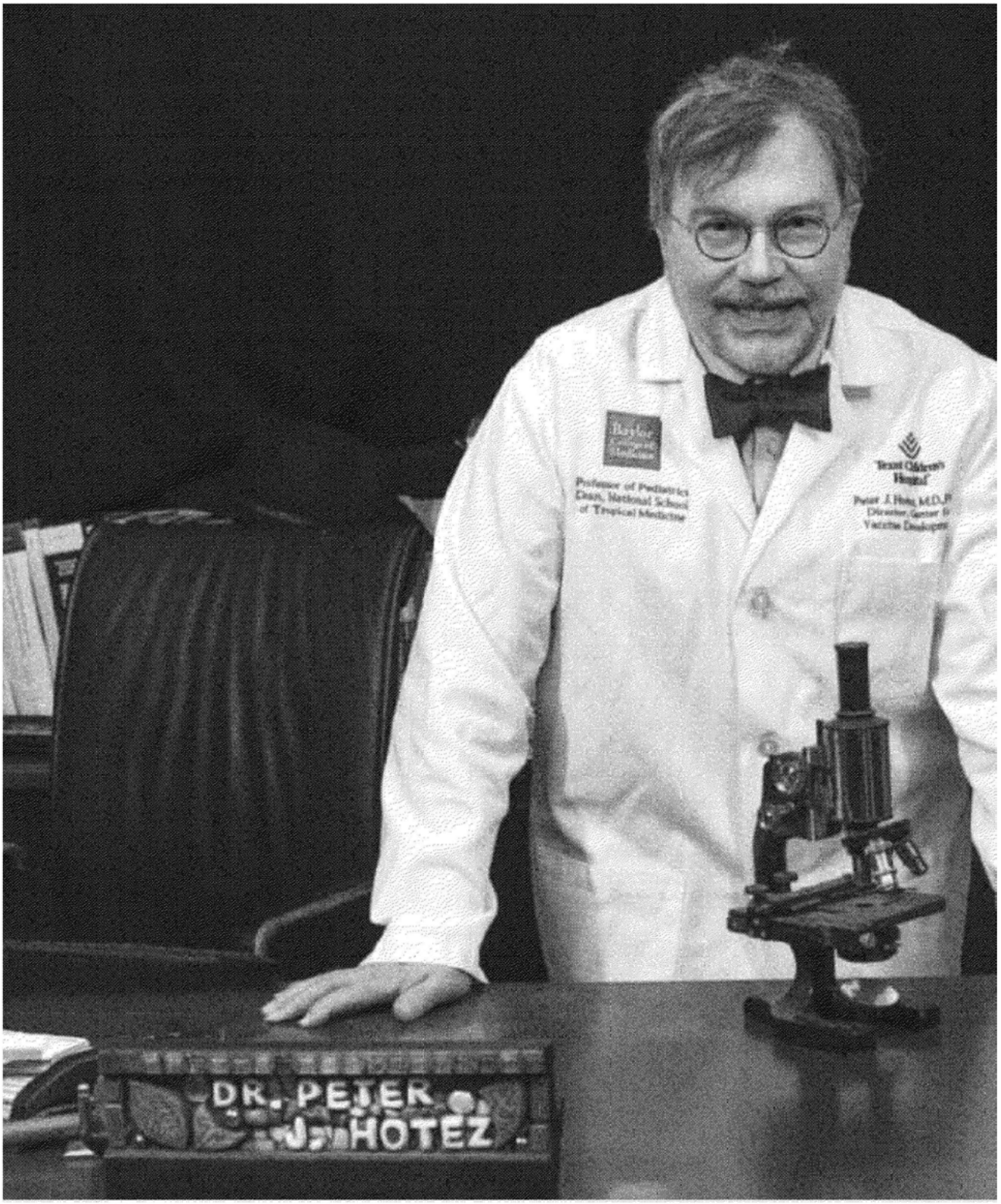
First, want to send my appreciation for your great interview in the Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists yesterday, Peter:

https://thebulletin.org/2023/01/viral- spread-peter-hotez-on-the-increase-of-anti-science-aggression-on-social-media/

Viral spread: Peter Hotez on the increase of anti-science aggression on social media

By Sara Goudarzi | January 30, 2023

MORENS_SUBPOENA_018597
MORENS_NIH_037616
REL0000482613



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

Last November, Twitter announced it will no longer enforce "the COVID-19 misleading information policy." The platform also allowed previously banned users to rejoin the site. Since then, anti-vaccination messaging has gained renewed energy, distressing scientists and researchers who have been combatting misinformation and disinformation on social media. According to research, there's a strong relationship between anti-vaccination efforts on social media and vaccine hesitancy, and while millions of people were saved by having taken the COVID-19 vaccines,

hundreds of thousands of Americans died after refusing it.

Peter Hotez, a physician-scientist, dean of the National School of Tropical Medicine, and a professor in the departments of Pediatrics and Molecular Virology and Microbiology at Baylor College of Medicine, is no stranger to anti-vaccination attitudes. He has fought against misleading medical information for years. But now, he says, anti-science sentiments have been weaponized by businessmen and politicians seeking profits and power.

In the 1940s and 1950s, the House Un-American Activities Committee (HUAC) investigated and discredited several scientists who worked on the Manhattan Project. Hotez expects congressional committees under Republican control to engage in a similar targeting of scientists in an attempt to accumulate influence and foster a sense of belonging—a signature of authoritarian regimes—among their constituents. In his view, this anti-vaccine, anti-science movement, versions of which are spreading to other countries, could destabilize the global vaccine ecosystem.

I spoke with Hotez about the role of social media in spreading misleading information on vaccines and stoking anti-science aggression in many dimensions. *The resulting discussion has been edited for length and clarity.*

Sara Goudarzi: You've been on Twitter for more than a decade and often use it as a tool to communicate health and science facts, such as the importance of vaccinations. How in your experience has the social media platform changed during this time?

Peter Hotez: Well, it's become a lot more adversarial as the anti-vaccine movement has shifted. The anti-vaccine movement began in earnest around 20 years ago in the United States around false assertions that vaccines cause autism. The way I got involved was because I have a daughter with autism, and I wrote the book *Vaccines Did Not Cause Rachel's Autism: My Journey as a Vaccine Scientist, Pediatrician, and Autism Dad*, and that made me public enemy number one or two with the anti-vaccine activists.

What I would do at that time of social media was use their statements in their attacks against me as a teachable moment, to expose what the anti-vaccine movement was all about and how they were monetizing the internet with books on Amazon and nutritional supplements and the phony autism cures. So, rather than simply block people who were attacking me, I would retweet them with a little description of what they were doing. People found it very interesting because it was teaching them how an anti-science movement works, and they started coming to my Twitter for that purpose.

The game changer was about nine years ago, when [vaccine disinformation] became a political movement around health and medical freedom. You saw a different set of actors come into this, and it became a lot more aggressive; people's political allegiance became tied to not giving their kids vaccinations, and that has just come off the rails with COVID-19. And I'd like to point out that 200,000 Americans now have needlessly lost their lives because they refused the COVID vaccine.

The hardest thing yet is really trying to describe the anti-vaccine ecosystem, because too often it's still couched in the old autism thing that they call infodemic or give it euphemisms like misinformation or disinformation. That is, as though it's some random stuff appearing on social media, when in fact, it's organized, politically motivated, and deliberate. It has a system in place, and what I do now is use that to actually describe who the actors that comprise that ecosystem are—elected leaders in the House Freedom Caucus, certain senators, and local leaders amplified in Fox News with designated contrarians from the far right think tanks.

All our training to be a scientist says you're not supposed to talk about Republicans, Democrats, liberals, or conservatives; you're supposed to be politically neutral. But what do you do when the anti-science, anti-vaccine aggression is predominantly coming along the partisan lines from the far right? How do you articulate that without basically saying, "the reason I'm doing this is to save lives?" It's no longer a theoretical discussion; Americans have lost their lives because they believed the politics, and to be able to articulate that is really threading a needle there.

Goudarzi: With Twitter's moderators practically gone, the platform's announcement that it will no longer enforce measures to combat misleading information regarding COVID-19 and will give amnesty to previously banned users, there seems to be a rise in anti-vaccination sentiment.
Hotez: It's blown up. It's gotten much tougher: Anything I put out there gets immediately pounced on, and I can trace the origins to four or five either elected leaders or these contrarians from far right think tanks and elsewhere who blow dog whistles. They will put out a (typically false or exaggerated) statement against me, and then I'll receive hundreds and hundreds of tweets or emails specifically targeting me. About half of them look like bots because the person sending it is an empty face with a gazillion numbers attached to the Twitter handle. But others are real people tuning into Fox News every night who totally fall into the rabbit hole because they seem to worship these contrarians. The other piece to this is a lot of Nazi imagery and fantasies, a lot of antisemitism, because they know I'm a Jewish scientist. And that's yet another dimension to all of this.
Goudarzi: How do you think this affects patients in healthcare settings? Have you had personal experience with those who decided not to get vaccinated because of information on the internet or social media indicating the shots are dangerous?
Hotez: I've had sort of the opposite experience, where patients were in the rabbit hole, had seen my postings, see me as credible, and because of me are taking the vaccine, which is kind of nice and spurs me on to keep going at this. But more and more I've also had the other extreme as well, which is based on what they see on social media: People will take the time to write me a threatening email or make a call to the lab or to the office. Then I have to bring in law enforcement through the Texas Medical Center Police or the Houston Police Department and the Anti-Defamation League (because they have a list of individuals who are known to make these types of threats). It's taken this very, very dark turn as a consequence.
Goudarzi: Anti-vaccination movements are nothing new and go back to the late 1700s, even before the development of the smallpox vaccine and then the 1800s and again in the 1990s and 2000s. Do you think social media has allowed the latest movement to gain even more steam than previous movements?
Hotez: I wrote an article about the whole history of [anti-vax movements] in *Journal of Clinical Investigation*. I think it really accelerated in the early 2000s with autism, in part aided by social media—it was new then but was starting up. Now, I think social media has really been an enabler. It's not only social media; I think amazon.com was a big contributor. If you search for books on vaccinations, what's out there is a horror show. My books are among the top-rated on vaccines, and they're probably ranked about number 30 or 40, because it's all preceded by the phony-baloney, anti-vaccine COVID conspiracy books. So, it's Amazon and social media. And Fox News is having a huge impact. This has been documented by Media Matters, the watchdog group, as well as this very interesting paper that came out of ETH Zurich, which is like the MIT of Central Europe.

Goudarzi: Do you think Amazon is purposefully placing these books higher up in search results, or are search results just a reflection of how much steam the movement has gained?
Hotez: I don't know. Amazon is probably amoral. I don't think they think about this one way or the other, but whatever sells. So, it's whatever people are buying—that's how they're ranking it.
Goudarzi: Are you seeing a difference in the attitudes towards COVID-19 vaccines versus say the flu or MMR vaccines?
Hotez: Yeah, because remember, MMR came out of autism; that was the [original] assertion that the MMR vaccine causes autism. That was [*The Lancet*] paper from 1998. But then around 2014, 2015 (I like to think because I was helping to take some of the wind out of the sails around autism), you started to see the anti-vaccine movement pivot around this concept of health and medical freedom, that you can't tell us what to do about our kids. And that was the first link to the Republican Tea Party here in Texas. In fact, they started getting PAC [political action committee]

money… It really took off in Texas and Oklahoma and that's what you see came off the rails with COVID-19.

It has been documented now by Charles Gaba, a health analyst whose work has been mentioned in the *New York Times*, National Public Radio, Pew Research Center and Peterson Academic Center, that the lowest vaccination rates were where health freedom propaganda was the strongest, and among those who are in red states like Texas, the redder the county, the lower the vaccination rate, the higher the numbers of deaths. It's a really tight correlation, so much so that David Leonhardt in the *New York Times* has called it red COVID. My forthcoming book, *The Deadly Rise of Antiscience: A Scientist's Warning* and it's full on linked to far-right politics and it's been embraced by the House Freedom Caucus.

After vaccines became widely available, the statements from the 2021 CPAC conference of conservatives in Dallas was first along the lines of: "they're going to vaccinate you, and then they're going to take away your guns and your bibles." It's ridiculous. A quarter of the country accepted it—mostly in Texas and the Southern states, and then [Georgia US Rep.] Marjorie Taylor Greene called people like me "medical brownshirts," using Nazi paramilitary analogy. Then, those in the Senate GOP, such as Senator Johnson from Wisconsin, held anti-vaccine roundtables, amplified by Fox News. Every night, during the last half of 2021, nighttime anchors Tucker Carlson and Laura Ingraham filled their airwaves with very strong anti-vaccine rhetoric, discrediting the effectiveness and safety of vaccines. And then contrarians from the far right think tanks piled on.

As I said, if it were just a theoretical construct, I wouldn't get so exercised, but 40,000 Texans died during the delta wave in the last half of 2021 and early Omicron BA1 wave in 2022 because they refused the COVID vaccine and were victims of this targeted aggression towards them. The number that I put out in the new book is 200,000 Americans across the country. The Kaiser Family Foundation and the health analyst Charles Gaba come up with similar numbers. On that basis, anti-vaccine activism, anti-science aggression, if you look at it as a societal killing force, is killing more Americans than gun violence, terrorism, nuclear proliferation, or cyber-attacks.

Goudarzi: And the interesting thing is that COVID-19 vaccines have been tremendously successful.

Hotez: Alison Galvani at Yale has just done a modeling exercise with the Commonwealth Fund, indicating that COVID vaccines have saved 3.1 million Americans.

Goudarzi: Yet the messaging against these vaccines seems to be just as successful and as you mentioned hundreds of thousands of deaths could have been prevented here in the United States. So, it begs the question, why are we having such an anti-science moment?

Hotez: It's because it's fully ensconced in the political landscape of the country that became part of the far right, and people refused the vaccine out of allegiance. Part of showing your allegiance to the far right is not getting vaccinated. Then, you saw the Proud Boys march in anti-vaccine rallies, and an early arrest in the January 6 insurrection included a prominent anti-vaccine activist.

The question that I get is: "Hey doc, what should we do about this?" And I say I don't know, because this goes outside the health sector. This is a political problem right now. How do you uncouple the anti-science from the politics? It's been really, really challenging, and the Biden administration has not been willing to take this on. Vivek Murthy, who is a very good Surgeon General, issued an advisory in July of 2021 about social media and said we have to work with Meta and Facebook and Twitter to prevent this stuff from going viral. That's fine, but it doesn't get to those who are generating the content. This is where we're starting to see breakdowns, in my view, among our scientific and professional societies, and even the National Academies, because this idea that we have to remain politically neutral is so strong that no one will talk about it the way I'm talking about it with you. You have to be politically neutral; it's silly.

To paraphrase Desmond Tutu and Elie Wiesel, neutrality favors the aggressor.

Goudarzi: What do you think the end goal is for those generating the content and spearheading

these movements? There are certain people who truly believe that vaccines could cause x, whatever x is, but there are others like Gov. DeSantis who himself was vaccinated yet promotes anti-vaccination sentiments.

Hotez: Early on when vaccines first came out, he was actually pro-vaccines. So, what caused the change? When it was pre-health freedom, it was fairly straightforward: It was people monetizing the internet, selling nutritional supplements and books on phony autism cures. When I wrote the book, trying to look at other examples of this, I found what's going on now in Stalin's Russia in the 1930s 1940s. This is part of the signature of an authoritarian regime: to target the science and scientists. When you read Hannah Arendt's *The Origins of Totalitarianism*, you see this is part of the playbook. Even though it's self-defeating, it still fosters allegiance and belonging. I think what happened is with the anti-vaccine groups for whom the wind was let out of their sails around autism, they needed a new thing. They found money and power and relevance by tying themselves to the far right, and the far right created a whole new cadre of people that they wouldn't have otherwise.

Goudarzi: Just add adding to that: Do you think vaccine disinformation is propagated or reinforced purposely by other governments to cause division within the United States, similar to the 2016 election?

Hotez: No question about that, and I think Russia is probably the most egregious [perpetrator], and this has been documented. David Broniatowski, a computer scientist at the George Washington University, has written about this and the Russian bots' roles. In some cases, they're using both anti-vaccine and pro-vaccine rhetoric. They are specifically using this as a wedge issue to divide the country and destabilize our democracy. And it's not only the Russians—the Chinese, North Koreans and Iranians are doing this. But I think Russia is probably the biggest state actor.

What I've recommended to the Biden administration is they create an inter-governmental agency, because the United States Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) doesn't know what to do at this point. Because of the foreign actors involved, you have to bring in Homeland Security, the Commerce Department, the Justice Department and the State Department as well. There are people smart enough who know about these big dangerous societal forces, and we need their advice on what levers we can pull and push. But they haven't wanted to take it on.

Similarly, at the level of the UN agencies, the World Health Organization doesn't know what to do at this point. So, you're starting to see that same US-style anti-vaccine activity moving to Canada, the United Kingdom and Western Europe—and I wrote about this in a paper in *Nature Reviews Immunology*. You're even seeing it now in low- and middle- income countries, including those in Africa. So, it's going to destabilize the global vaccine ecosystem, even around childhood vaccination.

Goudarzi: Scientific debate around new treatment or preventive measure used to happen more or less behind closed doors. But given the nature of a real time pandemic, some of those debates are taking place on social media, and sometimes that leads to the lay audience misunderstanding certain aspects of the discussion and spreading misinformation. How valuable, and how harmful, do you think it is to have scientific debates between researchers on social media?

Hotez: It's often not between researchers. For instance, one of the most common things when they target me on social media is they say I should be in a public debate with the lead anti-vaccine activist. And I say, "No, that's not how science is done. I've written a scientific paper and if somebody has an issue with that, they can either refute it in a scientific journal, or publish their own finding." Of course, they can't get it published because there's no science behind it. So, what they want to do instead is they want a public debate.

And I say, "Look, you can debate 18th-century enlightenment philosophy, but science is not typically something that's debated in that kind of forum; we have a mechanism for doing that through scientific publication and peer review." And they don't want to play that way. They just want to put out their propaganda because that's all they have behind it. An example is ivermectin or

MORENS_SUBPOENA_018602
MORENS_NIH_037621
REL0000482613

hydroxychloroquine, which the scientific community has clearly shown has no effect on COVID-19. Hydroxychloroquine is even harmful. But the problem is the anti-vaccine force has dominated the internet, and they say, "Hey, scientists don't want to debate us, what are they hiding?" And that's, again, how they weaponize communication.

Goudarzi: I was actually thinking of earlier during the pandemic. Because there was so little time, some researchers were putting their papers up on open access preprint servers, which didn't require a peer review, and then others were weighing in on social media platforms. At times, you would see non-scientists take one aspect of that discussion and spread something that wasn't necessarily true.

Hotez: I think with the whole preprint server mechanism, ultimately the benefits outweighed the downside. I can't tell you how many times I had to depend on data from bioRxiv, medRxiv in order to make sense of what was going on. If I had to wait a few weeks for it to air in *New England Journal of Medicine* or *Nature* and *Science*—and by the way, they did a pretty good job too; they were able to turn that around in record time—[it would have been too late.] If you're looking for any silver lining in this pandemic, it's the journal editors, the whole preprint server mechanism, and the willingness of the scientific community to share information. And I think for most of the public understood that they were seeing this play out in real time and that there wasn't always going to be consistency. The problem was those who were who were weaponizing it for their own personal or political gain.

Goudarzi: But you still think the advantages outweighed the disadvantages?

Hotez: I think so. It's hard to imagine how I could've really talked about everything going on knowledgeably on CNN, NBC, or wherever without having access to the information. The preprints were so important.

Goudarzi: Some researchers have either left Twitter or are thinking of leaving. What will this do to scientific discourse? Would it make sense to stay on the platform to counter misinformation and disinformation and increase public awareness, or should researchers seek a more balanced platform?

Hotez: I don't have the answer. I struggle with this every day. I mean, the aggression against me and the threats would continue even if I wasn't on Twitter, because more often than not, it's not against anything that I tweeted. Ninety percent of the time, it's people who see me as a threat to undermine their politics or their business line and are just making up things about me and would still continue even if I wasn't on Twitter. So that's the reason I stay on it, because at least I'm getting out important and timely information. But it is really painful and awful to see what's going on there.

Goudarzi: Is the amount of aggression you face tied to the changing ownership of Twitter and political shifts?

Hotez: The politics around the anti-science, anti-vaccine and phony baloney about COVID origins had started with the pandemic in 2020. But now with all the contrarians back at once it reminds me of the old *Batman* series when they brought back Catwoman, Joker, Penguin, and Riddler all at once to do away with Batman. That seems to be going on, so it's been their superstars who are super energized by being invited back to Twitter, and they are using the platform very aggressively.

Goudarzi: What are some of the lessons we've learned about disinformation and misinformation over the last few years regarding social media that we should consider moving forward?

Hotez: I would say social media is a major weapon of choice for spreading disinformation. But remember, we have to get to those who are generating content. Social media is an important vehicle, but it's not the only one. I think we probably should stop calling it misinformation, disinformation or infodemic. We should call it for what it is, which is anti-science aggression, because it is a killing force. What we realized is that the science aggression is taking lives in the United States on an unprecedented scale.

For that reason, it needs to be addressed, and that's the part the scientific community has not come to terms with. When I call myself a scientist, it's not just co-heading a team of scientists making a

COVID vaccine for the world that has reached a 100 million people. That's a very noble activity, but from my perspective, even that's still insufficient. Now being a scientist means, to some extent, being willing to combat the anti-science. It's nothing that any of us signed up for. I never dreamed when I got my MD-PhD in New York in the 1980s that this was something I'd be doing, but this is what's in front of us.
And I don't really feel that the scientific community—the professional societies, scientific bodies, even the academy—fully understand the impact. Hopefully it'll be clear when my book comes out, but it may become even clearer when we see the House GOP hearings. I predict the oversight committee and the judiciary committee or select subcommittees will become an anti-science witch hunt and will target prominent American scientists. And then we'll get a better picture.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

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

Tel.: +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: Monday, Jan
To: David Morens (b) (6)
Cc: (b) (6) (b) (6)
(b) (6) Jeffrey Sturchio <(b) (6) ; Aleksei Chmur (b) (6) >
Subject: Re: My latest

Many thanks David! Best Peter

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

Texas Children's Hospital: Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics | Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development | Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

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

Baylor University, University Professor

Rice University, Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty

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

E-mail | Twitter | LinkedIn | Skype: (b) (6)

Amazon Author Center | Daily Beast Contributor

Senior Coordinator & Executive Support: Douglas Soriano

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

Media Inquiries:

(b) (6)

iPhone

On Jan 30, 2023, at 5:22 PM, David Morens (b) (6) wrote:

kudos to you, again! dmm

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

On Jan 30, 2023, at 14:37, Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6) wrote:

https://thebulletin.org/2023/01/viral- spread-peter-hotez-on-the-increase-of-anti-science-aggression-on-social-media/

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

Texas Children's Hospital: Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics | Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development | Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

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

Baylor University, University Professor

Rice University, Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty

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

E-mail | Twitter | LinkedIn | Skype: (b) (6)

Amazon Author Center | Daily Beast Contributor

Senior Coordinator & Executive Support: Douglas Soriano

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

Media Inquiries:

(b) (6)

iPhone

On Jan 27, 2023, at 2:43 PM, Roberts, Ric (b) (6) wrote:

Peter:

No, I didn't come up with the name.

But one I have recently come up with is CheatGPT instead of ChatGPT.

Rich

Richard J. Roberts
New England Biolabs
240 County Road

Ipswich, MA 01938-2723
USA
Tel: (b) (6)
Fax: (978) 412 9910
email: (b) (6)

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

From: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >
Sent: Friday, January 27, 2023 3:30 PM
To: Roberts, Rich <(b) (6) >; Keusch, Gerald T (b) (6) ; 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 pushback against calls to block scientific research, I don't think a campaign to support gain of function work that's designed to see what would happen if you make a lethal pathogen more transmissible is anything any of us particularly want to get behind right now!

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

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

Tel.: +1 (b) (6)
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

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

From: Roberts, Rich <(b) (6)

Sent: Friday, Janua
To: Peter D (b) (6) >; Keusch, Gerald T (b) (6) Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6)
Cc: Dav (b) (6) >; Jeffrey Sturchio (b) (6) ; Aleksei Chmura (b) (6)
Subject: RE: Finally - virologists fight back!

Peter:

In the interests of compete disclosure, I was a member of the "Cambridge Working Group". Our concern was about the deliberate attempts to make the flu virus more infectious. It was the deliberate nature of the experiments that was troubling, not virus research in general.

Rich

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

Exe (b) (6)
Tel: (b) (6)
Fax: (9
email: (b) (6)

From: Peter Daszak (b) (6)
Sent: Friday, January 2
To: Keusch, Geral (b) (6) otez, Peter Jay (b) (6)
Cc: David (b) (6) >; Jeffrey Sturc (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

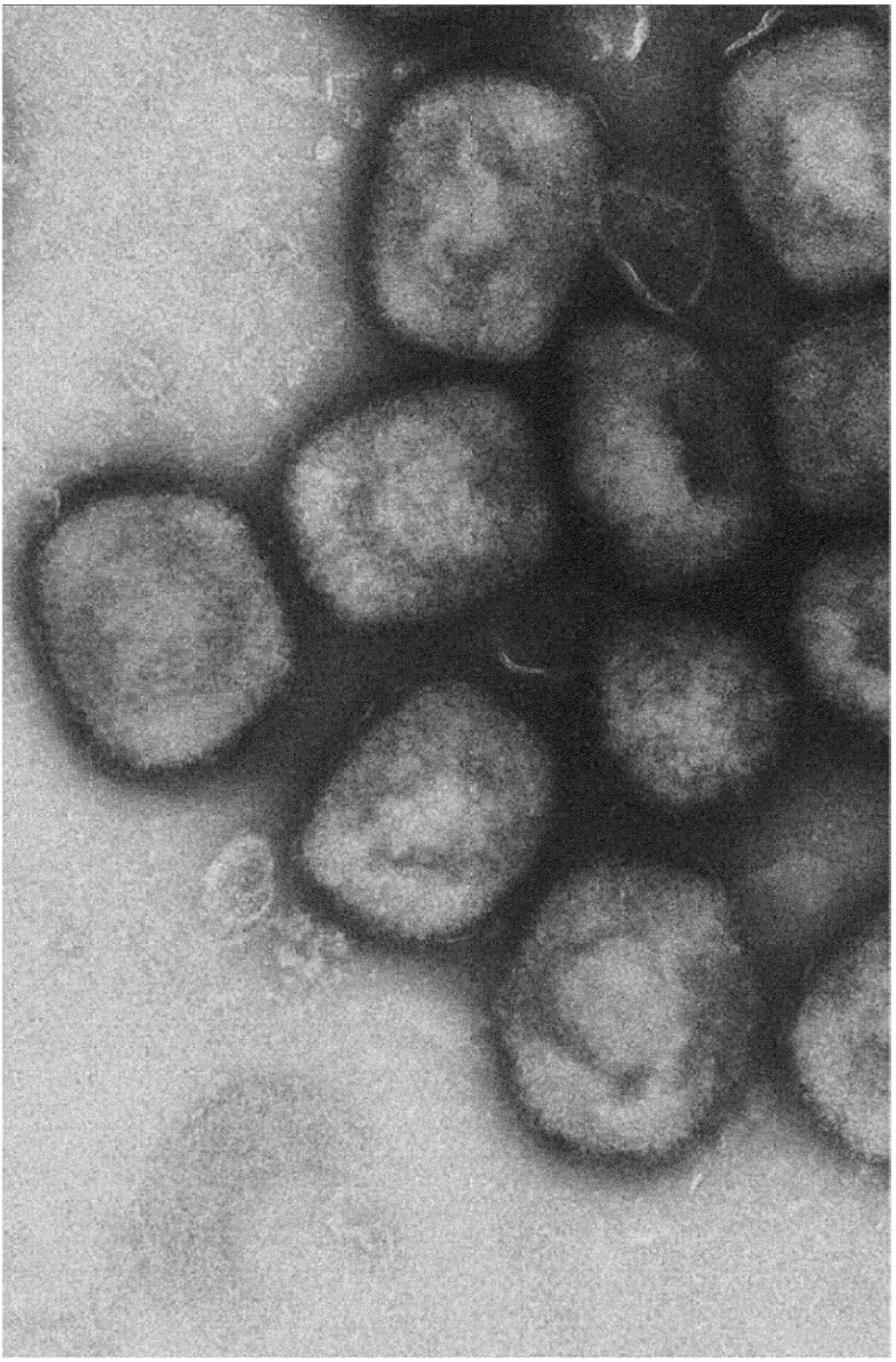
Virologists defend their science as

MORENS_SUBPOENA_018608
MORENS_NIH_037627
REL0000482613

officials eye more oversight of risky experiments

NELL GREENFIELDBOYCE

MORENS_SUBPOENA_018609
MORENS_NIH_037628
REL0000482613



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

NIAID

Over 150 virologists have signed on to a commentary that says all the evidence to date indicates that the coronavirus pandemic started naturally, and it wasn't the result of some kind of lab accident or malicious

MORENS_SUBPOENA_018610
MORENS_NIH_037629
REL0000482613

attack.
They worry that continued speculation about a lab in China is fueling calls for more regulation of experiments with pathogens, and that this will stifle the basic research needed to prepare for future pandemics.

The virologists issued their statement just ahead of a key meeting Friday held by outside advisors to the federal government. That group is set to wrap up a recent review of the existing oversight system for experiments that are controversial because they could create new potential threats.
The advisors' draft recommendations call for expanding a special decision-making process that currently weighs the risks and benefits of experiments that might make "potential pandemic pathogens" more dangerous.
"The government really has a strong interest on behalf of all of us, in the public, in knowing when researchers want to make a virus more lethal or more transmissible, and understanding how that would be done and why that would be done, and whether the benefits are worth it," says Tom Inglesby, director of the Center for Health Security at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health.
Sponsor Message
He thinks if the draft recommendations were adopted by the government, "it would be a very big step forward."

The origins of the pandemic

All of this comes as the lab in China, known as the Wuhan Institute of Virology, is again in the headlines. An internal government watchdog released a report this week criticizing the National Institutes of Health, saying it failed to adequately monitor grant awards given to a nonprofit that had collaborated with scientists at the Wuhan lab.
Felicia Goodrum, a virologist at the University of Arizona, says that open-minded experts have investigated the origins of the pandemic. The available evidence, she says, supports the notion that the virus emerged from nature just like other viruses such as HIV and Ebola did — by jumping from animals into people who had contact with them.
"The evidence that we have to date suggests that SARS-CoV-2 entered the human population by that route, " says Goodrum. "There is no evidence to the contrary or in support of a lab leak, nothing credible."

Basic research on viruses, she says, is what led to the swift development of vaccines and drugs to fight the pandemic.

And yet virologists have watched in dismay as misinformation and conspiracy theories have placed the blame on science.

Sponsor Message
"There's this complete disconnect between reality and what happened," says Michael Imperiale, a virologist at the University of Michigan.
He says that while debates have gone on for years about the wisdom of doing experiments that might make bad viruses even worse, this moment feels different.

"The pandemic," he says, "has really kind of heightened the urgency with which we need to address these issues, just because of all the controversy that's been out there regarding, you know, was this a lab leak or not?"

A bird flu study raises alarm

Unlike, say, nuclear physics research, biology has traditionally had a culture of openness. After the anthrax attacks in 2001, however, biologists began to grapple with the possibility that their published work might serve as recipes for evildoers who wanted to make bioweapons.

And in 2011, there was an outcry after government-funded researchers altered a bird flu virus that can be deadly in people. Their lab work made this virus more contagious in the lab animals that are stand-ins for people.

Critics said they'd created a super flu. Proponents said that viruses sometimes have to be manipulated in the

MORENS_SUBPOENA_018611
MORENS_NIH_037630
REL0000482613

lab to see what they might be capable of; in nature, after all, mutations occur all the time and that is how pandemic strains emerge.

That episode marked the start of a long, heated debate, plus research moratoriums and ultimately the development of new regulations. In 2017, a review system was put into place to weigh the risks and benefits of studies that might make a potential pandemic pathogen even worse. So far just three proposed lines of research, with influenza viruses, have been deemed risky enough to merit that kind of extra scrutiny.

"We are really talking about a small amount of research proposals," says Lyric Jorgenson, the acting associate director for science policy and the acting director of the Office of Science Policy at the NIH.

Sponsor Message

She says just before the pandemic started, officials asked advisors on the National Science Advisory Board for Biosecurity to consider whether the government needed to be more transparent to the public about how it was making decisions about this kind of research. Before that work was done, the pandemic hit and everything was put on hold. Last year, officials asked the group to broaden its work and to evaluate the regulations more comprehensively.

If the draft changes developed by this advisory group are eventually adopted by the government, an extra layer of oversight would apply to any study "reasonably anticipated" to enhance the transmission or virulence of any pathogen in a way that could make it a public health threat. That means more experiments on more viruses would get a closer look.

"What this new recommendation is saying, is that even if you start with a virus that had no potential to cause an epidemic or pandemic, if you are doing research that will change that virus in a way where it could now cause an uncontrollable disease, or a widely spreading disease, that has to be reviewed by this new framework," says Inglesby.

What's more, the advisory group has noted that "increased transparency in the review process is needed to engender public trust in the review and oversight processes."

What's "Reasonably Anticipated"

The American Society for Microbiology has responded positively to the draft recommendations, saying "we urge swift implementation of the recommended changes by the federal agencies engaged in this work." But some virologists think the devil will be in the details if these recommendations turn into policy.

"They keep using this phrase 'reasonably anticipated,'" says Imperiale. "How is that going to be interpreted? Is there going to be clear guidance as to what is meant by that?"

Sponsor Message

Researchers often don't know what will happen when they start an experiment, says Goodrum, especially when the science is cutting-edge.

"That's where the big scientific advancements come from. And so to tie our hands behind our back, to say we can only do the science that we can anticipate, then we're really restricting innovative science," she says.

Ron Fouchier, the virologist at Erasmus University Medical Center in the Netherlands, whose lab did the bird flu experiments over a decade ago, said in an email that he'd hoped the experience of going through a pandemic would simulate more research, not "unnecessarily delay or restrict it."

He said it looked like many infectious disease researchers in the United States "will face substantial delays in their crucial research efforts, if they can continue that research at all."

The U.S. is unusual in that it has a lot of public discussion of these issues and a system to try to manage the risks, says Inglesby.

He thinks that oversight can be made stronger without getting in the way of science.

"I am avidly, absolutely pro-science and pro-research, and in particular pro-infectious disease research," says Inglesby.

But he says there's a very small part of that research "where there is the potential for very high risk if things

MORENS_SUBPOENA_018612
MORENS_NIH_037631
REL0000482613

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.: +1-(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, Ja PM
To: Hotez, Peter J (b) (6)
Cc: Peter Dasza (b) (6) ; David M (b) (6)
Jeffrey Sturchi (b) (6) Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6)
Rich Roberts <(b) (6)
Subject: RE: T x 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_018613
MORENS_NIH_037632
REL0000482613

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

Texas Children's Hospital: Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics | Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development | Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

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

Baylor University, University Professor

Rice University, Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty

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

E-mail | Twitter | LinkedIn | Skype: (b) (6)

Amazon Author Center | Daily Beast Contributor

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

Media Inquiries:
(b) (6)

MORENS_SUBPOENA_018614
MORENS_NIH_037633
REL0000482613

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 Miner□Flux on Twitter

I see the far right keeps putting video after video about me terrified I might take over for Tony

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

Texas Children's Hospital: Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics | Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development | Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

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

Baylor University, University Professor

Rice University, Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty

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

E-mail | Twitter | LinkedIn | Skype: (b) (6)

Amazon Author Center | Daily Beast Contributor

Senior Coordinator & Executive Support: Douglas Soriano

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

Media Inquiries:

(b) (6)

iPhone

On Jan 25, 2023, at 11:35 AM, Peter Daszak (b) (6) wrote:

Disapppointed that Hugh isn't a candidate, because short of a stellar scientist from outside (and that isn't looking good), Hugh would be a safe pair of hands for the forseeable future.

I also cannot believe for the life of me that (b) (6) would be rejected from the other position you mentioned. He's a serious scientists, a huge leader in his field, and someone who is balanced and measured in the way he deals with bureaucracy. What a stupid decision and loss to NIAID.

What we need is a leading scientist, who's got a research and public health background, with experience in dealing with difficult political issues and both sides of the political spectrum…er….Peter Hotez!

Seriously, there surely are others out there?

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

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

Tel.: +1 (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 Miner Flux on Twitter

Guys, although the director search seems to be proceeding with total secrecy, I learned yesterday that our worst fear has come true: a highly undesirable internal candidate has applied. This person is a middle to upper level physician scientist who is widely disliked as a self-serving narcissist, back stabber, and manipulator. Tthis opinion comes not from me, but from colleagues with much more knowledge of him/her than me. Of course, being an A-hole doesn't necessarily predict a bad leader, but there is widespread worry.

I won't name the candidate but Peter S would know because her/his research at NIAID is in the area of clinical management of rare hereditary pediatric diseases such as Job disease and CGD. Peter H, you could easily ID this person, but i do not want to do so, in part because i have limited personal experience with him/her and am merely relating opinions of colleagues i trust

This individual is in a key management position in which she/he has earned a reputation of cresting an ant-meritocracy: screwing the best scientists while supporting those who suck up. Again this is hearsay, but from people who work under him/her.

If these negative assessments are true, it is still unclear what the implications, if any, would be for EHA, but i would worry that she/he would throw good scientists under the bus to appease politicians downtown

In any case, the best scenario is an open search with many good candidates. I am not sure whether we have that.

Also, my opinion, and that of many others, is that we need someone from the outside, in part because NIAID management and leadership has become inbred, nepotistic, and uninterested in hiring top scientists to fill positions. Moreover, we totally lack vision or any idea about where the science will and should go, and no mechanism to plan for being at/staying on the cutting edge

When i came here in the 1990s, from academia, where i was a 40-something year old full tenured professor in both med and public health school departments, i was told thst because i only had about 160 publications i had no chance of getting automatic tenure or even being put on a tenure track position
That was then.

Of our two most recent hires placed into tenured positions, one had only 10 publications and the other came straight out of a post doc with few publications as well.

Both were in their early 30s and, as far as i can tell, are unlikely to ever do much

At the same time, we had the ability to hire a top scientist from the outside, my good

MORENS_SUBPOENA_018617
MORENS_NIH_037636
REL0000482613

friend the arbovirologist (b) (6) from (b) (6) · Peter H, you may know him- and we was the 100% top search committee. However leadership below Tony refused to hire him with the excuse that he was overqualified and would make the other scientists look bad

No, i am not joking. This is where we are

I have in my had a small list of about 5-10 qualified folks for NIAID director, and have spoken or written to 4 about it, one being you, Peter H, but all four have expressed no interest. Peter D, you are clearly on that list too, but obvious to all of us is the fact that HHS would never let that happen, sadly, so i never mentioned it. In a better world, you would be at the top of that list in my view

The application deadline of 1/17 has passed, so we may be stuck with a non-ideal list, although no one knows including, i believe, our acting director Hugh, who is not a candidate, or so he told me

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

> On Jan 25, 2023, at 10:58, Peter Daszak <(b) (6) > wrote:
>
> Unfortunate. At this point you should just throw your hat in the ring!
>
> Why not have a confidential chat with Peter Staley and see if they have a pool of candidates yet?
>
> Cheers,
>
> Peter
>
> **Peter Daszak**
> *President*
>
> EcoHealth Alliance
> 520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
> New York, NY 10018-6507
> USA
>
> Tel.: +1-(b) (6)
> Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
> Twitter: @PeterDaszak
>
> *EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation*
>
> ---
>
> **From:** Hotez, Peter Jay <hotez@bcm.edu>

Sent: Wednesday, January 25, 2023 10:55 AM
To: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >
Cc: Jeffrey Sturchio (b) (6) A
(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

E-mail | Twitter | LinkedIn | Skype: (b) (6)

Amazon Author Center | Daily Beast Contributor

Senior Coordinator & Executive Support: Douglas Soriano
(b) (6) | Phone: (b) (6) |

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.: +1-(b) (6)
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

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

---

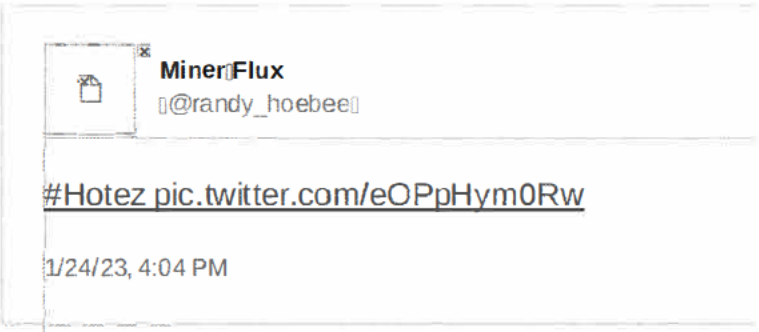
From: Jeffrey Sturchio <J (b) (6)
Sent: Tuesday, January 24, 2023 9:08 PM
To: Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6) Peter Daszak <(b) (6) Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) >; David Morens <(b) (6) Gerald Keusch <(b) (6) Rich Roberts <(b) (6)
Subject: RE: Tweet by MinerFlux on Twitter

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: T Twitter



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

Texas Children's Hospital: Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics | Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development | Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

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

Baylor University, University Professor

Rice University, Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty

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

E-mail | Twitter | LinkedIn | Skype: (b) (6)

Amazon Author Center | Daily Beast Contributor

Senior Coordinator & Executive Support: Douglas Soriano

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

Media Inquiries:

(b) (6)

iPhone

MORENS_SUBPOENA_018622
MORENS_NIH_037641
REL0000482613

Date: Wed, 15 Sep 2021 2:49:34 PM -0400
Sent: Wed, 15 Sep 2021 2:49:27 PM -0400
Subject: FW: Francis Collins on CNBC today
From: "Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E]" <(b) (6)
To: David Morens ((b) (6) <(b) (6) >;
Attachments: image002.gif; image003.jpg; image002.gif; image003.jpg; image004.png; image004.png

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)

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: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E]
Sent: Monday, August 23, 2021 8:40 PM
To: Peter Daszak <(b) (6)
Cc: Keusch, Jerry <(b) (6) Robert Kessler <(b) (6) Roberts, Rich <(b) (6)
Subject: Re: Francis Collins on CNBC today

u got it exactly right, sorry to say. d

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

On Aug 23, 2021, at 20:35, Peter Daszak (b) (6) > wrote:

Hello everyone -Not looking forward to the publicity this week with the Intel report coming out sometime soon, but wanted to share a couple of things.

First – here's an interview by Francis Collins on Squawkbox CNBC that makes him come over like a wet lettuce. He goes one way then the other, making sure he sounds somewhat anti-China (they could have been doing mysterious things), but makes it clear NIH didn't fund Gain of Function there.

It's the definition of flip-flopping I guess. Maybe he genuinely believes China were up to something. In any case, it feels like he basically couldn't care less about the organization in the middle (EcoHealth) that's being batted around like a table tennis ball…
The URL is here: https://www.cnbc.com/2021/08/23/covid- origin-nih-director-doesnt-rule-out-that-virus-could-have-leaked-from-lab.html

NIH director says Covid likely came from nature, but doesn't rule out it could have escaped from lab

PUBLISHED MON, AUG 23 202112:53 PM EDTUPDATED MON, AUG 23 20211:08 PM EDT
Rich Mendez@RICHMENDEZCNBC

KEY POINTS

President Joe Biden gave the U.S. intelligence community 90 days to investigate Covid's origins and report the findings, which are due Tuesday.

Through a grant to non-profit EcoHealth Alliance, the NIH funded research at the Wuhan Institute of Virology to study how bat viruses could infect humans.

Collins said the research didn't meet the technical definition of so-called gain-of-function research.

The director of the National Institutes of Health said Monday it appears Covid-19 originated from an animal, but he didn't rule out the possibility that scientists at the Wuhan Institute of Virology were secretly studying it and that it could have leaked out from there.

It's still unknown if the virus leaked out of a Wuhan lab, NIH director Dr. Francis Collins said Monday in an interview on CNBC's "Squawk Box," adding that the World Health Organization's investigation into the origin of the coronavirus has gone "backwards."

“The vast evidence from other perspectives says no, this was a naturally occurring virus,” Collins said. “Not to say that it could not have been under study secretly at the Wuhan Institute of Virology and got out of there, we don’t know about that. But the virus itself does not have the earmarks of having been created intentionally by human work.”

The WHO investigation has been made harder by China’s refusal to participate, says Collins.

“I think China basically refused to consider another WHO investigation and just said ‘nope not interested’,” Collins told CNBC’s Squawk Box.

“Wouldn’t it be good if they’d actually open up their lab books and let us know what they were actually doing there and find out more about those cases of people who got sick in November of 2019 about which we really don’t know enough,” Collins said.

U.S. intelligence reports first reported by the Wall Street Journal indicated that in November 2019, three workers at the Wuhan Institute of Virology fell ill with symptoms similar to those seen in Covid-19 infections, a report that China said was “completely untrue.”

About three months ago, President Joe Biden initiated an investigation of his own and gave his intelligence community 90 days to further the investigation the virus’ origins and report the findings. The deadline is Tuesday.

“It will be an interesting week because tomorrow is the day of the 90-day deadline that President Biden set for the intelligence community to do all their poking around that they could to see if they could come up with anymore insight as to how this virus got started in China,” Collins said.

Most of the information gathered will likely remain classified, but some information from the report will be released, according to Collins.

“We don’t know what they’re going to come up with either, but we’re intensely interested,” Collins said.

Collins also weighed in on the debate over whether or not the U.S. funded so-called gain-of-function research at the Wuhan lab, a debate that Republican Sen. Rand Paul of Kentucky and medical advisor to the president, Dr. Anthony Fauci, have engaged in time and time again. Gain-of-function research is when scientists take a pathogen and make it more contagious, deadly or both to study how to combat it.

“The kind of gain-of-function research that’s under very careful scrutiny is when you take a pathogen for humans, and you do something with it that would enhance its virulence or its transmissibility,” Collins said. “They were not studying a pathogen that was a pathogen for humans, these are bat viruses.”

Some of the research at the Wuhan Institute of Virology that was funded, in part, by the NIH through a grant to non-profit EcoHealth Alliance studied how bat viruses could infect humans.

“So by the strict definition, and this was look at exquisitely carefully by all the reviewers of that research in anticipation that this might come up, was that this did not meet the official

description of what's called gain-of-function research that requires oversight," Collins said. "I know this has gotten lots of attention, but I think it's way out of place."

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: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b) (6)
Sent: Monday, August 23, 2021 5:33 PM
Peter Daszak ((b) (6)) (b) (6) >; Keusch, Jerry (b) (6) u) < (b) (6) Kessler, Robert (b) (6) >
Subject: FW: Vice: Why China Is Struggling to Make the Lab Leak Theory Go Away

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)

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

From: Folkers, Greg (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b) (6)
Sent: Sunday, August 22, 2021 12:29 A
Subject: Vice: Why China Is Struggling to Make the Lab Leak Theory Go Away

Why China Is Struggling to Make the Lab Leak Theory Go Away

U.S. spy agencies are about to report on COVID-19's origins, but don't hold your breath.

by Alan Wong
by Viola Zhou
August 20, 2021, 9:38am

Robert Redfield has a lot of questions. The virologist and former director of the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention wants to know what happened at the Wuhan Institute of Virology, especially in the months before the emergence of COVID-19 in the same city. But China's answers didn't satisfy him.

"On Sept. 12, 2019, coronavirus bat sequences were deleted from the institute's database. Why? It changed the security protocols for the lab. Why? It put out requests for more than $600 million for a new ventilation system. What prompted this new need?"

Redfield, who believes that the coronavirus escaped from the lab in Wuhan, asked those questions in the *Wall Street Journal* on Sunday, alluding to the possibility that something bad happened at the facility as early as September that year and caused a pandemic that has killed more than 4 million people worldwide. To bolster this view, he said a Harvard study of satellite images revealed a shutdown of traffic around the Wuhan lab around that time and that hospital parking lots in the city were filling up—signs, perhaps, of a lab accident and a subsequent surge in sick people.

But almost all of those insinuations are disputed, inaccurate, or just plain wrong.

The opinion article offers a stark illustration of the limits of circumstantial evidence as the search for the origins of COVID-19 enters a contentious new phase.

U.S. spy agencies are preparing to release a report on their findings on whether the pandemic started from human contact with an infected animal or a laboratory accident in China. The report is expected no later than next week, after President Joe Biden in May gave the U.S. intelligence community a 90-day deadline to further collect and analyze information that could "bring us closer to a definitive conclusion" on the origins of COVID-19.

But China is not keen to cooperate. Further muddling the search is Beijing's renewed push of an unsubstantiated, alternative theory that the virus could have originated in a U.S. army lab at Fort Detrick, Maryland. The move has only fueled suspicions that the Chinese government is hiding something.

Unless U.S. spies uncovered substantial evidence—such as proof that the Wuhan lab possessed the virus that caused COVID-19 or evidence that it created the virus—the debate on the pathogen's origins is likely to persist.

Redfield co-authored the *Journal* article with Marc Siegel, a physician and *Fox News* contributor who last March said the coronavirus was no worse than the flu. It was riddled with mistakes.

For example, the planned ventilation system upgrade at the Wuhan Institute of Virology cost about $600,000, not $600 million as the authors stated. The figure was corrected on Friday, a day after VICE World News emailed questions to the *Journal*'s opinion desk. That number came from a report by Republicans that exaggerated the amounts of several other

MORENS_SUBPOENA_022880
MORENS_NIH_043886
REL0000482615

projects by orders of magnitude and has been cited in several other prominent news outlets.

The Trump-appointed former director of the CDC apparently also misattributed the findings of a military contractor's report to Harvard. The Harvard study he links to analyzed satellite images of hospital parking lots in Wuhan, but it did not once mention the Wuhan Institute of Virology. It was also criticized for its poor dataset, abuse of statistical methods, and mistranslation.

The analysis of traffic outside the Wuhan institute used commercial satellite imagery and phone location data to conclude that traffic was unusually thin around the Wuhan institute and was the result of containment efforts following a hazardous event. But the report's key assertions were found to be false as early as June last year.

These are just a few examples, from one article, showing the challenges of investigating the origins of the coronavirus without being in China and without the country's full cooperation.

The closest thing to a field study the world has seen was the World Health Organization (WHO) trip to China early this year, but the global health body has complained about not being able to access the complete raw data from the early COVID-19 patients that could give researchers insights into how the virus emerged.

Last month, the WHO chief urged Beijing to share the data, but Chinese officials said the information could not be disclosed due to patients' privacy. Some scientists are not convinced by the argument, citing the possibility of disclosing the data while keeping the patients' anonymous.

Beijing's obsession with a theory that the coronavirus could have been brought into China through frozen food imports has also raised doubts. Officials have kept calling for more research into such potential cold-chain transmission, although few scientists abroad have found it credible enough to justify further investigation.

"In my opinion, it's even less likely than lab origin," Angela Rasmussen, a virologist at the University of Saskatchewan in Canada, told VICE World News. Rasmussen, who has argued in favor of a natural origin of the coronavirus, said the Chinese government might be trying to distract people from the wildlife trade that could have led to a virus zoonotic spillover.

Scientists say only greater transparency will help Chinese authorities fend off all these suspicions. "We are being asked to take their words for it, without seeing any data," said Alina Chan, a biologist at the Broad Institute in Cambridge, Massachusetts, who has promoted the lab leak hypothesis. Chan told VICE World News she would like to see all of the sequences of the pathogens that were processed at the Wuhan lab. If the data could not be made public, she said, they should at least be reviewed by an international team of scientists.

"This situation is setting precedents for how future outbreaks are tracked," she said. "If every single country does this, and refuses to let international investigators check where the virus came from, we would just be facing a future where viruses are just exploding everywhere, and we are just getting a new pandemic every five or ten years."

Some other scientists still maintain that the lab leak theory is unlikely, in contrast with what they have called a "substantial body of scientific evidence" supporting a natural origin for the coronavirus, according to a peer-reviewed paper published in *Cell* this week.

Still, with few new data points to inform the origins probe, scientists on both sides of the debate have called for greater transparency.

WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus in July said the lack of raw data on the early days of the outbreak was hampering the investigations into the origin of the virus and urged China to be more transparent. Tedros suggested further studies into Chinese laboratories in the next phase of studies.

But the Chinese government would not feel comfortable with this degree of transparency. The Communist Party leadership is used to conducting investigations and making decisions behind closed doors, and sees the call for openness as a political threat.

"That is not atypical in China's crisis management," Yanzhong Huang, a senior fellow for global health at the Council on Foreign Relations, told VICE World News. "The U.S. could push for more transparency, but they fail to recognize that the lack of transparency itself is part of the authoritarian governance in the country."

This mindset could hurt China's reputation—the pandemic is not a small crisis but one that has upended almost everyone's life. "Even if the virus is caused by a natural spillover event," Huang said, "when you don't show transparency, when you are perceived as unwilling to share the data, people naturally will think you have something to hide."

The Chinese government has remained intransigent to the mounting calls for more transparency.

At the press conference last month, Chinese officials said they were "shocked" to hear about WHO's proposal for fresh audits into Chinese labs, adding the suggestion indicated "disrespect for common sense and an arrogant attitude toward science."

The same month, state media quoted a Facebook post by a self-claimed Swiss biologist named Wilson Edwards as saying that researchers faced intimidation from the U.S. for supporting the WHO-China origin-tracing study. The Swiss embassy said no such person exists.

It's unclear whether the U.S. intelligence probe, which was condemned by Chinese state media as a "political witch-hunt," would yield anything more than circumstantial evidence.

By the time a preliminary report was drafted, the intelligence community was still divided over the lab leak theory and the

natural origin one, CNN reported this month. The outlet cited a source as saying that the draft contained "nothing too earth shattering."

In September 2019, the Wuhan Institute of Virology shut off public access to its database, which holds thousands of genetic sequences of bat coronaviruses it studied.

Shi Zhengli, director of the Center for Emerging Infectious Diseases at the institute, said the online database was shut down after cyberattacks—believe it or not, that's the answer to ex-CDC director Robert Redfield's first question. But almost two years later, the database remains offline. It's no wonder that people are asking questions.

Follow Alan Wong and Viola Zhou on Twitter.

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

Disclaimer

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

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

Date: Fri, 26 Apr 2024 11:01:56 AM -0400
Sent: Fri, 26 Apr 2024 11:01:13 AM -0400
Subject: Re: Security concerns re. upcoming Public Hearing
From: Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6)
To: Peter Daszak <(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)

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

E-mail | Twitter | LinkedIn | Skype: (b) (6)
Amazon Author Center | Daily Beast Contributor

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

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

On Apr 26, 2024, at 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

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: Friday, April 26, 2024 10:37 AM
To: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >
Cc: (b) (6) <(b) (6) (b) (6) ; Keusch, Gerald T (b) (6) eff Sturchio (b) (6)
Roberts, Rich (b) (6) ; Aleksei Chmura (b) (6)
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

Texas Children's Hospital: Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics | Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development | Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

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

Baylor University, University Professor
Rice University, Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty
Texas A&M University, Faculty-Senior Fellow, Hagler Inst for Advanced Study & Scowcroft Institute of Intl Affairs

E-mail | Twitter | LinkedIn | Skype: (b) (6)

Amazon Author Center | Daily Beast Contributor

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

Media Inquiries:
(b) (6)

On 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

MORENS_NIH_047410
REL0000482617

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.: +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, (b) (6) PM
To: '(b) (6) Keusch, Gerald T' (b) (6) 'Je(b) (6) (b) (6) (b) (6) Hotez, Peter Jay' (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.

MORENS_NIH_047411
REL0000482617

Read more about Dr. Daszak's upcoming hearing here.

WHAT: Hearing titled "A Hearing with the President of EcoHealth Alliance, Dr. Peter Daszak"

DATE: Wednesday, May 1, 2024

TIME: 10:00AM ET

LOCATION: 2154 Rayburn House Office Building

WITNESS:

Dr. Peter Daszak

President

EcoHealth Alliance, Inc.

WATCH: The hearing will be open to the public and press and will be livestreamed online at https://oversight.house.gov/hearing/a-hearing-with-the-president-of-ecohealth-alliance-dr-peter-daszak/.

RSVP: Media must be congressionally credentialed and RSVP by Tuesday, May 1 at 5:00 PM ET.

###

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

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

Tel.: +1-(b) (6)
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

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

From: (b) (6) (b) (6)
Sent: Wednesday, April 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?

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: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >
Sent: Friday, April 19, 2024 9:15
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

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: 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) '
(b) (6) >
Cc: Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) >; John Feigelson <
(b) (6)

Subject: Today's news...

Had a very successful EcoHealth Alliance benefit last night – sorry some of you couldn't be there.

Michael Mann was our main honoree, and he was great! We raised well above our expectation – all critical to keeping us afloat given the increased pressure we're under right now.

Speaking of which – here's the latest attempt from the SSCP to smear David Morens, EcoHealth Alliance and others as being involved in a 'cover up'

https://nypost.com/2024/04/19/us- news/ex-fauci-adviser-shared-confidential-nih-info-with-ecohealth-

about-covid-biosafety-levels-docs/

Basically, they've found an email from me to David, Jerry others when the allegations that EcoHealth expts were conducted at an insufficient BSL level first came out. Tony Fauci was interviewed and said that he would look into it. I sent David M. a review I'd done of the BSL rules for Bat CoVs in various countries, which clearly show that we were operating at the correct biosafety levels.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

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

Tel.: +1 (b) (6)
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

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

From: (b) (6) (b) (6) (b) (6) <
Sent: Wednesday, April 17, 2024 7:16 AM
To: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) (b) (6) , Gerald T <(b) (6) Jeff Sturchio < (b) (6) ; Roberts, Rich < 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>

You can see the video of him criticizing our work here:

https://youtu.be/Oru0-fYGcJU

The relevant section starts at 1hour, 31 minutes and 30 seconds into the video

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

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

Tel.: +1-(b) (6)
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

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

(b) (6)

From: Peter Daszak
Sent: Tuesday, April 16, 2024 3:22 PM
To: (b) (6) 'Keusch, Gerald T' < (b) (6) 'J (b) (6) Roberts, Rich (b) (6) 'Hotez, Peter Jay' (b) (6) (b) (6)

Cc: Aleksei Chmura (b) (6) John Feigelson <
(b) (6)

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.: +1-(b) (6)
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

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

(b) (6) (b) (6)
From:
Sent: Monday, April 15, 2024 8:39 PM
To: Peter Daszak (b) (6) (6) < (b) (6) Jeff Sturchio <j (b) (6) Roberts, Rich < Hotez, Peter Jay <
(b) (6)
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

<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

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

Tel.: +1-(b) (6)
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

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

From: (b) (6) (b) (6)
Sent: Friday, April 12, 2024 1:37 PM
To: Peter Daszak (b) (6) ; Keusch, Gerald T (b) (6)
Jeff Sturchio (b) (6) (b) (6) oberts, Rich (b) (6) Hotez, Peter Jay
<(b) (6)
(b) (6)
Cc: Aleksei Chmura (b) (6)
Subject: Re: My ema
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

MORENS_NIH_047419
REL0000482617

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: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >
Sent: Friday, April 12, 2024 11:19 AM
To: 'Michael Hiltzik' (b) (6) >
Cc: 'Aleksei Chmura (b) (6)
(b) (6) >
Subject: EcoHealth Statement and Email release today has relevance to NIH and Michael Lauer issues
Importance: High

Good to talk with you yesterday Michael. We got more negative press yesterday, this time related to emails that allegedly show coverups and inappropriate behavior among scientists. The Republicans released only the subject line and addresses etc. (https://oversight.house.gov/release/wenstrup- reveals-emails-from-whistleblower-alleging-additional-attempts-by-fauci-advisor-to-subvert-transparency-about-covid-19-origins/), leading to BS stories in the usual right wing press. We released the full text of the emails today:

https://www.ecohealthalliance.org/2024/04/ecohealth- alliance-releases-emails-that-are-the-subject-of-false-allegations-in-the-press

These are all from me to senior NIAID staffmember David Morens and former NIH Center Director Jerry Keusch, trying to make sense of the termination of our grant by Trump, and to find a way to get it reinstated. In the end NIH did reinstate the grant (May 2023). One of the chains shows emails that refer to the pressure from Michael Lauer, and the fact NIH instructed me not to talk with our program officer (Erik Stemmy) and direct all communications to Grants Management (Emily Linde). That was another highly unusual move from NIH and is part of the pattern that I was talking with you about.

Here is that particular set of emails: https://www.ecohealthalliance.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/04/Emails- 01.pdf

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

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

Tel.: +1-(b) (6)
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

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

From: Michael Hiltzik (b) (6)
Sent: 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 cellphon (b) (6)
>
> 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: Peter Daszak (b) (6) >
Sent: Sunday, April 7, 2024 9:34 AM
To: 'Michael Hiltzik' (b) (6)
Cc: 'Aleksei Chmura (b) (6) ; 'Alison Andr (b) (6) (b) (6) >
Subject: RE: Confidential - NIH still hampering EcoHealth's ability to conduct work 4 years since the termination of our grant
Importance: High

I have good answers for you on all of those – it's ugly and political. There are also others who are well-placed who you can talk with.

I can do Wednesday at 5:30pm my time if that works for you (2:30pm West Coast). I have other times as well… cc'ing Alison who will make sure we find a time that works.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

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

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

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

From: Michael Hiltzi (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

(b) (6) Peter Daszak <
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

MORENS_NIH_047423
REL0000482617

https://www.science.org/content/article/pall- suspicion-nihs-secretive-china-initiative-destroyed-scores-academic-careers), and the NIH group that manages oversight (OPERA) directly under Michael Lauer. In April 2023, Michelle Bulls from Opera and Emily Linde from NIAID placed 4 Specific Award Conditions (SACs) on our grants. At the time, Michael Lauer had contacted Tufts University who oversaw our IACUC approvals to conduct wildlife sampling because EHA doesn't have an animal facility. This led to Tufts canceling our interinstitutional agreement. The only way for us to proceed was to request an Animal Welfare Assurance from OLAW (based at NIH), but this was denied because of these SACs. One of the SACs stated that all of our subcontracts must be reviewed and revised by NIH reviews. We worked extremely hard to rapidly respond (often within days) to every single request, despite many of them being contradictory or having no material impact on the contracts. In the original letter NIH set a deadline of September 2023 to resolve the SACs, which due to repeated delays by NIH grants management staff in responding to us, continued further requests and shifting of the goalposts means we still do not have resolution. Furthermore, grants management are now suggesting that we are beyond the period of work and our subcontractees won't be able to be reimbursed. Additionally, during the past 12 months, NIH has only reimbursed EcoHealth for around $50K of the now nearly $2 million we are expecting and have expended.

As you can imagine, this puts us in a very difficult position, with institutions like UNC and Uniformed Services University likely to be outraged that their funding is threatened, and with us unable to do our work fully – work that has been reviewed, scored well, and is critical to pandemic prevention. We've tried every possible avenue to get a fair and reasonable rapid resolution. We've informed Emily Erbelding of these issues (hence the FoIA'd email), and Program staff at NIAID remain supportive of our work, but we still have no resolution. Every time we try to seek a meeting or resolution, we get a hard response from NIH that we're out of compliance and they set further deadlines and further minor issues for us to fix. Right now I believe we're probably in greater compliance with NIH rules and just about any other institution in the US, given the level of scrutiny we've gone through. I've attached some of the many recent letters between NIH OPERA, NIAID Grants managements and EcoHealth Alliance to give you an indication of the levels of detailed work that we've gone through to try and resolve these issues.

We don't know the reasons why this is happening – all our subcontracts prior to April 2023 covered every single requirement in NIH's grants management guidance, subrecipients had to sign that they would adhere to these. The stonewalling, and shifting of goalposts by NIH is linked to emails that they send us stating that we're 'delinquent' or 'out of compliance', or that they're 'concerned' etc. and seem to us designed ready to be FoIA'd (which they are being) or to be used when NIH has to show Congressional Republicans that EcoHealth is being treated in the way they are calling for. Meanwhile, important findings can't be reported,

including a novel SARS-CoV-2 related virus able to bind well to human ACE2 that we have found in one of our country sites, but are now unable to publish because our subrecipient is concerned they don't yet have an approved contract. This is hurting our ability to conduct pandemic prevention work, and the US's ability to be informed about public health threats that could emerge and threaten our citizens.

If you want to report on this, I'm happy to talk on-the-record on some issues, and there are others who are aware of these problems that I can put you in touch with, including at NIH and senior people from outside.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

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

Tel.: +1-(b) (6)
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

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

Date: Mon, 22 Feb 2021 12:37:57 PM -0500
Sent: Mon, 22 Feb 2021 12:37:56 PM -0500
Subject: RE: NY Post: Wuhan lab at heart of COVID outbreak may get three more years of US funding
From: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] <(b) (6) >
To: Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6) Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >;
Attachments: image001.gif; image002.jpg; image003.jpg

I fully endorse your gentlemanly displeasure!

David

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

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

From: Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6)
Sent: Monday, February 22, 2021 12:35 PM
To: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] <(b) (6) Peter Daszak ((b) (6)
<(b) (6) >
Subject: RE: NY Post: Wuhan lab at heart of COVID outbreak may get three more years of US funding

Shameful. But then it's the NY Post, operating in an echo chamber, and not the Washington Post.

Maybe this calls for a letter of rebuttal to the Washington Post. Fuck the NY Post.

From: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] <(b) (6)
Sent: Monday, February 22, 2021 12:24 PM
To: Peter Daszak ((b) (6) <(b) (6) >; Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6)
Subject: FW: NY Post: Wuhan lab at heart of COVID outbreak may get three more years of US funding

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)

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

From: Folkers, Greg (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b) (6)
Sent: Monday, February 22, 2021 8:34 AM
Subject: NY Post: Wuhan lab at heart of COVID outbreak may get three more years of US funding

Wuhan lab at heart of COVID outbreak may get three more years of US funding

By Post Editorial Board

MORENS_SUBPOENA_012436
MORENS_NIH_023637
REL0000482620

February 21, 2021 | 5:37pm | Updated

Enlarge Image

The Wuhan Institute of Virology in Wuhan, China. Photo by HECTOR RETAMAL/AFP via Getty Images

The Wuhan Institute of Virology remains the most likely source of the coronavirus pandemic, yet it is set to receive US taxpayer dollars for the next three years. Worse, the cash will fund more animal research.

The National Institutes of Health told the Daily Caller that the Wuhan lab has an active Foreign Assurance file that authorizes it for US funding until 2024. When the virus first broke out, the Wuhan Institute had reportedly been testing coronaviruses in bats with $600,000 of US funding routed via the nonprofit EcoHealth Alliance.

The NIH terminated that EcoHealth grant, with the promise to restore it if an independent investigation cleared the Wuhan Institute of involvement in the outbreak. Now a World Health Organization delegation tasked with investigating the lab has preliminarily concluded that a leak was "extremely unlikely," which may let the contract resume. Never mind that the head of the WHO and the US State Department remain unwilling to rule out that possibility.

Here's where it gets really swampy: Not only did the WHO delegation fail to do its own investigation, merely accepting reports from China's government, the WHO team's only American member happens to be the EcoHealth Alliance's president, Peter Daszak — who demands that Washington unequivocally accept the delegation's findings. (This also tells you how pathetic the whole WHO investigation was.)

Anthony Bellotti, who heads nonpartisan watchdog group White Coat Waste Project, called for EcoHealth to be stripped of funding and asked Congress to finally conduct a real investigation into how the pandemic really started.

If this grant goes ahead, you'll know the Biden administration is committed to restoring Washington business-as-usual in all its disgusting ingloriousness.

Filed under Coronavirus , editorial , taxpayers , world healthorganization , 2/21/21

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

Date: Fri, 26 Apr 2024 2:13:47 PM -0400
Sent: Fri, 26 Apr 2024 2:13:40 PM -0400
Subject: RE: Interview with Michael Hiltzik of the LA Times
From: Roberts, Rich <(b) (6) >
To: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >; Keusch, Gerald <(b) (6) Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6) (b) (6) (b) (6) b) (6) (b) (6)
CC: Aleksei Ch <(b) (6)

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

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

From: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >
Sent: Friday, April 26, 2024 1:56 PM
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: 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
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: 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) (6) Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) John Feigelson < (b) (6) >
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…

MORENS_NIH_047487
REL0000482623

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: Keusch, Gerald (b) (6)
Sent: Friday, April 26, 2024 11:10 AM
To: Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6)
Cc: Peter Dasz (b) (6) (b) (6) ; (b) (6) (b) (6) Jeff Sturchio (b) (6)
Roberts, Rich (b) (6) ; Aleksei Chmur (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

MORENS_NIH_047488
REL0000482623

E-mail | Twitter | LinkedIn | Skype: (b) (6)

Amazon Author Center | Daily Beast Contributor

S **e Support:** Douglas Soriano
(b) | Phone (b) (6) | Fax: 713-798-2299

Media Inquiries:
(b) (6)
(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

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: 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

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

(b) (6)
E-mail | Twitter | LinkedIn | Skype:

Amazon Author Center | Daily Beast Contributor

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

Media Inquiries:
(b) (6)

On 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,

MORENS_NIH_047490
REL000482623

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.: +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) '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: 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 https://oversight.house.gov/hearing/a-hearing-with-the-president-of-ecohealth-alliance-dr-peter-daszak/.

RSVP: Media must be congressionally credentialed and RSVP by Tuesday, May 1 at 5:00 PM ET.

###

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

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

Tel.: +1-(b) (6)
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

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

From: (b) (6) <(b) (6)
Sent: Wednesday, April 24, 2024 6:37 PM
To: Peter Daszak (b) (6) ', Gerald T (b) (6) (b) (6) turchio < (b) (6) Roberts, Rich (b) (6) Hotez, Peter Jay ;) (6) (b) (6) Aleksei Chmura < >;
Subject: Re: Now publi c 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

MORENS_NIH_047493
REL0000482623

Sent from Proton Mail Android

-------- Original Message --------
On 4/24/24 17:33, Peter Daszak wrote:

> I've attached a pdf of the story in the Washington Post (it's behind a paywall) – also here: https://www.washingtonpost.com/health/2024/04/24/fauci-congress-testimony-pandemic/.
>
> David – have your lawyers managed to get a date for you to testify yet?

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

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

Tel.: +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: Friday, April 19, 2024 9:15 PM
To: (b) (6) <(b) (6) (b) (6) 'Keusch, Gerald T' <(b) (6) 'Jeff Sturchio' <(b) (6) : 'Roberts, Rich' <(b) (6) 'Hotez, Peter Jay' <(b) (6) (b) (6)
Cc: 'Aleksei Chmura' <(b) (6) >; 'John Feigelson' <(b) (6)

By the way – Allegations that me sending information to David Morens is somehow corrupt are outrageous. Tony Fauci was busy working with the White House COVID taskforce at the time, trying to halt the worse pandemic since the 1918 influenza outbreak. I would have happy emailed him directly, but pretty sure he wasn't checking each of his 50,000 emails a day!

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

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

Tel.: +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: Friday, April 19, 2024 8:10 PM
To: (b) (6) >; 'Keusch, Gerald T' <(b) (6) 'Jeff Sturchio' <(b) (6) 'Roberts, Rich' <(b) (6) Hotez, Peter Jay' <(b) (6) (b) (6) Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) >; John Feigelson <(b) (6)
Subject: Today's news...

Had a very successful EcoHealth Alliance benefit last night – sorry some of you couldn't be there.

Michael Mann was our main honoree, and he was great! We raised well above our expectation – all critical to keeping us afloat given the increased pressure we're under right now.

Speaking of which – here's the latest attempt from the SSCP to smear David Morens, EcoHealth Alliance and others as being involved in a 'cover up'

https://nypost.com/2024/04/19/us- news/ex-fauci-adviser-shared-confidential-nih-info-with-ecohealth-about-covid-biosafety-levels-docs/

Basically, they've found an email from me to David, Jerry others when the allegations that EcoHealth expts were conducted at an insufficient BSL level first came out. Tony Fauci was interviewed and said that he would look into it. I sent David M. a review I'd done of the BSL rules for Bat CoVs in various countries, which clearly show that we were operating at the correct biosafety levels.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

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

Tel.: +1-(b) (6)
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

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

From: (b) (6) <(b) (6)
Sent: Wednesday, April 17, 2024 7:16 AM
To: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >; Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6) Jeff Sturchio (b) (6) >; Roberts, Rich <(b) (6) Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6)
Cc: Aleksei Chmura (b) (6)
Subject: Re: Testimony from Science Editor, Holden Thorp in front of the SSCP today

Peter, my thought is that it could have been worse, and he does blame Collins as well.... d

Sent from Proton Mail Android

-------- 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 >

You can see the video of him criticizing our work here:

https://youtu.be/Oru0-fYGcJU

The relevant section starts at 1hour, 31 minutes and 30 seconds into the video

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

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

Tel.: +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: 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)
tee 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.: +1 (b) (6)
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

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

From: (b) (6) (b) (6)
Sent: 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

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

Tel.: +1-(b) (6)
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

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

From: (b) (6) (b) (6) (b) (6) <

Sent: Friday, April 12, 2024 1:37 PM

To: Peter Daszak (b) (6) Keusch, Gerald T <

(b) (6) eff Sturchio (b) (6) Roberts, Rich <

Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6)

Cc: Aleksei Chmura (b) (6)

(b) (6)

Subject: Re: My email to Michael Hiltzik with an EcoHealth Statement and Email release today

Again. this is excellent. We need more of these stand-up-to-bullies fusillades. d

Sent from Proton Mail Android

-------- Original Message --------

On 4/12/24 11:20, Peter Daszak wrote:

> Please read the email I just sent to Michael Hiltzik. It has links to a statement from EcoHealth and the release of the full text (slight redactions) of emails that involve David and Jerry, and were reported in the NY Post and other Right wing outlets yesterday, amplified by Republicans on the COVID Committeee…
>
> Cheers,
>
> Peter
>
> **Peter Daszak**
> *President*
>
> EcoHealth Alliance
> 520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
> New York, NY 10018-6507
> USA
>
> Tel.: +1-(b) (6)
> Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
> Twitter: @PeterDaszak
>
> *EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation*
>
> (b) (6)
> **From:** Peter Daszak < >

MORENS_NIH_047500
REL0000482623

Sent: Friday, April 12, 2024 11:19 AM
To: 'Michael Hiltzik' (b) (6)
Cc: 'Aleksei Chmur (b) (6))' < (b) (6)

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 cellphon (b) (6)
>
> 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:** 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
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: +1 (b) (6)
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

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

From: Michael Hiltzik (b) (6)
Sent: Saturday, April 6, 2024 6:50 PM
To: Peter Daszak (b) (6)
Subject: Re: Confidential - NIH still hampering EcoHealth's ability to conduct work 4 years since the termination of our grant

Peter,

Let's set up a time to talk next week (Wednesday or later best for me). On first glance, it strikes me that I'm glad I'm not in the grants-application business, because the bureaucratic behavior

here seems incomprehensible, at least to a layman.

What's the overarching theme in their relations with you? Is it pressure from the lab-leak crowd, the FOIAing from Tobias, which as far as I can tell has yielded nothing of any substance? A spillover from the Trump era?

I read the Science piece, which was thorough in detailing what was done to the Chinese researchers but silent on what provoked it....what was the question I was left with--Why did NIH do all this?

MH

On Sat, Apr 6, 2024 at 12:03 PM Peter Daszak <
(b) (6)
> wrote:

Hi Michael, I'm just contacting you off the record in case you or others are interested in reporting on what's going on at NIH with respect to EHA's grants. We were trying to deal with this privately, without it becoming public, but we found out last week that some of our recent correspondence with Emily Erbelding asking for her help is in a batch of FoIA's emails that will be released to Jimmy Tobias in the next couple of weeks. Tobias is in the habit of simply dumping these on the internet, so we wanted to get these to a bona fide reporter before that happens.

As you probably know, our organization has been funded by NIAID for around 20 years, conducting successful research on emerging diseases, and working closely with communities, scientists and governments in emerging disease hotspot countries to try to reduce the risk of disease emergence. Prior to the termination of our R01 grant in April 2020 that would have had the Wuhan Institute of Virology as a subrecipient, we had never had any issues with NIH or NIAID, and had been lauded by program officers for our cutting edge research into viral emergence, and the many papers in Science, Nature, NEJM and others based on NIH funding.

After the termination of our grant, the HHS OIG was called in to audit our work and NIH's oversight. They reported back after an 18 month audit with recommendations for both us, and for NIH, most of which were minor and easily addressed. We rapidly complied and NIH's DFAS group confirmed that all audit findings were resolved. However, we continued to receive further actions from the Office of the Director (Michael Lauer, who *Science* wrote about re. NIH's actions on grantees with China connections https://www.science.org/content/article/pall- suspicion-nihs-secretive-china-initiative-destroyed-scores-academic- careers), and the NIH group that manages oversight (OPERA) directly

under Michael Lauer. In April 2023, Michelle Bulls from Opera and Emily Linde from NIAID placed 4 Specific Award Conditions (SACs) on our grants. At the time, Michael Lauer had contacted Tufts University who oversaw our IACUC approvals to conduct wildlife sampling because EHA doesn't have an animal facility. This led to Tufts canceling our interinstitutional agreement. The only way for us to proceed was to request an Animal Welfare Assurance from OLAW (based at NIH), but this was denied because of these SACs. One of the SACs stated that all of our subcontracts must be reviewed and revised by NIH reviews. We worked extremely hard to rapidly respond (often within days) to every single request, despite many of them being contradictory or having no material impact on the contracts. In the original letter NIH set a deadline of September 2023 to resolve the SACs, which due to repeated delays by NIH grants management staff in responding to us, continued further requests and shifting of the goalposts means we still do not have resolution. Furthermore, grants management are now suggesting that we are beyond the period of work and our subcontractees won't be able to be reimbursed. Additionally, during the past 12 months, NIH has only reimbursed EcoHealth for around $50K of the now nearly $2 million we are expecting and have expended.

As you can imagine, this puts us in a very difficult position, with institutions like UNC and Uniformed Services University likely to be outraged that their funding is threatened, and with us unable to do our work fully – work that has been reviewed, scored well, and is critical to pandemic prevention. We've tried every possible avenue to get a fair and reasonable rapid resolution. We've informed Emily Erbelding of these issues (hence the FoIA'd email), and Program staff at NIAID remain supportive of our work, but we still have no resolution. Every time we try to seek a meeting or resolution, we get a hard response from NIH that we're out of compliance and they set further deadlines and further minor issues for us to fix. Right now I believe we're probably in greater compliance with NIH rules and just about any other institution in the US, given the level of scrutiny we've gone through. I've attached some of the many recent letters between NIH OPERA, NIAID Grants managements and EcoHealth Alliance to give you an indication of the levels of detailed work that we've gone through to try and resolve these issues.

We don't know the reasons why this is happening – all our subcontracts prior to April 2023 covered every single requirement in NIH's grants management guidance, subrecipients had to sign that they would adhere to these. The stonewalling, and shifting of goalposts by NIH is linked to emails that they send us stating that we're 'delinquent' or 'out of compliance', or that they're 'concerned' etc. and seem to us designed ready to be FoIA'd (which they are being) or to be used when NIH has to show Congressional Republicans that

EcoHealth is being treated in the way they are calling for. Meanwhile, important findings can't be reported, including a novel SARS-CoV-2 related virus able to bind well to human ACE2 that we have found in one of our country sites, but are now unable to publish because our subrecipient is concerned they don't yet have an approved contract. This is hurting our ability to conduct pandemic prevention work, and the US's ability to be informed about public health threats that could emerge and threaten our citizens.

If you want to report on this, I'm happy to talk on-the-record on some issues, and there are others who are aware of these problems that I can put you in touch with, including at NIH and senior people from outside.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

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

Tel.: +1-(b) (6)
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

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

Date: Wed, 3 Aug 2022 5:16:21 PM -0400
Sent: Wed, 3 Aug 2022 5:16:13 PM -0400
Subject: Re: Jeff Sachs is at it again!
From: "Keusch, Gerald T" <(b) (6)
To: David Morens <(b) (6)
CC: (b) (6) Roberts, Rich <(b) (6) zak <(b) (6) leksei Chmura <(b) (6) >; Jeff Sturchio <(b) (6) (b) (6)
Attachments: Outlook-ctydqr4g.png; Outlook-cfydqr4g.png

We are dealing with two separate issues. Let's leave Jeff's mental health or possible cognitive decline aside at the moment. We don't have data although some of us have talked to some in closer contact with Jeff and they raise this issue independently.

The other task is a point by point rejoinder. Angela is boxed in by her tweets as an outspoken critic of Jeff. That sets up anything she writes to criticism based on bias. We need to find somebody who is credible in the science and not retaliating for Jeff's personal attacks on them who is willing to take it on for the benefit of scientific integrity at the cost of time and effort. We need to brainstorm on possible candidates who could be approached. Maybe by a response to the PNAS paper the Independent former Lancet Task Force has under final editorial review. We can make a list of candidates while we await PNAS's decision. That makes it easier to move fast if we have a plan and if PNAS accepts it. Jerry

Sent from my iPhone

> On Aug 3, 2022, at 4:43 PM, David Morens <(b) (6) > wrote:
>
> Since i do not know Jeff Sachs i can't know whether his mental health is failing, although this sort of public recklessness is sometimes seen in public figures who have mental health issues or early dementia, witness Wilbur Mills, Rudy Giuliani, and possibly Michael Flynn. On the other hand, Sachs has been a shameless over the top grandstander for at least 15 or 20 years, so this just could be him being him, magnified by the spotlight
>
> Although i think doing some sort of intervention is the ethical thing to do if it's possible to do it, these things may backfire. The family may know something is wrong but even they are limited in what they can do. It ain't a crime to be crazy, dishonest, or obnoxious, and we don't lock people up much anymore for true mental illnesses
>
> So, i tend to agree that a point by point rebuttal, authored by several respected authorities not viewed as biased, is also a good idea, and i think Angie is still viewed in that category, would be good if it is done fairly, respectfully, but firmly, and also makes some positive helpful points, such as going forward we must focus on facts, not innuendo, and inviting any and all to provide factual evidence on all aspects of covid origins, etc.
>
> Sent from my iPhone
> David M Morens
> OD, NIAID, NIH
>
> > On Aug 3, 2022, at 16:23, Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6) wrote:

Hi Peter H,

The issue with Sonia is not Jeff's positions but his mental health and perhaps failing cognitive capacity. If there are early warning signs that she needs to recognize and then discuss with his primary care doc it may help to get the family involved in helping Jeff to acknowledge that something is not right and begin further assessments and maybe even interventions. No easy task for an ego like his - this would be an even worse blow than seeing his contemporary Joe Stiglitz and his junior Michael Kremer both receive a Nobel in economics - his Nobel.

That's separate for pushing back on his dogged attempt to push one perspective in an increasingly concrete and poorly supported by actual evidence manner.

Jerry

Sent from my iPhone

On Aug 3, 2022, at 2:50 PM, Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6) wrote:

A good reminder: never to go into battle with Ian, ridiculous. I doubt appealing to Sonia will do much good, and I'm not sure any of the Columbia faculty see this as their fight? I think refuting Jeff point by point in a white paper is the way to go, perhaps one that could wind up in SCIENCE, unless you think it's already covered in your article Jerry. If not, Angela Rasmussen is probably the best qualified, I would be happy to work with her, if she were to take the lead. Just some thoughts, best, Peter

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

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

University Professor, Baylor University

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

Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

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

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

MORENS_SUBPOENA_009271
MORENS_NIH_019693
REL000482624

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

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

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

From: Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6)
Sent: Wednesday, August 3, 2022 1:38 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!

MORENS_SUBPOENA_009272
MORENS_NIH_019694
REL000482624

Also at Columbia is Steve Morse, who has been studying pandemic viruses since his days with Josh Ledeberg in the late 1980s.....

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

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

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

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

On Wed, Aug 3, 2022 at 11:42 AM Roberts, Rich <(b) (6) wrote:
>
> Jerry:
>
>
>
> I can try Ian Lipkin too. He may be concerned about the general damage to science and to Jeff himself. One of Jeff's very good friends tells me that a lot of people who know him closely think he is going off the rails.
>
>
>
> Rich
>
>
>
> Richard J. Roberts
>
> New England Biolabs
>
> 240 County Road
>
> Ipswich, MA 01938-2723
>
> USA
>
> Tel: (b) (6)
>
> Fax: (978) 412 9910
>
> email: (b) (6)
>
>
>
> From: Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6)
> Sent: Wednesday, August M
> To: Roberts, Rich <(b) (6) Peter Dasz
> <(b) (6) Hotez, Peter Ja (b) (6)
> Cc: David Morens <(b) (6) Aleksei Chmura

MORENS_SUBPOENA_009273
MORENS_NIH_019695
REL000482624

> <(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
>
>
>
> From: Roberts, Rich <(b) (6)
> Sent: Wednesday, August 3, 2022 11:24 AM
> To: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) Keusch, Gerald T
> <(b) (6) Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6)
> Cc: David Morens <(b) (6) Aleksei Chmura
> <(b) (6) Jeff Sturchio <(b) (6)
> Subject: RE: Jeff Sachs is at it again!
>
>
>
> Peter:
>
>
>
> "Inaccuracies" is a very mild word for the statements he makes.
>
>
>
> This just gets more disturbing by the day. I wonder how the administration at Columbia view this? Are they aware of the damage he is doing?
>
>
>
> Rich
>
>
>
> Richard J. Roberts
>
> New England Biolabs
>
> 240 County Road
>
> Ipswich, MA 01938-2723
>

MORENS_SUBPOENA_009274
MORENS_NIH_019696
REL0000482624

> USA
>
> Tel: ((b) (6)
>
> Fax: (978) 412 9910
>
> email:(b) (6)
>
>
>
> From: Peter Daszak <(b) (6)
> Sent: Wednesday, Aug AM
> To: Keusch, Geral (b) (6) Roberts, Rich <(b) (6)
> Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6)
> C Ale
> <(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.
>

MORENS_SUBPOENA_009275
MORENS_NIH_019697
REL0000482624

> He accuses me of 'not telling the truth'. No details of course!
>
> Accuses all the other Task Force members of hiding some alleged
> conflict of interest - that they are 'part of this thing', whatever
> that is
>
> Accuses the task force of trying to avoid looking into the lab leak even though he knew full well we had interviewed people like Relman, Ebright, Quay as part of our work and had stated publicly that we would look at all hypotheses re. COVID origins.
>
> He dodges the question on my alleged 'hiding pretty serious conflicts
> of interest' by saying he asked for my research proposals and I
> wouldn't hand them over on legal advice. What he failed to mention is
> the reason I gave him for this in an email – NIH had refused to make
> those proposals public under FoIA and had then been sued. If I then
> went against their direction I would run the risk of further grant
> terminations. That's what my lawyers advised and I have an
> organization to run, rather than undermine our funding base just
> because Jeff Sachs is inquisitive…
>
> Damagingly, he states that our rationale for hiding the truth is because we don't want to be guilty for millions of deaths. That is exactly the comment I get when people send me death threats (more every week now that these stories are in the news). It's a pretty straightforward incitement to violence for these people.
>
> He states that he doesn't trust scientists because we hide our work, when in fact we've published it in papers, and our proposals (even those that are not funded) are now public.
>
> He equates this work with nuclear weapons research
>
> He criticizes NIH for redacting 290 pages of attachments. Anyone who's bothered to look at that will see that NIH was circulating a DRAFT version of their COVID-19 research strategy that was released a few days later having been corrected and edited. It was simply an attachment to an email. There's no way that a govt agency should be circulating uncorrected versions of a strategic plan – that's just commonsense.
>
>
>
>
>
> https://urldefense.proofpoint.com/v2/url?u=https-3A__www.currentaffairs.org_2022_08_why-2Dthe-2Dchair-2Dof-2Dthe-2Dlancets-2Dco&d=DwIGaQ&c=ZQs-KZ8oxEw0p81sqgiaRA&r=5LfYK49OliIsJzSnoeAjOg&m=hPFWMEklFgm5H54jTvYTzCXGWKMPBxl03XCQ9TggM6ARK1vT3e4qNgSCrud5F2C5&s=hC16xyJYpKXkpxydEKvaynlBUG6T0PtpVcI-_ZhW5pZI&e=
> vid-19-commission-thinks-the-us-government-is-preventing-a-real-invest
> igation-into-the-pandemic
>
>
>
>
>
> Why the Chair of the Lancet's COVID-19 Commission Thinks The US
> Government Is Preventing a Real Investigation Into the Pandemic
>
> Prof. Jeffrey Sachs says he is "pretty convinced [COVID-19] came out of US lab biotechnology" and warns that there is dangerous virus research taking place without public oversight.
>
> Current Affairs
>
> filed 02 August 2022 in THE VIRUS

>

> Prof. Jeffrey Sachs is the Director of the Center for Sustainable Development at Columbia University and the President of the UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network. He has also served as the chair of the COVID-19 commission for leading medical journal the Lancet. Through his investigations as the head of the COVID-19 commission, Prof. Sachs has come to the conclusion that there is extremely dangerous biotechnology research being kept from public view, that the United States was supporting much of this research, and that it is very possible that SARS-CoV-2, the virus responsible for COVID-19, originated through dangerous virus research gone awry.

>

> Prof. Sachs recently co-authored a paper in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences calling for an independent inquiry into the virus's origins. He believes that there is clear proof that the National Institutes of Health and many members of the scientific community have been impeding a serious investigation of the origins of COVID-19 and deflecting attention away from the hypothesis that risky U.S.-supported research may have led to millions of deaths. If that hypothesis is true, the implications would be earth-shaking, because it might mean that esteemed members of the scientific community bore responsibility for a global calamity. In this interview, Prof. Sachs explains how he, as the head of the COVID-19 commission for a leading medical journal, came to the conclusion that powerful actors were preventing a real investigation from taking place. He also explains why it is so important to get to the bottom of the origins of COVID: because, he says, there is extremely dangerous research taking place with little accountability, and the public has a right to know since we are the ones whose lives are being put at risk without our consent.

>

> NATHAN ROBINSON:

>

> I want to quote something that you said recently:

>

> "I chaired the commission for the Lancet for two years on COVID. I'm pretty convinced it came out of U.S. lab biotechnology, not out of nature, just to mention. After two years of intensive work on this. So it's a blunder in my view of biotech, not an accident of a natural spillover. We don't know for sure, I should be absolutely clear. But there's enough evidence that it should be looked into. And it's not being investigated, not in the United States, not anywhere. And I think for real reasons that they don't want to look underneath the rug, the statement."

>

> The statement that you made there is a controversial one. Just to read a couple of quotes from the New York Times in the last year:

>

> "In a review of recent studies and comparisons to other outbreaks, a group of virologists contends that there is more evidence to support a natural spillover from animals to humans."

>

> "Scientists released a pair of extensive studies over the weekend that point to a large food and live animal market in Wuhan, China, as the origin of the coronavirus pandemic."

>

> So I want to start by asking you just to tell us a little bit about the investigation that you were part of and what led you to think that what I just quoted is a misleading statement of the state of the evidence.

>

> JEFFREY SACHS:

>

> Well, the funny thing is those scientists who are saying that said the same thing on February 4, 2020, before they had done any research at all. And they published the same statement in March 2020, before they had any facts at all. So they're creating a narrative. And they're denying the alternative hypothesis without looking closely at it. That's the basic point.

>

> Now, what is the alternative hypothesis? The alternative hypothesis is quite straightforward. And that is that there was a lot of research underway in the United States and China on taking SARS-like viruses, manipulating them in the laboratory, and creating potentially far more dangerous viruses. And the particular virus that causes COVID-19, called SARS-Cov-2, is notable because it has a piece of its genetic makeup that makes the virus more dangerous. And that piece of the genome is called the "furin cleavage site." Now, what's interesting, and concerning if I may say so, is that the research that was underway very actively and being promoted, was to insert furin cleavage sites into SARS-like viruses to see what would

happen. Oops!
>
> Well, that is what may have happened. And what has been true from the start is that that very real possibility, which a lot of scientists know, has not been looked at closely, even though it's absolutely clear that it could have happened that way. They're not looking. They just keep telling us, "Look at the market, look at the market, look at the market!" But they don't address this alternative. They don't even look at the data. They don't even ask questions. And the truth is from the beginning, they haven't asked the real questions.
>
> But not quite the beginning. Because at the beginning, which we could date from the first phone call of the National Institutes of Health (NIH) with a group of virologists on February 1, 2020, the virologists said "Oh my god, that is strange, that could well be a laboratory creation. What is that furin cleavage site doing in there?" Because scientists knew that was part of an active ongoing research program. And yet, by February 3, the same group is saying "No, no, it's natural, it's natural." By February 4, they start to draft the papers that are telling the public, "Don't worry, it's natural." By March, they write a paper—totally spurious, in my view—called the proximal origins paper that is the most cited bio paper in 2020. It said: it is absolutely natural. [Note: the paper's conclusion is "we do not believe that any type of laboratory-based scenario is plausible."] But they didn't have any of the data that you read about in the New York Times. They didn't have any of this. They just said the labs weren't working on this alternative. But you know what, they don't know what the labs were working on, because they never asked, and NIH hasn't told us.
>
> ROBINSON:
>
> Let me ask you if we can distinguish between what we know for certain and what is speculative because we just haven't got the data. So we do know that there was—correct me if I'm wrong—research proposed that would have dealt with this category of viruses and would have modified them in ways that would have made them potentially more lethal. Do we know whether that kind of research was in fact actually ongoing somewhere?
>
> SACHS:
>
> We have enormous reason to believe that it was. And clearly, we haven't even asked that question. But we have a lot of reason to believe that it was, because the scientists that were doing that research loved that research. And they explained to us publicly why it's so important. And they wrote editorials about why this research must continue. And they made grant proposals saying that it should continue. And for those of us in the business of writing grant proposals, the fact that a particular grant proposal that's deeply troubling was turned down doesn't mean that it wasn't carried out afterwards. But where is NIH saying, "Yeah, that's an interesting question. Why don't we get the evidence?" It doesn't even ask that question.
>
> And the scientists like those that talk about the Huanan market, they don't even discuss that research that was underway. That is just misdirection, to my mind. It's like sleight of hand art. Don't look over there. Look over here. But we know that there was a tremendous amount of this research underway. We have interviews by the lead scientists. We have these research proposals. I know the intention of doing this research from discussions. I've read so many studies of the importance of this research claimed by the scientists. And yet I see NIH with its head in the ground. "Oh, no, nothing here to look at." And then I see the scientists. "Oh, nothing here to look at. We know it's the market. Did we find an animal? No. Do we have an explanation of where that furin cleavage site came in? No. We don't have an explanation of the timing, which doesn't quite look right. Oh, but don't look over there, because there's nothing there, they keep telling us. Well, that's a little silly.
>
> So my point is, there is a huge amount of reason to believe that that research was underway. Because there are published papers on this. There are interviews on this. There are research proposals. But NIH isn't talking. It's not asking. And these scientists have never asked either. From the very first day, they have kept hidden from view the alternative. And when they discuss the alternative, they don't discuss the research program. They discuss complete straw men about the lab, not the actual kind of research that was underway, which was to stick furin cleavage sites into SARS-like viruses in a way that could have created SARS-Cov-2.
>
> What I'm calling for is not the conclusion. I'm calling for the investigation. Finally, after two and a half

years of this, it's time to fess up that it might have come out of a lab and here's the data that we need to know to find out whether it did.
>
> ROBINSON:
>
> One of the things that struck me that I didn't know when I started writing about this and actually doing some some research is realizing that in the years leading up to the pandemic, there was a huge controversy about whether it was wise to modify viruses in the course of research in ways that could make a virus more infectious or more lethal. And some people were arguing that this kind of research was insane. And some people were warning that in the case of a lab accident—an accident, mind you, not as an intentional "bioweapon"—a simple human error could cause a real catastrophe.
>
> SACHS:
>
> That is exactly right. There were several kinds of experiments of manipulation of the genes of dangerous viruses. And this raised a lot of alarm. And there was actually a moratorium in 2014. But the champions of this kind of research pushed on, they applied for waivers, which they got, and finally the moratorium came off in 2017. And they said how important it is to do this dangerous kind of research, because they claimed, "Well, there are lots of viruses out there. And we don't know when they're going to become highly pathogenic, and we need to develop drugs and vaccines against a wide spectrum of them. So we have to test all these viruses that we can find, to see whether they have high spillover potential." But they weren't actually aiming to just test viruses that they were collecting in nature. They were aiming to modify those viruses. Because the scientists knew that a SARS-like virus without a furin cleavage site wouldn't be that dangerous. But they wanted to test their drugs and vaccines and theories against dangerous viruses. Their proposal was to take hundreds, by the way—or least they talked about in one proposal more than 180 previously unreported strains—and test them for their so-called "spillover potential." How effective would they be? And to look: do they have a furin cleavage site, or technically what's called a proteolytic cleavage site? And if not, put them in. For heaven's sake. My God! Are you kidding?
>
> Okay, but we didn't even ask the question from the first day: did you guys do that? Tell us what you did. Could you give us your lab notebooks? We're kind of curious. Instead, these people who are writing these New York Times articles right now and publishing these pieces about the market, from the first day—without asking about the experiments—they said, "Nope, it's natural." That's why I don't trust them. Because they've never looked at the alternative hypothesis. And their hypothesis has so many gaps, so many holes in it. But they don't even try to look at the alternative hypothesis.
>
> ROBINSON:
>
> I think it's very important to make clear that the "alternative hypothesis" is mainly a hypothesis about an accident, and scientific hubris. It's important to distinguish the kooky theories from the incredibly plausible theories. Because what you're talking about is people who did not appreciate the dangers of what they were doing.
>
> SACHS:
>
> In fact, it's very interesting. The alternative that is the right one to look at is part of a very extensive research program that was underway from 2015 onward, funded by the NIH, by Tony Fauci, in particular NIAID [National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases], and it was to examine the spillover potential of SARS-like viruses. The champions of this research explained in detail their proposals. But after the event, we'd never asked them, "So what were you actually doing? What experiments did you do? What do you know?" We somehow never asked. It was better just to sweep it under the rug, which is what Fauci and the NIH have done up until this point. Maybe they could tell us, "Oh, full exoneration," but they haven't told us that at all. They haven't shown us anything.
>
> So there's nothing "kooky" about it, because it's precisely what the scientists were doing. And then you can listen to the scientists on tape describing why they think the research program is so important, because they say these are dangerous viruses, and therefore we have to prepare broad spectrum vaccines and drugs. They explain it's not good enough to test one or two viruses. We have to test all of them. And then they came to realize, as I said earlier, that just having a SARS-like virus, if it doesn't have this piece of the gene,

it's almost surely not going to be that effective. So they got around to the idea. "Well, let's put these in," if you can imagine that. To my mind, it's mind-boggling.
>
>
>
> But they were proud of this, because it's actually genius at a technological level. Can you imagine: you can take a sequence of letters, which defines the genome, you can recreate the virus just from the letters. You don't even have to have the biological virus in hand, you just need the sequence. Then you can say "I'm going to add these four letters RRAR, the furin cleavage site, or maybe it's eight, RRARSVAS, this is a sequence of eight amino acids—I'm going to stick it in there right at the S1 S2 junction of the spike protein, because I know from my research program that will make it more pathogenic, that is more disease-causing. And then I can see whether my drug candidates like remdesivir, or some other candidate works against it. That is their idea. There's nothing kooky about our claim: Hey, what were you doing? Because they told us that they wanted to do these projects. And they told us that they were wanting to do these projects in the months leading up to this outbreak. And then what is absolutely strange is that even though scientists knew right from the start, that is very weird to have that RRAR furin cleavage site in there—never saw that before in a SARS-like virus, and that that could well have come from a lab—hush, hush. Don't talk about it. Don't even discuss it. Just say right from the beginning: This is natural. Of course, it's natural. Everything else is kooky.
>
> So you saw a narrative being created. And the scientists are not acting like scientists. Because when you're acting like a scientist, you're pursuing alternative hypotheses. And the scientists just wrote recently an op-ed saying the only evidence that this came out of a lab that's been put forward is that it came in a city, Wuhan, where an institute was located. Well, that's a lie. That is not the only coincidence that leads to this theory. What leads to this alternative hypothesis is the detailed research program the NIH funded that was underway in the years leading up to the outbreak. So I see the scientists absolutely trying to create a narrative and take our eyes off of another issue.
>
> Now, again, let me emphasize, we don't have definitive evidence of either hypothesis. But what we do have is definitive evidence that officialdom has tried to keep our eyes away from the lab creation hypothesis.
>
> ROBINSON:
>
> You mentioned the lab in Wuhan. It's not just that there was a lab in Wuhan doing research on viruses. But there were ties between the lab and those pursuing this program. What do we know about the research that was actually occurring there?
>
> SACHS:
>
> We know that at the Wuhan Institute of Virology, the scientists there had been trained by American scientists to use advanced bioengineering methodologies. And in particular, we have scientists in North Carolina, Texas, and so forth who do this kind of research, believe in it, argue for it, and say that they don't want any regulations on it and so on. And they were in close contact with Wuhan Institute of Virology, and they were part of a joint research group that was stitched together by something called EcoHealth Alliance. And EcoHealth Alliance was the kind of marriage maker between the American scientists and the Chinese scientists. That was the vehicle for funding from the U.S. government, especially from the National Institutes of Health, and especially from Tony Fauci's unit, the NIAID. There were years of grants, there were grant proposals. We don't know exactly what was done. But we have enough reason to know that we should be asking exactly what was done. And we know definitively that from the beginning, NIH has been running from telling us what has been done. They're not telling us the truth, that they had reason to fear from the start that this came out of a lab. And that to this day, they have reason to suspect it, but they're not talking.
>
> ROBINSON:
>
> A shocking thing to me was that the head of the EcoHealth Alliance was on the World Health Organization team that actually investigated the origins of COVID and concluded that it wasn't the lab.
>

> SACHS:
>
> Well, more than that: I appointed him—this was Peter Daszak—I appointed him to chair the task force of the pandemic commission that I was running for the Lancet. And he headed a task force on the origins. I thought, naively at the beginning, "Well, here's a guy who is so connected, he would know." And then I realized he was not telling me the truth. And it took me some months, but the more I saw it, the more I resented it.
>
> And so I told him, "Look, you have to leave." And then the other scientists in that task force attacked me for being anti-scientific. And I asked them: "What are your connections with all of this?" They didn't tell me. Then when the Freedom of Information Act released some of these documents that NIH had been hiding from the public, I saw that people that were attacking me were also part of this thing. So I disbanded that whole task force. So my own experience was to witness close up how they're not talking. And they're trying to keep our eyes on something else. And away from even asking the questions that we're talking about. We don't have the answers. But we have good reasons to ask. And we have good reasons to know that NIH is not doing its job properly right now.
>
> ROBINSON:
>
> So you're saying that Daszak and others did not disclose to you pretty serious conflicts of interest? Since, on the hypothesis that it had something to do with this kind of research, that would have implicated Daszak himself in the origins of the crisis?
>
> SACHS:
>
> Well, he could have explained to me right from the beginning that there was a big research program and that they were manipulating the viruses, and here's how. He could have given me the research proposals. And when I asked him for one of the research proposals, he said, "No, my lawyer says I can't give it to you." I said, "What? You're heading a commission. We're a transparent commission. You're telling me your lawyer says you can't give me your project proposal." I said, "Well, then you can't be on this commission. This is not even a close call."
>
> But there were so many other things. He was just filled with misdirection. I don't know whether he understands or not, maybe he doesn't understand. But the things he said just were absolutely not right.
>
> ROBINSON:
>
> When people hear you say, "They're sweeping it under the rug, they don't want to look," one question that may come to their minds is "Well, why? Why would people not be interested in getting to the truth?" But the alternate hypothesis from the natural spillover that you're talking about could have serious repercussions. It would implicate a lot of people in potentially millions of deaths. So there's a lot at stake here for the scientific community. Which explains why there would be an interest in directing people away from this possibility.
>
> SACHS:
>
> There are at least two reasons why they might be doing what they're doing. One is, as you say, the implications are huge. Imagine if this came out of a lab. And we have, by some estimates, about 18 million dead worldwide from this. That's not the official count. But that's the estimated excess mortality from COVID. Well, the implications of that—the ethical, the moral, the geopolitical—everything is enormous.
>
> But there's a second matter that is really important, too. One thing that is rather clear to me is that there is so much dangerous research underway right now under the umbrella of biodefense or other things that we don't know about, that is not being properly controlled. This is for sure. And that's happening around the world. And governments say "don't poke your nose into that." That's our business, not your business. But it's actually our business. It's our business to understand what is going on with this. This is not to be kept secret. We don't trust you.
>
> Let me put it this way: I don't trust them right now. I want to know. Because even what we know of the

dangerous research is enough to raise a lot of questions of responsibility for the future. And to pose the question: "Hey, what other viruses are you guys working on? What should we know?" Because no matter what the truth is on SARS-Cov-2, what is pretty clear is we've got so much technological capacity to engineer dangerous pathogens right now. And a lot of that is being done. And it's classified. It's secret, and we don't know what it is. And I don't like that feeling at all. I don't recommend it for us and for the world.
>
> ROBINSON:
>
> Well, you've rather answered the question of why it's important to get to the bottom of this. Because one of the excuses you hear is, "Well, who really cares? Does it matter? It was an animal, it was a lab, whatever it is, it's here." But what you're saying is, "No, we actually need to know where this started." Because this isn't going to be the only one, whatever the origins are. And we don't want people to die from future viruses. This is critically important. If we're going to save millions of lives, we have to find out the answer.
>
> SACHS:
>
> I can tell you one thing that I've learned from talking to a lot of scientists in the last couple of years: the technological capacity to do dangerous things using this biotechnology is extraordinary right now. So I want to know what's being done. I want to know what other governments are doing, too, not just ours. I want some global control over this stuff.
>
> We've kind of understood the nuclear risk—even that, of course, is in a lot of ways hidden from view. But this is a clear and present risk. And there's reason to believe we're actually in the midst of it, not just hypothetically. So come on: it's time to open the books everywhere. It's time to find out. Maybe it was the marketplace. Maybe it wasn't a lab. But we need to get real answers, now. Not the kind of misdirection that's been going in since February 2020. Enough nonsense! Enough New York Times stories saying, "Oh, it's this, it's that," without looking closely at the very plausible laboratory hypothesis.
>
> ROBINSON:
>
> It seems from what you're saying that as the head of the Lancet's COVID-19 commission, you didn't feel you were able to get satisfactory answers or see the data you wanted. What kind of investigation do we need and who ought to do it?
>
> SACHS:
>
> The most interesting things that I got as chair of the Lancet commission came from Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) lawsuits and whistleblower leaks from inside the U.S. government. Isn't that terrible? NIH was actually asked at one point: give us your research program on SARS-like viruses. And you know what they did? They released the cover page and redacted 290 pages. They gave us a cover page and 290 blank pages! That's NIH, for heaven's sake. That's not some corporation. That is the U.S. government charged with keeping us healthy.
>
> What I found is that we have a lot of data which we're not finding right now. And I don't want to have to rely on FOIA and leaks, though those can be incredibly informative. I want clear, independent scientific investigation and transparency. One way to do this would be a bipartisan congressional oversight investigation that had subpoena power. Give us your lab records, your notebooks, your data files of virus strains, and so forth. There are many questions that we need independent scientists to define, to tell us exactly the kinds of information. But we know right now we're operating in an environment in which the government is working to hide the data that we need to make a real assessment.
>
> If you enjoyed this article, please consider subscribing to our magnificent print edition or making a donation. Current Affairs is 100% reader-supported.
>
> Current Af
>
>
>
>

>
> Cheers,
>
>
>
> Peter
>
>
>
>
>
>
>
>
>
>
> Peter Daszak
>
> President
>
>
>
> 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

MORENS_SUBPOENA_009283
MORENS_NIH_019705
REL000482624

Date:	Sat, 21 May 2022 4:33:56 PM -0400
Sent:	Sat, 21 May 2022 4:33:41 PM -0400
Subject:	RE: HOTEZ PARAGRAPHS Important caveat: Potential response to the PNAS paper - initial thoughts as draft bullets
From:	"Roberts, Rich" <(b) (6) >
To:	Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >; Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6)
CC:	Jeffrey Sturchio <(b) (6) >; David Morens <(b) (6) >; Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6) Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) >;
Attachments:	image001.png; image002.jpg; image003.jpg; image004.jpg; image005.jpg; image006.jpg; image007.jpg; image008.jpg; image009.jpg; image010.jpg; image011.jpg; image012.jpg; image013.jpg; image014.jpg

Peter:

Thanks for the correction. I have sent it off now, so we'll see what it brings.

My interactions with Jeff have always been very cordial so I am looking forward to his reaction to this and when we speak.

Rich

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

From: Peter Daszak <(b) (6)
Sent: Saturday, May 21, 2022 2:39 PM
To: Roberts, Rich <(b) (6) Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6)
Cc: Jeffrey Sturchio <(b) (6) David Morens <(b) (6) Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6)
Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6)
Subject: RE: HOTEZ PARAGRAPHS Important caveat: Potential response to the PNAS paper - initial thoughts as draft bullets

EXTERNAL SENDER

I think that's very balanced and well-written Rich. I noted a couple of typos and corrected them (attached).

As a way of history/background re. why Jeff Sachs singles out EHA in this way. I don't think there's anything personal here. I didn't know Jeff personally until the end of April 2020 when he emailed me to ask if there's anything he could do to help re. Trump defunding us. I helped him fact check an Op Ed, we chatted on the phone and he was generally supportive about right wing interference in science. A few weeks later he asked me to join the Lancet Commission on COVID-19 that he was setting up at the time, and set up a taskforce on origins, early spread and One Health solutions to COVID-19. In other words, despite what he's said publicly and to some of us, he knew from the start about EcoHealth's involvement in Wuhan because that's why Trump terminated our grant.

After a few months of good interactions, he received letters from a Republican congressman asking to remove me because of alleged conflicts of interest. He shared it with me and pushed back to them after getting some background from me. He got letters from the usual lab leak scientists (Ebright, Relman, Metzl others), and had personal conversations with Ian Lipkin and those just

mentioned who pushed the lab leak narrative onto him. He started pushing me and the Lancet taskforce I setup (including Jerry Keusch) to investigate all lab leak conspiracies. He started bombarding me with emails about the 'Mojiang miners', the 'missing' database, alleged sick people in WIV, and it was clear from his emails and conversations that he simply started buying into these theories.

I spent hours responding to him, talking with him, sharing information about our work to explain why these theories didn't hold water, but it became clear, eventually, that he wanted me out. I also think that by January 2021, with the Biden admin. pushing a strong anti-China narrative, and using the COVID origins issue and the WHO origins work as a vehicle for that, Jeff realized the politics weren't just right wing and it wasn't convenient for him to defend the work or our involvement.

Again, I don't believe it's personal – I certainly refused to share my private information with him – unpublished data, unpublished reports to NIH, and I'm sure that irritated him, but I knew by then he was working with Ebright and others, and I didn't want to undercut NIH, our lawyers and others by releasing that.

I hope you have a congenial call with him. It's a shame to see a good person amplifying theories that are demonstrably flawed, and will clearly not stand the test of time. It's also very damaging of course because of his stature.

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: Roberts, Rich <(b) (6)
Sent: Saturday, May 21, 2022 1:22 PM
To: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6)
Cc: Jeffrey Sturchio (b) (6) >; David Morens (b) (6) >; Keusch, Gerald T (b) (6)
Aleksei Chmura (b) (6)
Subject: RE: HOTEZ PARAGRAPHS Important caveat: Potential response to the PNAS paper - initial thoughts as draft bullets

Peter et al.

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

Rich

Richard J. Roberts
New England Biolabs
240 County Road
Ipswich, MA 01938-2723
USA
Tel: (b) (6)
Fax: (9
email: (b) (6)

From: Peter Daszak (b) (6)
Sent: Saturday, May
To: Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6)
Cc: Jeffrey Sturch ; Roberts (b) (6) Morens <(b) (6) >;
Keusch, Gerald T (b) (6) Aleksei Chmura (b) (6)
Subject: RE: HOTEZ PARAGRAPHS Important caveat: Potential response to the PNAS paper - initial thoughts as draft bullets

EXTERNAL SENDER

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

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

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

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

Tel.: +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: Friday, May 20, 2022 3:53 PM
To: 'Hotez, Peter Jay' (b) (6)
Cc: 'Jeffrey Sturchio' 'Roberts, Ri (b) (6) Morens' (b) (6)
(b) (6) Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) >; 'Hotez, Peter Jay' <
(b) (6)
Subject: RE: HOTEZ PARAGRAPHS Important caveat: Potential response to the PNAS paper - initial thoughts as draft bullets

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

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

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

Tel.: +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: Friday, Ma
To: Peter Daszak (b) (6)
Cc: Jeffrey Sturc (b) (6) >; Roberts (b) (6) Morens (b) (6)
Keusch, Gerald T (b) (6) Aleksei Chmura (b) (6) Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6)
Subject: Re: HOTEZ PARAGRAPHS Important caveat: Potential response to the PNAS paper - initial thoughts as draft bullets

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

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

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

Baylor College of Medicine

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

University Professor, Baylor University

Faculty Fellow, Hagler Institute for Advanced Study

Senior Fellow, Scowcroft Institute of International Affairs

Texas A&M University

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

Adjunct Professor, University of Texas, School of Public Health

Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

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

Skype: (b) (6)

Linkedin Peter Hotez

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

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

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

Senior Coordinator / Executive Support: Douglas Soriano

(b) (6)

Phone: (b) (6)

Fax: 713-798-2299

MORENS_SUBPOENA_005597
MORENS_NIH_013820
REL0000482631

From: Peter Daszak <(b) (6)
Sent: Friday, May 20, 2022 12:24 PM
To: Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6)
Cc: Jeffrey Sturchio (b) (6) >; Roberts, Rich <(b) (6) David Morens <(b) (6) >; Keusch, Gerald T (b) (6) Aleksei Chmura (b) (6)
Subject: RE: Important caveat: Potential response to the PNAS paper - initial thoughts as draft bullets

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

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

MORENS_SUBPOENA_005598
MORENS_NIH_013821
REL0000482631

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

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

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

Baylor College of Medicine

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

University Professor, Baylor University

Faculty Fellow, Hagler Institute for Advanced Study

Senior Fellow, Scowcroft Institute of International Affairs

Texas A&M University

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

Adjunct Professor, University of Texas, School of Public Health

Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

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

Skype: (b) (6)

Linkedin Peter Hotez

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

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

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

Senior Coordinator / Executive Support: Douglas Soriano

(b) (6)

Phone: (b) (6)

Fax: 713-798-2299

iPhone

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

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

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

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

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

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

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

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

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

- Understanding COVID origins will require cooperation with China, not investigation of US scientists. A brief look at the history of recent emerging diseases shows that it usually takes many years to identify the reservoir hosts, the amplifier hosts, and the pathway to emergence (e.g. SARS – our paper showing bats carry SARSr-CoVs that can bind to human cells was published 12 years after the outbreak). To do this requires access to sample collection, testing and analysis within the country of origin, and cooperation with the government. Thus, investigating either a natural or a lab origin of COVID will absolutely require working with China.
- Why 'investigating US scientists' is already a witch hunt. The opinion piece calls for bipartisan independent commission that doesn't engage in a 'witch hunt'. However, we are already engaged in a witch hunt. The issue was politicized under Trump, and has led to dozens of letters from Republican members of Congress and the Senate to US scientists demanding documents and testimony, or making accusations about them to the agencies, to the DoJ, White House, and which are inevitably made public without the opportunity for US scientists to respond. Each of the allegations I have seen from Republicans against EHA are easily refuted with documentary evidence, but the volume of them, and their inflammatory nature means that responding to each is either logistically impossible, or simply amplifies these attacks. There have been NO bipartisan requests that I have seen.
- All *relevant* data have already been shared publicly or with the relevant govt. agencies. The article states that " *EHA, UNC, NIH, USAID, and other research partners have failed to disclose their activities to the US scientific community and the US public, instead declaring that they were not involved in any experiments that could have resulted in the emergence of SARS-CoV-2.*" This is simply not true. Each collaborating org has published dozens of papers on this work, in US (not Chinese) journals, uploading data to US (not Chinese) databases like Genbank. All of EHA's papers are available on our website for any member of the public to review, and have been for years. Our staff have given literally hundreds of public lectures on this work. Even after these attacks began, we

continued to publish data from our China work, e.g. the 700+ CoV sequences we published and uploaded into Genbank in 2020). Lead scientists from each collaborating organization have shared all unpublished data of relevance (i.e. related to SARSr-CoVs) with the relevant federal agencies including NIH, USAID, DoD, and the intelligence and law enforcement agencies. Sharing of these data has been voluntary, extensive and honorable. This information has not been made public, because it undermines the agencies' ability to conduct their work.

- Demanding release of private emails, files from US scientists does not help build trust in science. Demands on US scientists to release private emails, unpublished data, drafts of reports and other documents that are normally not made public does nothing to elucidate the origins of COVID. Neither does it help build trust in science at a time when our country is so divided along party lines, and where this issue has been so politicized. With social media algorithms demonstrably amplifying negative narratives, the release of private emails and drafts of later-published reports or papers, are easily used to drive and amplify these negative narratives. We have seen this played out already – with every FoIA release of emails, they are cherry-picked for partial-sentence quotes that are then misquoted, misconstrued, and published as part of (usually) right wing hit-pieces that drive the narrative of an elite group of scientists trying to make money by manipulating viruses or vaccines. They are dangerous and lead to people avoiding vaccines. In the case of EcoHealth, the release of private documents, and the narratives around them have also demonstrably been linked to death threats, white powder letters, break-ins, and hacking attempts that we have been suffering repeatedly for the past 2.5 years.
- Inability to prove a negative: We can't prove that China didn't release a virus accidently or by design – that's the nature of scientific hypothesis testing. If US scientists are forced to release emails or files that these do not show any evidence of a lab leak, they will be followed by allegations that other files are being hidden, and therefore more requests for data dumps. For example, if my emails show that China was not working on a SARS-CoV-2 virus with NIH funding, they will be followed by allegations that we used other private funding to do this work (this has already been alleged), and further requests for private emails. Meanwhile, every email, report or unpublished paper I'm forced to turn over is used over and over again by the political forces to attack science – misquoting, using innuendo and assumptions of motives.
- Furin cleavage site hypothesis is already debunked: Theories that the FCS of SARS-CoV-2 indicates lab manipulation have been widely circulated for 2 years and repeatedly debunked by leading virologists. Firstly, there is nothing novel about a wild-type virus having an FCS – they are found in influenza where they enhance virulence, and in other CoVs, including MERS-CoV, and a Rat coronavirus we discovered in China, in wildlife farms, hotels and train stations and published during 2021. There are now peer-reviewed scientific papers demonstrating that bat-CoVs closely related to SARS-CoV-2 have mutations around the site where the FCS in SARS-CoV-2 is found, that are a few mutations away from a true FCS, indicating that this could have easily evolved in nature. These mutations around the polybasic cleavage site are found in many of the viruses closely related to SARS-CoV-2 from SE Asia, and in CoVs from European bats. Other theories about the FCS being incredibly efficient at binding to human cells, or being enhanced easily in a lab, have been refuted in these and other papers.
- Inappropriate legal basis to investigate scientists when no evidence of a lab leak has been proffered: At the moment, it is a fact that there's simply no verifiable evidence whatsoever that a lab leak occurred leading to COVID-19. We have accusations from Secretary Pompeo that people at WIV were sick from COVID in November 2019, but these are allegedly classified. We have stories about the motivations of Chinese scientists in pulling down a database, not citing papers correctly, or removing genomic data from Genbank, but all of these (and all others) can be easily explained by the normal process of doing science, and each of them has occurred many times before with other labs and other circumstances. Many of us, and many other leading scientists have spent countless hours explaining why the theories around lab leaks do not amount to "evidence of a lab leak". Without this it would be massively inappropriate for federal authorities, including the OIG, the FBI or other agencies to launch official investigations into US scientists or US organizations. That's why they haven't, and that's why the public haven't been informed of any investigations.

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

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

Cheers,

Peter

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

MORENS_SUBPOENA_005603
MORENS_NIH_013826
REL0000482631

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

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

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

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

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

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

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

Tel.: +1-(b) (6)
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

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

From: Jeffrey Sturchio (b) (6)
Sent: Friday, May 20
To: Hotez, Peter J (b) (6) Peter Daszak (b) (6)
Cc: Roberts, Rich (b) (6) David Moren (b) (6) Keusch, Gerald (b) (6)
Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6)
Subject: RE: Peter Hotez' tweet and Jamie Metzl's

Peter: I think a response along the lines you suggest would be a good idea. Sachs's piece is so egregious it shouldn't be allowed to stand. Perhaps even better would be

MORENS_SUBPOENA_005604
MORENS_NIH_013827
REL0000482631

a sharp letter to the editor(s) of PNAS explaining why a retraction is necessary. As you and Peter D point out, his argument is based on a number of readily refuted erroneous assertions – it's surprising that PNAS would have published it in the first place.

As ever,
Jeff

From: Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6)
Sent: Friday, May 20, 2022 7:09 AM
To: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >
Cc: Roberts, Rich (b) (6) David Morens <(b) (6) >; Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6)
Jeffrey Sturchio (b) (6) >; Aleksei Chmura (b) (6)
Subject: Re: Peter Hotez' tweet and Jamie Metzl's

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

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

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

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

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

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

Baylor College of Medicine

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

University Professor, Baylor University

Faculty Fellow, Hagler Institute for Advanced Study

Senior Fellow, Scowcroft Institute of International Affairs

Texas A&M University

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

Adjunct Professor, University of Texas, School of Public Health

Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

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

Skype: (b) (6)

Linkedin Peter Hotez

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

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

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

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

Phone: (b) (6)

Fax: 713-798-2299

iPhone

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

I appreciate that Rich.

MORENS_SUBPOENA_005606
MORENS_NIH_013829
REL0000482631

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

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

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

Tel.: +1 (b) (6)
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

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

---

From: Roberts, Rich (b) (6) >
Sent: Thursday, May 19, 2022 8:34 PM
To: Peter Daszak (b) (6) Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6)
Cc: David Morens (b) (6) >; Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6) Jeffrey Sturchio < (b) (6) >; Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6)
Subject: RE: Peter Hotez' tweet and Jamie Metzl's

Peter:

Thanks. I intend to take this up with Jeff.

Rich

Richard J. Roberts
New England Biolabs
240 County Road
Ipswich, MA 01938-2723
USA

MORENS_SUBPOENA_005607
MORENS_NIH_013830
REL0000482631

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

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

EXTERNAL SENDER

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

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

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

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

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

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

Tel.: +1-(b) (6)
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

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

---

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

Peter:

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

Thanks

Rich

Richard J. Roberts
New England Biolabs
240 County Road
Ipswich, MA 01938-2723
USA
Tel: (b) (6)
Fax: (9
email: (b) (6)

From: Peter Daszak <(b) (6)
Sent: Thursday, May 19, 2022 5:41 PM
To: Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6)
Cc: (b) (6) (b) (6)
(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

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

MORENS_SUBPOENA_005609
MORENS_NIH_013832
REL0000482631

From: Hotez, Peter Ja (b) (6)
Sent: Thursday, M
To: Peter Daszak (b) (6)
(b) (6) (b) (6)
(b) (6) Jeffrey Sturchio <(b) (6) ; Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) >
Subject: Re: Jeff Sachs causing trouble via a PNAS article

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

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

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

Baylor College of Medicine

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

University Professor, Baylor University

Faculty Fellow, Hagler Institute for Advanced Study

Senior Fellow, Scowcroft Institute of International Affairs

Texas A&M University

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

Adjunct Professor, University of Texas, School of Public Health

Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

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

Skype: (b) (6)

Linkedin Peter Hotez

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

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

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

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

Phone: (b) (6)

Fax: 713-798-2299

iPhone

On May 19, 2022, at 4:27 PM, Peter Daszak (b) (6) wrote:

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

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

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

MORENS_SUBPOENA_005611
MORENS_NIH_013834
REL0000482631

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

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

And so on, and so forth.

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

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

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

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

Tel.: +1(b) (6)
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

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

From: Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6)
Sent: Thursday, M
To: Roberts, Rich (b) (6)
Cc: Peter Dasza (b) (6) >; David Morens (b) (6) ; Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6) Jeffrey Sturchio (b) (6) >; Aleksei Chmura <

MORENS_SUBPOENA_005612
MORENS_NIH_013835
REL0000482631

(b) (6)

Subject: Re: Jeff Sachs causing trouble via a PNAS article

How could PNAS publish this crap?

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

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

Baylor College of Medicine

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

University Professor, Baylor University

Faculty Fellow, Hagler Institute for Advanced Study

Senior Fellow, Scowcroft Institute of International Affairs

Texas A&M University

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

Adjunct Professor, University of Texas, School of Public Health

Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

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

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/

MORENS_SUBPOENA_005613
MORENS_NIH_013836
REL0000482631

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

iPhone

On May 19, 2022, at 3:54 PM, Roberts, Rich <(b) (6) > wrote:

Peter:

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

Rich

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

From: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >
Sent: Thursday, May 19, 2022 4:32 PM
To: Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6) ; David Morens <(b) (6)
Cc: Keusch, Gerald T (b) (6) ; Jeffrey Sturchio (b) (6) >; Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) Roberts, Rich (b) (6)
Subject: Jeff Sachs causing trouble via a PNAS article
Importance: High

EXTERNAL SENDER

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

we're all hiding information and need to be hung, drawn and quartered.

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

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

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

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

MORENS_SUBPOENA_005615
MORENS_NIH_013838
REL0000482631

sequence of eight amino acids on a critical part of the virus's spike protein that is identical to an amino acid sequence found in cells that line human airways.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

A Rational Choice

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.

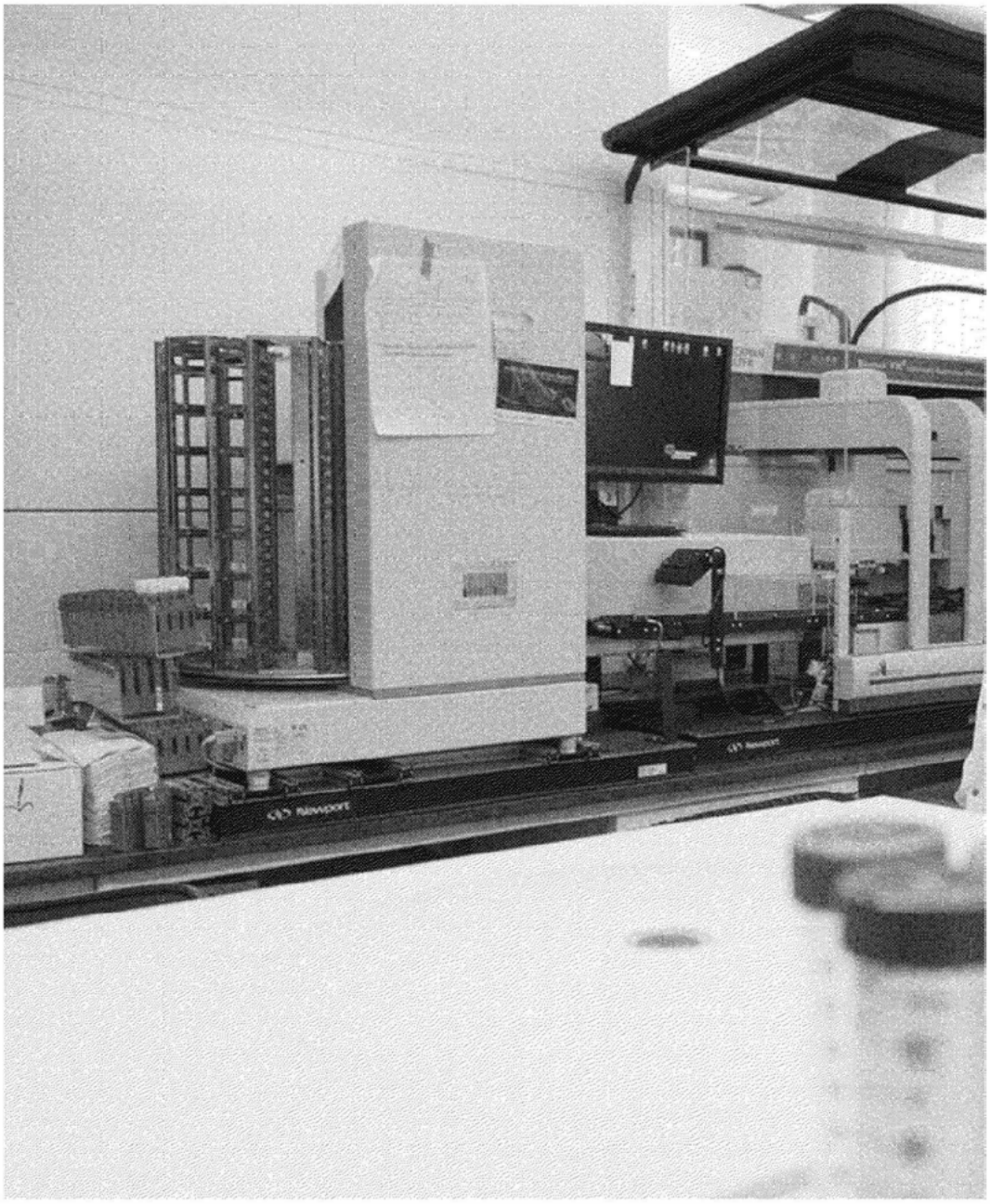
MORENS_SUBPOENA_005617
MORENS_NIH_013840
REL0000482631

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

Read Our Complete Coverage **The Coronavirus Crisis**

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

Such a choice, they point out, would have been in keeping with another viral research project on which EcoHealth Alliance, the Wuhan Institute of Virology, and UNC's Baric collaborated: a 2014 grant from the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases that involved increasing the transmissibility and pathogenicity of bat coronaviruses.



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

Photo: Christopher Janaro/Bloomberg via Getty Images

Growing List of Coincidences

The intriguing theory of viral engineering hinges on two observations: that the amino acid sequences match and that experts in both the ENaC-alpha furin cleavage site and the insertion of genetic

MORENS_SUBPOENA_005619
MORENS_NIH_013842
REL0000482631

sequences into bat coronaviruses happen to work at the same academic institution: the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill.

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

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

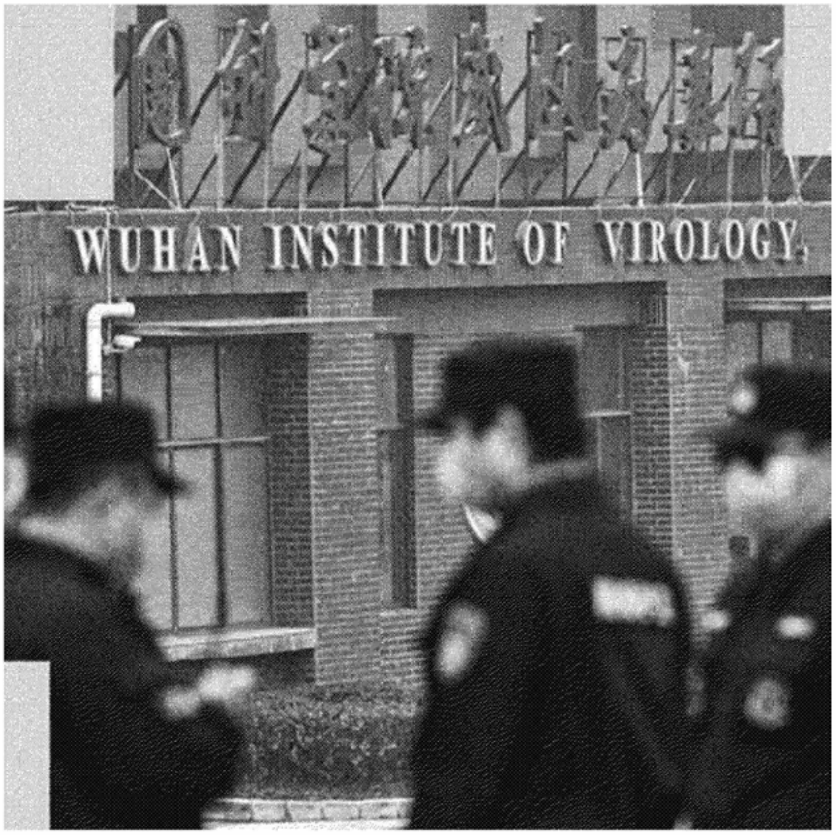
Sachs and Harrison note that the scientists who co-authored the DARPA grant proposal would have been aware of research on coronavirus furin cleavage sites, including one 2006 experiment in which a furin cleavage site was inserted into a coronavirus. "The research team would also have some familiarity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

"The list of coincidences is getting verrrrrrrrrry long."

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

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

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



Related

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

"The sequence encoding the FCS of the pandemic virus contained two consecutive CGG arginine codons," Ebright explained in his email. (A codon, or a combination of three nucleotides, supplies the genetic code for a single amino acid, though most amino acids can be

MORENS_SUBPOENA_005621
MORENS_NIH_013844
REL0000482631

represented by multiple different codons. Each nucleotide is represented by a letter for RNA, either A, C, U, or G.) "This codon usage is unusual for a natural bat SARS-related coronaviruses (for which fewer than 1 in 30 arginine codons are CGG) but is optimal for humans (for which most arginine codons are CGG codons)."

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

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

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

Photo: Kyodo via AP Images

Name Calling

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

MORENS_SUBPOENA_005623
MORENS_NIH_013846
REL0000482631

pandemic have settled into an increasingly acrimonious, coarse, and unyielding opposition.

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

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

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

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

MORENS_SUBPOENA_005624
MORENS_NIH_013847
REL0000482631

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

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

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

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

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

MORENS_SUBPOENA_005625
MORENS_NIH_013848
REL0000482631

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

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

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

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

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

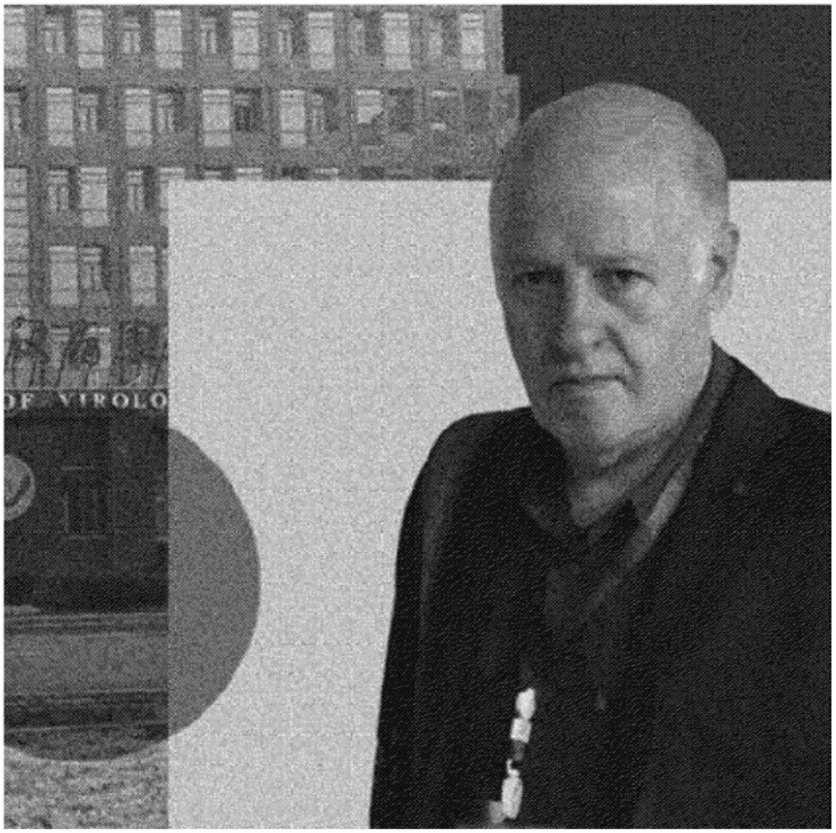
Photo: Hector Retamal/AFP via Getty Images

A Reversal

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

MORENS_SUBPOENA_005627
MORENS_NIH_013850
REL0000482631

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



Related

Peter Daszak Answers Critics and Defends Coronavirus Research

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

After leading the mainstream scientific inquiry into the origins of the

MORENS_SUBPOENA_005628
MORENS_NIH_013851
REL0000482631

pandemic, Sachs is now skewering it. “A steady trickle of disquieting information has cast a darkening cloud over the agency,” he and Harrison write of the NIH, going on to accuse the entire federal government of not doing enough to explore the possible role of its grantees in the emergence of SARS-CoV-2 and investigate “overlooked details” such as the matching amino acid sequences.

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

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

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

Tel.: +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, May 11, 2022 8:15 PM
To: David Morens <(b) (6) >
Cc: Peter Daszak (b) (6) >; Keusch, Gerald T (b) (6) Jeffrey Sturchio (b) (6) >; Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) >; Roberts, Rich <(b) (6)
Subject: Re: NY Post: NIH director confirms agency hid early COVID genes at request of Chinese scientists

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

MORENS_SUBPOENA_005629
MORENS_NIH_013852
REL0000482631

President and my boss.

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

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

Baylor College of Medicine

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

University Professor, Baylor University

Faculty Fellow, Hagler Institute for Advanced Study

Senior Fellow, Scowcroft Institute of International Affairs

Texas A&M University

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

Adjunct Professor, University of Texas, School of Public Health

Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

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

Skype: (b) (6)

Linkedin Peter Hotez

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

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

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

Senior Coordinator / Executive Support: Douglas Soriano

(b) (6)

Phone: (b) (6)

Fax: 713-798-2299

iPhone

On May 11, 2022, at 6:39 PM, David Morens (b) (6) > wrote:

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

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

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

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

On May 11, 2022, at 18:37, Peter Daszak (b) (6) > wrote:

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

Of course, NIH makes it all worse by not releasing emails, redacting critical parts of them, and failing to explain why they follow the wishes of the submitter re. Genbank. It's perfectly logical really – if NIH now starts releasing sequences you as a submitter

asked them to remove for whatever reason, submitters will think twice about using Genbank. We already have China working with its own database and all this BS will make them twice-shy about submitting.

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

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

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

From: Myles, Renate (NIH/OD
To: Carl Zimmer; Wojtowicz
Cc: Fine, Amanda (NIH/OD
Subject: RE: FW: Query from Ne
Date: Wednesday, June 23, 2

Hi Carl:

I saw your story. Just noting that it was withdrawn. Also, it didn't disa I know that Dr. Bloom is making th reporters not hype language.

Also, just to clarify, NLM conducte packages were withdrawn upon re included one requested by the sub the U.S.

Thanks,
Renate

Cheers,

Peter

MORENS_SUBPOENA_005633
MORENS_NIH_013856
REL0000482631

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: David Morens (b) (6)
Sent: Wednesday,
To: Pet rD s a (b) (6) h, Gerald T <
(b) (6) Jeffrey Sturchio (b) (6) >; Aleksei Chmura <
(b) (6) ; peter hotez (b) (6) Roberts, Rich <

Subject: Fwd: FW: NY Post: NIH director confirms agency hid early COVID genes at request of Chinese scientists

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

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

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

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

---------- Forwarded message ---------
From: **Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E]** (b) (6)
Date: Wed, May 11, 2022 at 4:54 PM
Subject: FW: NY Post: NIH director confirms agency hid early COVID genes at request of Chinese scientists
To: David Morens (b) (6) >

MORENS_SUBPOENA_005634
MORENS_NIH_013857
REL0000482631

From: Folkers, Greg (NIH/NIAID) [E] <(b) (6) >
Sent: Wednesday, May 11, 2022 4:12 PM
To: NIAID COGCORE <COGCORE@mail.nih.gov >; NIAID OCGR Leg <NIAIDOCGRLeg@mail.nih.gov >; NIAID OD AM < NIAIDODAM@niaid.nih.gov >
Subject: NY Post: NIH director confirms agency hid early COVID genes at request of Chinese scientists

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

By
Steven Nelson
May 11, 2022 3:47pm

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

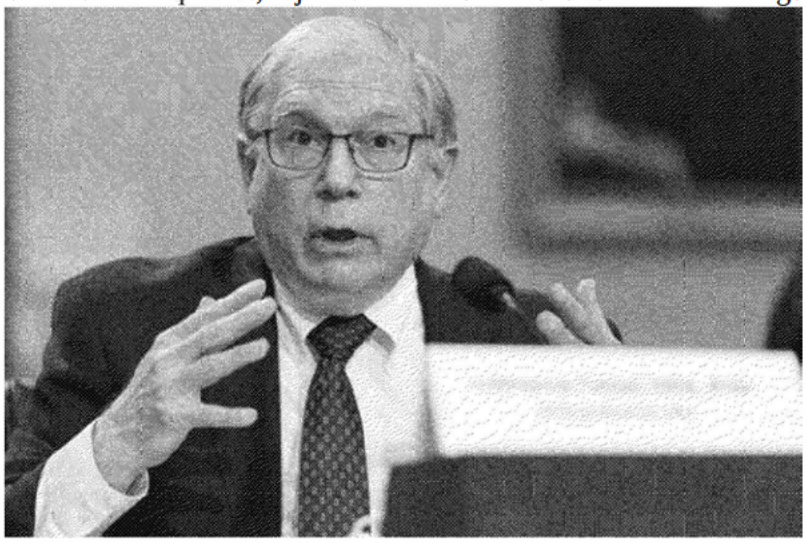
Tabak told a House Appropriations subcommittee that the NIH "eliminated from public view" the data from the pandemic epicenter in Wuhan, China, before adding that researchers can still access it via an archaic "tape drive."

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

MORENS_SUBPOENA_005635
MORENS_NIH_013858
REL0000482631

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

"That's correct," he said.

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

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

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

"So the information is still there?" Beutler summed up.

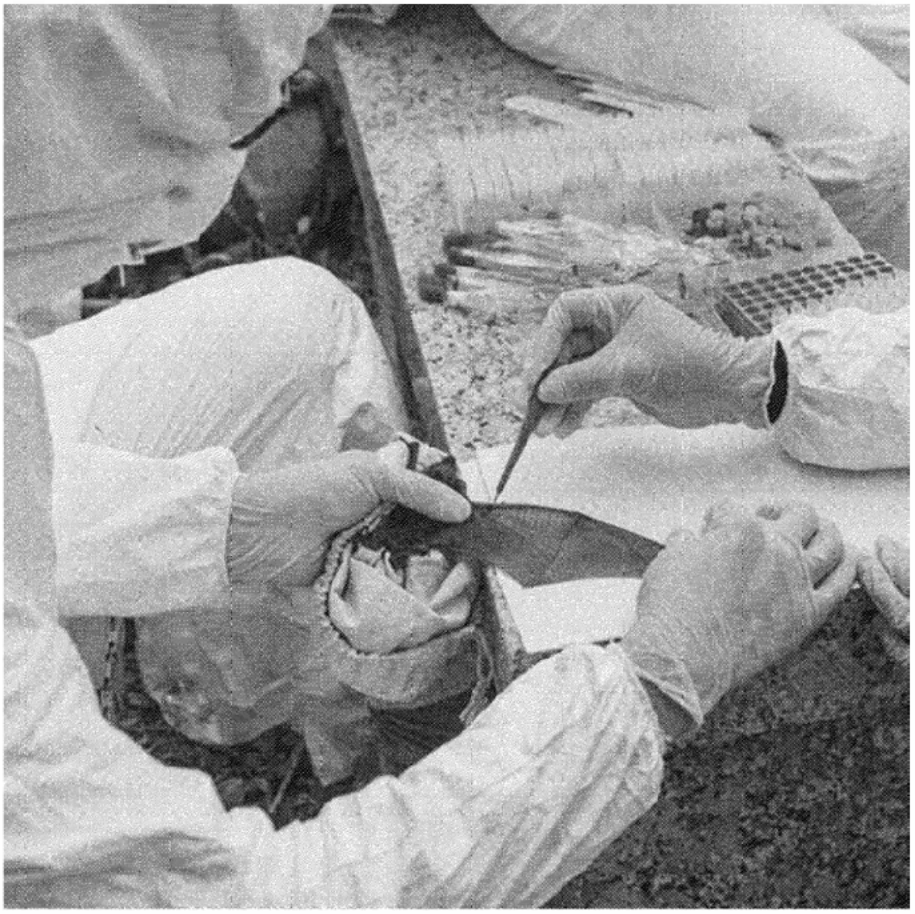
"That's correct. The information was never lost," Tabak repeated.

In a March 31 article, Vanity Fair reported that evolutionary biologist Jesse Bloom discovered last year that early COVID-19 sequences had disappeared from a federally run data repository.

When Bloom raised the issue, he was reportedly ganged up on by a group of researchers assembled by then-NIH Director Francis Collins and infectious disease institute head Dr. Anthony Fauci.

Bloom shared a draft academic paper with Collins and Fauci, who allegedly objected on a June 2021 Zoom video conference to Bloom's description of Chinese scientists "surreptitiously" removing the sequences. Fauci said the word was "loaded" and implied a coverup, the report said.

Evolutionary biologist Kristian Andersen, who was selected to participate on the call by Collins, allegedly told Bloom that the Wuhan team had a right to claw back early pandemic information and that it was unethical for Bloom to question it.



Tabak noted that while the request for information to be removed was honored, it was not erased fully.ECOHEALTH ALLIANCE

Andersen allegedly went so far as to offer to delete Bloom's article from a "preprint" server "in a way that would leave no record that this had been done."

China's government has refused to cooperate with an international investigation of the origins of the pandemic. The COVID-19 virus has killed about 1 million Americans since March 2020 and caused massive social, economic and educational disruptions.

The US intelligence community said in an August report that it's possible the virus leaked from the Wuhan Institute of Virology, calling the theory one of two "plausible" explanations along with natural transmission from animals.

Lawrence Tabak confirmed Wednesday that early genomic sequences of COVID-19 were concealed at the request of Chinese specialists.
Jacquelyn Martin/AP

President Biden rarely speaks publicly about wanting China to be transparent about the origins of the pandemic. Former President Donald Trump, by contrast, has demanded that China pay $10 trillion in reparations.

The Biden administration is considering undoing some of Trump's tariffs on Chinese goods "separately" from US pressure for coronavirus transparency, White House press secretary Jen Psaki told The Post on Monday.

Documents published in September by The Intercept revealed that US health officials indirectly funded so-called "gain of function" research at the Wuhan lab — including the modification three bat coronaviruses distinct from COVID-19 and the discovery that they became much more infectious among "humanized" mice when human-type receptors were added to them.

Disclaimer: Any third-party material in this email has been shared for internal use under fair use provisions of U.S. copyright law, without further verification of its accuracy/veracity. It does not necessarily represent my views nor those of NIAID, NIH, HHS, or the U.S. government.

Disclaimer

This communication, together with any attachment, may contain confidential and/or proprietary information (including without limitation copyright material and/or other intellectual property) and is intended only for the person(s) and/or entity(ies) to whom it is addressed. If you are not the intended recipient of this communication, or if you received it in error, you should not disseminate, distribute or copy this communication and you are asked to kindly delete it and promptly notify us. Any copying, use, disclosure or distribution of any part of this communication or taking any action in reliance on the contents of this communication, unless duly authorized by or on behalf of EcoHealth Alliance, is strictly prohibited and may be unlawful.

Disclaimer

This communication, together with any attachment, may contain confidential and/or proprietary information (including without limitation copyright material and/or other intellectual property) and is intended only for the person(s) and/or entity(ies) to whom it is addressed. If you are not the intended recipient of this communication, or if you received it in error, you should not disseminate, distribute or copy this communication and you are asked to kindly delete it and promptly notify us. Any copying, use, disclosure or distribution of any part of this communication or taking any action in reliance on the contents of this communication, unless duly authorized by or on behalf of EcoHealth Alliance, is strictly prohibited and may be unlawful.

Disclaimer

This communication, together with any attachment, may contain confidential and/or proprietary information (including without limitation copyright material and/or other intellectual property) and is intended only for the person(s) and/or entity(ies) to whom it is addressed. If you are not the intended recipient of this communication, or if you received it in error, you should not disseminate, distribute or copy this communication and you are asked to kindly delete it and promptly notify us. Any copying, use, disclosure or distribution of any part of this communication or taking any action in reliance on the contents of this communication, unless duly authorized by or on behalf of EcoHealth Alliance, is strictly prohibited and may be unlawful.

Disclaimer

This communication, together with any attachment, may contain confidential and/or proprietary information (including without limitation copyright material and/or other intellectual property) and is intended only for the person(s) and/or entity(ies) to whom it is addressed. If you are not the intended recipient of this communication, or if you received it in error, you should not disseminate, distribute or copy this communication and you are asked to kindly delete it and promptly notify us. Any copying, use, disclosure or distribution of any part of this communication or taking any action in reliance on the contents of this communication, unless duly authorized by or on behalf of EcoHealth Alliance, is strictly prohibited and may be unlawful.

Disclaimer

This communication, together with any attachment, may contain confidential and/or proprietary information (including without limitation copyright material and/or other intellectual property) and is intended only for the person(s) and/or entity(ies) to whom it is addressed. If you are not the intended recipient of this communication, or if you received it in error, you should not disseminate, distribute or copy this communication and you are asked to kindly delete it and promptly notify us. Any copying, use, disclosure or distribution of any part of this communication or taking any action in reliance on the contents of this communication, unless duly authorized by or on behalf of EcoHealth Alliance, is strictly prohibited and may be unlawful.

Disclaimer

This communication, together with any attachment, may contain confidential and/or proprietary information (including without limitation copyright material and/or other intellectual property) and is intended only for the person(s) and/or entity(ies) to whom it is addressed. If you are not the intended recipient of this communication, or if you

received it in error, you should not disseminate, distribute or copy this communication and you are asked to kindly delete it and promptly notify us. Any copying, use, disclosure or distribution of any part of this communication or taking any action in reliance on the contents of this communication, unless duly authorized by or on behalf of EcoHealth Alliance, is strictly prohibited and may be unlawful.

Disclaimer

This communication, together with any attachment, may contain confidential and/or proprietary information (including without limitation copyright material and/or other intellectual property) and is intended only for the person(s) and/or entity(ies) to whom it is addressed. If you are not the intended recipient of this communication, or if you received it in error, you should not disseminate, distribute or copy this communication and you are asked to kindly delete it and promptly notify us. Any copying, use, disclosure or distribution of any part of this communication or taking any action in reliance on the contents of this communication, unless duly authorized by or on behalf of EcoHealth Alliance, is strictly prohibited and may be unlawful.

Disclaimer

This communication, together with any attachment, may contain confidential and/or proprietary information (including without limitation copyright material and/or other intellectual property) and is intended only for the person(s) and/or entity(ies) to whom it is addressed. If you are not the intended recipient of this communication, or if you received it in error, you should not disseminate, distribute or copy this communication and you are asked to kindly delete it and promptly notify us. Any copying, use, disclosure or distribution of any part of this communication or taking any action in reliance on the contents of this communication, unless duly authorized by or on behalf of EcoHealth Alliance, is strictly prohibited and may be unlawful.

Disclaimer

This communication, together with any attachment, may contain confidential and/or proprietary information (including without limitation copyright material and/or other intellectual property) and is intended only for the person(s) and/or entity(ies) to whom it is addressed. If you are not the intended recipient of this communication, or if you received it in error, you should not disseminate, distribute or copy this communication and you are asked to kindly delete it and promptly notify us. Any copying, use, disclosure or distribution of any part of this communication or taking any action in reliance on the contents of this communication, unless duly authorized by or on behalf of EcoHealth Alliance, is strictly prohibited and may be unlawful.

Date: Fri, 3 May 2024 2:25:27 PM -0400
Sent: Fri, 3 May 2024 2:25:00 PM -0400
Subject: RE: Post by Prof Peter Hotez MD PhD on X
From: Peter Daszak <(b) (6)
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 (b) (6)
Attachments: image002.png

Thanks Rich, I will and I'm working hard to fight back every way I can. It's exasperating and exhausting…

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: Roberts, Rich (b) (6)
Sent: Friday, May 3, 2024 1:21 PM
To: Peter Daszak (b) (6)
Cc: Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6) ; Aleksei Chmura (b) (6) >; Jeffrey Sturchio < (b) (6) Gerald Keusch <(b) (6) Keith Martin (b) (6) ; DavidMorens <

rof Peter Hotez MD PhD on X

Peter:

Keep your chin up. We will do everything we can to help.

Rich

Richard J. Roberts
New England Biolabs
240 County Road
Ipswich, MA 01938-2723
USA
Tel (b) (6)
Fax: (978) 412 9910
email: (b) (6)

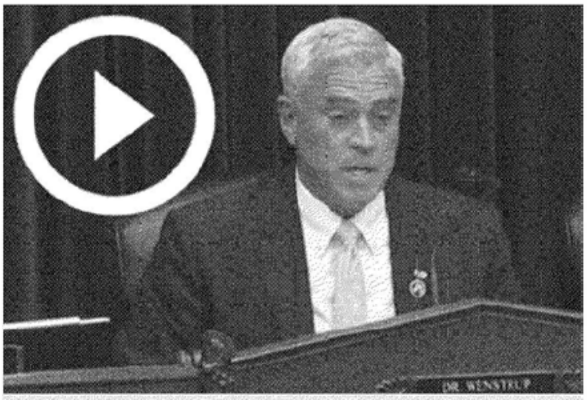
Executive Assistant: (b) (6)
Tel (b) (6)
Fax: (978) 412 9910
email (b) (6)

From: Peter Dasza (b) (6)
Sent: Friday, May 3, 2024 1:12 PM
To: Roberts, Ric (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 <
Re: Post by Prof Peter Hotez MD PhD on X

EXTERNAL SENDER

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."



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
240County Road
Ipswich, MA 01938-2723
USA
Tel: (b) (6)
Fax: (978) 412 9910
email: (b) (6)

Executive Assistant: (b) (6)
Tel: (b) (6)
Fax: (978) 412 9910
email: (b) (6)

From: Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6)
Sent: 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 Keusc (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

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)

Date: Tue, 28 Jun 2022 9:43:54 AM -0400
Sent: Tue, 28 Jun 2022 9:43:48 AM -0400
Subject: RE: COVID-19 Commission: Need approval of minor edits after first peer review
From: "Roberts, Rich" <(b) (6)
To: David Morens <(b) (6) >; Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6) >;
CC: Gerald T Keusch <(b) (6) >; Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) >; Jeffrey Sturchio <(b) (6) Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >;
Attachments: image001.png

I agree. Jeff Sachs is really proving to be quite a menace on this.

Rich

Richard J. Roberts
New England Biolabs
240 County Road
Ipswich, MA 01938-2723
USA
Tel (b) (6)
Fax: (978) 412 9910
email: (b) (6)

From: David Morens <(b) (6)
Sent: Tuesday, June 28, 2022 9:21 AM
To: Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6)
Cc: Gerald T Keusch <(b) (6) Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) Jeffrey Sturchio <(b) (6) Peter Daszak <(b) (6) Roberts, Rich <(b) (6)
Subject: Re: COVID-19 Commission: Need approval of minor edits after first peer review

EXTERNAL SENDER

Peter, excellent answer but Jeff seems to have gone crazy over this. The guy is a real menace. Amnd when did he ever get a degree in virology? Annoying to the max. d

Sent from my iPhone
David M Morens
OD, NIAID, NIH

On Jun 28, 2022, at 09:06, Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6) wrote:

Jeff's response and my response to Jeff

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP
Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine
Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology
Health Policy Scholar
Baylor College of Medicine

Texas Children's Hospital Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics
Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development

University Professor, Baylor University

Faculty Fellow, Hagler Institute for Advanced Study

Senior Fellow, Scowcroft Institute of International Affairs
Texas A&M University
Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty and Adjunct Professor of Bioengineering, Rice University
Adjunct Professor, University of Texas, School of Public Health

Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

E-mail (b) (6)
Twitter: @peterhotez
Skype: (b) (6)
Linkedin Peter Hotez

Amazon Author Center: https://www.amazon.com/Peter- J.-Hotez/e/B001HPIC48
Daily Beast Contributor https://www.thedailybeast.com/author/peter- j-hotez
Like us on Facebook https://www.facebook.com/BCMNationalSchoolOfTropicalMedicine/

Senior Coordinator / Executive Support: Douglas Soriano
(b) (6)
Phone: (b) (6)
Fax: 713-798-2299

iPhone
Begin forwarded message:

From: "Hotez, Peter Jay" (b) (6) >
Date: June 28, 2022 at 8:02:33 AM CDT
To: Jeffrey Sachs <(b) (6)
Cc: Juliana Bartels (b) (6) >, "Gaspar, Vitor" (b) (6) nabou, Genet" <
(b) (6) iarte, Maria Choyette Umali (b) (6) ejandro Gaviria <
(b) (6) >, Gaviria Uribe Alejandro , "Bottazzi, Maria Elena"
(b) (6) Lara Aknin (b) (6) Chandrika Bahadur
(b) (6) >, Lauren Barredo (b) (6) >, Chris Bullen <
(b) (6) (b) (6) >, Andrew Haines (b) (6)
Neena Joshi <(b) (6) , Ozge Karadag Karadag (b) (6) , Phoebe Koundouri <
(b) (6) Gabriela (b) (6) , "Morales, Andrés (b) (6)
(b) (6) Francesca Colombo (b) (6) >, Guillaume Lafortune <
(b) (6) >, Jeff Sachs <(b) (6) >, Yanis Ben Amor <
(b) (6) >, Emma Torres (b) (6) -Adjei <
(b) (6) >, Uyen Kim Huynh (b) (6) , Vaira Vike Freiberga <
(b) (6) (b) (6) Kirsten Brosbøl (b) (6)
(b) (6) (b) (6) , John Thwaites <
(b) (6) , Jong-Koo Lee <(b) (6) Booyuel Kim <
(b) (6) Muhammad Ali Pate <(b) (6) Miriam Khamadi Were <
(b) (6) (b) (6) (b) (6)
Felipe Larrain Bascuña (b) (6) Susan Michie (b) (6) Jeffrey Lazarus <
(b) (6) >, Margaret Hellard (b) (6) >, Shweta Khandelwal <
(b) (6) , "Bagenal, Jessamy (ELS-LOW)" (b) (6) >
ission: Need approval of minor edits after first peer review

MORENS_SUBPOENA_007142
MORENS_NIH_016288
REL0000482649

Yes Jeff, we discussed this at length and we agreed to send this out for peer review - with the understanding that the manuscript would be modified pending the comments. Now that a referee agrees with my assessment, this needs to be addressed in a forthright manner. My recommendation is that you accept the referee's criticism by stating that at least one of the Commissioners agrees and the language in the document has been modified accordingly. That's the only honest answer I can think of. It will also protect the entire LC from future backlash from the virology community.

One way to go is to add a sentence, that there was not consensus in your statement giving equal weight to zoonotic spillover vs lab leak GOF research and at least one of the Commissioners feels that body of scientific evidence overwhelmingly supports the former. This is a simple statement of truth and one that would give our document greater intellectual heft.

Thank you! Peter

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP
Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine
Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology
Health Policy Scholar
Baylor College of Medicine

Texas Children's Hospital Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics
Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development

University Professor, Baylor University

Faculty Fellow, Hagler Institute for Advanced Study
Senior Fellow, Scowcroft Institute of International Affairs
Texas A&M University
Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty and Adjunct Professor of Bioengineering, Rice University
Adjunct Professor, University of Texas, School of Public Health

Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

E-mail: (b) (6)
Twitter:
Skype: (b) (6)
Linkedin Peter Hotez

Amazon Author Center: https://www.amazon.com/Peter- J.-Hotez/e/B001HPIC48
Daily Beast Contributor https://www.thedailybeast.com/author/peter- j-hotez
Like us on Facebook https://www.facebook.com/BCMNationalSchoolOfTropicalMedicine/

Senior Coordinator / Executive Support: Douglas Soriano
(b) (6)
Phone: (b) (6)
Fax: 71

MORENS_SUBPOENA_007143
MORENS_NIH_016289
REL0000482649

iPhone

On Jun 28, 2022, at 7:50 AM, Jeffrey Sachs (b) (6) > wrote:

Dear Peter,

We have already discussed this at length and agreed long ago not to state relative probabilities.

Our report is balanced, measured, and circumspect. I will revise the sentence to reflect that we had a session with top scientists and that as Chair I consulted extensively on the topic (after the chronic lying by Daszak and duplicity of other TF members).

> Response: Thank you for this feedback. The Chair conducted extensive consultations on this issue with independent experts and the Commission hosted a session with a group of international experts who advised us clearly and cogently that it is not possible nor prudent to place estimates of feasibility or likelihood on either scenario, so we have left the manuscript as it is without implying either scenario is more likely. Both scenarios should be taken seriously.

Sadly, you didn't attend the session because you told me late that you simply had too much work to do. Moreover, I invited Mike Worobey just as you requested, and he also cancelled without a single word of explanation before or after!

As my co-authored PNAS article explains, I believe that NIH and EHA have behaved very badly in this matter, opposing transparency at every step.

Jeff

Sent from my iPhone

> On Jun 28, 2022, at 1:35 AM, Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6) wrote:
>
> Dear Juliana, thank you for your email. I accept the responses except for one, for which I agree with the referee and disagree with Jeff's response:
>
> *2. Pages 25-28. The current manuscript implies that these 2 hypotheses have a 50:50 relationship. In my opinion, both natural spillover and lab escape hypotheses are feasible. But the current evidences do not support that they have equal likelihood. Several evidences suggest that SARS-CoV-2 is a product of natural virus recombinations. I entirely agree that SARS-CoV-2 can be THEORETICALLY generated in a lab. But there is hardly any direct evidence to show such work has been conducted. There is no solid evidence to show that was lab accidents or lab escape event in Wuhan.*
>
> Response: Thank you for this feedback. We conducted meetings with a group of international experts on this subject, who informed us that it is not possible nor prudent to place estimates of feasibility or likelihood on either scenario, so we have left the manuscript as it is without implying either scenario is more likely. Both scenarios should be taken seriously.
>
> This is not a 50:50 situation by any means, in fact the outrage from the community of virologists after Jeff's recent PNAS paper on the subject should be a wakeup call to the dangers of citing false equivalency.

Also, Jeff's response is not true. We did not conduct meetings with international experts, he organized a single meeting with unqualified scientists from other fields. Therefore, this language must be altered to both accommodate the referee and reflect the reality that the lab generated hypothesis remains viable but unlikely.

Many thanks, Peter

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP
Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine
Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology
Health Policy Scholar
Baylor College of Medicine

Texas Children's Hospital Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics
Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development

University Professor, Baylor University

Faculty Fellow, Hagler Institute for Advanced Study
Senior Fellow, Scowcroft Institute of International Affairs
Texas A&M University
Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty and Adjunct Professor of Bioengineering, Rice University
Adjunct Professor, University of Texas, School of Public Health

Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

E-mail: (b) (6)
Twitter: @peterhotez
Skype: (b) (6)
Linkedin Peter Hotez

Amazon Author Center: https://www.amazon.com/Peter-J.-Hotez/e/B001HPIC48
Daily Beast Contributor https://www.thedailybeast.com/author/peter-j-hotez
Like us on Facebook https://www.facebook.com/BCMNationalSchoolOfTropicalMedicine/

Senior Coordinator / Executive Support: Douglas Soriano
(b) (6)
Phone (b) (6)
Fax: 713-798-2299

MORENS_SUBPOENA_007145
MORENS_NIH_016291
REL0000482649

From: Juliana Bartels (b) (6)
Sent: Monday, Ju
To: Gaspar, Vit (b) (6) Zinabou, Genet (b) (6) aria
Choyette Umali (b) (6) Gaviria (b) (6)
Gaviria Uribe Alejandr (b) (6) >; Bottazzi, Maria Ele (b) (6)
>; Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6) Salim.Abd rg <
(b) (6) ; Lara Aknin <(b) (6) Bahadur <
Laure (b) (6) ; Chris Bullen <
(b) (6) ; gaby cuevas (b) (6) drew Haines <
>; Neena Joshi (b) (6) ; Ozge Karadag Karadag <
(b) (6) ; Phoebe Koundouri (b) (6) Gabriela <
(b) (6)
(b) (6) me Lafortune <
(b) (6) ; Jeff Sachs (b) (6) ; Yanis Ben Amor <
(b) (6) ; Emma Torres (b) (6) djei <
(b) (6) <
; Uyen Kim Huy
(b) (6)
(b) (6)
(b) (6) o
Cadena (b) (6) hn Thwaites (b) (6) ;
J (b) (6) ; Booyuel Kim (b) (6) Pate
(b) (6) (b) (6) <
(b) (6)
>; Marissa VanKy <
(b) (6) Felipe La (b) (6) Susan Michie <
(b) (6) zarus (b) (6)
(b) (6) >; Shweta Khandelwal (b) (6) ;
Bagenal, Jessamy ((b) (6)
Cc: Juliana Bartels (b) (6)
Subject: COVID-19 Commission: Need approval of minor edits after first peer review

*****CAUTION:*** This email is not from a BCM Source. Only click links or open attachments you know are safe.**

Dear All,

We are pleased to let you know that we have received positive responses from our peer reviewers on the Final Report of the Lancet COVID-19 Commission. We have made minimal updates and changes in phrasing to reflect their suggestions.

We require your **urgent approval** of the **updated version of the manuscript**, attached in both clean and tracked changes versions. We have also attached the drafted point-by-point response to referee comments for your review.

At this stage, we ask that you kindly do not send any changes other than urgent and very minor corrections.

Thank you, and please let me know if you have any questions!

Julie

--

Juliana Bartels (she/her)
Special Assistant to the Director
Center for Sustainable Development
The Earth Institute, Columbia University
475 Riverside Drive | Interchurch | New York, NY 10115
(b) (6)

MORENS_SUBPOENA_007146
MORENS_NIH_016292
REL0000482649

Date: Mon, 27 Sep 2021 11:14:45 AM -0400
Sent: Mon, 27 Sep 2021 11:14:42 AM -0400
Subject: RE: Urgent - Amendment to defund EcoHealth Alliance was passed by the House last night and now moves to the Senate
From: "Keusch, Gerald T" <(b) (6)
To: Roberts, Rich <(b) (6) Peter Daszak <(b) (6) David Morens <(b) (6)
CC: Robert Kessler <(b) (6)

Thanks Rich,

I have a call set up with Tony for this afternoon. My approach is invoke the memory of our shared mentor, Shelley Wolff, who would never keep quiet when the integrity of science itself was at stake, not to the exclusion of Peter of course. It is Peter who is under attack, which means all of us and all of science is under attack. If ever there was a time for NIH to restore Peter's grant this is it.

Jerry

From: Roberts, Rich <(b) (6)
Sent: Monday, September 27, 2021 12:11 AM
To: Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6) Peter Daszak <(b) (6) David Morens <(b) (6) >
Cc: Robert Kessler <(b) (6) >
Subject: RE: Urgent - Amendment to defund EcoHealth Alliance was passed by the House last night and now moves to the Senate

Hi:

Letter sent to Harold, Tony, Eric, Francis and a staff member of Senator Ed. Markey.

Rich

Richard J. Roberts
New England Biolabs
240 County Road
Ipswich, MA 01938-2723
USA
Tel: (b) (6)
Fax: (978) 412 9910
email: (b) (6)

From: Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6)
Sent: Friday, September 24, 2021 9:05 PM
To: Peter Daszak (b) (6) ; David Morens (b) (6) >; Roberts, Rich < (b) (6)
Cc: Robert Kessler (b) (6) >
Subject: RE: Urgent - Amendment to defund EcoHealth Alliance was passed by the House last night and now moves to the Senate

EXTERNAL SENDER

I'm going to contact my congressional representative and senators, and Tony Fauci and Victor Dzau as well.

If Rich gets in touch with Harold that could help some, at least with Eric Lander who sits in the cabinet and has the ear of the

White House leadership.

Jerry

Gerald T. Keusch, M.D.
Professor of Medicine
Associate Director
National Emerging Infectious Diseases Laboratory
Boston University, Boston MA 02118

From: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >
Sent: Friday, Septem
To: David Morens <(b) (6) h, Gerald T(b) (6) Roberts, Rich (b) (6)
Cc: Robert Kessler <(b) (6)
Subject: FW: Urgent - Amendment to defund EcoHealth Alliance was passed by the House last night and now moves to the Senate
Importance: High

Dear Robert, David, and Jerry,

Sorry to send this, but please read the email below and you'll see that a bill filed by a Republican congressman from PA then became a single line amendment attached to the Defense Appropriations bill, and actually passed the House last night.

We're very worried here because we rely on Federal funding and this puts our organization in great threat. Any advice is welcome. We're reaching out to Senators Gillibrand and Schumer, but I'm really worried that if they are too busy to get involved for a small non-profit with no political clout, we'll be drummed out of business.

If you have colleagues who know how to deal with this sort of issue, and are willing to help, we would be extremely grateful for any advice, suggestions and support. I realize you've all spent social and political capital helping our organization since we were first targeted by Pres. Trump, but this is truly an existential threat to us, considering 80-90% of our budget is from federal grants and contracts.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

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: Friday, September 24, 2021
To: (b) (6) >; 'Ruiz, Gilbert (Gillibrand)' <
(b) (6)

MORENS_SUBPOENA_010841
MORENS_NIH_021399
REL0000482652

Cc: Aleksei Chmur (b) (6) ; Robert Kessler (b) (6) >; Jeff Sturchio (b) (6)

Subject: Urgent - Amendment to defund EcoHealth Alliance was passed by the House last night and now moves to the Senate
Importance: High

Dear Jamison and Gilbert,

You were kind enough to talk with us a couple of months ago about attacks on our New York City-based 501c3 non-profit from the hard right wing regarding the work we've done in the past trying to protect us from new emerging diseases coming out of China and other hotspots. As you remember, this work was largely funded by NIH, DoD and USAID and has become a target for Republican-led attacks on the Biden administration.

We're very concerned that one of the House Republicans, Congressman Reschenthaler, filed a bill titled HR591 "Defund EcoHealth Alliance Bill" in Jan. 2021 and managed to get this attached as Amendment 148 to the National Defense Authorization Act (HR 4350). The five other co-sponsors are all Republicans: Van Drew, Perry, Harshbarger, Keller, and Budd: https://rules.house.gov/bill/117/hr- 4350. The House passed the NDAA last night (https://armedservices.house.gov/ndaa) and unfortunately this Amendment is now progressing with it.

EcoHealth Alliance is a non-profit based in Midtown Manhattan that employs around 50 people whose jobs depend on the funding we receive each year. If this amendment continues forwards, we stand to all lose our jobs and close down the organization. This amendment is based on a false premise that our organization acted wrongly and was involved in the origin of the COVID pandemic. In fact it's the opposite, we worked with federal approval to help protect US citizens against this and other pandemic risks. If passed, it would penalize an organization doing public good, without any due process or consideration of the facts. Also of great concern is that this amendment would set a precedent that any single member of Congress can specifically block funding to an organization or institution through a simple amendment, bypassing all political norms.

We are urgently hoping that you will be able to make Sen. Gillibrand aware of our issue and move to strike out this amendment at the first possible opportunity. We are at this point very worried for our staff, and our work around the world protecting the US against the next pandemic.

Yours sincerely,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: +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, July 1
To: Jamison, Brooke (Gillibrand) (b) (6) Ruiz, Gilbert (Gillibrand) <(b) (6)
Cc: Dennis Carroll (b) (6) Aleksei Chmur (b) (6) >; Robert Kessler <

MORENS_SUBPOENA_010842
MORENS_NIH_021400
REL0000482652

(b) (6)

Subject: RE: Concerns about political attacks on EcoHealth Alliance around COVID origins.

That would be perfect. It'll be me, our chief of staff Aleksei Chmura, and our Communications Director Robert Kessler.

Thanks for making time!

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: +1-(b) (6)
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

---

From: Jamison, Brooke (Gillibrand) (b) (6)
Sent: Thursday, Jul
To: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >; Ruiz, Gilbert (b) (6)
Cc: _____ leksei Chmura <(b) (6) >; Robert Kessler <
(b) (6)

itical attacks on EcoHealth Alliance around COVID origins.

Happy to chat. Would Monday at 2:30pm over zoom work for you all?

From: Peter Daszak (b) (6)
Sent: Wednesday, July 14, 2021
To: Jamison, Broo (b) (6) _____
Cc: (b) (6) _____ >; Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) g >; Robert Kessler <
(b) (6)
Subject: Concerns about political attacks on EcoHealth Alliance around COVID origins.
Importance: High

Dear Brooke,

I hope you don't mind me contacting you directly – I was given your email address by my colleague Dennis Carroll.

As you may know, I'm the President of EcoHealth Alliance, based here in NYC, and also Chair of the NASEM Forum on Microbial Threats and member of the National Academy of Medicine. I mentioned the latter, because I received a very kind letter from Senator Gillibrand when I was voted onto the NAM a couple of years ago – it's now framed on my wall!

You may have heard our organization's name (EcoHealth Alliance) and mine being mentioned in the press recently in the general discussion of identifying the origins of COVID-19. For the last 17 years, we've worked closely with colleagues in China to get ahead of emerging viruses, including by collaborating with their premier virologists at the Wuhan Institute of Virology.

MORENS_SUBPOENA_010843
MORENS_NIH_021401
REL0000482652

Unfortunately, this work has become a very public target politically following over a year of conspiracy theories online that have now gone mainstream about the possibility COVID emerged as a leak from a biosafety laboratory in Wuhan. This was amplified a few weeks ago with testimony by Dr. Fauci and the release of FoIA'd emails that have put our organization in the cross-hairs of efforts to attack the current administration. This includes proposals by some minority members for bills that would significant harm our international work to prevent pandemics, as well as directly defund our organization.

I've attached a letter in Lancet that came out last week that helps provide some context of the way this issue is being viewed by serious scientists, but as you can imagine we're worried about the impact on work that we believe is critical to preventing future pandemics. I wondered if you would be interested in my giving you a short briefing on this issue, to explain in more detail what the evidence behind these theories is, and to get your take on the political issues we are concerned about?

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: +1-(b) (6)
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

Disclaimer

The information contained in this communication from the sender is confidential. It is intended solely for use by the recipient and others authorized to receive it. If you are not the recipient, you are hereby notified that any disclosure, copying, distribution or taking action in relation of the contents of this information is strictly prohibited and may be unlawful.

This email has been scanned for viruses and malware, and may have been automatically archived by Mimecast, a leader in email security and cyber resilience. Mimecast integrates email defenses with brand protection, security awareness training, web security, compliance and other essential capabilities. Mimecast helps protect large and small organizations from malicious activity, human error and technology failure; and to lead the movement toward building a more resilient world. To find out more, visit our website.

Disclaimer

The information contained in this communication from the sender is confidential. It is intended solely for use by the recipient and others authorized to receive it. If you are not the recipient, you are hereby notified that any disclosure, copying, distribution or taking action in relation of the contents of this information is strictly prohibited and may be unlawful.

This email has been scanned for viruses and malware, and may have been automatically archived by Mimecast, a leader in email security and cyber resilience. Mimecast integrates email defenses with brand protection, security awareness training, web security, compliance and other essential capabilities. Mimecast helps protect large and small organizations from malicious activity, human error and technology failure; and to lead the movement toward building a more resilient world. To find out more, visit our website.

Date: Thu, 21 Apr 2022 8:55:04 AM -0400
Sent: Thu, 21 Apr 2022 8:53:11 AM -0400
Subject: FW: New GAO Report on Scientific Integrity at HHS
From: Peter Daszak <(b) (6)
To: Jeff Sturchio <(b) (6) Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6) Roberts, Rich <(b) (6)
peter hotez <(b) (6) David Morens <(b) (6)

The GAO was asked by the Biden administration to look into political interference in science by the white house under Trump. They interviewed me repeatedly last year and this year about the termination of our R01 grant.

https://www.gao.gov/products/gao- 22-104613

This is the first report from them on the topic. It's massively disappointing, of course, because it just comes up with broad recommendations on what agencies should do to protect themselves against political interference. However, if you read the email below, this is the first of two reports, and the second one should hopefully go into more detail about the NIH actions on EcoHealth's grant.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: +1-(b) (6)
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

From: Marek, Robert J <(b) (6)
Sent: Wednesday, April 20, 2022 5:56 PM
To: (b) (6)
Subject: New GAO Report on Scientific Integrity at HHS

Dear Peter,

Thank you for participating in our report on scientific integrity at HHS. Our completed report can be accessed here. Please feel free to share it with your network and colleagues. We plan to issue an additional report that will examine the key characteristics that can insulate agencies from political interference, and how, if at all, the selected HHS agencies have experienced potential political interference while carrying out their missions.

Thank you again for your time and providing information on this important topic.

Sincerely,

Rob Marek

Disclaimer

This communication, together with any attachment, may contain confidential and/or proprietary information (including without limitation copyright material and/or other intellectual property) and is intended only for the person(s) and/or entity(ies) to whom it is addressed. If you are not the intended recipient of this communication, or if you received it in error, you should not disseminate, distribute or copy this communication and you are asked to kindly delete it and promptly notify us. Any copying, use, disclosure or distribution of any part of this communication or taking any action in reliance on the contents of this communication, unless duly authorized by or on behalf of EcoHealth Alliance, is strictly prohibited and may be unlawful.

Date: Wed, 13 Apr 2022 10:59:26 AM -0400
Sent: Wed, 13 Apr 2022 10:59:22 AM -0400
Subject: RE: The NAM are now investigating me based on some of the allegations from the Republican congressional members
From: "Roberts, Rich" <(b) (6)
To: Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6) Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6)
CC: David Morens <(b) (6) >; Jeff Sturchio <(b) (6) Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) >;

Jerry:

I can do it at or after 3:15 tomorrow.

Rich

Richard J. Roberts
New England Biolabs
240 County Road
Ipswich, MA 01938-2723
USA
Tel: (b) (6)
Fax: (9
email: (b) (6)

From: Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6)
Sent: Wednesday, April 13, 2022 10:38 AM
To: Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6)
Cc: Roberts, Rich <(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

EXTERNAL SENDER

Would tomorrow afternoon around 3-3:15 pm EDT work for a call? I can set up a Zoom link if that would be useful. I can do it at 4 but would have to alter another scheduled call. Or at 5.

Friday is OK to as long as it is before 3 pm EDT, but Peter may be traveling back to Houston.

Jerry

From: Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6)
Sent: Tuesday, A
To: Peter Daszak (b) (6)
Cc: Robe (b) (6) ; Keusch, Ge (b) (6) 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

I spoke with Richard Lifton, Charlie Rice, Michel Nussenzweig, Jeff Friedman, Cory Bargmann today about this at my Rockefeller Univ visit. They are starting to get it. In the meantime, maybe we should express our concerns to Victor?

MORENS_SUBPOENA_007168
MORENS_NIH_016327
REL0000482662

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP
Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine
Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology
Health Policy Scholar
Baylor College of Medicine

Texas Children's Hospital Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics
Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development

University Professor, Baylor University

Faculty Fellow, Hagler Institute for Advanced Study
Senior Fellow, Scowcroft Institute of International Affairs
Texas A&M University
Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty and Adjunct Professor of Bioengineering, Rice University
Adjunct Professor, University of Texas, School of Public Health

Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

E-mail: (b) (6)
Twitter:
Skype: (b) (6)
Linkedin Peter Hotez

Amazon Author Center: https://www.amazon.com/Peter- J.-Hotez/e/B001HPIC48
Daily Beast Contributor https://www.thedailybeast.com/author/peter- j-hotez
Like us on Facebook https://www.facebook.com/BCMNationalSchoolOfTropicalMedicine/

Senior Coordinator / Executive Support: Douglas Soriano
(b) (6)
(b) (6)
Fax: 71

iPhone

On Apr 12, 2022, at 4:52 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.**

Thanks all for your positive comments. I'm going through my usual phases of mourning every time a new attack happens. First it's despair, then sadness, then realization that my only option is to fight back and hope that people accept that all we've everdone at EcoHealth is follow the standard scientific process and kept our integrity through that – including not handing over information on unfunded proposals, and responding to every attack from the right wingers.

What's clear to me is that all of the normal checks and balances we rely on in our careers are managed by a small number of gatekeepers who we expect to stand up and speak out on principle when fellow scientists are treated like garbage. Some do – yourselves included. Most don't, and it seems that includes Victor Dzau, Francis Collins, Richard Horton.

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: Roberts, Rich (b) (6)
Sent: Tuesday, April 12, 2022 4:21 PM
To: Peter Daszak (b) (6) >; Keusch, Gerald T (b) (6) ; David Morens < (b) (6) ; Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6)
Cc: Jeff Sturchio (b) (6) >; Aleksei Chmura < (b) (6)
Subject: RE: The NAM are now investigating me based on so publican congressional members

Peter:

Appalling! Yet again I am glad that I am not a member of any of the Academies. They are completely toothless as well as incompetent. Almost as bad as the UN.

Happy to chat if it might help. Otherwise I will see in a couple of weeks' time.

Rich

Richard J. Roberts
New England Biolabs
240 County Road

MORENS_SUBPOENA_007170
MORENS_NIH_016329
REL0000482662

Ipswich, MA 01938-2723
USA
Tel: (b) (6)
Fax: (978) 412 9910
email: (b) (6)

From: Peter Daszak (b) (6)
Sent: Tuesday, April 12, 2022 1:14 PM
To: Keusch, Gerald T (b) (6) oberts, Rich <(b) (6) David Morens (b) (6)
Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6)
Cc: Jeff Sturchio (b) (6) >; Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) >
Subject: The NAM are now investigating me based on some of the allegations from the Republican congressional members
Importance: High

EXTERNAL SENDER

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.: +1-(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: confi

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

The information contained in this transmission is confidential information intended for the use of the individual or entity named above. If the reader of this message is not the intended recipient, you are hereby notified that any dissemination, distribution, retention or copying of this communication and its attachments is strictly prohibited. If you are not the intended recipient, please advise by return email immediately and then delete this message and all copies and backups thereof.

Disclaimer

This communication, together with any attachment, may contain confidential and/or proprietary information (including without limitation copyright material and/or other intellectual property) and is intended only for the person(s) and/or entity(ies) to whom it is addressed. If you are not the intended recipient of this communication, or if you received it in error, you should not disseminate, distribute or copy this communication and you are asked to kindly delete it and promptly notify us. Any copying, use, disclosure or distribution of any part of this communication or taking any action in reliance on the contents of this communication, unless duly authorized by or on behalf of EcoHealth Alliance, is strictly prohibited and may be unlawful.

Disclaimer

This communication, together with any attachment, may contain confidential and/or proprietary information (including without limitation copyright material and/or other intellectual property) and is intended only for the person(s) and/or entity(ies) to whom it is addressed. If you are not the intended recipient of this communication, or if you received it in error, you should not disseminate, distribute or copy this communication and you are asked to kindly delete it and promptly notify us. Any copying, use, disclosure or distribution of any part of this communication or taking any action in reliance on the contents of this communication, unless duly authorized by or on behalf of EcoHealth Alliance, is strictly prohibited and may be unlawful.

MORENS_SUBPOENA_007172
MORENS_NIH_016331
REL0000482662

Date: Fri, 21 Jul 2023 1:07:24 PM -0400
Subject: Fwd: New GAO Report on Scientific Integrity at HHS
From: David Morens <(b) (6)
To: David Morens <(b) (6)

David M. Morens, MD
(b) (6)

(b) (6) (work)
(cell)

IMPORTANT: My gmail frequently sends incoming messages to Trash, which is apparently not correctable. If you don't hear from me in a reasonable time, please try again, call, or use my NIH email address

IMPORTANT: For US Government-related email, please also reply to my NIAID address

---------- Forwarded message ---------
From: **Peter Daszak** (b) (6)
Date: Thu, Apr 21, 2022 at 9:32 AM
Subject: RE: New GAO Report on Scientific Integrity at HHS
To: Hotez, Peter J (b) (6)
Cc: Jeff Sturchio (b) (6) Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6) >, Roberts, Rich <(b) (6) (b) (6) >

Exactly – it's weak and will likely be ineffective at dealing with the pressures from the rabid Right wing.

Cheers,

Peter

MORENS_SUBPOENA_003492
MORENS_NIH_010381
REL0000482664

Peter Daszak

President

EcoHealth Alliance

520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200

New York, NY 10018-6507

USA

Tel.: +1-(b) (6)

Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org

Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

From: Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6)
Sent: Thursday, April 2
To: Peter Daszak (b) (6)
Cc: Jeff Sturchio (b) (6) Gerald (b) (6) Roberts, Rich < (b) (6) >; David Morens (b) (6)
Subject: Re: New GAO Report on S

Problem is this does not address the bigger issue of widespread attacks on science and scientists, most outside the government from the US Congress, conservative news outlets and even the federal courts

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP

Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine
Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology
Health Policy Scholar

Baylor College of Medicine

Texas Children's Hospital Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics
Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development

University Professor, Baylor University

Faculty Fellow, Hagler Institute for Advanced Study

Senior Fellow, Scowcroft Institute of International Affairs

Texas A&M University

Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty and Adjunct Professor of Bioengineering, Rice University

Adjunct Professor, University of Texas, School of Public Health

Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

E-mail: (b) (6)
Twitter: _____

Skype: (b) (6)

Linkedin Peter Hotez

Amazon Author Center: https://www.amazon.com/Peter- J.-Hotez/e/B001HPIC48

Daily Beast Contributor https://www.thedailybeast.com/author/peter- j-hotez

Like us on Facebook https://www.facebook.com/BCMNationalSchoolOfTropicalMedicine/

Senior Coordinator / Executive Support: Douglas Soriano
(b) (6)

Phone: (b) (6)

Fax: 713-798-2299

iPhone

MORENS_SUBPOENA_003494
MORENS_NIH_010383
REL0000482664

On Apr 21, 2022, at 7:55 AM, Peter Daszak (b) (6) > wrote:

*****CAUTION:*** This email is not from a BCM Source. Only click links or open attachments you know are safe.**

The GAO was asked by the Biden administration to look into political interference in science by the white house under Trump. They interviewed me repeatedly last year and this year about the termination of our R01 grant.

https://www.gao.gov/products/gao- 22-104613

This is the first report from them on the topic. It's massively disappointing, of course, because it just comes up with broad recommendations on what agencies should do to protect themselves against political interference. However, if you read the email below, this is the first of two reports, and the second one should hopefully go into more detail about the NIH actions on EcoHealth's grant.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak

President

EcoHealth Alliance

520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200

New York, NY 10018-6507

USA

Tel.: +1.(b) (6)

Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org

Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

From: Marek, Robert J (b) (6)
Sent: Wednesday, April
To: (b) (6)
Subject: New GAO Report on Scientific Integrity at HHS

Dear Peter,

Thank you for participating in our report on scientific integrity at HHS. Our completed report can be accessed here. Please feel free to share it with your network and colleagues. We plan to issue an additional report that will examine the key characteristics that can insulate agencies from political interference, and how, if at all, the selected HHS agencies have experienced potential political interference while carrying out their missions.

Thank you again for your time and providing information on this important topic.

Sincerely,

Rob Marek

Disclaimer

This communication, together with any attachment, may contain confidential and/or proprietary information (including without limitation copyright material and/or other intellectual property) and is intended only for the person(s) and/or entity(ies) to whom it is addressed. If you are not the intended recipient of this communication, or if you received it in error, you should not disseminate, distribute or copy this communication and you are asked to kindly delete it and promptly notify us. Any copying, use, disclosure or distribution of any part of this communication or taking any action in reliance on the contents of this communication, unless duly authorized by or on behalf of EcoHealth Alliance, is strictly prohibited and may be unlawful.

Disclaimer

This communication, together with any attachment, may contain confidential and/or proprietary information (including without limitation copyright material and/or other intellectual property) and is intended only for the person(s) and/or entity(ies) to whom it is addressed. If you are not the intended recipient of this communication, or if you received it in error, you should not disseminate, distribute or copy this communication and you are asked to kindly delete it and promptly notify us. Any copying, use, disclosure or distribution of any part of this communication or taking any action in reliance on the contents of this communication, unless duly authorized by or on behalf of EcoHealth Alliance, is strictly prohibited and may be unlawful.

Date: Sun, 27 Jun 2021 11:16:43 PM -0400
Sent: Sun, 27 Jun 2021 11:16:42 PM -0400
Subject: RE: News from Eddie Holmes. Re: Confidential - Re. Jeff Sachs' article on the NIH-funded work, and the Lancet COVID Commission
From: "Keusch, Gerald T" <(b) (6)
To: David Morens <(b) (6) Peter Daszak <(b) (6)
CC: peter hotez <(b) (6) Rich Roberts <(b) (6)

I think all opportunities should be taken. I have a long list of things I am doing, including contemplating a call to Jon who was in touch with me last week as he was trying to get in touch with Peter. I told him Peter was staying off line for the moment, but he will be very aware of all of these attacks and maybe he will be ready to stick his neck out a little bit. Peter H, should we think about jointly contacting Cohen or should we do it independently? I am willing to be interviewed on the record.

Jerry

Gerald T. Keusch, M.D.
Professor of Medicine
Associate Director
National Emerging Infectious Diseases Laboratory
Boston University, Boston MA 02118

From: David Morens <(b) (6)
Sent: Sunday, June 27, 2021 3:55 PM
To: Peter Daszak <(b) (6)
Cc: peter hotez <(b) (6) Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6) Rich Roberts <(b) (6)
Subject: Re: News from Eddie Holmes. Re: Confidential - Re. Jeff Sachs' article on the NIH-funded work, and the Lancet COVID Commission

what do the rest of u think? d

Sent from my iPhone
David M Morens
OD, NIAID, NIH

> On Jun 27, 2021, at 15:12, Peter Daszak <(b) (6) > wrote:
>
> I think a letter to Science, Nature, or NEJM from you all would be very well received.
>
> There's definitely room for an article that lays out succinctly why many scientists believe a natural origin is more feasible, and why exactly we can state that there is no verifiable evidence for a lab leak, and why that scenario is far less likely.
>
> It might also include some of the issues of how this is being used politically to mobilize attacks on science, and on scientists, dragging in the anti-vaxxers and using tactics developed in the anti-climate change attacks (massive over-use of FoIAs, personal attacks, media targeting specific scientists etc.).
>
> It could help start the messaging around how we mobilize against 'anti-science attacks'.
>
> Cheers,
>
> Peter
>
> **Peter Daszak**

President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: +1-(b) (6)
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

---

From: David Moren (b) (6)
Sent: Sunday, June 27, 2021 6:56 AM
To: Peter Daszak (b) (6)
Cc: peter hotez <(b) (6) Keusch, Gerald T (b) (6) Rich Roberts (b) (6)
Subject: News from Eddie Holmes. Re: Confidential - Re. Jeff Sachs' article on the NIH-funded work, and the Lancet COVID Commission

Peter, i am traveling without computer until tomorrow but can't pull up the whole Sachs article on the phone, just the op ed. Maybe when i get to my computer….

In the meantime i have been corresponding with Eddie and he wants to have a zoom this Friday. He just sent me a draft of a new review on covid origins that is very good, but asked me not to share with anyone. He is aiming to have it up online by 9 July.

Not sure how this new review will be received or whether it will change minds, but having Eddie speak out is a good thing

I am thinking this may be a time for others, some of us, to speak out again. The Trop Med piece last year was perhaps a bit too timid, in retrospect, and was in a well regarded but not high impact journal

What are your thoughts about where we might get published in a high impact journal with a commentary on some of the issues, perhaps not exclusively on just origins but on why the work must continue and why origins may never be known unless it does? david

Sent from my iPhone
David M Morens
OD, NIAID, NIH

> On Jun 26, 2021, at 16:54, Peter Daszak (b) (6) wrote:
>
> Hi David – I attached it to the email as a word doc, with my comments inserted (track changes, comments).
>
> There's another Op Ed in the Times yesterday with similar innuendo and months old conspiracies. We're working on correcting some errors on that, but most of it is just hype and causes more reputational damage for EcoHealth and me. I've attached that also as a word doc with comments from me – angry and irritated of cour
>
> Cheers,
>
> Peter

MORENS_SUBPOENA_020730
MORENS_NIH_041444
REL0000482665

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: David Morens <(b) (6) >
Sent: Saturday, Ju
To: Peter Dasz (b) (6)
Cc: peter hotez (b) (6) ; Keusch, Gerald T (b) (6) ; Rich Roberts <(b) (6)
Subject: Re: Confidential - Re. Jeff Sachs' article on the NIH-funded work, and the Lance on

peter, i seem unable to access the entire article. d

Sent from my iPhone
David M Morens
OD, NIAID, NIH

> On Jun 26, 2021, at 15:02, Peter Daszak (b) (6) wrote:
>
> Dear all,
>
> I'm talking with Peter Hotez in a bit about this article Jeff Sachs published, but as I read through it, I put in some comments about where and why it's flawed.
>
> It may or may not be of interest to you all, but I thought I'd copy you anyway, in case you see it and wondered. I apologize for my ranting in places, but I'm disgusted on many levels that he's willing to throw EcoHealth under the bus like this. The article has errors or hyped up comments in just about every paragraph. It's also extremely cynical that on one day he removes me from the Commission because of my 'competing interests', then writes a piece on it and sells it to a media outlet. He's a regular monthly contributor to the place this was published, which means he has to come up with material each month and this month is was our organization that helped make him his $1000-2000. Of course, I can't be sure how much he gets paid, but an op ed in the times or guardian is $500 and these monthly deals pay better – my former boss had a similar one.
>
> The article link is here: https://www.project-syndicate.org/onpoint/finding- the-origins-of-covid19-by-jeffrey-d-sachs-2021-06
>
> Cheers,
>
> Peter
>
> **Peter Daszak**
> *President*
>
> EcoHealth Alliance

MORENS_SUBPOENA_020731
MORENS_NIH_041445
REL0000482665

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

Disclaimer

The information contained in this communication from the sender is confidential. It is intended solely for use by the recipient and others authorized to receive it. If you are not the recipient, you are hereby notified that any disclosure, copying, distribution or taking action in relation of the contents of this information is strictly prohibited and may be unlawful.

This email has been scanned for viruses and malware, and may have been automatically archived by Mimecast, a leader in email security and cyber resilience. Mimecast integrates email defenses with brand protection, security awareness training, web security, compliance and other essential capabilities. Mimecast helps protect large and small organizations from malicious activity, human error and technology failure; and to lead the movement toward building a more resilient world. To find out more, visit our website.

Disclaimer

The information contained in this communication from the sender is confidential. It is intended solely for use by the recipient and others authorized to receive it. If you are not the recipient, you are hereby notified that any disclosure, copying, distribution or taking action in relation of the contents of this information is strictly prohibited and may be unlawful.

This email has been scanned for viruses and malware, and may have been automatically archived by Mimecast, a leader in email security and cyber resilience. Mimecast integrates email defenses with brand protection, security awareness training, web security, compliance and other essential capabilities. Mimecast helps protect large and small organizations from malicious activity, human error and technology failure; and to lead the movement toward building a more resilient world. To find out more, visit our website.

Disclaimer

The information contained in this communication from the sender is confidential. It is intended solely for use by the recipient and others authorized to receive it. If you are not the recipient, you are hereby notified that any disclosure, copying, distribution or taking action in relation of the contents of this information is strictly prohibited and may be unlawful.

This email has been scanned for viruses and malware, and may have been automatically archived by Mimecast, a leader in email security and cyber resilience. Mimecast integrates email defenses with brand protection, security awareness training, web security, compliance and other essential capabilities. Mimecast helps protect large and small organizations from malicious activity, human error and technology failure; and to lead the movement toward building a more resilient world. To find out more, visit our website.

Date: Thu, 8 Jul 2021 1:55:10 PM -0400
Sent: Thu, 8 Jul 2021 1:54:00 PM -0400
Subject: RE: BMJ: The covid-19 lab leak hypothesis: did the media fall victim to a misinformation campaign?
From: Peter Daszak <
To: Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6) David Morens <(b) (6) >;
Attachments: image001.gif; image002.jpg; image003.png

I think this is a really good move. The BMJ was a well-respected journal that also did 'news-ey' type articles for physicians, but this is just a garbage pro-lab leak innuendo-filled piece that openly attacks EcoHealth and my name. The following comments are not factual reporting – more hype and character assassination, all of them implying my intent to act nefariously:

"Daszak effectively silenced debate"

"Some of the scientists in this area very quickly closed ranks."

"Daszak's behind-the-scenes role in orchestrating the statement in the *Lancet*"

"as journalists helped to amplify Daszak's message and to silence scientific and public debate."

"This, he says, is why they began marching in unison behind Daszak."

"WHO and the *Lancet* both launched investigations last year (box 2), but Daszak was involved in both, and neither has made significant progress."

Pretty offensive stuff and a regurgitation of earlier crap written by the same author on the web. I guess BMJ gets value out of this because it directly criticizes tht Lancet – their main competitor. What a ridiculous conflict of interest they're displaying themselves!

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: Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6)
Sent: Thursday, Ju
To: Peter Daszak (b) (6) >; Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b) (6)
Subject: RE: BMJ: The covid-19 lab leak hypothesis: did the media fall victim to a misinformation campaign?

Do any of you know what has become of Peter Smith, a former editor of BMJ? I would like to

contact him about what has happened to a formerly quality journal, in fact more highly regarded than the Lancet.

Jerry

From: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >
Sent: Thursday, July 8, 2021 1:17 PM
To: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] <(b) (6) ; Keusch, Gerald T (b) (6)
Subject: RE: BMJ: The covid-19 lab leak hypothesis: did the media fall victim to a misinformation campaign?

Really disappointed they gave space to this scheister – he's been trolling the internet darkweb with lab leak theories for at least a year.

Peter Hotez commented that BMJ has been putting out anti-vaxx articles too recently…

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: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] <(b) (6)
Sent: Thursday, July 8, 2021 11:03 AM
To: Peter Daszak (b) (6)
(b) (6)
Subject: FW: BMJ: The covid-19 lab leak hypothesis: did the media fall victim to a misinformation campaign?

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)

Disclaimer: **This message is intended for the exclusive use of the recipient(s) named above. It may contain information that is PROTECTED, PRIVILEGED, and/or CONFIDENTIAL, and it should not be disseminated, distributed, or copied to persons not authorized to receive such information. All sensitive documents must be properly labeled before dissemination via email. If you are not the intended recipient, any dissemination, distribution, or copying is strictly prohibited. If you have received this communication in error, please erase all copies of the message and its attachments and notify us immediately.**

From: Folkers, Greg (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b) (6)
Sent: Thursday, July 8, 2021 10:43 AM
Subject: BMJ: The covid-19 lab leak hypothesis: did the media fall victim to a misinformation campaign?

The covid-19 lab leak hypothesis: did the media fall victim to a misinformation campaign?

BMJ 2021; 374 doi: https://doi.org/10.1136/bmj.n1656 (Published 08 July 2021) Cite this as: BMJ 2021;374:n1656 Paul D Thacker, investigative journalist

- *Madrid*

- thackerpd{at}gmail.com
  Twitter @thackerpd

The theory that SARS-CoV-2 may have originated in a lab was considered a debunked conspiracy theory, but some experts are revisiting it amid calls for a new, more thorough investigation. **Paul Thacker** explains the dramatic U turn and the role of contemporary science journalism

For most of 2020, the notion that SARS-CoV-2 may have originated in a lab in Wuhan, China, was treated as a thoroughly debunked conspiracy theory. Only conservative news media sympathetic to President Donald Trump and a few lonely reports dared suggest otherwise. But that all changed in the early months of 2021, and today most outlets across the political spectrum agree: the "lab leak" scenario deserves serious investigation.

Understanding this dramatic U turn on arguably the most important question for preventing a future pandemic, and why it took nearly a year to happen, involves understanding contemporary science journalism.

A conspiracy to label critics as conspiracy theorists

Scientists and reporters contacted by *The BMJ* say that objective consideration of covid-19's origins went awry early in the

MORENS_SUBPOENA_020848
MORENS_NIH_041613
REL0000482666

pandemic, as researchers who were funded to study viruses with pandemic potential launched a campaign labelling the lab leak hypothesis as a "conspiracy theory."

A leader in this campaign has been Peter Daszak, president of EcoHealth Alliance, a non-profit organisation given millions of dollars in grants by the US federal government to research viruses for pandemic preparedness.[1] Over the years EcoHealth Alliance has subcontracted out its federally supported research to various scientists and groups, including around $600 000 (£434 000; €504 000) to the Wuhan Institute of Virology.[1]

Shortly after the pandemic began, Daszak effectively silenced debate over the possibility of a lab leak with a February 2020 statement in the *Lancet*.[2] "We stand together to strongly condemn conspiracy theories suggesting that covid-19 does not have a natural origin," said the letter, which listed Daszak as one of 27 coauthors. Daszak did not respond to repeated requests for comment from *The BMJ*.

"It's become a label you pin on something you don't agree with," says Nicholas Wade, a science writer who has worked at *Nature*, *Science*, and the *New York Times*. "It's ridiculous, because the lab escape scenario invokes an accident, which is the opposite of a conspiracy."

But the effort to brand serious consideration of a lab leak a "conspiracy theory" only ramped up. Filippa Lentzos, codirector of the Centre for Science and Security Studies at King's College, London, told the *Wall Street Journal*, "Some of the scientists in this area very quickly closed ranks."[3] She added, "There were people that did not talk about this, because they feared for their careers. They feared for their grants."

Daszak had support. After he wrote an essay for the *Guardian* in June 2020 attacking the former head of MI6 for saying that the pandemic could have "started as an accident," Jeremy Farrar, director of the Wellcome Trust and co-signer of the *Lancet* letter, promoted Daszak's essay on Twitter, saying that Daszak was "always worth reading."[4]

Daszak's behind-the-scenes role in orchestrating the statement in the *Lancet* came to light in November 2020 in emails obtained through freedom of information requests by the watchdog group US Right To Know.

"Please note that this statement will not have EcoHealth Alliance logo on it and will not be identifiable as coming from any one organization or person," wrote Daszak in a February email, while sending around a draft of the statement for signatories.[5] In another email, Daszak considered removing his name from the statement "so it has some distance from us and therefore doesn't work in a counterproductive way."[6]

Several of the 27 scientists who signed the letter Daszak circulated did so using other professional affiliations and omitted reporting their ties to EcoHealth Alliance.[3]

For Richard Ebright, professor of molecular biology at Rutgers University in New Jersey and a biosafety expert, scientific journals were complicit in helping to shout down any mention of a lab leak. "That means *Nature*, *Science*, and the *Lancet*," he says. In recent months he and dozens of academics have signed several open letters rejecting conspiracy theory accusations and calling for an open investigation of the pandemic's origins.[7][8][9]

"It's very clear at this time that the term 'conspiracy theory' is a useful term for defaming an idea you disagree with," says Ebright, referring to scientists and journalists who have wielded the term. "They have been successful until recently in selling that narrative to many in the media."

The *Lancet*'s editor in chief, Richard Horton, did not respond to repeated requests for comment but, after *The BMJ* had sent him questions, the *Lancet* expanded Daszak's conflicts of interest on the February statement and recused him from working on its task force looking into the pandemic's origin.[10][11]

The *Lancet* letter ultimately helped to guide almost a year of reporting, as journalists helped to amplify Daszak's message and to silence scientific and public debate. "We're in the midst of the social media misinformation age, and these rumours and conspiracy theories have real consequences," Daszak told *Science*.[12] Months later in *Nature*, he again criticised "conspiracies" that the virus could have come from the Wuhan Institute of Virology and complained about "politically motivated organisations" requesting his emails.[13]

That summer *Scientific American*, one of the oldest and best known popular science magazines in America, published a complimentary profile of Daszak's colleague, Shi Zhengli, a centre director at the Wuhan Institute of Virology, which has been funded by EcoHealth Alliance.[14]

EcoHealth Alliance and the Wuhan Institute of Virology earned additional sympathetic reporting after the US National Institutes of Health (NIH) cancelled its grant to EcoHealth Alliance in April last year—allegedly on President Trump's order—because of its ties to Wuhan, a decision protested by 77 Nobel laureates and 31 scientific societies.[15] (The NIH has subsequently awarded EcoHealth Alliance new funding.)

Efforts to characterise the lab leak scenario as unworthy of serious consideration were far reaching, sometimes affecting reporting that had first appeared well before the covid-19 pandemic. For example, in March 2020 *Nature Medicine* added an editor's note ("Scientists believe that an animal is the most likely source of the coronavirus") to a 2015 paper on the creation of a hybrid version of a SARS virus, co-written by Shi.[16]

Wade explains, "Science journalists differ a lot from other journalists in that they are far less sceptical of their sources and they see their main role as simply to explain science to the public." This, he says, is why they began marching in unison behind Daszak.

The U turn

By the end of 2020, just a handful of journalists had dared to seriously discuss the possibility of a lab leak. In September, *Boston*

MORENS_SUBPOENA_020849
MORENS_NIH_041614
REL0000482666

magazine reported on a preprint that found the virus unlikely to have come from the Wuhan seafood market, as Daszak has argued, and that it seemed too well adapted to humans to have arisen naturally. However, the story failed to garner much attention, similarly to a little noticed investigative report by the Associated Press in December that exposed how the Chinese government was clamping down on research into covid-19's origins.

In January this year, *New York* magazine ran a sprawling story detailing how the pandemic could have started with a leak from the lab in Wuhan. The hypothetical scenario: "SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes covid-19, began its existence inside a bat, then it learned how to infect people in a claustrophobic mine shaft, and then it was made more infectious in one or more laboratories, perhaps as part of a scientist's well-intentioned but risky effort to create a broad-spectrum vaccine." Scientists and their media allies swiftly criticised the article.

But mainstream outlets from the *New York Times* to the *Washington Post* are now treating the lab leak hypothesis as a worthy question, one to be answered with a serious investigation. In a recent interview with the *New York Times*, Shi denied that her lab was ever involved in "gain of function" experiments (box 1) that enhance a virus's virulence. But the newspaper reported that her lab had been involved in experiments that altered the transmissibility of viruses, alongside interviews with scientists who said that far more transparency was necessary to determine the truth of SARS-CoV-2's origins.17

Box 1

What is "gain of function" research?

After two teams genetically tweaked the H5N1 avian flu virus in 2011 to make it more transmissible in mammals, biosafety experts voiced concerns about "gain of function" research—experimental research that involves altering microbes in ways that change their transmissibility, pathogenicity, or host range.

In the *Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists* in 2012, Lynn Klotz predicted an 80% chance that a leak of a potential pandemic pathogen would occur sometime in the next 12 years. Two years later a Harvard epidemiologist, Marc Lipsitch, founded the Cambridge Working Group to lobby against such experiments.

At that time, three safety lapses involving dangerous pathogens led to a safety crackdown at the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Lipsitch later argued in 2018 that the release of such a pathogen would "lead to global spread of a virulent virus, a biosafety incident on a scale never before seen."

Gain of function research was briefly paused because of these concerns, although critics debate as to when it restarted. For more than a decade, scientists at the Wuhan Institute of Virology have been discovering coronaviruses in bats in southern China and bringing them back to their lab for gain of function research, to learn how to deal with such a deadly virus should it arise in nature.

The closest known relative of the SARS-CoV-2 virus was found in a region of China almost 1000 miles from the Wuhan Institute of Virology—yet the pandemic apparently started in Wuhan. Biosafety experts have noted that lab leaks are common but rarely reported, as hundreds of lab accidents had happened in the US alone.27

RETURN TO TEXT

Two major events are probably responsible for the media's change in tune. First, Trump was no longer president. Because Trump had said that the virus could have come from a Wuhan lab, Daszak and others used him as a convenient foil to attack their critics. But the framing of the lab leak hypothesis as a partisan issue was harder to sustain after Trump left the White House.

Second, after months of negotiation the Chinese government finally allowed the World Health Organization to come to Wuhan and investigate the pandemic's origin. But in January 2021 WHO, which included Daszak on the team, returned with no evidence that the virus had arisen through natural spill-over.18 More worryingly, members were allowed only a few hours of supervised access to the Wuhan Institute of Virology.

The White House then released a statement making clear that it did not trust China's propaganda denying that the virus could have come from one of the country's labs. "We have deep concerns about the way in which the early findings of the covid-19 investigation were communicated and questions about the process used to reach them," said the statement. "It is imperative that this report be independent, with expert findings free from intervention or alteration by the Chinese government."

The following month the *Washington Post* editorial board called for an open and transparent investigation of the virus's origins, highlighting Shi's experiments with bat coronaviruses that were genetically very similar to the one that caused the pandemic.19 It asked, "Could a worker have gotten infected or inadvertent leakage have touched off the outbreak in Wuhan?" The *Wall Street Journal*, citing a US intelligence document, recently reported that three Wuhan Institute of Virology researchers were admitted to hospital in November 2019.20

To follow any US financial ties and to better understand how the pandemic started, Republicans have launched investigations of government agencies that fund coronavirus research, and one investigative committee has sent a letter to Daszak at EcoHealth Alliance demanding that he turn over documents. Meanwhile, Senate Republicans and Democrats have started to discuss an independent investigation of the virus's origins.

A hard truth to swallow

The growing tendency to treat the lab leak scenario as worthy of serious investigation has put some reporters on the defensive. After Robert Redfield, former director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, appeared on CNN in March, *Scientific American*'s editor in chief, Laura Helmuth, tweeted, "On CNN, former CDC director Robert Redfield shared the conspiracy theory that the virus came from the Wuhan lab." The following day, *Scientific American* ran an essay calling the lab leak theory "evidence free." And a week later a *Nature* reporter, Amy Maxmen, labelled the idea that the virus could have leaked from a lab

MORENS_SUBPOENA_020850
MORENS_NIH_041615
REL0000482666

as "conjecture."
Helmuth did not respond to questions from *The BMJ*.
Some media outlets have attempted to justify their past reporting about the lab leak hypothesis as simply a matter of tracking a "scientific consensus" which, they say, has now changed. *Vox* posted an erratum noting, "Since this piece was originally published in March 2020, scientific consensus has shifted."
The "scientific consensus" argument does not sit well with David Relman, a microbiologist at Stanford University, California. "We can't even begin to talk about a consensus other than a consensus that we don't know [the origins of SARS-CoV-2]," he recently told the *Washington Post*.[21]

A year lost

While the narrative took months to change in the media, several high profile intelligence sources had treated the lab leak theory seriously from early on. In April 2020, Avril Haines joined two other former deputy directors of the Central Intelligence Agency to write an essay in *Foreign Policy* asking, "To what extent did the Chinese government misrepresent the scope and scale of the epidemic?"[22] A week later, one of the former intelligence officials who wrote that essay gave similar quotes to *Politico*.
Ignoring these early warnings led to a year of biased, failed reporting, says Wade. "They didn't question what their sources were saying," he says of the reporters who helped to sell the conspiracy theory narrative to the public. "That is the simple explanation for this phenomenon."

An impartial, credible investigation?

As the news media scramble to correct and reflect on what went wrong with nearly a year of reporting, the episode has also highlighted quality control issues at the ubiquitous "fact checking" services.
Prominent outlets such as *PolitiFact*[23] and FactCheck.org[24] have added editor's notes to pieces that previously "debunked" the idea that the virus was created in a lab or could have been bioengineered—softening their position to one of an open question that is "in dispute." For almost a year Facebook sought to control misinformation by banning stories suggesting that the coronavirus was man made. After renewed interest in the virus's origin, Facebook lifted the ban.[25]
Whether a credible investigation will be made into the lab leak scenario remains to be seen. WHO and the *Lancet* both launched investigations last year (box 2), but Daszak was involved in both, and neither has made significant progress.
Box 2

Timeline

2019

September Weeks before the pandemic erupts, Jeremy Farrar (Wellcome Trust) and Anthony Fauci (US National Institutes of Health; NIH) help oversee a World Health Organization report highlighting an "increasing risk of global pandemic from a pathogen escaping after being engineered in a lab"
November Three researchers from the Wuhan Institute of Virology are admitted to hospital, says a previously undisclosed US intelligence document reported by the *Wall Street Journal* on 23 May 2021
31 December China notifies WHO of "cases of pneumonia of unknown aetiology" in Wuhan City

2020

1 February Jeremy Farrar holds a teleconference with Anthony Fauci and others to discuss the outbreak's origins
6 February A commentary from Chinese researchers based in Wuhan, arguing that "the killer coronavirus probably originated from a laboratory in Wuhan," is posted and later removed from ResearchGate (the user account "Botao Xiao" is also deleted)
19 February An open letter is published in the *Lancet* from 27 scientists including Peter Daszak and Jeremy Farrar, who "strongly condemn conspiracy theories suggesting that covid-19 does not have a natural origin"
19 February *Science* magazine reports: "Scientists 'strongly condemn' rumors and conspiracy theories about origin of coronavirus outbreak," quoting Daszak as saying, "We're in the midst of the social media misinformation age, and these rumors and conspiracy theories have real consequences, including threats of violence that have occurred to our colleagues in China."
22 February *New York Post* publishes an article by a China scholar arguing that "coronavirus may have leaked from a lab"—subsequently censored by Facebook
6 March Kristian Andersen (Scripps Research Institute) thanks Jeremy Farrar (Wellcome), Anthony Fauci (NIH), and Francis Collins (NIH) "for your advice and leadership as we have been working through the SARS-CoV-2 'origins' paper." The paper is published on 17 March in *Nature Medicine* and states, "Our analyses clearly show that SARS-CoV-2 is not a laboratory construct or a purposefully manipulated virus."
24 April NIH abruptly cuts funding to EcoHealth Alliance, allegedly on President Trump's order
28 April Three former US intelligence agents write in *Foreign Policy* asking whether the virus emerged from nature or escaped from a Chinese lab
21 May *New York Times* depicts the Wuhan Institute of Virology as a victim of "conspiracy theories"
27 May *Nature* reports the lab leak hypothesis as "coronavirus misinformation" and "false information"
8 June The science magazine *Undark* reports that the lab leak is a conspiracy theory "that's been broadly discredited"
30 December Associated Press investigation finds documents from March 2020 showing how Beijing has shaped and censored research into the origins of SARS-CoV-2

MORENS_SUBPOENA_020851
MORENS_NIH_041616
REL0000482666

2021
February Facebook places warning on an article by Ian Birrell about the origins of covid-19. Facebook says that these warnings reduce article viewership by 95%
13 February Jake Sullivan, US national security adviser, expresses "deep concerns" about WHO's covid-19 investigation, calling on China to be more transparent
March*Washington Post* calls for serious investigations of the lab leak hypothesis
30 March WHO releases a report on its investigation into the origins of covid-19, listing the lab leak as least likely of the possible scenarios considered. Hours earlier, WHO's director general, Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, acknowledged that the lab leak hypothesis should "remain on the table" and called for a more extensive probe
30 March The US, Australian, Japanese, Canadian, UK, and other governments express concern over WHO's investigation and call for "transparent and independent analysis and evaluation, free from interference and undue influence"
26 May Facebook lifts its ban on posts referencing the lab leak hypothesis
RETURN TO TEXT
In recent weeks, several high profile scientists who once denigrated the idea that the virus could have come from a lab have made small steps into demanding an open investigation of the pandemic's origin.
The NIH's director, Francis Collins, said in a recent interview, "The Chinese government should be on notice that we have to have answers to questions that have not been answered about those people who got sick in November who worked in the lab and about those lab notebooks that have not been examined." He added, "If they really want to be exonerated from this claim of culpability, then they have got to be transparent."26
But the nature of this investigation has still not been decided.

Footnotes

- Competing interests: I am paid by various media outlets for journalism stories and consult part time for a non-profit institute focused on brain disorders. I run a newsletter called the *Disinformation Chronicle*.
- Provenance and peer review: Commissioned, not externally peer reviewed.

This article is made freely available for use in accordance with BMJ's website terms and conditions for the duration of the covid-19 pandemic or until otherwise determined by BMJ. You may use, download and print the article for any lawful, non-commercial purpose (including text and data mining) provided that all copyright notices and trade marks are retained.
https://bmj.com/coronavirus/usage

References

- ↵
  USA Spending. Project Grant FAIN R01AI110964. https://www.usaspending.gov/award/ASST_NON_R01AI110964_7529

- ↵
  - Calisher C,
  - Carroll D,
  - Colwell R,
  - et al

  . *Statement in support of the scientists, public health professionals, and medical professionals of China combatting COVID-19. Lancet2020;395:e42-3. doi:10.1016/S0140-6736(20)30418-9. pmid:32087122* OpenUrlCrossRefPubMed

- ↵
  O'Neal A. A scientist who said no to covid groupthink. *Wall Street J* 2021 Jun 11. https://www.wsj.com/articles/a-scientist-who-said-no-to-covid-groupthink-11623430659

- ↵
  Farrar J. Twitter. 9 Jun 2020. https://twitter.com/JeremyFarrar/status/1270354946295246848

- ↵
  Daszak P. Email. 6 Feb 2020. https://usrtk.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/The_Lancet_Emails_Daszak-_2.6.20.pdf

- ↵
  Baric R. Email. 6 Feb 2020. https://usrtk.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/Baric_Daszak_email.pdf

- ↵

MORENS_SUBPOENA_020852
MORENS_NIH_041617
REL0000482666

Gorman J. Some scientists question W.H.O. inquiry into the coronavirus pandemic's origins. *New York Times* 2021 Mar 4. https://www.nytimes.com/2021/03/04/health/covid- virus-origins.html

- ↵
  Calls for further inquiries into coronavirus origins. *New York Times* 2021 Apr 7. https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2021/04/07/science/virus- inquiries-pandemic-origins.html?referringSource=articleShare

- ↵
  - doi:10.1126/science.abj0016
  - Bloom JD,
  - Chan YA,
  - Baric RS,
  - et al

  . *Investigate the origins of COVID-19. Science2021;372:694doi:10.1126/science.abj0016. https://science.sciencemag.org/content/372/6543/694.1 .pmid:33986172*
  OpenUrlFREE Full Text

- ↵
  Addendum: competing interests and the origins of SARS-CoV-2. Lancet2021;397:2449-50. https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140- 6736(21)01377-5/fulltextdoi:10.1016/S0140-6736(21)01377-5.
  OpenUrlCrossRef

- ↵
  Lancet Covid-19 Commission. Origins, early spread of the pandemic, and one health solutions to future pandemic threats. https://covid19commission.org/origins- of-the-pandemic

- ↵
  - Cohen J

  . *Scientists "strongly condemn" rumors and conspiracy theories about origin of coronavirus outbreak. Science2020. doi:10.1126/science.abb3730.*
  OpenUrlCrossRef

- ↵
  - Subbaraman N

  . *'Heinous!': Coronavirus researcher shut down for Wuhan-lab link slams new funding restrictions. Nature2020. doi:10.1038/d41586-020-02473-4. pmid:32826989*
  OpenUrlCrossRefPubMed

- ↵
  Qiu J. How China's "Bat Woman" hunted down viruses from SARS to the new coronavirus. *Scientific American* 2020 Jun 1. https://www.scientificamerican.com/article/how- chinas-bat-woman-hunted-down-viruses-from-sars-to-the-new-coronavirus1/

- ↵
  Nobel laureates and science groups demand NIH review decision to kill coronavirus grant. *Science* 2020 May 21. https://www.sciencemag.org/news/2020/05/preposterous- 77-nobel-laureates-blast-nih-decision-cancel-coronavirus-grant-demand

- ↵
  - Menachery VD,
  - Yount BL Jr.,
  - Debbink K,
  - et al

  . *A SARS-like cluster of circulating bat coronaviruses shows potential for human emergence. Nat Med2015;21:1508-13. doi:10.1038/nm.3985. https://www.nature.com/articles/nm.3985 . pmid:26552008*
  OpenUrlCrossRefPubMed

-

MORENS_SUBPOENA_020853
MORENS_NIH_041618
REL0000482666

- ↵
  A top virologist in China, at center of a pandemic storm, speaks out. *New York Times* 2021 Jun 15. https://www.nytimes.com/2021/06/14/world/asia/china- covid-wuhan-lab-leak.html

- ↵
  World Health Organization. Mission summary: WHO field visit to Wuhan, China 20-21 January 2020. 22 Jan 2020. https://www.who.int/china/news/detail/22- 01-2020-field-visit-wuhan-china-jan-2020

- ↵
  Opinion: The WHO needs to start over in investigating the origins of the coronavirus. *Washington Post* 2021 Mar 6. https://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/global- opinions/the-who-needs-to-start-over-in-investigating-the-origins-of-the-coronavirus/2021/03/05/6f3d5a0e- 7de9-11eb-a976-c028a4215c78_story.html

- ↵
  Gordon MR, Strobel WP, Hinshaw D. Intelligence on sick staff at Wuhan lab fuels debate on covid-19 origin. *Wall Street J* 2021 May 23. https://www.wsj.com/articles/intelligence- on-sick-staff-at-wuhan-lab-fuels-debate-on-covid-19-origin-11621796228

- ↵
  Dou E, Kuo L. A scientist adventurer and China's "Bat Woman" are under scrutiny as coronavirus lab-leak theory gets another look. *Washington Post* 2021 Jun 3. https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/asia_pacific/coronavirus- bats-china-wuhan/2021/06/02/772ef984-beb2-11eb-922a-c40c9774bc48_story.html

- ↵
  Morell M, Haines A, Cohen DS. Trump's politicization of US intelligence agencies could end in disaster. *Foreign Policy* 2020 Apr 28. https://foreignpolicy.com/2020/04/28/trump- cia-intimidation-politicization-us-intelligence-agencies-could-end-in-disaster/

- ↵
  Archived fact-check: Tucker Carlson guest airs debunked conspiracy theory that covid-19 was created in a lab. *PolitiFact* 2021 May 17. https://www.politifact.com/li- meng-yan-fact-check/

- ↵
  Fichera A. Report resurrects baseless claim that coronavirus was bioengineered. FactCheck.org. 17 Sep 2020. https://www.factcheck.org/2020/09/report- resurrects-baseless-claim-that-coronavirus-was-bioengineered/

- ↵
  Lima C. Facebook no longer treating "man-made" covid as a crackpot idea. *Politico* 2021 May 26. https://www.politico.com/news/2021/05/26/facebook- ban-covid-man-made-491053

- ↵
  Trump administration's hunt for pandemic "lab leak" went down many paths and came up with no smoking gun. *Washington Post* 2021 Jun 15. https://www.washingtonpost.com/national- security/us-intelligence-wuhan-lab-coronavirus-origin/2021/06/15/2fc2425e-ca24-11eb-afd0-9726f7ec0ba6_story.html

- ↵
  Young A. Could an accident have caused covid-19? Why the Wuhan lab-leak theory shouldn't be dismissed. *USA Today* 2021 Mar 22. https://eu.usatoday.com/in- depth/opinion/2021/03/22/why- covid-lab-leak-theory-wuhan-shouldnt-dismissed-column/4765985001/

View Abstract

- Tweet Widget
- Facebook Like

See other articles in issue 8299

Article tools

PDF0 responses

- Respond to this article
- Print

MORENS_SUBPOENA_020854
MORENS_NIH_041619
REL0000482666

- Alerts & updates
- Citation tools
- Request permissions

- Author citation

- Add article to BMJ Portfolio

Email to a friend

Topics

- Infectious diseases

- UK jobs
- International jobs

Grove House Surgery (Shepton Mallet, Somerset): Salaried GP
Dorset Healthcare University NHS Foundation Trust: Consultant in Child and Adolescent Psychiatry CMHT
Dorset Healthcare University NHS Foundation Trust: Consultant in Child and Adolescent Psychiatry Inpatient
Dorset Healthcare University NHS Foundation Trust: Consultant Child and Adolescent Psychiatry Liaison
Dorset Healthcare University NHS Foundation Trust: Consultant in Community General Adult Psychiatry - Bournemouth West
View more

This week's poll

Read related article
See previous polls
Back to top

Disclaimer: Any third-party material in this email has been shared for internal use under fair use provisions of U.S. copyright law, without further verification of its accuracy/veracity. It does not necessarily represent my views nor those of NIAID, NIH, HHS, or the U.S. government.

Disclaimer

The information contained in this communication from the sender is confidential. It is intended solely for use by the recipient and others authorized to receive it. If you are not the recipient, you are hereby notified that any disclosure, copying, distribution or taking action in relation of the contents of this information is strictly prohibited and may be unlawful.

This email has been scanned for viruses and malware, and may have been automatically archived by Mimecast, a leader in email security and cyber resilience. Mimecast integrates email defenses with brand protection, security awareness training, web security, compliance and other essential capabilities. Mimecast helps protect large and small organizations from malicious activity, human error and technology failure; and to lead the movement toward building a more resilient world. To find out more, visit our website.

Disclaimer

The information contained in this communication from the sender is confidential. It is intended solely for use by the recipient and others authorized to receive it. If you are not the recipient, you are hereby notified that any disclosure, copying, distribution or taking action in relation of the contents of this information is strictly prohibited and may be unlawful.

MORENS_SUBPOENA_020855
MORENS_NIH_041620
REL0000482666

This email has been scanned for viruses and malware, and may have been automatically archived by Mimecast, a leader in email security and cyber resilience. Mimecast integrates email defenses with brand protection, security awareness training, web security, compliance and other essential capabilities. Mimecast helps protect large and small organizations from malicious activity, human error and technology failure; and to lead the movement toward building a more resilient world. To find out more, visit our website.

Date:	Wed, 8 Sep 2021 3:49:12 PM -0400
Sent:	Wed, 8 Sep 2021 3:47:39 PM -0400
Subject:	RE: The Intercept report on coronavirus research at Chinese labs
From:	Peter Daszak <
To:	Kristian G. Andersen <(b) (6)
CC:	David Morens <(b) (6) Garry, Robert F <(b) (6) Edward Holmes <(b) (6) >; Jason Gale <(b) (6) Rasmussen, Angie <(b) (6) Robert Kessler <(b) (6) Stephen Goldstein <(b) (6)
Attachments:	image001.jpg; image002.jpg

Great to see your email Kristian – right on every point. The isolate vs. sequence vs. sample misnomer is something that really has plagued me with this stuff – Zhengli's group repeatedly used 'isolate' for 'sample' on Genbank and I've made that mistake here also.

Re. the MERS work, you're dead right – we proposed it, explained that it would likely need review by the P3CO committee equivalent, and then pushed it to Yr4. In the end we didn't do this work – there was already a ton of other more interesting work directly on SARSr-CoVs to do.

The latest line of attack that will be coming out in a follow-up article in the *Intercept* tonight is that in the Y4 report, we show one of the chimeras having more than a log virus output than the parent strain (WIV-1). The NoA was updated in Y3 to say that if this happened we had to report to NIH and cease expts. Ironically, the way *Intercept* found this out is because they now have a copy of our "report to NIH" in which we show this, but of course that's not going to stop them saying we broke the rules on GoF.

The other line of attack is the one Jesse Bloom's pursuing – that we didn't publish sequence data within 6 months of the "final version being received" as per our proposal. Jesse sneakily suggested this in an email to me last night in which he asked for the sequences so he can do SARS-CoV-2 origin analyses, while at the same time tweeting an accusation that we broke the rules in a chain with Alina Chan and the "Seeker". I'm not sure whether to respond at all, but I might just let him know that all SARSr-CoV sequences we had are already published in our 2020 paper in Nat. Comm. Again – the problem with these accusations is that just being accused of this by the press causes us seven levels of hell, and arguing back is even worse.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: +1-(b) (6)
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

From: Kristian G. Andersen <(b) (6)
Sent: Tuesday, September 7, 2021 10:30 PM
To: Peter Daszak (b) (6)
Cc: David Morens (b) (6) >; Garry, Robert F (b) (6) >; Edward Holmes <(b) (6) ; Jason Gale <j.gale@bloomberg.net>; Rasmussen, Angie (b) (6) Robert Kessler (b) (6) >; Stephen Goldstein <(b) (6)
Subject: Re: The Intercept report on coronavirus research at Chinese labs

It's harassment, plain and simple - it has absolutely nothing to do with trying to find the truth of how SARS-CoV-2 emerged in the human population.

The way I see it though, we now have (a) the entire US IC having completed their investigation, (b) unredacted grants and annual reports from EcoHealth, and (c) old theses from the WIV.

This is *exactly* the type of information that Ebright, Metzl, Relman, Bloom, Chan, and the rest of the lot have been requesting. Now this work has been completed, what was unearthed? Nothing. Nada. Zilch. No evidence of the virus (or sequence) at the WIV (or anywhere else) prior to the pandemic. No gain-of-function work (despite what Ebright says). The same cloning system used again and again (WIV1). Vero cells used for virus isolation (SARS-CoV-2 loses the FCS in those cells), and no previously unreported viruses isolated (although I note the repeated use of "isolates" in one of the annual reports to describe 11 samples - I myself have made that mistake before). So again, there's nothing.

This absence of evidence is *in fact* evidence of absence in this particular case - there would have been *some* evidence for SARS-CoV-2 in *some* of these documents had it been at the WIV. Yet, nothing.

As for GOF work, again nothing. I note the mention of work with recombinant MERS in the year 3 report for work proposed in year 4 - depending on the nature of work, that could be considered GOF/DURC. However, when reading the year 4 report, I don't see any of that work mentioned - just work with pseudotyped viruses, which is clearly not GOF (or DURC).

Of course, people will take stuff out of context to make *anything* fit a particular narrative. However, there's an expiration date on bullshit and I suspect we're well past due.

K

On Tue, Sep 7, 2021 at 6:28 PM Peter Daszak (b)) wrote:

> Here's one of the "journalists" who got the "Scoop". Basically they just FoIA'd NIH, then sued when NIH refused to release, then dumped the documents online and asked for "people with relevant expertise to get in touch". Cue Drs. Ebright, Relman, Chan, Bloom and others to start their attempt at a character assassination…
>
> **Mara Hvistendahl**
> @MaraHvistendahl
>
> .
> 15h
> NEW: We obtained hundreds of pages from NIH detailing EcoHealth Alliance's work with the Wuhan Institute of Virology. We are publishing them in full. With
> @fastlerner and @theintercept legal team, which filed a FOIA lawsuit for the documents' release

MORENS_SUBPOENA_022198
MORENS_NIH_043099
REL0000482671

New Details Emerge About Coronavirus Research at Chinese Lab
More than 900 pages of materials related to US.-funded coronavirus research in China were released following a FOIA lawsuit by The Intercept.
theintercept.com

Mara Hvistendahl
@MaraHvistendahl

15h The full documents are here: "Understanding the Risk of Bat Coronavirus Emergence"
https://documentcloud.org/documents/21055989- understanding-risk-bat-coronavirus-emergence-grant-notice…
"Understanding Risk of Zoonotic Virus Emergence in Emerging Infectious Disease Hotspots of Southeast Asia"
https://documentcloud.org/documents/21055988- risk-zoonotic-virus-hotspots-grant-notice…

Mara Hvistendahl
@MaraHvistendahl

MORENS_SUBPOENA_022199
MORENS_NIH_043100
REL0000482671

7h
There is a lot here. @fastlerner and I are interested in hearing feedback from people with relevant expertise.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: +1 (b) (6)
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

From: David Morens (b) (6)
Sent: Tuesday, September 7, 2021 9:07 PM
To: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >
Cc: Garry, Robert F (b) (6) Kristian G. Andersen (b) (6) m>; Edward Holmes <(b) (6) Jason Gale <j.gale@bloomberg.net>; (b) (6) ; Robert Kessler <(b) (6)
Subject: Re: The Intercept report on coronavirus research at Chinese labs

Do not rule out suing these assholes for slander. d

Sent from my iPhone
David M Morens
OD, NIAID, NIH

> On Sep 7, 2021, at 20:39, Peter Daszak <(b) (6) > wrote:
>
> To be honest, this whole process is beyond a joke. We're spending a huge amount of staff time dealing with the BS from these FoIA requests even though the grant's been terminated, suspended and funds are still unavailable.
>
> The lab leakers are already stirring up bullshit lines of attack that will bring more negative publicity our way – which is what this is about – a way to line up the GoF attack on Fauci, or the 'risky research' attack on all of us.

MORENS_SUBPOENA_022200
MORENS_NIH_043101
REL0000482671

Jesse Bloom's now trying to claim we weren't following our proposed rules for data release (not true – all SARSr-CoV RdRp sequences on Genbank in summer 2020, despite the grant being terminated) – he's tagging Alina Chan and 'The Seeker' on Twitter. Ebright's trying to claim we were working on MERS as a 'shadow' line of work. There'll be more to come – just a free-for-all effort to find a few sentences that they can take out of context.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: +1 (b) (6)
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

From: Garry, Robert F (b) (6)
Sent: Tuesday, Septembe
To: Kristian G. Anderser (b) (6) (b) (6)
Cc: (b) (6) (b) (6)

Subject: Re: The Intercept report on coronavirus research at Chinese labs

Totally - that the real story of the FOIAed grants - no SC2 or anything close that could have been converted to it.

Metzl, Chan and others wanted a "forensic investigation.' The grants that they thought would be private and written before the pandemic do not mention a new SARS-like virus. YOu can be sure that a new virus 76% similar to SC1 would have been front and center in the applications and progress reports.

My guess this is part of the info the IC used to conclude no bioweapon, likely no engineering - NO SC2 before the pandemic. This Gof debate now very clearly has nothing to do with the origin of SC2.

From: Kristian G. Andersen (b) (6)
Sent: Tuesday, Sept
To: Edward Holmes (b) (6)

MORENS_SUBPOENA_022201
MORENS_NIH_043102
REL0000482671

Cc: Jason Gale <j.gale@bloomberg.net>; (b) (6) (b) (6) <(b) (6) >; (b) (6) <(b) (6) (b) (6) >; Garry, Robert F (b) (6)

Subject: ese labs

External Sender. Be aware of links, attachments and requests.

Going through it carefully as we speak (already wasted a few hours) - because that's how idiotic this has become.

Nicely detailed annual reports - makes it easy to show that there's in fact no SARS-CoV-2 in there...

People have lost their minds with this s***.

K

On Tue, Sep 7, 2021 at 4:50 PM Edward Holmes (b) (6) > wrote:

> Yes, just more like evidence that they never had SC2 in the lab.
>
> Professor Edward C. Holmes FAA FRS
> The University of Sydney
>
> > On 8 Sep 2021, at 9:43 am, Jason Gale (BLOOMBERG/ NEWSROOM:) < j.gale@bloomberg.net > wrote:
> >
> > Just FYI
> > https://theintercept.com/2021/09/06/new- details-emerge-about-coronavirus-research-at-chinese-lab/

Disclaimer

The information contained in this communication from the sender is confidential. It is intended solely for use by the recipient and others authorized to receive it. If you are not the recipient, you are hereby notified that any disclosure, copying, distribution or taking action in relation of the contents of this information is strictly prohibited and may be unlawful.

This email has been scanned for viruses and malware, and may have been automatically archived by Mimecast, a leader in email security and cyber resilience. Mimecast integrates email defenses with brand protection, security awareness training, web security, compliance and other essential capabilities. Mimecast helps protect large and small organizations from malicious activity, human error and technology failure; and to lead the movement toward building a more resilient world. To find out more, visit our website.

Disclaimer

The information contained in this communication from the sender is confidential. It is intended solely for use by the recipient and others authorized to receive it. If you are not the recipient, you are hereby notified that any disclosure, copying, distribution or taking action in relation of the contents of this information is strictly prohibited and may be unlawful.

This email has been scanned for viruses and malware, and may have been automatically archived by Mimecast, a leader in email security and cyber resilience. Mimecast integrates email defenses with brand protection, security awareness training, web security, compliance and other essential capabilities. Mimecast helps protect large and small organizations from malicious activity, human error and technology failure; and to lead the movement toward building a more resilient world. To find out more, visit our website.

Disclaimer

The information contained in this communication from the sender is confidential. It is intended solely for use by the recipient and others authorized to receive it. If you are not the recipient, you are hereby notified that any disclosure, copying, distribution or taking action in relation of the contents of this information is strictly prohibited and may be unlawful.

This email has been scanned for viruses and malware, and may have been automatically archived by Mimecast, a leader in email security and cyber resilience. Mimecast integrates email defenses with brand protection, security awareness training, web security, compliance and other essential capabilities. Mimecast helps protect large and small organizations from malicious activity, human error and technology failure; and to lead the movement toward building a more resilient world. To find out more, visit our website.

Date: Mon, 29 Mar 2021 10:34:57 AM -0400
Sent: Mon, 29 Mar 2021 10:34:50 AM -0400
Subject: Re: Response to Michael Lauer letters
From: Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6)
To: David Morens <
CC: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) Jerry Keusch <(b) (6) Roberts, Rich <(b) (6)

David,

Peter was planning to send this Michael Lauer on Thursday.

Cheers!

-Aleksei

On Mar 29, 2021, at 10:03, David Morens (b) (6) wrote:

Peter, i will go over and get back to you. Do you have a deadline for getting this done? David

Sent from my iPhone
David M Morens
OD, NIAID, NIH

On Mar 29, 2021, at 02:15, Peter Daszak <(b) (6) wrote:

Hi Jerry, David, and Rich

I can't remember which of you offered to review our draft response to Michael Lauer at NIH, but it would be very helpful if one of you could. I'm sending it to my pro bono lawyers as well, and they'll rip into it, but your advice and edits (using track changes) would be most helpful…

By the way, the WHO report comes out Tuesday morning our time (I think).

I'll have a final draft version tomorrow that I'll try to get out to you early.

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

Disclaimer

The information contained in this communication from the sender is confidential. It is intended solely for use by the recipient and others authorized to receive it. If you are not the recipient, you are hereby notified that any disclosure, copying, distribution or taking action in relation of the contents of this information is strictly prohibited and may be unlawful.

This email has been scanned for viruses and malware, and may have been automatically archived by Mimecast, a leader in email security and cyber resilience. Mimecast integrates email defenses with brand protection, security awareness training, web security, compliance and other essential capabilities. Mimecast helps protect large and small organizations from malicious activity, human error and technology failure; and to lead the movement toward building a more resilient world. To find out more, visit our website.

<State Dept Cables re. WIV highlighted.pdf>

<NIH Response to EcoHealth Response to Suspension_10_23_20 Three further demands.pdf>

<Daszak 7 8 20 Reactivation & Suspension with seven demands.pdf>

<Response to NIH April 2021 re. reactivation and suspension of 2R01AI110964.docx >

Disclaimer

The information contained in this communication from the sender is confidential. It is intended solely for use by the recipient and others authorized to receive it. If you are not the recipient, you are hereby notified that any disclosure, copying, distribution or taking action in relation of the contents of this information is strictly prohibited and may be unlawful.

This email has been scanned for viruses and malware, and may have been automatically archived by Mimecast, a leader in email security and cyber resilience. Mimecast integrates email defenses with brand protection, security awareness training, web security, compliance and other essential capabilities. Mimecast helps protect large and small organizations from malicious activity, human error and technology failure; and to lead the movement toward building a more resilient world. To find out more, visit our website.

Date: Wed, 23 Jun 2021 10:16:33 AM -0400
Sent: Wed, 23 Jun 2021 10:11:04 AM -0400
Subject: RE: Hi David
From: Peter Daszak <
To: (b) (6) NIAID) [E] < Keusch, Jerry < Rich Roberts <(b) (6)
Attachments: image001.gif; image002.jpg

All your comments below are spot on David. In fact in the WHO report, we looked at only full genomes because they were the most reliable. We concluded that the amount of mutations suggests substantial transmission in December and that some of these mutations were also in Guangdong. This new paper takes some of the rejected partial genomes that we didn't look at, and comes basically to the same conclusion.

I've just seen some online chatter from an Economist reporter – Natasha Loder – of course, the headline is not the science, it's "why did China hide information on early cases" – that's the bloodlust for conspiracy that's out there in the public right now, including the educated public.

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: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] <(b) (6)
Sent: Wednesday, J
To: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) Keusch, Jerry <(b) (6) Rich Roberts (b) (6)
Subject: RE: Hi Da

For what it is worth, here is how an epidemiologist might look at it, based on the behavior of many different viruses in many different situations, especially influenza. The idea that one can and should find a "patient zero" is largely delusional. The initial host switch happens in obscurity long before an outbreak is recognized, allowing many serial generations in many different directions over moderately long periods of time, probably months in the case of SARS-C0V-2. Outbreaks aren't detected early on because cases apear sporadically in large populations, severe and fatal disease is uncommon, the infecting agent is unknown and can't be tested for, and the signs and

symproms are non-specific. In such a scenario, thousands of cases can occur over many months before anything unusual is detected, and particularly so in a geographically large country with a large and very mobile population.

In fact, to me, the diversity of the viruses early on is consistent with a virus that has been circulating, in humans, or animals, or both, long before the first detection. If that is true, some of these mysteries like viral diversity and inability to find a patient zero are not mysteries at all.

For example, the earliest 1918 flu sequneces from May 1918, before the pandemic was recognized anywhere (around 1 July 1918), are very clearly "bird virus-like" in all 8 genes, yet have many mutations that differ from the relatively conserved bird reservoir genes. Thus, host-switching not only takes place inside an obscure black box, but there may be a lot of viral evolution going on until such time as one or more of the evolved variants adapts sufficiently to become pandemically transmissible. At that point, evolution slows down and the virus evolves more gradually against the selection pressures imposed by large populations of humans.

Just some speculation. I fail to see what is so mysterious about COVID-19 emergence. That we don't yet no much about the origian isn't that surrpising to me. Nature does its business away from our gaze….

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)

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: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >
Sent: Wednesday, June 23, 2021 8:48 AM
Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] <(b) (6) >; Keusch, Jerry (b) (6) Rich Roberts <(b) (6) >; Taubenberger, Jeffery (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b) (6)
Subject: RE: Hi David

Yes – I'm on an email chain with Bob Garry and people in China. The lead author of the China paper where the sequences come from says they deleted them because they were low quality, not full genomes and that they're not expert enough in bioinformatics to think that there was valid info in them. Bloom went into the NIH system and recovered deleted them from the cloud.

I read the paper last night – it doesn't really change any opinion about the origin – the WHO report shows that there was significant spread in Dec and that other cities were involved. This adds to that, and as you say provides further evidence that this is likely natural origin. All the 'detective' stuff and suspicions about ulterior motives is in my opinion totally unnecessary, at the least 'rude', and just sort of weird. Jesse Bloom has been on Twitter arguing for the lab leak for a good few months now, so I think he's got a general belief that Chinese scientists can't be trusted. I don't think that political stuff or suspicions of motives belongs in a paper.

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: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] <(b) (6)

Sent: Wednesday, June 23, 2021 7:22 AM
Peter Daszak ((b) (6) >; Keusch, Jerry (b) (6) <
(b) (6) Rich Roberts ((b) (6) Taubenberger, Jeffery (NIH/NIAID) [E] <
(b) (6)
Subject: FW: Hi David

If you haven't seen this pre-print yet, have a strong cup of coffee first. I'd advise adding an ounce or two of Irish whiskey.

Jason Gale is a journalist with whom I have worked in the past, very smart and very honorable.

When I saw this I asked him to immediately contact Kristian Anderson and Eddie Holmes, and he has already contacted KA, while I contacted Eddie myself. They are both horrified, to use Eddie's word. If this gets picked up by the crazies there is no telling what will happen.

This is a good argument for banning pre-prints, since the damage will be done before the paper is retracted or shot down.

If there is an upside to this, legitimate scientists, even while hiding from the crazies, are starting to get really pissed off. Eddie says he is planning to write a very geeky sciency review that covers the whole origin issue from a phylogeny basis, and without the politics. Kristian is apparently upset, and Jason also contacted Robert Garry, who I don't know personally, and he had some really choice words to unload….

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)

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: Jason Gale (BLOOMBERG/ NEWSROOM:) <j.gale@bloomberg.net>
Sent: Tuesday, June 22, 2021 6:28 PM
To: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] <(b) (6) >
Subject: Hi David

Hi David,

I hope you're well.

I'm guessing y'all saw the Jesse Bloom pre-print paper.
https://www.biorxiv.org/content/10.1101/2021.06.18.449051v1.full.pdf

Interested to know what you make of it, even off the record.

Kindest regards,

Jason

Jason Gale, MHlthSec
Senior editor | Bloomberg News
Level 30, 120 Collins St., Melbourne VIC 3000
Tel. (landline) +61-3-9228-8783 | Mobile +61-407-214-821
@jwgale | Linkedin: http://www.linkedin.com/pub/jason- gale/6/249/a56

Disclaimer

The information contained in this communication from the sender is confidential. It is intended solely for use by the recipient and others authorized to receive it. If you are not the recipient, you are hereby notified that any disclosure, copying, distribution or taking action in relation of the contents of this information is strictly prohibited and may be unlawful.

This email has been scanned for viruses and malware, and may have been automatically archived by Mimecast, a leader in email security and cyber resilience. Mimecast integrates email defenses with brand protection, security awareness training, web security, compliance and other essential capabilities. Mimecast helps protect large and small organizations from malicious activity, human error and technology failure; and to lead the movement toward building a more resilient world. To find out more, visit our website.

Disclaimer

The information contained in this communication from the sender is confidential. It is intended solely for use by the recipient and others authorized to receive it. If you are not the recipient, you are hereby notified that any disclosure, copying, distribution or taking action in relation of the contents of this information is strictly prohibited and may be unlawful.

This email has been scanned for viruses and malware, and may have been automatically archived by Mimecast, a leader in email security and cyber resilience. Mimecast integrates email defenses with brand protection, security awareness training, web security, compliance and other essential capabilities. Mimecast helps protect large and small organizations from malicious activity, human error and technology failure; and to lead the movement toward building a more resilient world. To find out more, visit our website.

Date: Wed, 21 Jul 2021 5:04:02 PM -0400

Subject: RE: Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists/ W. Ian Lipkin: The known knowns, known unknowns, and unknown unknowns of COVID-19 https://bit.ly/3xZBrZ0

From: Peter Daszak <(b) (6)

To: Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6) Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] <(b) (6)

Attachments: image001.gif; image002.jpg; image003.jpg; image004.jpg

I agree, at least he's not on the attack like Jeff Sachs. I've known Ian for years, and he really can be a particularly pompous guy at times, but quite charming at others.

I see this as Ian lipkin trying to thread the needle between him previously saying that a lab leak is plausible and they had unsafe biocontainment, but at the same time him knowing that's a disingenuous argument because he uses the same level of biocontainment in his own lab. He's criticized GoF during the original arguments a decade + ago, and now is supporting it…. and then there's the usual bit where he tries to look good by banging on about his appearance in the movie *Contagion* and that he's been involved in every investigation of every outbreak ever…

Maybe, like David Relman, we should view these articles and appearances as submissions of their resume's for the WHO next phase, a future US Govt Covid Commission panel, or the NASEM consensus study (or all 3). I know Ian applied to be on the original WHO mission to Wuhan, but was declined for reasons that I was told were something along the lines of whether he would fit in with a team…(read into that what you may)…

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: Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6)
Sent: Wednesday, July 21,
To: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] <(b) (6) Peter Daszak <(b) (6) <(b) (6)>
Subject: RE: Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists/ W. Ian Lipkin: The known knowns, known unknowns, and unknown unknowns of COVID-19 https://bit.ly/3xZBrZ0

Thanks David,

At least he takes the stance that pathogenesis studies are important and he disagrees with the anti-GOF'ers that it all needs to be shut down. But then he implies unsafe work at BSL-2 at WIV. Baric has said the same thing. That's where he opens the door for the others to stick their foot in the door and to try to kick it wide open.

But, I'll take even this piece from Ian in a positive way.

Jerry

From: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] <(b) (6)
Sent: Wednesday, July 21, 2021 3:36 PM
To: Peter Daszak (b) (6) >; Keusch, Gerald T (b) (6)
Subject: FW: Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists/ W. Ian Lipkin: The known knowns, known unknowns, and unknown unknowns of COVID-19 https://bit.ly/3xZBrZ0

David

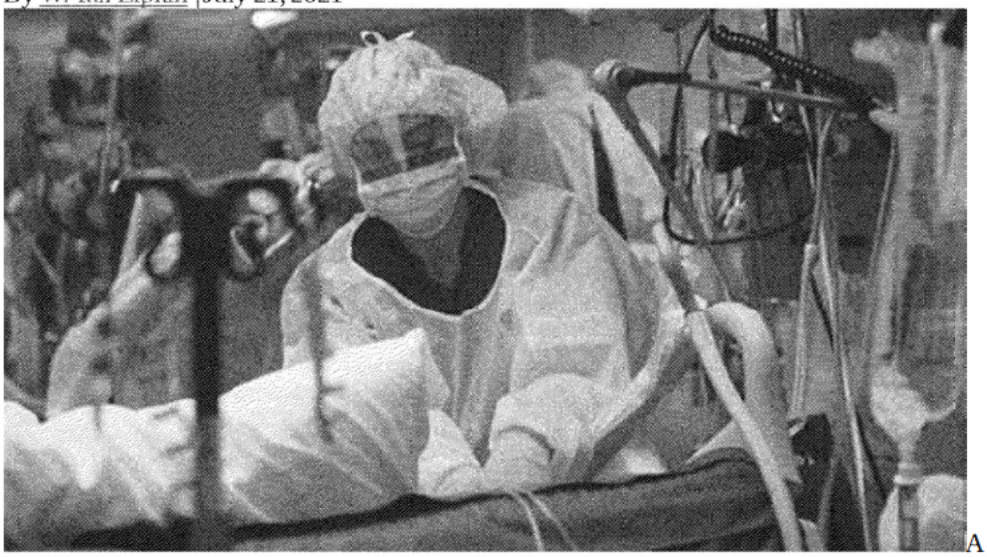
David M. Morens, M.D.
CAPT, United States Public Health Service
Senior Advisor to the Director
Office of the Director
National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases
National Institutes of Health
Building 31, Room 7A-03
31 Center Drive, MSC 2520
Bethesda, MD 20892-2520
(b) (6) (assistant: Whitney Robinson)
(b) (6)
(b) (6)

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 he 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.**

: Folkers, Greg (NIH/NIAID) [E] <(b) (6)
July 21, 2021 11:02 AM
ct: Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists/ W. Ian Lipkin: The known knowns, known unknowns, and unknown unknowns of COVID-19 https://bit.ly/3xZBrZ0

The known knowns, known unknowns, and unknown unknowns of COVID-19

By W. Ian Lipkin | July 21, 2021



A nurse cares for a patient on a US Navy hospital ship during the COVID-19 pandemic. Credit: US Navy.

In 2002, while making the case for the US invasion of Iraq to those who asked for evidence of what we now know to be nonexistent weapons of mass destruction, Donald Rumsfeld referred to known knowns, known unknowns, and unknown unknowns. Nearly two decades later, we are in similar territory in discussing the origin of SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19. Then, as now, we should be wary that incomplete data and strong opinions not determine high-impact decisions.

The known knowns are that SARS-CoV-2 is a new, highly transmissible virus that has the capacity to evolve rapidly. Genetic analyses indicate that closely related viruses existed in wildlife before human disease was detected in the Chinese city of Wuhan in 2019. We also know that despite promises to shut down wild animal markets in the aftermath of the first SARS outbreak in 2003, thousands of animals were sold in such markets in Wuhan. Many of these species are known to be infected and/or infectable with SARS-like coronaviruses. These animals could have been vectors for carrying SARS-CoV-2 to humans and for adaptation to growth in humans.

We also know that the Wuhan Institute of Virology and the Wuhan Center for Disease Control and Prevention collected specimens from wildlife that typically carry coronaviruses and pursued gain-of-function experiments. The level of biocontainment for these experiments may have been inappropriate. Nonetheless, there is no evidence that SARS-CoV-2 was deliberately created. Indeed, the features of SARS-CoV-2 that have resulted in at least four million deaths, lingering disease in millions more, and an estimated $22 trillion loss in output through 2025, could not have been predicted even had someone wanted to engineer a highly transmissible and pathogenic coronavirus and had the tools to do so.

There are many known unknowns. Unlike smallpox, Ebola, or other potentially lethal infectious diseases that announce themselves with a distinctive clinical syndrome, SARS-CoV-2 has the capacity to infect people and cause no or only mild disease. Furthermore, even people who ultimately develop severe disease may be infectious before they have symptoms. This insidious aspect of SARS-CoV-2 biology makes it difficult to track its spread and to determine when, where, and how it first emerged. One clue to the advent of SARS-CoV-2 might have been a spike in the number of cases of respiratory disease or in

the use of prescription or over-the-counter medications to treat them. However, there is no evidence of either in Wuhan in the weeks prior to the first documented cases of COVID-19 in November 2019. Wuhan is also a major transportation hub. The first cases may have been imported from other regions in China or throughout the Asian continent where related viruses were reported.

A resource that epidemiologists frequently use for determining the origin and timing of the introduction of a new infectious agent is serially collected samples that can be tested for the presence of viral proteins or genetic material (in this case, RNA), or for antibodies that are produced in response to infection. While investigating the origin of MERS-CoV in 2012, a team of expert researchers of which I was a member found large amounts of viral RNA in young dromedary camels. Additionally, we found high levels of antibodies in blood of more than 75 percent of contemporary adult camels and in blood from camels that had been collected annually and stored for a period of more than 10 years. These findings—plus the presence of viral RNA in camel meat in abattoirs—were helpful in implicating camels as important sources of human infection and in dating the incursion of MERS-CoV into the Arabian Peninsula.

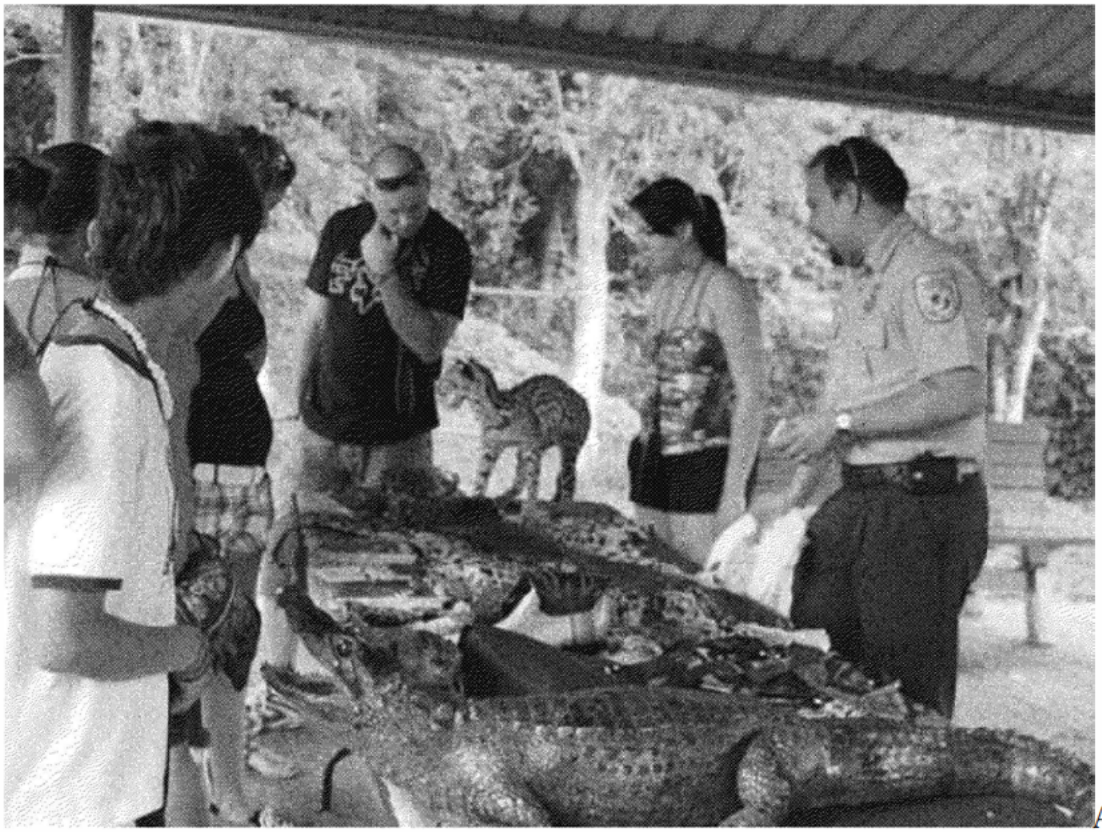
RELATED:
Essential reading on lab leaks and gain-of-function research

To date, we have not succeeded in similar studies in searching for the origins of the COVID-19 pandemic. The presence of SARS-CoV-2 RNA would be considered unequivocal evidence of the presence of the causative agent. We are rapidly closing in on two years since the beginning of the Wuhan outbreak. The challenge in looking for RNA in archived materials is that it rapidly degrades unless samples are stored at ultralow temperatures. Proteins and antibodies are less labile but are also less specific. Through a mechanism known as cross reactivity, infection with a different, but related coronavirus (like SARS-CoV-1, the causative agent of the 2002-2003 SARS outbreak) can yield results that are mistaken to represent COVID-19. This was not a problem in Saudi Arabia, because no similar MERS-like viruses were circulating in camels or people. However, in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic, we must have assays that distinguish between SARS-CoV-2, SARS-CoV-1, and other coronaviruses.

There is considerable uncertainty about when SARS-CoV-2 first appeared both inside and outside of China. The *South China Morning Post* has reported the retrospective diagnosis of infection in a 55-year-old man in Hubei province on November 17, 2019. A US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention study of more than 7,000 routine blood donations collected from December 13, 2019 through January 17, 2020 revealed the presence of antibodies to SARS-CoV-2 in at least 84 people in nine US states. Given that an antibody response cannot be detected until two to three weeks after infection, we can only conclude the virus was circulating in the United States for several weeks before the first case of COVID-19 was diagnosed on January 19, 2020. Even more compelling evidence of early infection outside of China was found in a skin biopsy obtained in November 2019 from a woman in Milan, Italy with an inflammatory rash that was found to contain both SARS-CoV-2 viral RNA and proteins. Mathematical models based on studies of viral sequences and evolutionary rates suggest that SARS-CoV-2 emerged in China in early October to mid-November. We do not have the samples needed to search for evidence of infection in humans, wildlife, or domestic animals in China prior to November 2019. We also do not know whether such samples exist or whether the problem is lack of access.

Let us return to what we do know. Three quarters of emerging infectious diseases originate in wildlife. Over the past 40 years, I have personally been involved in addressing several: HIV/AIDS, West Nile encephalitis, SARS, MERS, Lujo, Lassa, Nipah, Dandenong, Ebola, Marburg, dengue, monkeypox, Zika, influenza, and COVID-19. Estimates of numbers of unknown viruses lurking in mammals range from 320,000 to 1,000,000. If even 1 percent of them can infect humans or domestic animals, we may be ignorant of thousands of potential threats to human health and food security. In an increasingly interconnected world, diseases that might once have been contained to a region are now global.

Accordingly, the international community can have zero tolerance for wildlife markets and wildlife trafficking for food, medicinal, or pet trade purposes. Our current focus in on China. However, trafficking in wildlife is a global threat and should be banned everywhere. It may have contributed to the emergence of HIV/AIDS and to outbreaks of Ebola and Marburg. France plays a central role in wildlife trafficking, with more than 28 million specimens imported between 2008 and 2017, including 4,000 seizures of illegal transport during that time period totaling two million specimens. Confiscated items included live mammals, birds, and reptiles along with bodies, parts, and products. In 2012, we received and analyzed tissues from primates smuggled into JFK airport in the United States. These contained sequences of human pathogens, including four strains of simian foamy virus (an agent closely related to HIV) and two herpes viruses.



A law enforcement officer in Puerto Rico displays illegally trafficked wildlife. Such trade can increase the risk of a disease spilling over from animals to people. Credit: US Fish and Wildlife Service.

This brings us to discussion of the lab-leak speculation. Some of my colleagues believe that research with infectious agents—particularly gain-of-function research, where a virus or other microbe is genetically manipulated to alter its ability to infect cells or cause disease—should also be banned. I disagree. This type of research is needed to understand how viruses infect us and thwart our immunological defenses. It is also essential to identifying and validating effective countermeasures. However, it should only be pursued in accordance with an internationally approved standard for biocontainment, project review that considers risk/benefit analysis, rigorous training, and continuous monitoring of personnel that includes antibody testing for evidence of laboratory-acquired infections.

After 9/11 and the anthrax attacks that followed, President George W. Bush established a National Biosurveillance Advisory Subcommittee to review infectious threats. A second subcommittee was established by President Barack Obama. Both committees issued reports (see the first report and the second report) that recommended investments in new technologies and personnel for national and global surveillance of and response to emerging infectious diseases. The committees endorsed the WHO

International Health Regulations of 2005 that mandated building infrastructure for detecting microbial threats in the developing world.

Neither report gathered much traction until the film "Contagion" was released in 2011. "Contagion" was developed to call attention to pandemic risks originating in wildlife. It introduced audiences worldwide to epidemiology, biosafety laboratories, the process of vaccine development, false panaceas, and the term "R naught"—which describes how many people on average someone with an infectious disease will infect. It also led *The New York Times* to invite me to write an editorial that laid out what was needed to prevent a pandemic. There is much that the film got right; however, we did not predict the potential for asymptomatic transmission, promiscuous infection of multiple organ systems, or the impact of poor leadership.

What would good leadership entail now? The common elements in the several roadmaps proposed since the COVID-19 pandemic began (see *Foreign Affairs*, The Independent Panel, and the G20 Action Plan) include a stronger World Health Organization and global investment in the research and public health resources needed for effective surveillance, along with drug and vaccine development, production, and distribution. As understood in the context of the current pandemic, it is impossible to overstate the importance of surveillance and vaccines. We would not have been caught flat-footed if we knew that a novel coronavirus was circulating in the autumn of 2019. Early access to accurate diagnostic assays and track tracing would have enabled early containment. Similarly, if effective vaccines had been distributed globally, we might never have allowed SARS-CoV-2 the opportunity to evolve into the delta variant. The virus is still adapting and new variants will continue to emerge that will challenge us. At an estimated cost of $25 billion, vaccinating the world is a bargain and an ethical imperative.

SARS-CoV-2 is now endemic worldwide in people, wildlife, and domestic animals; it is unlikely that we can eradicate it. I am nonetheless optimistic that we will ultimately bring it under control. The question is the durability of what we learn from this experience. As damaging as COVID-19 has been to humankind, there are other pathogens lurking worldwide—antibiotic-resistant bacteria, fungi, and threats to food security. Our commitment to a shared vision for global health must therefore continue even after the current pandemic recedes.

Disclaimer: Any third-party material in this email has been shared for internal use under fair use provisions of U.S. copyright law, without further verification of its accuracy/veracity. It does not necessarily represent my views nor those of NIAID, NIH, HHS, or the U.S. government.

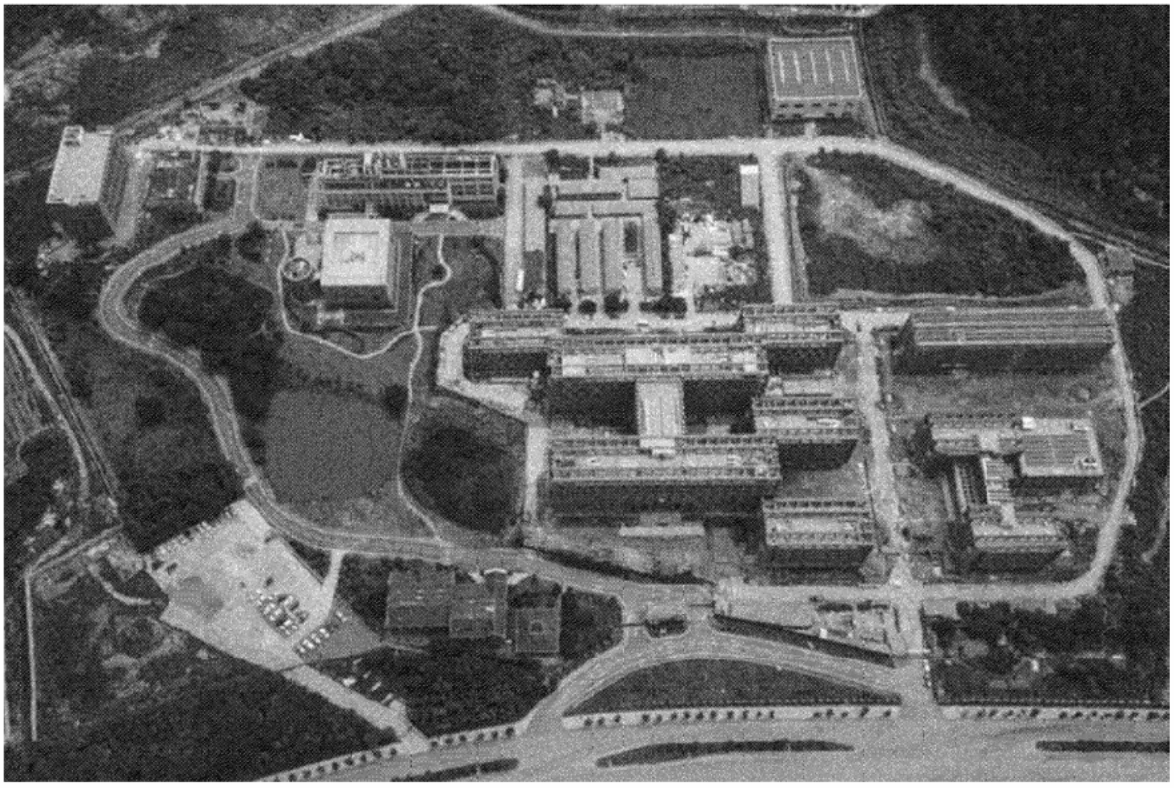
Date:	Tue, 29 Jun 2021 12:24:46 AM -0400
Sent:	Tue, 29 Jun 2021 12:23:29 AM -0400
Subject:	Govt is already reducing expectations on 90-day intel investigation into covid origins
From:	Peter Daszak <
To:	peter hotez <(b) (6) <(b) (6) David Morens <(b) (6) Roberts, Rich Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6)
Attachments:	image001.jpg; image002.jpg; image003.jpg

Here's an article in the WSJ that looks to me (and others I spoke with) as the Biden Administration or Intel agencies reducing expectations for their 90-day report. Bear in mind this is the WSJ, so they're right leaning and here are saying there's likely no further information forthcoming. That will help reinforce what we are repeatedly hearing that most scientists believe the natural origin more likely even as they say a lab leak scenario is worth investigating.

https://www.wsj.com/articles/biden- administration-warns-covid-19-origins-review-may-not-be-definitive-11624819570?mod=e2tw (full article pasted below)

Biden Administration Warns Covid-19 Origins Review May Not Be Definitive

The hunt for clues tests spy agencies, which haven't traditionally made pandemics a priority



The Wuhan Institute of Virology, where the U.S. State Department says several researchers became ill during the fall of 2019.

MORENS_SUBPOENA_020752
MORENS_NIH_041466
REL0000482686

PHOTO: HECTOR RETAMAL/AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE/GETTY IMAGES

By
Michael R. Gordon
and
Warren P. Strobel
Updated June 27, 2021 4:43 pm ET

Biden administration officials are cautioning that a 90-day review into the origins of the Covid-19 virus may not produce a definitive explanation as intelligence agencies take on the challenge of unraveling the global pandemic.

Spy agencies conducting the review have yet to find conclusive evidence that would settle the debate over whether the virus came from human contact with an infected animal or was leaked from a Chinese government virology lab, a person familiar with the efforts said.

President Biden is due to receive a 45-day update in mid-July, and administration officials said that even partial progress might narrow differences among scientists, politicians and intelligence experts and turn up clues for further investigation.

Mr. Biden "is mindful of the fact that after 90 days we may not have an absolutely definitive answer, but he wanted a focused, intense, time-bound effort," a senior administration official said.

Experts say that knowing the origins of Covid-19 could be important in preparing for future pandemics. The virus has killed more than 600,000 Americans and nearly four million people world-wide, and disrupted the global economy.

MORENS_SUBPOENA_020753
MORENS_NIH_041467
REL0000482686

Director of National Intelligence Avril Haines said this spring that she has hired more people to work on pandemic threats.

PHOTO: JIM LO SCALZO/EPA/SHUTTERSTOCK

The review is being overseen by Director of National Intelligence Avril Haines, a lawyer and former deputy director of the Central Intelligence Agency with long ties to Mr. Biden. It requires the vast intelligence community to train its resources on an area it has long treated as far less of a priority than spying on the Russian military, terrorist dangers or China's weapons buildup: the detection and analysis of global pandemics.

Ms. Haines, who oversees 18 intelligence agencies and has spoken about the need for U.S. intelligence to broaden its work on nontraditional dangers, told lawmakers this spring she had hired additional personnel to work on pandemic threats.

The Covid-19 origins review is an example of the kind of complex, multidisciplinary work spy agencies will increasingly be called on to do on nontraditional threats, said Glenn Gerstell, former general counsel for the National Security Agency, which specializes in electronic eavesdropping. "This is where the intelligence community is going," he said.

Absent a breakthrough, the review faces many obstacles, chief among them China's refusal to provide further access to data and scientists from the Wuhan Institute of Virology, a biosecurity lab that has studied coronaviruses. China has said the search should turn to other countries and cited the conclusion of a World Health Organization-led team of experts early this year that a lab leak was "extremely unlikely."

A daily intelligence briefing Mr. Biden received in the Oval Office in February showed the difficulties the intelligence community has had in identifying the source of the virus. Intelligence officials told Mr. Biden during that session they had numerous questions about the origin of the virus but didn't have "high confidence" in any particular explanation, more than a year after the virus was first detected in the Chinese city of Wuhan.

Mr. Biden instructed national security adviser Jake Sullivan to follow up, which he did in a meeting with intelligence officials in early March. The White House ordered a written assessment from intelligence officials. Delivered to Mr. Biden in May, the assessment showed one intelligence agency leaning toward the hypothesis that the virus leaked out of a lab and two intelligence agencies leaning toward the view that it arose naturally—all with low or moderate confidence. Most agencies said there wasn't enough

evidence to render a judgment.

That inconclusive assessment and China's statement to the WHO that it considered the Covid-19 origins investigation in its country to be complete, led to Mr. Biden's order to mount what a senior administration official called an "all hands on deck effort" over a 90-day period.

Within Ms. Haines's office, officials said, the review is being coordinated by the National Counterproliferation Center, which oversees intelligence efforts to combat nuclear, chemical and biological proliferation.

The National Security Agency, the officials said, will look for clues in its vast stores of intercepted foreign electronic communications, most of which aren't analyzed in real time. The effort is being aided by experts from government labs, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the National Institutes of Health and other parts of the Department of Health and Human Services. Experts outside the government are being consulted, as are allied intelligence agencies.

One outcome, Mr. Biden said in a May statement when he announced the review, could be a list of specific questions that the U.S. would put to China as well as recommendations on what additional inquiries might be needed.

Given the possibility that the intelligence review might be inconclusive, there are already calls by leading lawmakers, some experts outside government and a grass-roots group of people affected by Covid-19 for an independent national commission.

"There has not yet been a properly organized, independent, scientific evaluation of all of the available evidence," said Philip Zelikow, the former executive director of the commission on the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks. Mr. Zelikow is heading a planning group, backed by prominent foundations, for a possible commission to investigate how Covid-19 emerged and how to better prepare for future pandemics.

Memorials at a New York City cemetery this month remembered the lives of those killed by the Covid-19 pandemic.
PHOTO: SPENCER PLATT/GETTY IMAGES

The Trump administration didn't organize an intensive governmentwide review into Covid-19's origins, though intelligence agencies and the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory probed the matter, former Trump administration officials said.

State Department officials also used the authorities of the arms-control bureau, which has the mission of assessing compliance with the biological-weapons convention and other arms-control accords, to request intelligence reports on Covid-19's origins.

In a fact sheet that was vetted by the Office of the Director of National Intelligence and released publicly on Jan. 15, the State Department reported that several researchers at the Wuhan Institute of Virology had become ill during the fall of 2019 with symptoms that were consistent with Covid-19 or a seasonal flu. The fact sheet also said there were links between the lab and the Chinese military, though it also noted that the U.S. government hasn't determined how the virus began. Biden officials haven't challenged or amended those statements.

Andrew Weber, a consultant to the Lawrence Livermore lab and a former senior Pentagon official who worked on biological defense programs, said the broad scope and focus of the Biden effort could yield important information.

MORENS_SUBPOENA_020756
MORENS_NIH_041470
REL0000482686

"It is very rare to do such a high-level and intensive deep dive," Mr. Weber said.

Still, the longer time elapses from the initial outbreak the more difficult it becomes to trace its origins, especially without more access from China, according to some experts and former officials.

The inability of the U.S. government to access the Wuhan lab and its employees "will make it very difficult at the end of the day to get to the goal line," said William Evanina, who was U.S. counterintelligence chief for nearly six years until January.

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

Disclaimer

The information contained in this communication from the sender is confidential. It is intended solely for use by the recipient and others authorized to receive it. If you are not the recipient, you are hereby notified that any disclosure, copying, distribution or taking action in relation of the contents of this information is strictly prohibited and may be unlawful.

This email has been scanned for viruses and malware, and may have been automatically archived by Mimecast, a leader in email security and cyber resilience. Mimecast integrates email defenses with brand protection, security awareness training, web security, compliance and other essential capabilities. Mimecast helps protect large and small organizations from malicious activity, human error and technology failure; and to lead the movement toward building a more resilient world. To find out more, visit our website.

Date: Thu, 15 Sep 2022 11:18:41 AM -0400
Sent: Thu, 15 Sep 2022 11:18:37 AM -0400
Subject: Re: Another attack from Republican Senators
From: "Keusch, Gerald T" <(b) (6)
To: Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6)
CC: Roberts, Rich <(b) (6) Jeffrey Sturchio <(b) (6) Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >; David Morens <(b) (6) >; Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) >;

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

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 utor

(b) (6) e **Support:** Douglas Soriano
| Phone: (b) (6) | Fax: 713-798-2299

Media Inquiries:
(b) (6)

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) 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)

MORENS_SUBPOENA_001216
MORENS_NIH_007275
REL0000482690

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)
Keusch, Gerald T (b) (6) David Morens <(b) (6) >; Rich Roberts <
(b) (6) Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) >; Jeff Sturchio <
(b) (6)

attack from Republican Senators

It's awful, here are my quotes in the Washington Post tonight

https://www.washingtonpost.com/health/2022/09/14/lancet- covid-commission-report-who/

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP

Texas Children's Hospital: Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics | Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development | Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

Baylor College of Medicine: Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine | Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology | Health Policy Scholar

Baylor University, University Professor
Rice University, Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty
Texas A&M University, Faculty-Senior Fellow, Hagler Inst for Advanced Study & Scowcroft Institute of Intl Affairs

E-mail | Twitter | LinkedIn | Skype: (b) (6)

Amazon Author Center | Daily Beast Contributor

Senior Coordinator & Executive Support: Douglas Soriano
(b) (6) | Phone: (b) (6) Fax: 713-798-2299

Media Inquiries:
(b) (6)

On Sep 14, 2022, at 8:31 PM, Peter Daszak (b) (6) wrote:

Just saw this letter being promoted by Richard Ebright online. It's an effort to get USAID to defund EcoHealth, even when the funding they give us at present doesn't involved viral work at all – it's conservation and training grants.

The letter's led by Sen. Marshall, cosigned by the usual suspects, Rand Paul, Marc Rubio etc.

https://www.marshall.senate.gov/wp- content/uploads/USAID-Letter-re-EHA-suspension-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.: +1 (b) (6)
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

(b) (6)
From: Hotez, Peter Jay
Sent: Wednesday, Sep AM
To: Keusch, Geral (b) (6) (b) (6)
Cc: Peter Das (b) (6)
Rich Roberts (b) (6) Aleksei Chmura (b) (6)
Subject: Re: Lancet covid commission report.

I've mostly given up on appealing to Richard Horton. Initially he wouldn't answer my emails, and finally when he agreed to a zoom and promised to redress my concerns, even stating he would do so in writing, so far nothing. He can't be bothered or at some level he agrees with Jeff?

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP

Texas Children's Hospital: Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics | Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development | Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

Baylor College of Medicine: Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine | Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology | Health Policy Scholar

Baylor University, University Professor
Rice University, Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty
Texas A&M University, Faculty-Senior Fellow, Hagler Inst for Advanced Study & Scowcroft Institute of Intl Affairs

E-mail | Twitter | LinkedIn | Skype: (b) (6)

Amazon Author Center | Daily Beast Contributor

Senior Coordinator & Executive Support: Douglas Soriano
(b) (6) | Phone: (b) (6) | Fax: 713-798-2299

Media Inquiries:
(b) (6)

iPhone

On Sep 7, 2022, at 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, S
To: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >
Cc: Keu (b) (6) (b) (6) ; Rich Roberts (b) (6) mura <(b) (6)
Subject: mmission report.

Yes I think it may be released as soon as next week, with press conferences I believe in NY around the time of UNGA (as originally planned). I was not invited to participate.

Two weeks ago, Richard Horton in a zoom agreed to address my concerns about Jeff's specific attacks on me, he was supposed to respond by last week. But nothing so far, so I'm not optimistic. Best Peter

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP

Texas Children's Hospital: Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics | Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development | Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

Baylor College of Medicine: Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine |

Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology | Health Policy Scholar

Baylor University, University Professor
Rice University, Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty
Texas A&M University, Faculty-Senior Fellow, Hagler Inst for Advanced Study & Scowcroft Institute of Intl Affairs

E-mail | Twitter | LinkedIn | Skype: (b) (6)

Amazon Author Center | Daily Beast Contributor

Senior Coordinator & Executive Support: Douglas Soriano
(b) (6) | Phone: (b) (6) | Fax: 713-798-2299

Media Inquiries:
(b) (6)

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: Fri, 21 Jul 2023 1:23:52 PM -0400
Subject: Fwd: Angela Rasmussen says it all
From: David Morens <(b) (6)
To: David Morens <(b) (6)

David M. Morens, MD
(b) (6)

(b) (6)
(b) (6) (work)
(cell)

IMPORTANT: My gmail frequently sends incoming messages to Trash, which is apparently not correctable. If you don't hear from me in a reasonable time, please try again, call, or use my NIH email address

IMPORTANT: For US Government-related email, please also reply to my NIAID address

---------- Forwarded message ---------
From: Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6)
Date: Tue, Aug 2, 2022 at 8:40 AM
Subject: Angela Rasmussen says it all
To: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >
Cc: David Morens <(b) (6) >, Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6) Roberts, Rich <(b) (6) Jeff Sturchio <(b) (6) Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) >

https://twitter.com/angie_rasmussen/status/1554445871051407362?s=21 &t=989SMPW7EIz9fqFWQTrG-g

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP

Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine
Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology
Health Policy Scholar

Baylor College of Medicine

Texas Children's Hospital Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics
Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development

University Professor, Baylor University

Faculty Fellow, Hagler Institute for Advanced Study

Senior Fellow, Scowcroft Institute of International Affairs

Texas A&M University

Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty and Adjunct Professor of Bioengineering, Rice University

Adjunct Professor, University of Texas, School of Public Health

Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

E-mail: (b) (6)
Twitter: @peterhotez
Skype: (b) (6)

Linkedin Peter Hotez

Amazon Author Center: https://www.amazon.com/Peter- J.-Hotez/e/B001HPIC48

Daily Beast Contributor https://www.thedailybeast.com/author/peter- j-hotez

Like us on Facebook
https://www.facebook.com/BCMNationalSchoolOfTropicalMedicine/

Senior Coordinator / Executive Support: Douglas Soriano

(b) (6)

Phone: (b) (6)

Fax: 713-798-2299

iPhone

On Aug 1, 2022, at 2:31 PM, Peter Daszak <(b) (6) > wrote:

Peter Hotez just posted this article from The Hill.

Finally, a response from one Academic Society – Georges Benjamin from APHA, but again, it's not strong enough, not loud enough, and not

MORENS_SUBPOENA_006179
MORENS_NIH_015069
REL0000482700

enough people are listening I suspect. As Peter pointed out – where are the societies and the academies?

https://thehill.com/policy/healthcare/3571232- gop-plots-fauci-probe-after-midterms/

HEALTHCARE

GOP plots Fauci probe after midterms

BY NATHANIEL WEIXEL - 07/25/22 5:25 AM ET

SHARETWEET

Congressional Republicans are eagerly floating investigations into Anthony Fauci and the Biden administration's response to the coronavirus pandemic if they win back control of the House or Senate in the midterm elections.

"One way or another, if we are in the majority, we will subpoena his records and he will testify in the Senate under oath," said Sen. Rand Paul (R-Ky.), who is in line to become the chairman of the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee if Republicans win the majority with the panel's current ranking member, Sen. Richard Burr (R-N.C.), retiring.

Republicans have not been shy about launching probes into the U.S. response to the coronavirus pandemic, focusing on the origins of the virus and whether the federal government — and by extension, Fauci — helped fund controversial research that might have played a role in its creation.

While Republicans have been in the minority, those investigations have not gained much momentum. But with the majority, the GOP would have the authority to lob subpoenas at the administration to force it to hand over documents.

"If we win in November, if I'm chairman of a committee, if I have subpoena power, we'll go after every one of [Fauci's] records," Paul said earlier this year.

Public health experts said a hard look needs to be taken at the totality of the U.S. response to the pandemic across both the Trump and Biden administrations, but without getting into partisan finger-pointing.

"If you want to have a hearing, you need it to be a credible one. And that has to have a purpose. Other than going out to an 81 year old man," said Georges Benjamin, executive director of the American Public Health Association.

Benjamin has been among the health advocates pushing for an independent commission modeled on the 9/11 Commission to be formed to examine the pandemic response.

"It should be designed to actually get to the right answers. Until they do that, you know, they're going to continue to politicize it," Benjamin said.

Fauci is a career government official who has become a political lightning rod and a villain in the eyes of many on the right. Conservative media has painted him as a scapegoat for many of the nation's missteps over the pandemic.

Paul, a libertarian ophthalmologist, has repeatedly antagonized the nation's top infectious diseases doctor over the benefits of masks, vaccinations and the origins of COVID-19.

In March, Paul tried to attach to the pandemic relief bill a proposal eliminating Fauci's job and dividing it into three positions.

In the House, Rep. Jim Jordan (R-Ohio), who is in line to chair the House Judiciary Committee if Republicans win the majority, told The Hill that he sees no limits to what he wants to investigate about Fauci and the pandemic.

Like Paul, Jordan has pressed Fauci to answer questions about whether his agency, the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, funded "gain of function" research in China.

Jordan and Paul have long pushed the idea that COVID-19 escaped from a lab in Wuhan, China, either because of an accident or because it was deliberately released, and that U.S.-funded research helped supercharge it into a much more dangerous and deadly version of the coronavirus.

Speaking to right-wing news outlet Just The News earlier this year, Jordan said he envisions that the investigation would aim to untangle "all the lies [and] the misinformation, the disinformation" allegedly spread by Fauci.

"That is because they knew from the get-go [coronavirus] came from the lab, likely came from a lab, gain-of-function likely done, and our tax dollars were used," Jordan said.

The U.S. intelligence community has ruled out the possibility that COVID-19 was a bioweapon developed by China, but beyond that the origins of the virus are unclear.

Some scientists have said the idea that it escaped from a lab needs further investigation but acknowledge that won't happen without China's help. Many others think that it spilled into the human population from animals sold in a Wuhan market.

Still, there is little evidence to suggest it was created in a lab or with funding help from the National Institutes of Health or Fauci.

Moody's: Schumer-Manchin deal will 'nudge' economy, inflation 'in the right direction'Hawley vows to vote 'no' on adding Sweden and Finland to NATO

Rupali Limaye, a health communication scholar at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, said a nakedly partisan investigation of Fauci would do even more damage to the fraying public trust in public health officials.

"I do think that public officials should be held responsible, you should be able to question and think critically about the recommendations that they have made, but it's also a slippery slope," Limaye said.

"Going down this slippery slope of continuing to have investigation after investigation after investigation is not in the best interest for anyone," Limaye said.

TAGS ANTHONY FAUCI ANTHONY FAUCI COVID-19 COVID-19 PANDEMIC JIM JORDAN JIM JORDAN NIH RAND PAUL RAND PAUL RICHARD BURR

The Hill has removed its comment section, as there are many other forums for readers to participate in the conversation. We invite you to join the discussion on Facebook and Twitter.

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: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >
Sent: Monday, August 1, 2022 3:22 PM
To: 'Hotez, Peter Jay' <(b) (6) >; 'David Morens' <(b) (6) >; 'Keusch, Gerald T' <(b) (6) >; 'Roberts, Rich' <(b) (6) >; 'Jeff Sturchio (b) (6) <(b) (6) >
Cc: 'Aleksei Chmura' <(b) (6) >
Subject: Now Fox News on Rand Paul's GoF hearing

…and here's Fox News…of course:

https://www.foxnews.com/politics/rand- paul-vows-get-answers-covid-19-origins-gain-function-hearing

COVID-19 origins in gain-of-function hearing

Paul argues there is significant evidence that the COVID-19 pandemic originated in a Wuhan, China, lab

By Michael Lee | Fox News

Sen. Rand Paul, R-Ky., announced the first ever hearing on gain-of-function research, which will be aimed at pinning down the origins of the COVID-19 pandemic.

"Throughout this pandemic, Dr. Rand Paul has led the effort to hold government officials accountable on the status of efforts being made to combat COVID-19, and the origins of this virus that has killed over 6 million people worldwide," a spokesperson for Paul told Fox News Digital. "This has been over a year-long process of getting Congressional Democrats to finally agree to a hearing, which will also be the first Congressional hearing on gain-of-function research. Dr. Paul looks forward to working with Subcommittee Chairwoman Hassan and hearing from expert witnesses during this critically important hearing that should've happened long ago."

The hearing, which is scheduled for Wednesday, comes a week after the Kentucky senator attempted to pass an amendment to the CHIPS-Plus Act that would have banned U.S. funding of gain-of-function research in China, with Democrats objecting to the amendment despite it passing unanimously in an earlier version of the bill last year.

In remarks on the floor of the Senate last week, Paul argued that there was significant evidence that the origins of the COVID-19 pandemic could be traced to a lab in Wuhan, China.

RAND PAUL SENDS MESSAGE TO FAUCI: YOU'LL HAVE TO TESTIFY UNDER OATH IF GOP WINS

Sen. Rand Paul speaks during a COVID-19 federal response hearing on Capitol Hill. (Joe Raedle/Getty Images)

"Gain-of-function research enhances the severity or transmissibility of existing viruses that may infect humans," Paul said. "The dangers are so acute that from 2014-2017, the National Institutes of Health suspended funding for all gain-of-function projects… the emergence of COVID serves as a reminder that dangerous research conducted in a secretive and totalitarian country is simply too risky to fund."

Paul also sent a letter to the acting director of the National Institutes of Health, Lawrence A. Tabak, last week to demand the agency be more transparent on the origins of COVID-19, arguing that NIH has "repeatedly disregarded its responsibilities" under the Freedom of Information Act.

"Of particular concern is NIH's recent admission in Court that the agency is withholding portions of emails between employees because they 'could be used out of context and serve to amplify the already prevalent misinformation regarding the origins of the coronavirus pandemic,'" Paul said in the letter. "This suggests NIH is censoring the information it releases to the public about the origins of the pandemic."

Paul has had several clashes with public health officials throughout the pandemic, including several confrontations with Dr. Anthony Fauci, who currently serves as the director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases and the chief medical adviser to President Biden.

Dr. Anthony Fauci responds to questions from Sen. Rand Paul at a Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee hearing on Capitol Hill. (Greg Nash-Pool/Getty Images)

Most recently, Paul told Fox News that Fauci would be forced to testify under oath regarding the pandemic if the Republican Party takes control of Congress after the midterm elections.

"If he's in public employment, we will subpoena him," Paul said. "He will have to appear and testify under oath. If Republicans take charge of the House or the Senate or both, he will have to testify under oath because a million Americans died. And we want to know about was there a cover-up in trying to suppress any link to the lab in China?"

Michael Lee is a writer at Fox News. Follow him on Twitter @UAMichaelLee

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: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >
Sent: Monday, August 1, 2022 3:15 PM
To: 'Hotez, Peter Jay' <(b) (6) >; 'David Morens' <(b) (6) >; 'Keusch, Gerald T' <(b) (6) >; 'Roberts, Rich' <(b) (6) 'Jeff Sturchio (b) (6) <(b) (6) >
Cc: 'Aleksei Chmura' <(b) (6) >
Subject: Washington Examiner piece on Rand Paul's GoF hearing

The Washington Examiner is a pretty hard right-wing journal. Here's their story on the hearing on Wednesday, based on a press release from Rand Paul's office. Note that "Rand Paul will once again try to determine the origins of COVID-19"….I thought that was the job of scientific research?

https://www.washingtonexaminer.com/opinion/rand- paul-to-lead-first-congressional-hearing-on-gain-of-function-research?fbclid=IwAR3V-HXpVFZQ8M5Y73_kEQ9ful2giIqWgpSwULr86sFyb1VO1EpWJ27N9TA

I agree with your point Rich – someone from the scientific community should be pushing back against all this - hearings about scientific research of any type should include people who actually have done that research, or can point to its proposed or actual value.

When I gave my keynote last week in front of a room of virologists, I pointed out to them that it's no good watching EcoHealth be attacked

in the press about gain-of-function, and thinking 'glad that's not us' – you guys in the room are the ones actually doing viral research and they're coming for your funding next!

All this, of course, is done to undermine Fauci, undermine Biden, and try to win funding and votes – none of it is actually done to get to the bottom of COVID-19 origins, or protect people in any way…

OPINION

Rand Paul to lead first congressional hearing on gain-of-function research

by Christopher Tremoglie, Commentary Fellow

| July 29, 2022 04:35 PM

On Aug. 3, Sen. Rand Paul (R-KY) will once again try to determine the origins of COVID-19. Paul, ranking member of the subcommittee on emerging threats and spending oversight, will lead the first congressional hearing on gain-of-function research. This is an important matter that many Democratic politicians have largely ignored given the significance of the COVID-19 pandemic. Paul's office announced the hearing in a press release earlier this week.

"Gain-of-function research has historically been supported by tax dollars both domestically and internationally; as such, this hearing lies at the intersection of the subcommittee's two primary jurisdictional responsibilities — monitoring emerging threats and conducting oversight of federal spending," the press release states. "The dangers of this research are so acute that under President Barack Obama, the National Institutes of Health suspended funding for all gain-of-function projects until a risk assessment protocol could be developed for them. Gain-of-function research resumed in 2017, after a special committee review process was established to help manage these risks. However, serious questions remain about whether that protocol is sufficient to protect the U.S. and the world from the potential negative consequences of this research. Moreover, the debate over what gain-of-function research is and what it is not, is not settled."

Gain-of-function research has been hotly debated. In previous hearings regarding the pandemic, Paul and Dr. Anthony Fauci, director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, have had contentious exchanges. In May 2021, the two verbally sparred over whether the National Institutes of Health funded gain-of-function experiments at the Wuhan Institute of Virology. Paul claimed that "superviruses" were created. Fauci denied this and said such reports were "entirely and completely incorrect."

"The purpose of this hearing is to examine issues involving gain-of-function research, which attempts to enhance the severity and transmissibility of existing viruses that may infect humans or other mammals. Witnesses include Dr. Richard H. Ebright, Ph.D., Laboratory Director of Waksman Institute of Microbiology, Dr. Steven Quay, M.D., Ph.D., Chief Executive Officer at Atossa Therapeutics, Inc., and Dr. Kevin M. Esvelt, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Media Arts & Sciences of MIT Media Lab," the press release says.

Much of the skepticism regarding NIH's role in the COVID-19 pandemic stems from a letter sent to Congress by Lawrence A. Tabak, a top NIH official. Tabak claimed that Fauci authorized NIH to fund EcoHealth Alliance to research the relationship between humans and bat-specific pathogens. In the letter, Tabak claimed that NIH failed to report results that revealed an increase in viral growth.

"These medical and scientific professionals will inform and educate lawmakers and the public on the myriad issues involving the risky, virus-enhancing research that is funded by taxpayer money," the press release says.

If proven true, it would be a black eye for NIH, Fauci, and federal government stewardship of taxpayer money.

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: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >
Sent: Monday, August 1, 2022 11:47 AM
To: 'Hotez, Peter Jay' < >; 'David Morens' <(b) (6) >; 'Keusch, Gerald T' <(b) (6) >; 'Roberts, R (b) (6) Jeff Sturchio (b) (6) <(b) (6) >
Cc: 'Aleksei Chmura' <(b) (6) >
Subject: update...

….and I apologize David – I've just noticed that the last email chain also had your (!) NIH email address on it…

I'm catching up on emails this week, having been out of the office, giving a keynote at a conference in Colorado – first in-person conference for me since March 2020.

It's been great to see the two papers published in Science, which by the way use data that the 'Joint WHO-China Study of the Animal Origins of COVID-19' first published in our report in March 2021. Despite the rhetoric since our WHO Wuhan work, these data were new, and were

freely proffered by the China team. These data point clearly to the industrial-scale trade in farmed and wild-caught wildlife in China as the origins, something which China first publicly stated in Jan 2020, then announcing its goal of closing the wildlife farming industry, and the 14 million jobs it involved. The point here is that, while the lab leak accusers point to China as covering up so they don't get blamed for the pandemic, they had already done the opposite with the wildlife trade.

On other news – we are now trying to stave off efforts to defund us by working with a bi-partisan request from the Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations, Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs. We first heard from last Fall, and the letter came from the Democrats, Sen. Ossoff's staff, saying they were a bi-partisan group. However, it's clearly being led by the Republicans (Senator Ron Johnson's staff), and they're pushing us to hand over emails and documents back to 2010 relating to any communications w/ federal agencies on a bunch of COVID and lab leak topics. Right now we're trying to slow down their efforts, and narrow their search, but they're harbingers of what we will likely see in November if the Republicans win the House – a bunch of requests to preserve documents, followed by Subpoenas in January/Feb, unless this topic becomes 'old hat'.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak

President

EcoHealth Alliance

MORENS_SUBPOENA_006190
MORENS_NIH_015080
REL0000482700

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: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >
Sent: Monday, August 1, 2022 11:20 AM
To: 'Hotez, Peter Jay' <(b) (6) >; 'Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E]' <(b) (6)
Cc: 'David Morens' <(b) (6) >; 'Keusch, Gerald T' <(b) (6) Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) >; 'Roberts, Rich' <(b) (6)
Subject: Upcoming hearing from a Senate Subcommittee on gain of function research

Dear all (David – I didn't cc Jeff Taubenberger because you've all been using his NIH address which would be subject to Congressional requests and to FoIA),

I just spotted this upcoming HSGAC Subcommittee on Emerging Threats and Spending Oversight hearing on Wednesday, on one of the lab leaker's social media feeds.

https://www.hsgac.senate.gov/subcommittees/etso/hearings/revisiting- gain-of-function-research-what-the-pandemic-taught-us-and-where-do-we-go-from-here

The three speakers are all non-virologists, and have been attacking all research that tries to get to the bottom of COVID origins, unless it's pushing a China lab leak agenda.

Richard Ebright has been attacking EcoHealth's work ever since the pandemic as part of his long term criticism of recombinant virus technology. He was part of the Cambridge Group that ended up pausing recombinant viral research in the past, and is extremely vocal (and quite offensively) about our work, which he uses to try to leverage attacks against Dr. Fauci, NIAID, NIH in general.
Stephen Quay is pretty much on the edge of being a quack at this point having made many public statements about HIV inserts in the virus etc.
Kevin Esvelt is calling for research identifying viruses in wildlife as a way to get ahead of pandemics to be closed down, following his criticisms of CRISPR etc.

It looks like this is another effort by Rand Paul to drum up some public interest from his base, perhaps?

Cheers,

Peter

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:

MORENS_SUBPOENA_006193
MORENS_NIH_015083
REL0000482700

Date: Fri, 21 Jul 2023 1:24:06 PM -0400
Sent: Fri, 21 Jul 2023 1:23:20 PM -0400
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Fwd: Angela Rasmussen pretty much sums it up in her Twitter thread
From: David Morens <
To: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] <

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: Roberts, Rich <
Date: Mon, Aug 22, 2022 at 9:02 AM
Subject: RE: Angela Rasmussen pretty much sums it up in her Twitter thread
To: Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6) Peter Daszak
<(b) (6) >
Cc: David Morens <(b) (6) >, Gerald T Keusch
<(b) (6) Jeff Sturchio <j (b) (6) Aleksei Chmura
<(b) (6) >

Love this quote from Angie!

“Like many of his fellow economists with Ivy League credentials but no specific expertise in biology, he suffers from the delusion that he knows what the fuck he’s talking about.”

Richard J. Roberts

New England Biolabs

240 County Road

Ipswich, MA 01938-2723

USA

Tel: (b) (6)

Fax: (978) 412 9910

email: (b) (6)

From: Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6)
Sent: Monday, August 22, 2022 8:57 AM
To: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >
Cc: Roberts, Rich <(b) (6) David Morens
<(b) (6) >; Gerald T Keusch <(b) (6) Jeff Sturchio
<(b) (6) Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) >
Subject: Angela Rasmussen pretty much sums it up in her Twitter thread

EXTERNAL SENDER

https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Ftwitter.com%2Fangie_rasmussen%2Fstatus%2F&data=05%7C01%7Cdmorens%40niaid.nih.gov%7Ccbf33999d8524fd0bfcf08db8a0f47ed%7C14b77578977342d5850&sdata=NSSyxHFWPXmoLtB0bJFdCA%2Fiewa6A6%2FTGo96x8p8M%2BM%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

On Aug 21, 2022, at 4:47 PM, Peter Daszak <(b) (6) > wrote:

I'm very surprised to see that Jeff Sachs has been interviewed by the well-known anti-vaxxer and conspiracist Robert F. Kennedy Jr. There's a podcast you can listen to here: https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fpca.st%2Ff4qhwghp&data=05%7C01%7Cdmorens%40niaid.nih.gov%7Ccbf33999d8524fd0bfef08db8a0f47ed%7C14b77578977342d5850&sdata=2w%2BGd2t%2Fd6abjBJEhZ6qEZd4nPhp6%2BteLixmWQVYgFE%3D &reserved=0 but you have to download an app, then use your email and create a password – I didn't.

RFK Jr's anti-vaccine activities are widely known, and just 2 days ago he was removed from social media platforms for spreading conspiracies. Here's an NY Times story on that:

https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.nytimes.com%2F2022%2F08%2F18%2Ftinstagram-robert-kennedy-jr-misinformation.html&data=05%7C01%7Cdmorens%40niaid.nih.gov%7Ccbf33999d8524fd0bfef08db8a0f47ed%7C14b77578977342d5850&sdata=FhW%2FcU7x3V%2BfDVKvQzDOCJvFESPT1nFbtwMgvJEF1FQ%3D &reserved=0

According to lab leak proponents who are reviewing Jeff Sachs' interview, he goes through all the stuff in his PNAS article including the nasty comments about my role in the Lancet Commission. He calls the "Proximal origins" paper in Nature Medicine "ludicrous"; "almost

unbelievable what it says"; "frankly, it is garbage"; "there is a narrative: a willful misdirection"; "joke"; "it is absurd".

I guess he's all-in at this point!

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak

President

EcoHealth Alliance

520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200

New York, NY 10018-6507

USA

Tel.: +1-(b) (6)

Website:
https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.ecohealthalliance.org%2F&data=05%7C01%7Cdmorens%40niaid.nih.gov%7Ccbf33999d8524fd0bfef08db8a0f47ed%7C14b77578977342d5850&sdata=ElOL8mSE3nv2UwNs0onIXgiEyJTA1WhKoofWID4Cxq0%3D &reserved=0

Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

From: Roberts, Rich <(b) (6)
Sent: Saturday, August 20, 2022 7:02 PM
To: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >; David Morens <(b) (6) >; Gerald T Keusch <(b) (6) Jeff Sturchio <(b) (6) Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6)
Cc: Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) >
Subject: RE: Continued NIH action - already leaked to the press

Peter:

Yet another example of why they should close the major law schools, especially Harvard and Yale, and make the students go to Medical School instead. That tackles two problems, since a significant number of Harvard and Yale graduates go down to Congress where they do yet more harm

Rich

Richard J. Roberts

New England Biolabs

240 County Road

Ipswich, MA 01938-2723

USA

Tel: (b) (6)

Fax: (978) 412 9910

email: (b) (6)

From: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >
Sent: Saturday, August 20, 2022 6:55 PM
To: Roberts, Rich <(b) (6) David Morens <(b) (6) >; Gerald T Keusch <(b) (6) Jeff Sturchio

MORENS_SUBPOENA_002557
MORENS_NIH_009073
REL0000482701

<(b) (6) Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6)
Cc: Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6)
Subject: RE: Continued NIH action - already leaked to the press

EXTERNAL SENDER

I love that idea Rich.

Truth is, our lawyers told us early on that the actions NIH took are likely illegal. They've looked at all prior cases of NIH terminated grants, suspending grants and appeals against them. There are precedents for winning these cases, e.g. Planned Parenthood and others. The only catch is that suing NIH would mean litigation that drags on for a few years, discovery actions that would demand all sorts of private correspondence, and ultimately a jury that might by now be contaminated with the lab leak narrative. They advised us that the best option is to push privately for the grant to be renegotiated, which I suppose is where we are now.

All of this is of course exacerbated by the other actions and attacks that add to a general narrative that EcoHealth must have been up to no good – this includes the NAM investigation that we're still waiting to hear about, and the OIG audit. There's also a lawsuit against us that we've tried not to talk publicly about, but it's real and we have to defend against it. A lawyer in Long Island who's sued EHA, myself and even my wife for a huge sum for causing COVID-19 that then infected him etc.

Cheers,

Peter

MORENS_SUBPOENA_002558
MORENS_NIH_009074
REL0000482701

Peter Daszak

President

EcoHealth Alliance

520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200

New York, NY 10018-6507

USA

Tel.: +1-(b) (6)

Website:
https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.ecohealthalliance.org%2F
&data=05%7C01%7Cdmorens%40niaid.nih.gov%7Ccbf33999d8524fd0bfef08db8a0f47ed%7C14b77578977342d5850
&sdata=ElOL8mSE3nv2UwNs0onIXgiEyJTA1WhKoofWID4Cxq0%3D &reserved=0

Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

From: Roberts, Rich <(b) (6)
Sent: Saturday, August 20, 2022 6:33 PM
To: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >; David Morens <(b) (6) >; Gerald T Keusch <(b) (6) Jeff Sturchio <(b) (6) >; Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6)
Cc: Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) >
Subject: RE: Continued NIH action - already leaked to the press

Peter:

Maybe there's a way to bill NIH for all the extra work they have caused you to undertake. A good lawyer might have a field day.

Rich

Richard J. Roberts

New England Biolabs

240 County Road

Ipswich, MA 01938-2723

USA

Tel: (b) (6)

Fax: (978) 412 9910

email: (b) (6)

From: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >
Sent: Saturday, August 20, 2022 1:36 PM
To: Roberts, Rich <(b) (6) David Morens
<(b) (6) >; Gerald T Keusch <(b) (6) Jeff Sturchio
<(b) (6) Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6)
Cc: Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) >
Subject: RE: Continued NIH action - already leaked to the press
Importance: High

EXTERNAL SENDER

Thanks Rich - I've got to look at the positives in all of this and just carry on fighting, if only for my own health reasons. It's been a really horrible couple of years and I've found that the constant harassment can really get you down – it's been shocking to me how much of struggle this is with many days spent despairing over my own personal future and the future of EcoHealth. It's been tough on my family as well, and the other staff at EHA.

I'm determined not to give up though and will be going through all the options carefully. The other glimmer of hope is that any 'renegotiation' will be with NIAID staff, so I'll reach out to them ASAP. I think that if most of the funding is planned for the US, with just one subcontract to China, for a group that works on epidemiology, that might work. The other strategy would be to see if a shift to another country would work. I'm mindful that NIH (Lauer et al.) would be delighted if we just handed in the towel, and will probably be looking for excuses to consider our alternative plans out of scope.

On this issue of who is 'the pits' and who isn't at NIH, I think the list begins with Francis Collins, who committed the original sin of terminating our grant when he could have simply resisted. Second is his lackey Lauer who took it to another level of bumbling errors, illegal actions, and aggressive brinksmanship, but there are others also. Lawrence Tabak (now acting Director NIH) publicly stated that we were out of compliance and really threw us under the bus, and there are a group of legal advisors and Congressional staffers at the Office of the Director who have actively worked to publicly undermine us, sometimes with clear glee and delight.

For example, in one of the FoIA'd emails that Peter Aldhous at Buzzfeed unearthed, he spotted Michael Lauer sending details of our animal experiment oversight, which they then used to tighten the screw on us very publicly and unfairly. Lauer used the subject Header "A Gift" when he sent this to his legal and Congressional relations colleagues at NIH. That sort of gloating is pretty disgusting, and won't be forgotten by me. Peter Aldhous also dug up clear evidence that NIH requested an OIG audit as part of their efforts to tighten the screws on us, and get them off the hook. We're just negotiating the final results of that audit – a huge timesink that's been going on over a year now, has looked at grants to EHA over the last 8 years, and has only found $77,000 of mis-coded financial errors (including a $19 overpayment to a contractor, with $7 indirect costs; and a single $5 alcoholic beverage at a hotel mistakenly coded to our grant). Great use of taxpayer money and time and the total of these mis-coded finances is less than 1% of the grants they reviewed, and less than 0.01% of our budget over that period. Of course, when the report goes public in a few weeks, it'll be used by Republicans to demand we're de-funded and closed down (again).

Ironically, in the emails (below), Michael Lauer cc's Michelle Bulls, who's listed in his correspondence yesterday as the person we have to write to if we want to appeal their decision. Pretty sure she's not an objective overseer at this point.

Here's the article:

https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.buzzfeednews.com%2Farticle%2Fpeteraldhous%2Fcoat-waste-anthony-fauci-nih-ecohealth-alliance-lab&data=05%7C01%7Cdmorens%40niaid.nih.gov%7Ccbf33999d8524fd0bfef08db8a0f47ed%7C14b77578977342d5850&sdata=kSWi44o0BrcjyUsHmkiOnVl6LEJSwA6bradjMy5Dp8M%3D&reserved=0

And here's the section (and you can click on the links to see the FoIA'd emails):

A heavily redacted series of emails from May 2021 centers on the July 2016 letter from the NIAID that had given EcoHealth permission to resume the chimera work. Accepting a suggestion made by Daszak himself, it stated that if any of the chimeric viruses showed unexpectedly rapid growth, he would "immediately stop all experiments with these viruses" and provide NIAID officials with information about the unexpected outcomes. Shortly after receiving the letter, Lauer sent it on to a senior attorney with the Department of Health and Human Services, assigned to the NIH, changing the subject line on the email thread to "Gift."

Daszak's problem was that the NIH determined that an experiment described in annual progress reports for the grant indicated that one of these viruses had made mice engineered to carry the human receptor targeted by SARS-like viruses sicker than expected and showed signs of rapid growth. "EcoHealth failed to report this finding right away," NIH deputy director Tabak later wrote in an October 2021 letter to James Comer, the ranking Republican member on the House of Representatives Committee on Oversight and Reform.

None of this amounts to a smoking gun linking EcoHealth and the Wuhan institute to the origins of COVID, as the viruses involved were very different to SARS-CoV-2. And in a letter to Lauer and Tabak after the latter's communication with Comer, Daszak contested the conclusion that the experiment did show rapid viral growth and argued that EcoHealth had complied with its reporting requirements.

But it gave Lauer evidence that he was looking for. EcoHealth is now under audit from the Office of Inspector General for the Department of Health and Human Services, an independent watchdog that monitors fraud, waste, and other problems, as part of a review of the NIH and "selected grantees" initiated on June 11, 2021. Documents received by BuzzFeed News through its FOIA lawsuit, including a timeline of events put together by Lauer dated June 13, 2021, indicate that the suggestion for an OIG audit of EcoHealth came from the NIH, just days after Lauer sent his "Gift" email.

The NIH declined to discuss Lauer's email and timeline, saying in a statement: "NIH doesn't comment on internal deliberation of grant awards."

Cheers,

Peter

MORENS_SUBPOENA_002562
MORENS_NIH_009078
REL0000482701

Peter Daszak

President

EcoHealth Alliance

520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200

New York, NY 10018-6507

USA

Tel.: +1-(b) (6)

Website:
https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.ecohealthalliance.org%2F
&data=05%7C01%7Cdmorens%40niaid.nih.gov%7Ccbf33999d8524fd0bfef08db8a0f47ed%7C14b77578977342d5850
&sdata=ElOL8mSE3nv2UwNs0onIXgiEyJTA1WhKoofWID4Cxq0%3D &reserved=0

Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

From: Roberts, Rich <(b) (6)
Sent: Saturday, August 20, 2022 12:55 PM
To: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >; David Morens <(b) (6) >; Gerald T Keusch <(b) (6) Jeff Sturchio <(b) (6) >; Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6)
Cc: Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) >
Subject: RE: Continued NIH action - already leaked to the press

Peter:

Glad you could find a glimmer to be hopeful about. Lauer is just the pits!

Are there people outside of China you might be able to collaborate with?

Rich

Richard J. Roberts

New England Biolabs

240 County Road

Ipswich, MA 01938-2723

USA

Tel: (b) (6)

Fax: (978) 412 9910

email: (b) (6)

From: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >
Sent: Saturday, August 20, 2022 10:27 AM
To: David Morens <(b) (6) >; Gerald T Keusch <(b) (6) Jeff Sturchio <(b) (6) Roberts, Rich <(b) (6) Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6)
Cc: Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) >
Subject: RE: Continued NIH action - already leaked to the press
Importance: High

EXTERNAL SENDER

I found a copy on Twitter of Lauer's letter to Rep Comer yesterday – word doc attached, recreated using screenshot jpegs, so hope it works.

It's good that they're publicly stating we've cooperated with NIH – this is related to their continued series of letters about our other grants – making us jump through all sorts of hoops just to continue our work. At the same time, they're clearly trying to show the aggressive Republicans in Congress that NIH is going to crack down on miscreants such as us. Apparently, for at least the next 3 years we'll have to double up our reporting requirements, have no automatic carry over of unspent funds, and have to conduct 6 monthly onsite assessments of subcontractees. We've not been told all that yet by NIH, but no doubt there'll be another letter from Lauer on its way soon.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak

President

EcoHealth Alliance

520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200

New York, NY 10018-6507

USA

Tel.: +1-(b) (6)

Website:
https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.ecohealthalliance.org%2F
&data=05%7C01%7Cdmorens%40niaid.nih.gov%7Ccbf33999d8524fd0bfef08db8a0f47ed%7C14b77578977342d5850
&sdata=ElOL8mSE3nv2UwNs0onIXgiEyJTA1WhKoofWID4Cxq0%3D &reserved=0

Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

From: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >
Sent: Saturday, August 20, 2022 10:06 AM
To: 'David Morens' <(b) (6) >; 'Gerald T Keusch' <(b) (6) 'Jeff Sturchio' <(b) (6) ; 'Roberts, Rich' <(b) (6) >; 'Hotez, Peter Jay' <(b) (6) >
Cc: Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) >
Subject: Continued NIH action - already leaked to the press
Importance: High

Here's the latest from NIH – as usual we received a Friday afternoon pdf letter from Michael Lauer that's full of legalistic language (attached). And as also 'usual', Lauer only sent this the same day he informed Republicans on an oversight committee, and either him or the Republicans then instantly made it public. There's already an article in the Washington Examiner about it (below)

They're basically terminating our subcontract to WIV because we were unable to get the lab notebooks they demanded (no surprise there, given the politics). They're also offering us the chance to renegotiate the grant. Sounds great, but by now of course the chances of any institution in China wanting to work with an organization targeted in this way are pretty slim. There's also the buried proviso that we have to arrange for 6-monthly inspections of our subcontractee's labs.

If we don't want to renegotiate, we have to bilaterally terminate.

After 2 and a half years of pressure from NIH, we're now back to where we were in April of 2020, when NIH informed us to suspend all work with WIV, but that we could carry on with the grant. This was then followed a few days later with full termination, then suspension with conditions, then more conditions, now this. Pretty depressing, awful, and utterly unnecessary.

Not sure what we'll do, but my gut feeling is we should continue and try to find a way forwards with other groups in China. It'll be a hard path, considering WIV are the premier bat virus group in China and our preferred partners, and the politics has made all of this completely toxic. But it's the honorable path, as a scientist, and I think we should at least try.

Here's the Washington Examiner article:

https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.washingtonexaminer.com%2Fpolicy%2Fhends-subaward-wuhan-lab-stonewalling&data=05%7C01%7Cdmorens%40niaid.nih.gov%7Ccbf33999d8524fd0bfef08db8a0f47ed%7C14b77578977342d5850&sdata=mczLEQUKiXEUMP%2FskgjxMBvU7WCOwxwjMa2eJdBaRSg%3D &reserved=0

WUHAN LAB

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:	Sat, 9 Jul 2022 4:53:15 PM -0400
Sent:	Sat, 9 Jul 2022 4:53:05 PM -0400
Subject:	Re: Newsweek: Russia Jumps on Wild Claims COVID Was Created in U.S. Lab
From:	"Hotez, Peter Jay" <(b) (6)
To:	Peter Daszak <(b) (6)
CC:	David Morens <(b) (6) Gerald Keusch <(b) (6) Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) Rich Roberts <(b) (6) Jeff Sturchio <(b) (6) >;
Attachments:	image001.png; image001.png

Indeed, right out of central casting. In his 80s he was stopped for speeding in Las Vegas. Although for reasons I've never understood he loved watching Liberace

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Liberace

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) (b) (6)
Phone:
Fax: 713-798-2299

MORENS_SUBPOENA_008217
MORENS_NIH_018024
REL0000482702

iPhone

On Jul 9, 2022, at 3:46 PM, Peter Daszak <(b) (6) > wrote:

Lovely vision of your Grandad, who sounds like a real character - a Mensch of the 'old school'!

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: Saturday, J (b) (6) (b) (6) usch < (b) (6) ei Chmura <(b) (6) Rich Roberts <(b) (6) Jeff Sturchio (b) (6)
Subject: Re: Newsweek: Russia Jumps on Wild Claims COVID Was Created in U.S. Lab

Awful, but predicted and predictable: I explained to Jeff that his public position would cause unnecessary and unjustified harm to both science and scientists in the US. But in addition, it looks as though he invited public condemnation against himself by seeming to simultaneously support both the Russian and Chinese Governments.

My grandfather, Morris Goldberg a hard scrabble immigrant orphaned on the streets of Paris who got out before the Nazi's arrived and would chain smoke Phillip Morris cigarettes and used to take me to the Green Mountain race track in Vermont (when I was a kid) to bet on the horses, would call that "the Trifecta"

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP
Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine
Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology
Health Policy Scholar
Baylor College of Medicine

Texas Children's Hospital Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics
Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development

University Professor, Baylor University

Faculty Fellow, Hagler Institute for Advanced Study
Senior Fellow, Scowcroft Institute of International Affairs
Texas A&M University
Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty and Adjunct Professor of Bioengineering, Rice University
Adjunct Professor, University of Texas, School of Public Health

Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

E-mail:(b) (6)
Twitter: @peterhotez
Skype: (b) (6)
Linkedin Peter Hotez

Amazon Author Center: https://www.amazon.com/Peter-J.-Hotez/e/B001HPIC48
Daily Beast Contributor https://www.thedailybeast.com/author/peter-j-hotez
Like us on Facebook https://www.facebook.com/BCMNationalSchoolOfTropicalMedicine/

Senior Coordinator / Executive Support: Douglas Soriano
(b) (6)
Phone: (b) (6)
Fax: 713-798-2299

From: Peter Daszak (b) (6)
Sent: Saturday, July 9, 2022 12:54 PM
(b) (6) David Morens <(b) (6) Gerald Keusch (b) (6) Aleksei Chmura <
; Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6) Rich Roberts (b) (6) Jeff Sturchio

Subject: RE: Newsweek: Russia Jumps on Wild Claims COVID Was Created in U.S. Lab

*****CAUTION:*** This email is not from a BCM Source. Only click links or open attachments you know are safe.**

I don't think Jeff Sachs did a thoughtful reflection on what sort of damage he might end up doing by supporting the lab leak narrative and pointing the finger at US scientists. He's now dragged US science into the line of attack from China, Russia, and the US right wingers, all over again…

It's been a relatively quiet few weeks in the press for us at EHA, but I noticed some increased harassment by email etc last night. I've now found out that Tucker Carlson on Fox News decided to do a 'retrospective' on the lab leak narrative and demand investigation of US scientists including me and EcoHealth. The video's below – pretty miserable attack full of errors, innuendo and outright lies…of course… and with video of me and naming me as a person who likely started the pandemic.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1MJrUew2Kyg

If you don't want to watch it (and it's extremely irritating) – just have a look at the comments on the website and you'll see where all this is going – with over a million views in one day, that's a million hard right US citizens putting US scientists on their hit lists for harrassment and worse…

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: David Morens <(b) (6) >
Sent: Saturday, July 9, 2022 1:14 PM
To: Peter Daszak (b) (6) >; Gerald Keusch <(b) (6) >; Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) peter hotez (b) (6) Rich Roberts (b) (6) Jeff Sturchio <(b) (6)
Subject: Fwd: Newsweek: Russia Jumps on Wild Claims COVID Was Created in U.S. Lab

Sent from my iPhone
David M Morens
OD, NIAID, NIH
Begin forwarded message:

> **From:** "Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E]" <(b) (6) >
> **Date:** July 9, 2022 at 13:12:58 EDT
> **To:** David Morens <(b) (6) >
> **Subject: Fwd: Newsweek: Russia Jumps on Wild Claims COVID Was Created in U.S. Lab**

MORENS_SUBPOENA_008220
MORENS_NIH_018027
REL0000482702

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 12:53:14 EDT
Subject: Newsweek: Russia Jumps on Wild Claims COVID Was Created in U.S. Lab

Tech & Science

Russia Jumps on Wild Claims COVID Was Created in U.S. Lab

By Ed Browne On 7/6/22 at 10:51 AM EDT

A Russian government official has demanded that Washington be "held accountable" for the COVID-19 pandemic after a pair of university professors said U.S. research organizations had more to answer for.

Since the early days of the pandemic in 2020 there has been much discussion over how SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID, came into existence.

World Health Organization (WHO) researchers sent to Wuhan, China, to investigate the first known outbreak concluded that although more research was needed, a natural spillover to humans from animals was the most likely outcome and considered a lab leak scenario to be "extremely unlikely."

At the time the lab leak scenario was perhaps more of a fringe idea and one that carried with it an air of conspiracy theory. Since then, calls for investigation into the origins of COVID, including a lab leak, have come from the U.S. president himself and the possibility has not been written off, though it's sparked animosity between scientists who disagree on the likelihood of the theory as well as between countries who are keen to offload blame.

Proponents of the lab leak theory argue that it is no coincidence that some labs—notably those in Wuhan—had been working on engineering coronaviruses in the years prior to the pandemic.

In May, two Columbia University professors published an opinion article in the U.S. journal *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences* (PNAS) in which they argue that animal spillover and a "research-related incident" are "the two main hypotheses" regarding the origin of COVID and that "there is much important information that can be gleaned from U.S.-based research institutions, information not yet made available for independent, transparent, and scientific scrutiny."

[redacted], an economics professor, and Neil Harrison, a professor of anesthesiology and pharmacology, went on to state that "much of the work on SARS-like coronaviruses performed in Wuhan [before the pandemic] was part of an active and highly collaborative U.S.–China scientific research program funded by the U.S. government" and that "it is still not clear whether the U.S. intelligence community (IC) investigated these U.S.-supported and U.S.-based activities. If it did, it has yet to make any of its findings available to the U.S. scientific community for independent and transparent analysis and assessment."

More recently, Sachs went further. Speaking in a discussion at the Gate Center research group in Madrid last month, Sachs said: "I'm pretty convinced it came out of a U.S. lab of biotechnology, not out of nature 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," he said, without elaborating on the nature or substance of said evidence.

However, responding to a *Newsweek* request for comment, Sachs provided some additional insight into his thinking.

"The basic point is the US-backed and US-funded research in the US and partners in China was to perform the very kind of experiments that may have produced SARS-CoV-2," he wrote in an email.

"Indeed, in my view, that is the most likely inference from various pieces of evidence. SARS-CoV-2 is a SARS-like CoV (coronavirus) that has a Furin Cleavage Site (FCS). The US team backed by NIH was intent on introducing an FCS into a large number of previously unreported SARS-CoVs.

"My personal best guess is that SARS-CoV-2 was thereby created and that it accidentally escaped from a laboratory, perhaps the Wuhan Institute of Virology, or perhaps elsewhere.

"NIH has yet not told us what it knew when. The ongoing NIH secrecy and indeed misdirection is a huge and ongoing problem," he concluded.

However, as the U.S. Intelligence Council has previously noted, and past research has suggested, instances

MORENS_SUBPOENA_008221
MORENS_NIH_018028
REL0000482702

have been observed in which furin cleavage sites—a part of SARS-CoV-2 that enhances infection—have been identified in naturally-occurring coronaviruses in the past, and that a coronavirus that was 96.2 percent identical to SARS-CoV-2 was discovered in a bat in 2013.

While the research into and debate around this particular aspect of SARS-CoV-2 continues, it is neither a definitive indicator of lab origins of the virus, nor is it a new piece of information in the conversation about Covid origins, as some outlets and commentators have purported.

It is also worth noting that Sachs' own credibility and links to China, where he holds an advisory role at Beijing' Tsinghua University, have been questioned in the light of his efforts to find the origins of the virus, with some conservative outlets branding him "China's apologist in chief."

And regardless of his genuine or purported affiliations, it is worth emphasizing that Sachs' primary expertise lie in the fields of economics and policy, rather than virology.

Newsweek has contacted the U.S. Department of State for comment.

Shortly after videos of Sachs' comments spread online, Vyacheslav Volodin, Chairman of the State Duma in Russia, pounced on the claim to criticize the U.S. and demand compensation.

In a Telegram post on Wednesday this week, Volodin wrote, translated from Russian: "Millions of sick and dead people, the global economic crisis, a drop in people's living standards are the consequences of COVID-19 for which Washington needs to be held accountable.

"To all states affected by the pandemic, the United States is obliged to compensate for the losses incurred."

It should be noted that Russian officials and outlets have been spreading debunked claims and propaganda about supposed U.S. "biolabs" in Ukraine since invading its neighboring country.

It's also not the first time that COVID origins accusations have been levelled at Washington. China, which itself has been a target of such accusations, has in turn pushed its own theories.

Several times last year, Chinese foreign ministry spokesperson Zhao Lijian suggested that the Fort Detrick military base in the U.S. should be investigated as part of the WHO's COVID investigations. China's state-owned *Global Times* newspaper has also made similar claims.

Update 07/07/22, 5:16 a.m. ET: This article was updated with comment from Jeffrey Sachs.

Disclaimer: Any third-party material in this email has been shared for internal use under fair use provisions of U.S. copyright law, without further verification of its accuracy/veracity. It does not necessarily represent my views nor those of NIAID, NIH, HHS, or the U.S. government.

Disclaimer

This communication, together with any attachment, may contain confidential and/or proprietary information (including without limitation copyright material and/or other intellectual property) and is intended only for the person(s) and/or entity(ies) to whom it is addressed. If you are not the intended recipient of this communication, or if you received it in error, you should not disseminate, distribute or copy this communication and you are asked to kindly delete it and promptly notify us. Any copying, use, disclosure or distribution of any part of this communication or taking any action in reliance on the content of this communication, unless duly authorized by or on behalf of EcoHealth Alliance, is strictly prohibited and may be unlawful.

Disclaimer

This communication, together with any attachment, may contain confidential and/or proprietary information (including without limitation copyright material and/or other intellectual property) and is intended only for the person(s) and/or entity(ies) to whom it is addressed. If you are not the intended recipient of this communication, or if you received it in error, you should not disseminate, distribute or copy this communication and you are asked to kindly delete it and promptly notify us. Any copying, use, disclosure or distribution of any part of this communication or taking any action in reliance on the contents of this communication, unless duly authorized by or on behalf of EcoHealth Alliance, is strictly prohibited and may be unlawful.

Date:	Mon, 16 Oct 2023 10:11:17 AM -0400
Subject:	Fwd: NYT: Lab Leak Fight Casts Chill Over Virology Research
From:	David Morens <(b) (6)
To:	P (b) (6) (b) (6) Roberts, Rich <(b) (6) hio <(b) (6) Chmura <(b) (6) Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6)
Attachments:	image001.jpg; image002.png; image003.png; image004.jpg; image005.jpg; image006.jpg; image007.jpg; image008.jpg; image009.jpg; image010.jpg

David Morens

(b) (6)

(b) (6)

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: Mon, Oct 16, 2023 at 9:47 AM
Subject: Fwd: NYT: Lab Leak Fight Casts Chill Over Virology Research
To: David Morens <(b) (6) >

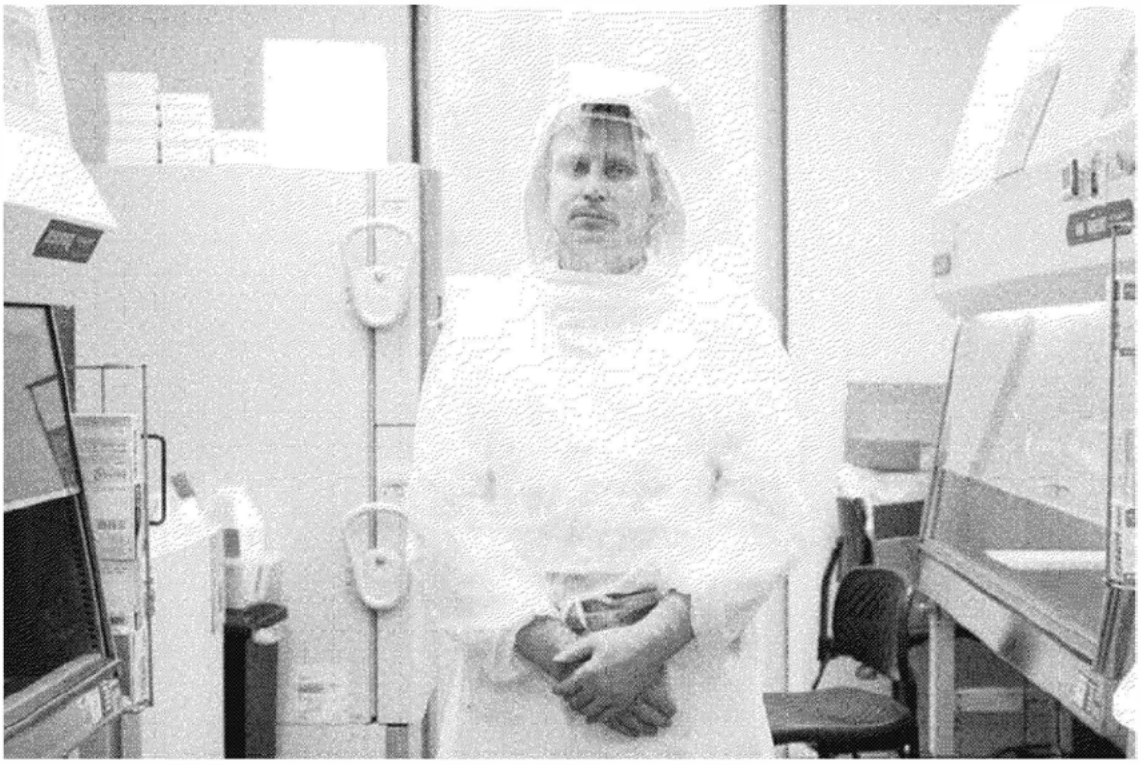
Sent from my iPhone
David M Morens
OD, NIAID, NIH
Begin forwarded message:

> **From:** "Folkers, Greg (NIH/NIAID) [C]" <(b) (6) >
> **Date:** October 16, 2023 at 08:30:15 EDT
> **Subject: NYT: Lab Leak Fight Casts Chill Over Virology Research**

Lab Leak Fight Casts Chill Over Virology

Research

Scientists doing “gain-of-function” research said that heightened fears of lab leaks are stalling studies that could thwart the next pandemic virus.



Troy Sutton, a virologist at Pennsylvania State University, said that health officials referred to the public controversy over the lab leak theory in advising him to pursue different experiments.Credit...Haiyun Jiang for The New York Times

By Benjamin Mueller and Sheryl Gay Stolberg

Benjamin Mueller reported from State College, Pa., and Sheryl Gay Stolberg from Washington.

Oct. 16, 2023Updated 8:08 a.m. ET

Sign up for Science Times Get stories that capture the wonders of nature, the cosmos and the human

MORENS_SUBPOENA_003229
MORENS_NIH_009774
REL0000482703

body. Get it sent to your inbox.

Questions about whether Covid leaked from a Chinese laboratory have cast a chill over American virus research, drying up funding for scientists who collect or alter dangerous pathogens and intensifying a debate over those practices.

The pullback has transformed one of the most highly charged fields of medical science. While some believe such experiments could fend off the next pandemic, others worry that they are more likely to start one.

At Pennsylvania State University, a proposal to infect ferrets with a mutant bird flu virus passed the federal government's most rigorous biosafety review only to be rebuffed by the National Institutes of Health. Troy Sutton, the scientist behind the studies, said that health officials referred to the public controversy over the lab leak theory in advising him to pursue different experiments.

In Washington, international development officials pulled the plug this summer on a $125 million program to collect animal viruses on several continents after two senior Republican senators demanded that they end the project.

And elsewhere in the United States, nearly two dozen virologists, some of whom spoke anonymously for fear of jeopardizing funding or career prospects, described a professionwide retreat from sensitive experiments. Some said that they had stopped proposing such work because research plans were languishing in long and opaque government reviews. One virologist said that university administrators had asked him to remove his name from a study done with colleagues in China.

Image

The Wuhan Institute of Virology in 2021.Credit...Thomas Peter/Reuters

MORENS_SUBPOENA_003230
MORENS_NIH_009775
REL0000482703

Some of the affected experiments constitute gain-of-function research, in which scientists genetically alter a virus to see whether that makes the pathogen deadlier or more contagious.

To proponents of such work, there is no better way to home in on what mutations make a virus dangerous. Those findings, in turn, can help researchers spot the most worrisome of the new pathogens constantly jumping from animals to humans or prepare vaccines to target pandemic-ready viruses.

"The next flu pandemic is brewing in nature, but we have very little means of stopping it, very little means of identifying what the most dangerous viruses are," said Dr. Sutton, the Penn State virologist. "This freight train is coming, and we need to do anything we can do to get ahead of that."

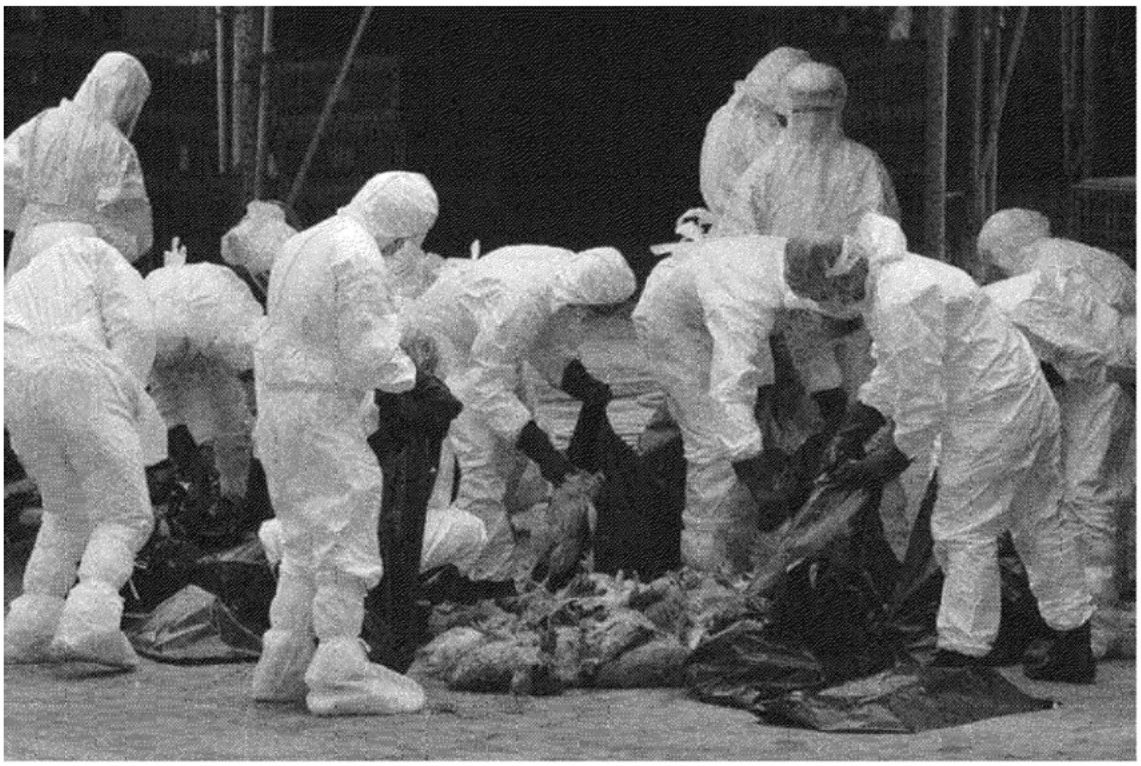
But critics say that fiddling with deadly viruses poses intolerable risks for the sake of only hazy public health benefits. Lab mishaps have happened, including in the United States. However small the odds of a lab-generated outbreak, a leak could be catastrophic. If political concerns are intensifying scrutiny of gain-of-function studies, those scientists say, the result is still a much-needed recalibration of the risks and benefits of such work.

"I think there's lots of good reason to try to remove politics from science, but I can't complain when what I regard as legitimate political criticism of certain kinds of science affects the judgment of funding agencies," said Marc Lipsitch, an epidemiologist at Harvard who has long questioned the benefits of disease-enhancing experiments. "Ultimately, they are spending tax dollars."

In the Covid pandemic, both sides of the debate have found powerful grist.

The possibility that Covid emerged from a lab fueled appeals from biosafety proponents for a clampdown on experiments with even a remote chance of triggering a similar outcome. At the same time, studies suggesting that Covid spilled instead from an illegal animal market reinforced scientists' fears of the dangerous mutations that viruses pick up in nature — and the need to prepare for them with safer studies in a lab.

The next threat may not be far off: A new bird flu variant known as H5N1 has felled many millions of birds globally, sporadically jumping into their handlers as it spreads.



Chicken culling in Hong Kong in 2011.Credit...Aaron Tam/Agence France-Presse — Getty Images

Dr. Sutton was apprenticing in a leading bird flu lab when, in 2011, a firestorm erupted in his field.

Two groups — one in the United States and one in the Netherlands — tweaked the genes of bird flu viruses to make them more transmissible, showing that such viruses could evolve to trigger human pandemics.

To critics, the studies became a byword for reckless experiments that risked kindling horrific outbreaks for only modest scientific knowledge. Lab leaks were responsible for the last cases of smallpox, in 1978, and for infections among scientists in Asia with an earlier coronavirus, SARS-CoV-1, in 2003 and 2004.

But other researchers saw the bird flu studies as critical for mapping the virus's evolutionary potential. Because of those studies, scientists said, they now know what to look for when sequencing the viruses that are decimating bird colonies. Similar experiments have helped researchers pick viruses to target with prepandemic vaccines.

With those debates flaring, and the discovery in 2014 of forgotten vials of smallpox on the N.I.H. campus, the Obama administration temporarily suspended funding that year for gain-of-function work. Dr. Sutton had just completed bird flu studies at the University of Maryland that underwent layers of special government review and drew criticism from some scientists.

He told his wife it might be time to leave academic research.

But the Trump administration lifted the pause and implemented new oversight rules in 2017 — the same year that Dr. Sutton opened his Penn State lab. Under the new rules, a specialized government committee would review certain gain-of-function proposals, another step in a vetting process that includes lab inspections and university biosafety reviews.

MORENS_SUBPOENA_003232
MORENS_NIH_009777
REL0000482703

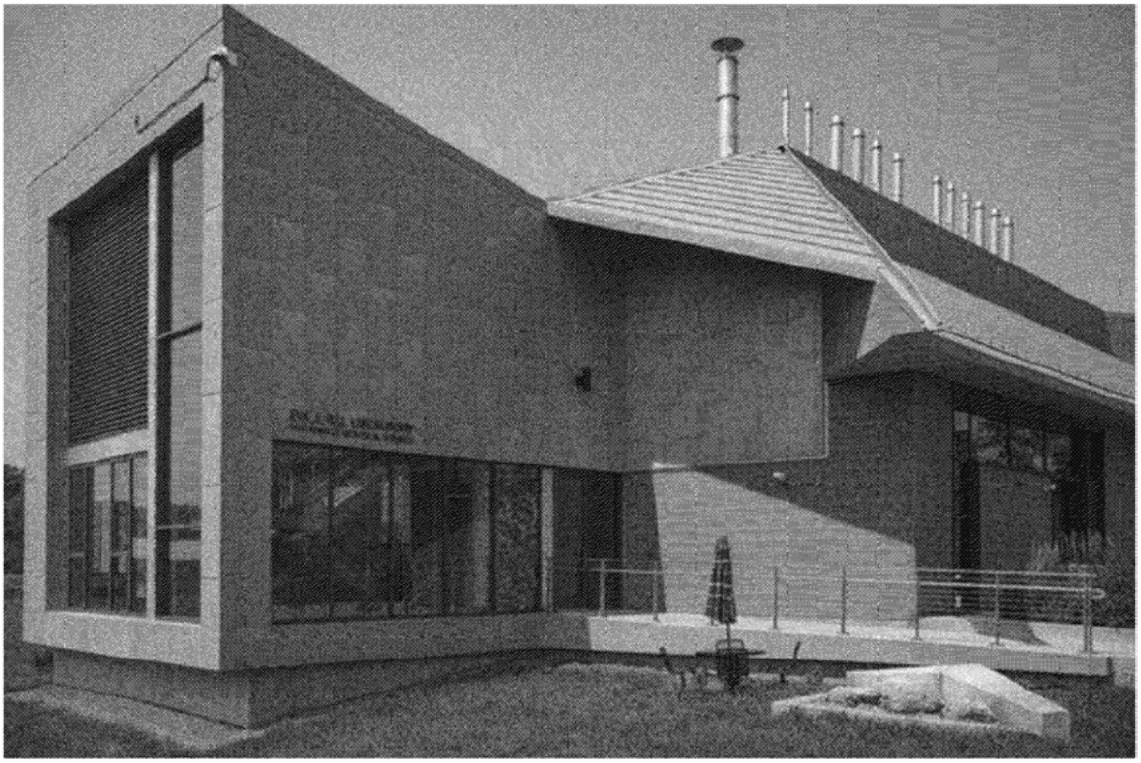
The committee keeps secret its membership as well as details about deliberations. Its oversight is limited to government-funded research. And it has vetted only three projects — partly because some scientists, fearing prolonged reviews, started shelving proposals that could trigger them.

Dr. Sutton, though, was not discouraged. He trained in virology at the same hospital in Vancouver where, when he was 12, his mother died of cancer. He felt that science had fallen short. To protect people's health, researchers needed to investigate new frontiers of disease.

The third project that the gain-of-function committee reviewed was his.

'They Weren't Comfortable'

Image



The Eva J. Pell Laboratory at Penn State is the second-most secure type of biosafety lab in the United States.Credit...Haiyun Jiang for The New York Times

Penn State's high-security lab, tucked on a remote corner of campus behind tall fencing, operates like a vacuum: Outdoor air flows in before being sucked back out through filters that clean the exhaust by removing contaminated particles. Before handling viruses, scientists strap on battery-powered filtration hoods. They exchange their street clothes for protective gear while they work and shower on the way out.

There, in 2018, Dr. Sutton proposed conducting bird flu studies.

Dr. Sutton was preoccupied with the H7N9 strain of the virus, which at the time had been spreading in poultry and occasionally jumping to people, killing 40 percent of patients. Fears that the virus could mutate, allowing it to spread easily from person to person, prompted American health officials to classify

it as “having the greatest potential to cause a pandemic.”

He wanted to know how close that scenario was to becoming reality.

In earlier studies, Dr. Sutton had discovered an alarming clue. The virus, which transmitted poorly among people, should also have struggled to spread among ferrets, mammals used as experimental stand-ins for humans. But to his surprise, the virus sometimes jumped from one ferret to another, picking up genetic mutations.

Did those mutations appear at random? Or were they endowing the virus with just what it needed to spread, offering a preview of how the wild virus could evolve to start a pandemic?

His 2018 proposal suggested addressing that question by creating versions of the virus with those mutations and infecting ferrets with them.

Inside a High-Security Virus Lab

High-security labs, like this one at Penn State, are at the center of a debate over research that alters viruses to make them more dangerous.

At the N.I.H., the experiments passed their first test: An influential panel of expert scientists recommended them for funding. Then came the gain-of-function committee.

The committee pored over his study, Dr. Sutton said, asking about trainings, equipment and worker screenings. In February 2020, he said, the panel reported being satisfied that the project could proceed with a few clarifications. It just needed approval from N.I.H. leaders.

MORENS_SUBPOENA_003234
MORENS_NIH_009779
REL0000482703

Dr. Sutton made the requested clarifications, he said, and resubmitted his plans in the summer of 2020. By then, Covid had arrived — and with it, questions that would drastically alter the political climate around virology research.

Some scientists suggested that the virus had leaked out of the Wuhan Institute of Virology, a Chinese coronavirus lab that had received research funding from the N.I.H. No public evidence indicates that the institute was storing any pathogen that could have become the coronavirus. Still, President Donald J. Trump and Republicans on Capitol Hill amplified the concerns.

Inside the N.I.H., the political feud took a toll, raising the cost to the agency of becoming embroiled in additional controversies. A flurry of Congressional requests soon piled up, as did more public records requests than usual.

The scrutiny seemed to make government scientists skittish. Dr. Sutton said his primary contact at the N.I.H. told him by phone in the summer of 2020 that the agency would not fund his ferret transmission studies and encouraged him to find other ways of studying the virus.

"They just said, 'You know, there's a lot of controversy about this kind of work in the news right now,'" Dr. Sutton recalled. "They weren't comfortable funding it."

In a statement, Dr. Emily Erbelding, an N.I.H. official, said the agency had needed to do additional reviews of the proposal. Dr. Sutton's updated submission arrived near the busy end of a fiscal year, she said, and officials had limited time to decide whether to fund it.

A year later, in September 2021, the agency instead gave Dr. Sutton money for modified experiments that added the mutations only to a weakened virus. He would also examine them in a petri dish rather than in live animals. The work, undertaken in the same high-security lab, was less risky, he said, but also less informative.

Some scientists said that the experiments as originally planned may not have produced enough insights to justify the risk. Viruses behave differently in ferrets than in humans, and mutations that may enhance one variant can have different effects on another.

But other researchers said that only the animal studies could have revealed what viral traits would turn that bird flu into a pandemic threat, informing decisions down the road about whether to ramp up testing, make vaccines or isolate cases if similar traits were to emerge in real-world pathogens.

Senator Pushback

Image

MORENS_SUBPOENA_003235
MORENS_NIH_009780
REL0000482703

Senator Lindsey Graham of South Carolina, left, and Senator Jim Risch of Idaho, powerful Republicans who oversee U.S.A.I.D.Credit..Evan Vucci/Associated Press

By the fall of 2021, when Dr. Sutton started running the tamer version of his studies, the debate over Covid's origins had intensified. In hearings, Republican senators were hammering health officials over funding virus research abroad.

Nevertheless, the United States Agency for International Development made a big announcement: It would spend $125 million to partner with labs around the world to collect unknown animal viruses and prepare for those that could trigger a pandemic.

The scientists chosen for the project, known as DEEP VZN, tried to insulate the work from political blowback, four researchers involved with the effort said. They did not propose gain-of-function experiments. They would not work in China.

Their biosafety plan, which was reviewed by The Times and approved by the aid agency, included medical screenings of field workers, as well as spot checks and audits by biosafety specialists.

But the project soon ran into trouble on Capitol Hill. In November 2021, two Republicans with powerful roles on committees that oversee the agency and its funding — Senator Jim Risch of Idaho and Senator Lindsey Graham of South Carolina — sent a letter demanding details about the effort, citing concerns about previous federal funding for research in China.

The agency solicited input from health and security officials, including in the White House, according to a U.S.A.I.D. official who was not authorized to speak publicly. Some supported the program, which aimed to train scientists in poorer nations to safely identify viruses. Others worried that field researchers risked becoming infected by pathogens that might never have jumped into people otherwise.

Image

Troy Sutton, in green lab scrubs, pointing toward a workroom in the Penn State lab.Credit...Haiyun Jiang for The New York Times

Eric S. Lander, then President Biden's science adviser, publicly doubted scientists' ability to identify future pandemic viruses. Jason Matheny, then a technology and national security expert at the National Security Council, worried that identifying new viruses would assist bioweapons creators.

But if federal officials delivered mixed reviews, Republican senators intensified their objections. In a February 2022 letter, Senators Risch and Graham demanded that U.S.A.I.D. "immediately cease all work" on the project, a request that got the aid agency's attention, the official said.

Scientists on the project, led by a Washington State University group, received word that they needed to assuage the senators, the four researchers said.

They confined the project to fewer countries. They agreed to inactivate any viruses in the field, a move that would protect workers handling the samples back at the lab — though at the expense of any insights gleaned from growing live viruses. And they focused on plans to sample domestic animals that already had contact with people.

The aid agency held five briefings with Senate staff members. But the precautions were not enough — for the project's detractors on Capitol Hill or for the scientists who remained unconvinced that such work was safe or likely to ever help anticipate a pandemic.

This summer, before field work had begun, U.S.A.I.D. privately told scientists that it was canceling their funding. The BMJ, a medical journal, first reported on the decision and opposition to the program.

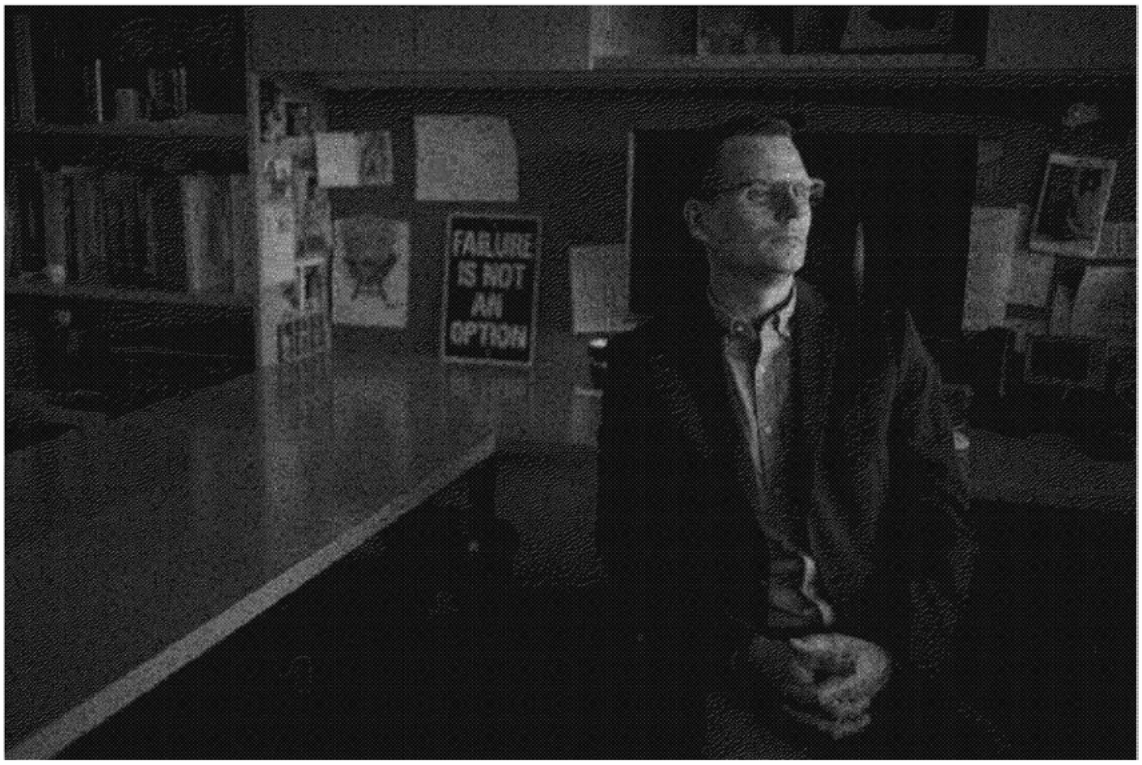
In poorer nations that had been promised funding, the project's undoing damaged efforts to train workers to safely identify not only animal viruses but also human outbreaks.

Pablo Tsukayama, a Peruvian microbiologist, said he was forced to fire four scientists who planned to study viral samples. He also shelved plans to purchase biocontainment hoods and ventilation systems.

"We were planning to bring these labs up to the highest safety standards," he said. "That's why the U.S. funding was key."

Abandoning Studies

Image



"This freight train is coming, and we need to do anything we can do to get ahead of that," Dr. Sutton said.Credit...Haiyun Jiang for The New York Times

Virologists and biosafety experts largely agree on one point: The federal government's vetting process is too opaque and too slow.

One scientist, a longtime recipient of N.I.H. funding, said that a proposal of his, aimed at understanding super-contagious coronavirus variants, languished with health officials for more than a year.

The proposal suggested adding a mutation from the variants to a weakened version of the original coronavirus from 2020, work intended to identify targets for surveillance or new drugs. The mutation is already in viruses sickening thousands of people every day.

In an email, reviewed by The Times, health officials told him the proposal needed further review because it might constitute gain-of-function research. But he said that he knew little about how long the

evaluation would take, who was conducting it or what safety measures he could introduce to assuage concerns.

"There are ways to do these things safely," he said. "But the delay in responding means you're functionally stopping this research."

Dr. Erbelding, of the N.I.H., said that the gain-of-function vetting process had not changed since its introduction in 2017. An increase in virology proposals because of the pandemic, she said, may have contributed to the perception that reviews have slowed.

The White House is reviewing gain-of-function oversight policies after an expert panel this year endorsed sweeping reforms. Without clearer guidance, though, some virologists said they were ditching projects for fear of finding themselves in the cross hairs of a congressional inquiry or a yearslong biosafety review.

"Scientists are backing away from certain lines of research just in anticipation of the delays and paperwork," Anice Lowen, an influenza virologist at Emory University, said. "A lot of parties are becoming more conservative."

For biosafety proponents, the extra scrutiny has filled a void left by an absence of new regulations. But other scientists said that studies were being stifled even before health officials could assess them, driving research to nations with weaker biosafety practices and leaving basic questions about the coronavirus unanswered.

Dr. Sutton himself has stopped proposing gain-of-function experiments. He said he welcomed oversight and had even worked to ensure that his project was subject to a second government review that it could technically have avoided. But the long and unpredictable biosafety process, he said, was making it difficult to keep his lab running.

"The cost of dealing with the regulations is too high," he said. "I stopped dreaming up those kinds of experiments."

Benjamin Mueller is a health and science reporter. Previously, he covered the coronavirus pandemic as a correspondent in London and the police in New York. More about Benjamin Mueller

Sheryl Gay Stolberg is a Washington Correspondent covering health policy. In more than two decades at The Times, she has also covered the White House, Congress and national politics. Previously, at The Los Angeles Times, she shared in two Pulitzer Prizes won by that newspaper's Metro staff. More about Sheryl Gay Stolberg

Disclaimer: Any third-party material in this email has been shared for internal use under fair use provisions of U.S. copyright law, without further verification of its accuracy/veracity. It does not necessarily represent my views nor those of NIAID, NIH, HHS, or the U.S. government.

Date: Sat, 20 Aug 2022 5:26:49 PM -0400
Sent: Sat, 20 Aug 2022 5:24:09 PM -0400
Subject: Epoch Times' story on NIH's latest action
From: Peter Daszak <(b) (6)
To: Roberts, Rich <(b) (6) David Morens <(b) (6) Gerald T Keusch <(b) (6) Jeff Sturchio <(b) (6) Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6)
CC: Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6)
Attachments: image002.jpg; image003.jpg; image004.png

Here's Epoch Times today. They emailed me for comment, but by the time the email arrived, the story had already been posted! Not that I would have responded, of course – Epoch Times is funded by the Falun Gong movement and has been stirring the pot on this since January 2020. They also referred to SARS-CoV-2 as "CCP virus" in previous posts.

The comments at the end from Representative Comer are worth reading. He threatened further action earlier today on the Republican Oversight Committee member's twitter account
https://twitter.com/GOPoversight/status/1560752262175137794?s=20&t=8uqpqKwIR-hKM-jF1Yw4hQ

"NIH confirms EcoHealth violated grant terms to hide risky research on bat coronaviruses in Wuhan but will continue receiving taxpayer-funded grants. NIH only ended EcoHealth's partnership with the WIV. This is unacceptable. Oversight & accountability are coming in 2023."

The P4 labThe P4 laboratory at the Wuhan Institute of Virology in Wuhan, China, on April 17, 2020. (AFP via Getty Images/Hector Retamal)oratory at the Wuhan Institute of Virology is designated to be at the highest level of biological safety in Wuhan, China, on April 17, 2020. (AFP via Getty Images/Hector Retamal)

US NEWS

US National Institutes of Health

MORENS_SUBPOENA_010535
MORENS_NIH_021057
REL0000482706

Ending Subaward for Lab in Wuhan, China

By Zachary Stieber

August 20, 2022 Updated: August 20, 2022

Print
0:005:09
1

The U.S. National Institutes of Health (NIH) has ended a subgrant to the laboratory in China located where the first COVID-19 cases were identified in 2019.

U.S.-based EcoHealth Alliance was granted $3.7 million, starting in 2014, to study bat-related coronaviruses. It conveyed some of the money to the Wuhan Institute of Virology (WIV), located in China.

The grant was renewed in 2019, but suspended in 2020 because of concerns the grantees were failing to comply with conditions attached to the money.

The NIH's review of the concerns has concluded, Dr. Michael Lauer, an NIH deputy director, revealed in a letter on Aug. 19. It determined that all of the problems cannot be fixed.

Therefore, the NIH informed EcoHealth Alliance that the subaward to the Wuhan lab is terminated "for failure to meet award terms and conditions requiring provision of records to NIH upon request," Lauer wrote to Rep. James Comer (R-Ky.), the top Republican on the House Oversight Committee.

'Cannot Be Remedied'

Grants from the U.S. government come with certain conditions, including timely reporting of results, and adequate monitoring of experiments.

The EcoHealth Alliance failed to perform a review of the research conducted under the grant, which included making bat coronaviruses more dangerous, the NIH said in October 2021. The agency in January said EcoHealth Alliance failed to comply with other conditions with the grant, R01AI110964, and other awards.

The NIH asked for plans to correct the failures, which was provided on Feb. 4, Lauer said Friday, and the NIH determined that the plans were sufficient.

MORENS_SUBPOENA_010536
MORENS_NIH_021058
REL0000482706

Separately, though, the NIH asked EcoHealth in late 2021, and again in January, for lab notebooks and original files from the research conducted at the Wuhan lab. It has not received them, according to the new letter.

EcoHealth executives have said that it passed along the request but have not heard back from WIV.

The refusal to provide the materials led to the just-announced termination of the subaward.

"NIH has determined that WIV's refusal to provide the requested records, and EHA's failure to include the required terms in WIV's subaward agreement represent material failures to comply with the terms of award," Lauer told Drs. Aleksei Chmura and Peter Daszak, the executives, in a letter released on Friday by Comer. "NIH has further determined that in these circumstances, WIV's refusal to provide records cannot be remedied by imposing additional conditions, and that a partial termination of award (i.e., termination of the subaward to WIV) is the only appropriate action."

EcoHealth did not respond to requests for comment. An email sent to the Wuhan lab bounced back.

Will Keep Funding EcoHealth

The NIH is not terminating any of the awards in question, R01AI110964, 1U01AI151797-01, and 1U01AI153420-01—at least for now.

When grantees are not compliant with requirements, the preference is to work with them to bring them into compliance rather than termination, Lauer said.

EcoHealth has successfully implemented the NIH-approved corrective plans for the latter two awards, according to the NIH. While EcoHealth will be forbidden to dole money out to WIV under the other grant, it will be able to renegotiate the objectives of the grant with the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, led by Dr. Anthony Fauci.

If an agreement is reached, the revised grant will move forward. If it is not, the grant may be terminated.

EcoHealth was asked to outline within 30 days how it will accomplish the purpose of the grant without WIV. That will require a change in scope but the change may

MORENS_SUBPOENA_010537
MORENS_NIH_021059
REL0000482706

not depart significantly from the original project, Lauer said.

Comer said the NIH should have ended the award entirely.

"Terminating EcoHealth Alliance's partnership with the Wuhan Lab is the bare minimum. It's unacceptable that the NIH continues to allow EcoHealth Alliance to receive taxpayer dollars even though it is confirmed EcoHealth violated the terms of its grant contract," he said.

"EcoHealth's dangerous experiments in Wuhan and possible efforts to cover up any evidence may have started the pandemic. EcoHealth should not receive a penny of American taxpayer dollars for their gross mismanagement of Americans' hard-earned money," he added.

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: Peter Daszak <(b) (6)
Sent: Saturday, August 20, 2022 1:36 PM
To: 'Roberts, Rich' <(b) (6) 'David Morens' (b) (6) >; 'Gerald T Keusch' (b) (6) Jeff Sturchio' (b) (6) ; 'Hotez, Peter Jay' (b) (6)
Cc: Aleksei Chmura (b) (6)
Subject: RE: Continued NIH action - already leaked to the press
Importance: High

Thanks Rich - I've got to look at the positives in all of this and just carry on fighting, if only for my own health reasons. It's been a really horrible couple of years and I've found that the constant harassment can really get you down – it's been shocking to me how much of struggle this is with many days spent despairing over my own personal future and the future of EcoHealth. It's been tough on my family as well, and the other staff at EHA.

I'm determined not to give up though and will be going through all the options carefully. The other glimmer of hope is that any 'renegotiation' will be with NIAID staff, so I'll reach out to them ASAP. I think that if most of the funding is planned for the US, with just one subcontract to China, for a group that works on epidemiology, that might work. The other strategy would be to see if a shift to another country would work. I'm mindful that NIH (Lauer et al.) would be delighted if we just handed in the towel, and will probably be looking for excuses to consider our alternative plans out of scope.

On this issue of who is 'the pits' and who isn't at NIH, I think the list begins with Francis Collins, who committed the original sin of terminating our grant when he could have simply resisted. Second is his lackey Lauer who took it to another level of bumbling errors, illegal actions, and aggressive brinksmanship, but there are others also. Lawrence Tabak (now acting Director NIH) publicly stated that we were out of compliance and really threw us under the bus, and there are a group of legal advisors and Congressional staffers at the Office of the Director who have actively worked to publicly undermine us, sometimes with clear glee and delight.

For example, in one of the FoIA'd emails that Peter Aldhous at Buzzfeed unearthed, he spotted Michael Lauer sending details of our animal experiment oversight, which they then used to tighten the screw on us very publicly and unfairly. Lauer used the subject Header "A Gift" when he sent this to his legal and Congressional relations colleagues at NIH. That sort of gloating is pretty disgusting, and won't be forgotten by me. Peter Aldhous also dug up clear evidence that NIH requested an OIG audit as part of their efforts to tighten the screws on us, and get them off the hook. We're just negotiating the final results of that audit – a huge timesink that's been going on over a year now, has looked at grants to EHA over the last 8 years, and has only found $77,000 of mis-coded financial errors (including a $19 overpayment to a contractor, with $7 indirect costs; and a single $5 alcoholic beverage at a hotel mistakenly coded to our grant). Great use of taxpayer money and time and the total of these mis-coded finances is less than 1% of the grants they reviewed, and less than 0.01% of our budget over that period. Of course, when the report goes public in a few weeks, it'll be used by Republicans to demand we're de-funded and closed down (again).

Ironically, in the emails (below), Michael Lauer cc's Michelle Bulls, who's listed in his correspondence yesterday as the person we have to write to if we want to appeal their decision. Pretty sure she's not an objective overseer at this point.

Here's the article: https://www.buzzfeednews.com/article/peteraldhous/white- coat-waste-anthony-fauci-nih-ecohealth-alliance-lab

And here's the section (and you can click on the links to see the FoIA'd emails):

A heavily redacted series of emails from May 2021 centers on the July 2016 letter from the NIAID that had given EcoHealth permission to resume the chimera work. Accepting a suggestion made by Daszak himself, it stated that if any of the chimeric viruses showed unexpectedly rapid growth, he would "immediately stop all experiments with these viruses" and provide NIAID officials with information about the unexpected outcomes. Shortly after receiving the letter, Lauer sent it on to a senior attorney with the Department of Health and Human Services, assigned to the NIH, changing the subject line on the email thread to "Gift."

Daszak's problem was that the NIH determined that an experiment described in annual progress reports for the grant indicated that one of these viruses had made mice engineered to carry the human receptor targeted by SARS-like viruses sicker than expected and showed signs of rapid growth. "EcoHealth failed to report this finding right away," NIH deputy director Tabak later wrote in an October 2021 letter to James Comer, the ranking Republican member on the House of Representatives Committee on Oversight and Reform.

None of this amounts to a smoking gun linking EcoHealth and the Wuhan institute to the origins of COVID, as the viruses involved were very different to SARS-CoV-2. And in a letter to Lauer and Tabak after the latter's communication with Comer, Daszak contested the conclusion that the experiment did show rapid viral growth and argued that EcoHealth had complied with its reporting requirements.

But it gave Lauer evidence that he was looking for. EcoHealth is now under audit from the Office of Inspector General for the Department of Health and Human Services, an independent watchdog that monitors fraud, waste, and other problems, as part of a review of the NIH and "selected grantees" initiated on June 11, 2021. Documents received by BuzzFeed News through its FOIA lawsuit, including a timeline of events put together by Lauer dated June 13, 2021, indicate that the suggestion for an OIG audit of EcoHealth came from the NIH, just days after Lauer sent his "Gift" email.

The NIH declined to discuss Lauer's email and timeline, saying in a statement: "NIH doesn't comment on internal deliberation of grant awards."

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: +1-(b) (6)
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

From: Roberts, Rich (b) (6)
Sent: Saturday, August 20, 2022 12:55 PM
To: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) David Morens (b) (6) >; Gerald T Keusch <(b) (6) ; Jeff Sturchio (b) (6) >; Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6)
Cc: Aleksei Chmura (b) (6)
Subject: RE: Continued NIH action - already leaked to the press

Peter:

Glad you could find a glimmer to be hopeful about. Lauer is just the pits!

Are there people outside of China you might be able to collaborate with?

Rich

Richard J. Roberts
New England Biolabs
240 County Road
Ipswich, MA 01938-2723
USA
Tel: (b) (6)
Fax: (978) 412 9910
email: (b) (6)

From: Peter Daszak (b) (6) >
Sent: Saturday, August 20, 2022 10:27 AM
To: David Morens (b) (6) ; Gerald T Keusch (b) (6) ; Jeff Sturchio (b) (6) Roberts, Rich (b) (6) ; Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6)
Cc: Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) >
Subject: RE: Continued NIH action - already leaked to the press
Importance: High

EXTERNAL SENDER

I found a copy on Twitter of Lauer's letter to Rep Comer yesterday – word doc attached, recreated using screenshot jpegs, so hope it works.

It's good that they're publicly stating we've cooperated with NIH – this is related to their continued series of letters about our other grants – making us jump through all sorts of hoops just to continue our work. At the same time, they're clearly trying to show the aggressive Republicans in Congress that NIH is going to crack down on miscreants such as us. Apparently, for at least

MORENS_SUBPOENA_010540
MORENS_NIH_021062
REL0000482706

the next 3 years we'll have to double up our reporting requirements, have no automatic carry over of unspent funds, and have to conduct 6 monthly onsite assessments of subcontractees. We've not been told all that yet by NIH, but no doubt there'll be another letter from Lauer on its way soon.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: +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: Saturday, August 20, 2022 10:06 AM
To: 'David Morens' <(b) (6) >; 'Gerald T Keusch' <(b) (6) 'Jeff Sturchio' (b) (6)
'Roberts, Rich' (b) (6) ; 'Hotez, Peter Jay' (b) (6) >
Cc: Aleksei Chmura (b) (6) >
Subject: Continued NIH action - already leaked to the press
Importance: High

Here's the latest from NIH – as usual we received a Friday afternoon pdf letter from Michael Lauer that's full of legalistic language (attached). And as also 'usual', Lauer only sent this the same day he informed Republicans on an oversight committee, and either him or the Republicans then instantly made it public. There's already an article in the Washington Examiner about it (below)

They're basically terminating our subcontract to WIV because we were unable to get the lab notebooks they demanded (no surprise there, given the politics). They're also offering us the chance to renegotiate the grant. Sounds great, but by now of course the chances of any institution in China wanting to work with an organization targeted in this way are pretty slim. There's also the buried proviso that we have to arrange for 6-monthly inspections of our subcontractee's labs.

If we don't want to renegotiate, we have to bilaterally terminate.

After 2 and a half years of pressure from NIH, we're now back to where we were in April of 2020, when NIH informed us to suspend all work with WIV, but that we could carry on with the grant. This was then followed a few days later with full termination, then suspension with conditions, then more conditions, now this. Pretty depressing, awful, and utterly unnecessary.

Not sure what we'll do, but my gut feeling is we should continue and try to find a way forwards with other groups in China. It'll be a hard path, considering WIV are the premier bat virus group in China and our preferred partners, and the politics has made all of this completely toxic. But it's the honorable path, as a scientist, and I think we should at least try.

Here's the Washington Examiner article: https://www.washingtonexaminer.com/policy/healthcare/nih- ends-subaward-wuhan-lab-stonewalling

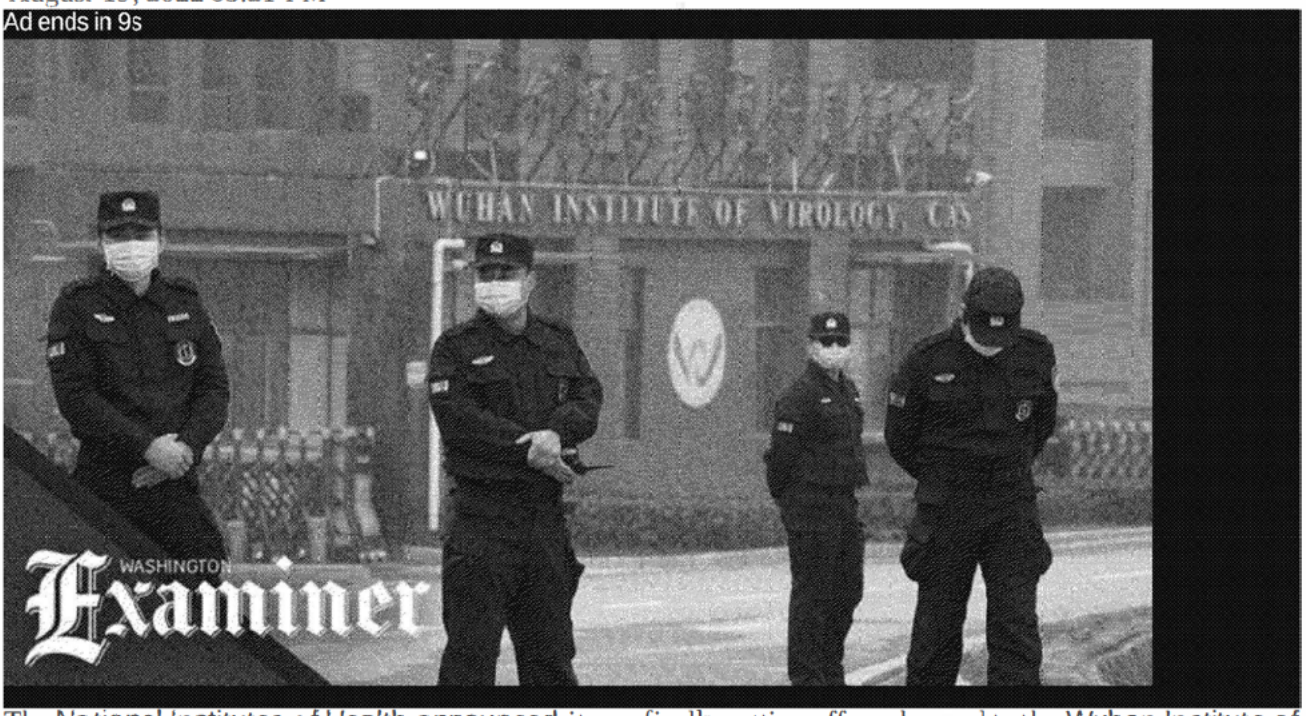
WUHAN LAB

NIH ends subaward to Wuhan lab after

continued stonewalling

by Jerry Dunleavy, Justice Department Reporter |
August 19, 2022 08:21 PM

Ad ends in 9s



The National Institutes of Health announced it was finally cutting off a subaward to the Wuhan Institute of Virology after it continued to refuse to hand over key information about the coronavirus research it conducted with U.S. tax dollars.

NIH Deputy Director Michael Lauer made the revelation in a letter Friday to House Oversight Committee Republicans, in which he said the Wuhan lab had refused to turn over lab notebooks and electronic files connected to its research funded through an NIH subaward given to it by the U.S.-based EcoHealth Alliance.

But Lauer indicated the NIH may continue funding EcoHealth's controversial bat coronavirus research despite the group's documented noncompliance issues, its close links to the Wuhan virology institute, and its history of funneling hundreds of thousands of U.S. tax dollars to the Chinese lab.

"NIH … identified one non-compliance under the ... award that cannot be remedied with specific award conditions," Lauer said Friday. "NIH has requested on two occasions that EHA [EcoHealth Alliance] provide NIH the laboratory notebooks and original electronic files from the research conducted at the WIV [Wuhan Institute of Virology]. To date, WIV has not provided these records."

Lauer added: "Today, NIH informed EHA that since WIV is unable to fulfill its duties for the subaward grant under R01AI110964, the WIV subaward is terminated for failure to meet award terms and conditions requiring provision of records to NIH upon request."

FBI INVESTIGATED NIH AWARD TO ECOHEALTH AND WUHAN LAB

The Office of the Director of National Intelligence released an assessment in 2021 stating that one U.S. intelligence agency assessed with "moderate confidence" that COVID-19 most likely emerged from the Chinese government lab in Wuhan, while four U.S. spy agencies and the National Intelligence Council believe with "low confidence" COVID-19 most likely has a natural origin.

The NIH's Lauer also said Friday that the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, which has been led by Dr. Anthony Fauci for decades, "will begin to engage with EHA to renegotiate the specific aims and objectives of the R01 grant without the involvement of WIV … in light of the cooperation from EHA and the substantial subsequent improvements in administrative processes that EHA demonstrated."

Rep. James Comer (R-KY), the ranking member on House Oversight, hammered the NIH over this.

"Terminating EcoHealth Alliance's partnership with the Wuhan Lab is the bare minimum," Comer said Friday. "It's unacceptable that the NIH continues to allow EcoHealth Alliance to receive taxpayer dollars even though it is confirmed EcoHealth violated the terms of its grant contract. EcoHealth conducted gain of function

MORENS_SUBPOENA_010542
MORENS_NIH_021064
REL0000482706

research on bat coronaviruses in Wuhan, knew about the Chinese Communist Party's coverup, and failed to inform the U.S. government."

Comer added: "EcoHealth's dangerous experiments in Wuhan and possible efforts to cover up any evidence may have started the pandemic. EcoHealth should not receive a penny of American taxpayer dollars for their gross mismanagement of Americans' hard-earned money."

The NIH had awarded EcoHealth with a grant dubbed "R01AI110964" years ago, and EcoHealth then doled out three research subawards, including one to the Wuhan lab.

"The research approved under this grant sought to understand how bat coronaviruses evolve naturally in the environment to become more transmissible to the human population," the NIH said Friday in defending the award. "This type of research is a critical part of pandemic preparedness."

The grant to EcoHealth was suspended by the NIH in June 2020 due to "grant administrative non-compliance concerns." EcoHealth was reprimanded by the NIH in October when the agency found that the organization delayed revealing that a U.S.-funded experiment conducted with the Wuhan lab determined that mice with implanted human cells became sicker with an engineered version of bat coronavirus. The NIH found more EcoHealth violations in January.

Republicans say the findings showed EcoHealth was funding risky gain-of-function research in China.

EcoHealth leader Peter Daszak was a longtime collaborator with the Wuhan lab who steered hundreds of thousands of dollars in NIH funding to the Chinese lab and was also a key World Health Organization-China joint study team member in early 2021.

Daszak dismissed the lab leak hypothesis in March 2021 when he admitted he took Wuhan lab workers at their word. Meeting minutes from discussions between lab scientists in Wuhan and the WHO-China COVID-19 origins joint study team reveal lab leak concerns were referred to as "myths" and "conspiracy theories."

An advisory group assembled by the WHO said in June that the lab leak hypothesis needed further study.

The NIH said Friday that the prior problems it had identified with EcoHealth's handling of its coronavirus grant included "inadequate oversight in monitoring the activities of its subawardees, failure to report subawards to the General Services Administration's Federal Subaward Reporting System, and errors in indirect rate charges."

But Lauer nevertheless said EcoHealth might again soon start receiving U.S. tax funding for its bat coronavirus experiments — just without the Wuhan lab's continued involvement.

The NIH had been run until recently by Dr. Francis Collins, while Fauci still leads NIAID.

Scientists consulting with the U.S. government early in the pandemic believed COVID-19 originating from a lab in Wuhan was possible or even likely, but emails show Fauci and Collins worked behind the scenes to shut the hypothesis down.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: +1-(b) (6)
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

From: David Morens <(b) (6) >
Sent: Tuesday, August 9, 2022 9:46 AM
To: Peter Daszak (b) (6) >
Cc: Roberts, Rich (b) (6) ; Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6) Aleksei Chmura (b) (6) >; Gerald T Keusch (b) (6) ; Jeff Sturchio (b) (6)
Subject: Re: EcoHealth Alliance paper published tomorrow (Tuesday) showing very high rate of SARS-related CoV spillovers in Southeast Asia

Peter, can i share the proofs with Tony, confidentially of course? If not i will at least give him a heads up if that's ok

Also, correct me if i am wrong, but the 66k number is significantly higher than your previous estimate, right?

d

Sent from my iPhone
David M Morens
OD, NIAID, NIH

On Aug 9, 2022, at 01:12, Peter Daszak (b) (6) > wrote:

Some good news..

Just letting you all know that our paper in *Nature Communications* will go live tomorrow at 11am: Sánchez *et al*. "*A strategy to assess spillover risk of bat SARS-related coronaviruses in Southeast Asia*". We used distribution data from bats known to host SARSr-CoVs, human population data, and serological testing results to estimate that a median of ~66,000 people are infected by bat-origin SARSr-CoVs in South and Southeast Asia each year. Obviously, this suggests spillovers are a daily occurrence in the region and would make any possibility of a lab leak pale into insignificance, given that 1) only a few dozen people work in labs or in the field on these viruses, 2) they all wear PPE as opposed to villagers hunting bats etc.

Note that the analysis doesn't take into account people working in the wildlife trade because data are so patchy, but we do know that 14 million people worked in the wildlife trade in China alone before the outbreak, so that means human infections are probably even more common.

I've attached the proofs here, and a press release, as well as an editorial I've published in our journal *EcoHealth* published by Springer. We also know that a story will appear in orrow about this. tomorrow about this.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: +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: Tuesday, August
To: (b) (6) 'Hotez, P (b) (6) Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) (b) (6) >; 'Gerald T Keusch' <(b) (6) Jeff
Subject:

Bizarre indeed, but this is how they do it – tangential links from you to your former postdoc to Zhengli to me, followed by accusations that you're linked to research which they (wrongly) claim is GoF, all used to try to undermine your appropriate pushback against all these other attacks.

It's exactly what the Union of Concerned Scientists called the 'disinformation playbook' that was used by big tobacco and anti-climate change activists (successfully I might add). https://www.ucsusa.org/resources/disinformation- playbook

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: +1 (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, Augu
(b) (6) Peter D (b) (6) >; Ale
avid Morens (b) (6) rens <(b) (6)
Subject: RE: Repo omment

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

MORENS_SUBPOENA_010545
MORENS_NIH_021067
REL0000482706

Tel: (b) (6)
Fax: (978) 412 9910
email: (b) (6)

From: Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6)
Sent: Monday, August 8, 2022 4:02 PM
To: Peter Daszak (b) (6) >; Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) >; David Morens <(b) (6) David Morens (b) (6) >; Gerald T Keusch <(b) (6) Roberts, Rich <(b) (6)
Subject: Fwd: Reporter request for comment

EXTERNAL SENDER

This is crazy. How would I even do that? I don't work in those areas?

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP
Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine
Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology
Health Policy Scholar
Baylor College of Medicine

Texas Children's Hospital Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics
Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development

University Professor, Baylor University

Faculty Fellow, Hagler Institute for Advanced Study
Senior Fellow, Scowcroft Institute of International Affairs
Texas A&M University
Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty and Adjunct Professor of Bioengineering, Rice University
Adjunct Professor, University of Texas, School of Public Health

Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

E-mail: (b) (6)
Twitter: @peterhotez
Skype: (b) (6)
Linkedin Peter Hotez

Amazon Author Center: https://www.amazon.com/Peter- J.-Hotez/e/B001HPIC48
Daily Beast Contributor https://www.thedailybeast.com/author/peter- j-hotez
Like us on Facebook https://www.facebook.com/BCMNationalSchoolOfTropicalMedicine/

Senior Coordinator / Executive Support: Douglas Soriano
(b) (6)
Phone: (b) (6)
Fax: 713

MORENS_SUBPOENA_010546
MORENS_NIH_021068
REL0000482706

iPhone
Begin forwarded message:

From: Emily Kopp <emily@usrtk.org>
Date: August 8, 2022 at 2:51:45 PM CDT
To: "Hotez, Peter Jay" (b) (6)
Subject: Re: Reporter request for comment

*****CAUTION:*** This email is not from a BCM Source. Only click links or open attachments you know are safe.**

I'll also report that the paper you cofunded with EcoHealth Alliance dealt with rWIV1-SHC014S, a chimeric virus shown to be very dangerous to mice with human airway cells, which biosafety experts consider to be gain of function, and which is already under GOP congressional investigators' microscope. Were you aware of this? Should you have disclosed this to your followers on Twitter and The Lancet Commission?

Please clarify if this is incorrect.

Thank you,
Emily

On Mon, Aug 8, 2022 at 12:31 PM Emily Kopp <emily@usrtk.org> wrote:

> Putting this back at the top of your inbox. Since you've been tweeting about this issue, do you plan on replying?
>
> On Sun, Aug 7, 2022 at 2:32 PM Emily Kopp <emily@usrtk.org> wrote:
>
> > Dr. Hotez,
> >
> > I received an anonymous tip regarding an apparent conflict of interest relevant to your criticism of the GOP investigation into the possibility that a lab accident sparked the pandemic.
> >
> > The tipster pointed out that your grant to develop a SARS vaccine was in part motivated by the possibility that a lab accident or bioterrorist attack could result in a SARS outbreak.
> >
> > Questions:
> >
> > 1. Could you please clarify why you believe the lab origin theory of SARS-CoV-2 is ridiculous pseudoscience, even though you did research under the presumption that a SARS-like virus escaping from a laboratory was possible? Taxpayers devoted $1.6 million in funding toward that project - was it under pseudoscientific pretenses?
> >
> > 2. Could you clarify your involvement in this research project underwritten by both your grant and EcoHealth Alliance's controversial "understanding the risk of bat coronavirus emergence" grant? Do you have a personal or professional relationship with Shi Zhengli? What about Peter Daszak? Have you ever funded or co-funded research at the Wuhan Institute of Virology?
> >
> > Thank you,
> >
> > --
> > Emily Kopp
> > Reporter
> > U.S. Right to Know
> > Signal: (b) (6)

MORENS_SUBPOENA_010548
MORENS_NIH_021070
REL0000482706

Date: Fri, 3 May 2024 6:19:13 PM -0400
Sent: Fri, 3 May 2024 6:18:50 PM -0400
Subject: Re: Post by Prof Peter Hotez MD PhD on X
From: Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6)
To: Keusch, Gerald <(b) (6)
CC: Jeffrey Sturchio <(b) (6) Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >; Roberts, Rich <(b) (6) >; Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) >; Keith Martin <(b) (6) >; David Morens <(b) (6) >;
Attachments: image001.jpg

Will try to engage her again

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP

Texas Children's Hospital: Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics | Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development | Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

Baylor College of Medicine: Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine | Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology | Health Policy Scholar

Baylor University, University Professor
Rice University, Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty
Texas A&M University, Faculty-Senior Fellow, Hagler Inst for Advanced Study & Scowcroft Institute of Intl Affairs

E-mail | Twitter | LinkedIn | Skype: (b) (6)
Amazon Author Center | Daily Beast Contributor

Senior Coordinator & Executive Support: Douglas Soriano
(b) (6) | Phone: (b) (6) | Fax: 713-798-2299

Media Inquiries:
(b) (6)
(b) (6)

iPhone

On May 3, 2024, at 5:13 PM, Keusch, Gerald <(b) (6) wrote:

There is no choice to be made. Either will be a disaster to the other. Both must be opposed. Rich and I are drafting a letter to our representatives asking them to intervene with their colleagues on the subcommittee, and explaining the existential crisis this represents. We have no direct route to the actual subcommittee members. We need to activate the societies as well. Peter, your recent presentation at NAS and the response from Marcia McNutt suggests she might be willing to step forward in a manner than Victor has not.

Jerry

From: Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6)
Sent: Friday, May 3, 2024 5:48 PM
To: Keusch, Gerald <(b) (6)
Cc: Jeffrey Sturchio <(b) (6) Peter Daszak <(b) (6) Roberts, Rich

<(b) (6) Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) Keith Martin <(b) (6) David Morens <(b) (6)
Subject: Re: Post by Prof Peter Hotez MD PhD on X

What I've heard from one individual is that the Democrats are willing to sacrifice Peter and EcoHealth in order to preserve the NIH. Which is horrible if that's true.

I kept thinking about Neville Chamberlain returning from Munich

<image001.jpg>

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP

Texas Children's Hospital: Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics | Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development | Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

Baylor College of Medicine: Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine | Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology | Health Policy Scholar

Baylor University, University Professor
Rice University, Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty
Texas A&M University, Faculty-Senior Fellow, Hagler Inst for Advanced Study & Scowcroft Institute of Intl Affairs

E-mail | Twitter | LinkedIn | Skype: (b) (6)

Amazon Author Center | Daily Beast Contributor

Senior Coordinator & Executive Support: Douglas Soriano
(b) (6) | Phone: (b) (6) | Fax: 713-798-2299

Media Inquiries:
(b) (6)
(b) (6)
iPhone

On May 3, 2024, at 4:27 PM, Keusch, Gerald <(b) (6) > 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

(b) (6)
From: Hotez, Peter Jay <
Sent: Friday, May 3, 2024 4:04 PM
To: Jeffrey Sturchio (b) (6)
Cc: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) g >; Roberts, Rich (b) (6) Aleksei Chmura < (b) (6) Gerald Keusc (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) | 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 (b) (6) , Aleksei C (b) (6)
Sturchio (b) (6) d Keusch (b) (6) (b) (6)
David Morens (b) (6)
Subject: Re: P 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: (b) (6)
Fax: (978) 412 9910
email: (b) (6)

Executive Assistant: (b) (6)
Tel: (b) (6)
Fax: (
email (b) (6)

(b) (6)

From: Hotez, Peter Jay
Sent: Thursday, May 2, 2024 6:59 AM
To: (b) (6) Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) >; Jeffrey Sturchi (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

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)

Date:	Tue, 31 Jan 2023 2:43:40 PM -0500
Sent:	Tue, 31 Jan 2023 2:43:26 PM -0500
Subject:	Two great articles!
From:	Peter Daszak <
To:	Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6) David Morens <(b) (6)
CC:	Roberts, Rich <(b) (6) Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6) Jeffrey Sturchio <(b) (6) Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6)
Attachments:	image001.jpg; image002.jpg; image003.jpg

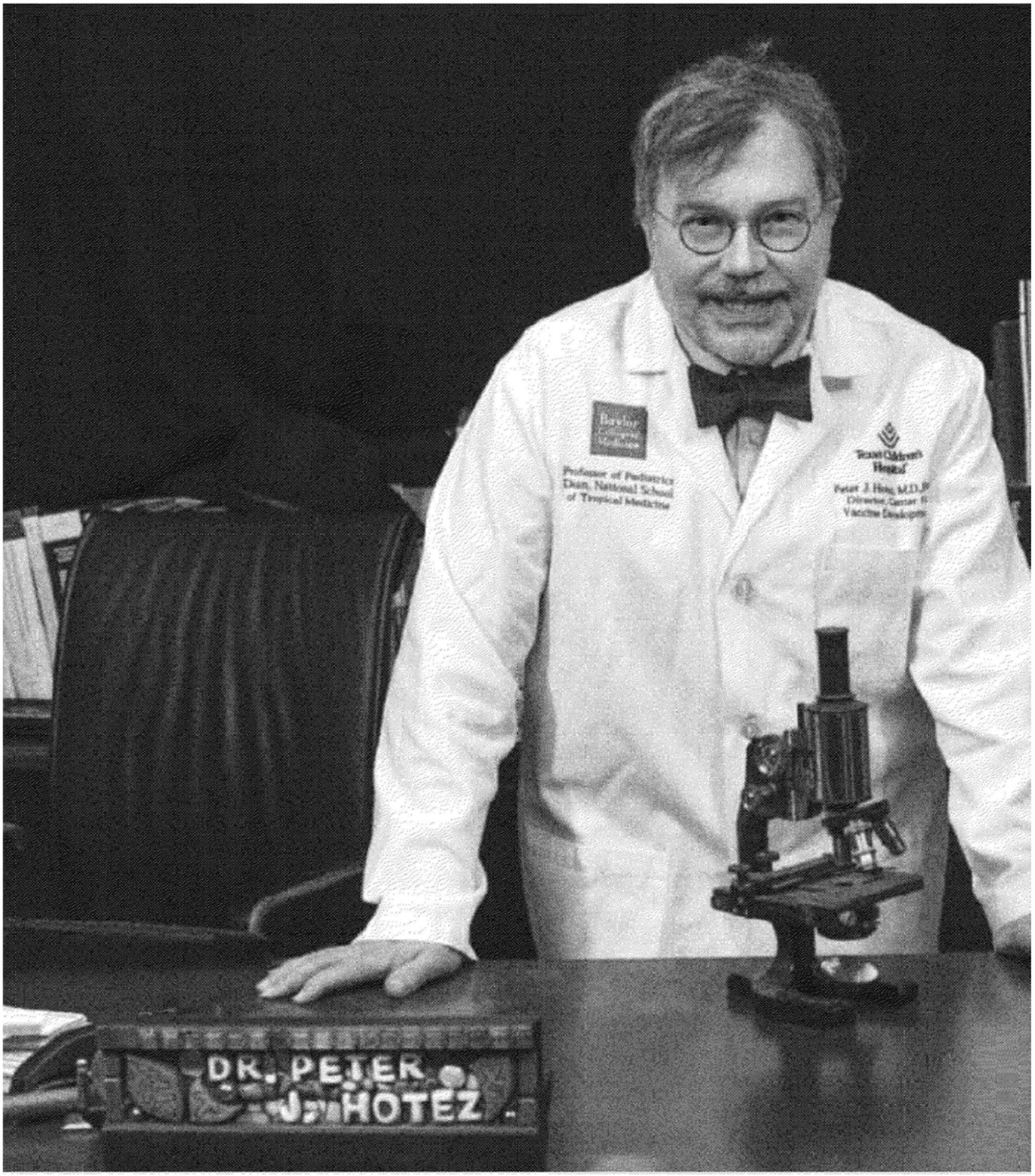
First, want to send my appreciation for your great interview in the Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists yesterday, Peter:

https://thebulletin.org/2023/01/viral- spread-peter-hotez-on-the-increase-of-anti-science-aggression-on-social-media/

Viral spread: Peter Hotez on the increase of anti-science aggression on social media

By Sara Goudarzi | January 30, 2023

MORENS_SUBPOENA_016066
MORENS_NIH_033829
REL0000482718



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

MORENS_SUBPOENA_016067
MORENS_NIH_033830
REL0000482718

refusing it.

Peter Hotez, a physician-scientist, dean of the National School of Tropical Medicine, and a professor in the departments of Pediatrics and Molecular Virology and Microbiology at Baylor College of Medicine, is no stranger to anti-vaccination attitudes. He has fought against misleading medical information for years. But now, he says, anti-science sentiments have been weaponized by businessmen and politicians seeking profits and power.

In the 1940s and 1950s, the House Un-American Activities Committee (HUAC) investigated and discredited several scientists who worked on the Manhattan Project. Hotez expects congressional committees under Republican control to engage in a similar targeting of scientists in an attempt to accumulate influence and foster a sense of belonging—a signature of authoritarian regimes—among their constituents. In his view, this anti-vaccine, anti-science movement, versions of which are spreading to other countries, could destabilize the global vaccine ecosystem.

I spoke with Hotez about the role of social media in spreading misleading information on vaccines and stoking anti-science aggression in many dimensions. *The resulting discussion has been edited for length and clarity.*

Sara Goudarzi: You've been on Twitter for more than a decade and often use it as a tool to communicate health and science facts, such as the importance of vaccinations. How in your experience has the social media platform changed during this time?

Peter Hotez: Well, it's become a lot more adversarial as the anti-vaccine movement has shifted. The anti-vaccine movement began in earnest around 20 years ago in the United States around false assertions that vaccines cause autism. The way I got involved was because I have a daughter with autism, and I wrote the book *Vaccines Did Not Cause Rachel's Autism: My Journey as a Vaccine Scientist, Pediatrician, and Autism Dad*, and that made me public enemy number one or two with the anti-vaccine activists.

What I would do at that time of social media was use their statements in their attacks against me as a teachable moment, to expose what the anti-vaccine movement was all about and how they were monetizing the internet with books on Amazon and nutritional supplements and the phony autism cures. So, rather than simply block people who were attacking me, I would retweet them with a little description of what they were doing. People found it very interesting because it was teaching them how an anti-science movement works, and they started coming to my Twitter for that purpose.

The game changer was about nine years ago, when [vaccine disinformation] became a political movement around health and medical freedom. You saw a different set of actors come into this, and it became a lot more aggressive; people's political allegiance became tied to not giving their kids vaccinations, and that has just come off the rails with COVID-19. And I'd like to point out that 200,000 Americans now have needlessly lost their lives because they refused the COVID vaccine.

The hardest thing yet is really trying to describe the anti-vaccine ecosystem, because too often it's still couched in the old autism thing that they call infodemic or give it euphemisms like misinformation or disinformation. That is, as though it's some random stuff appearing on social media, when in fact, it's organized, politically motivated, and deliberate. It has a system in place, and what I do now is use that to actually describe who the actors that comprise that ecosystem are—elected leaders in the House Freedom Caucus, certain senators, and local leaders amplified in Fox News with designated contrarians from the far right think tanks.

All our training to be a scientist says you're not supposed to talk about Republicans, Democrats, liberals, or conservatives; you're supposed to be politically neutral. But what do you do when the anti-science, anti-vaccine aggression is predominantly coming along the partisan lines from the far right? How do you articulate that without basically saying, "the reason I'm doing this is to save lives?" It's no longer a theoretical discussion; Americans have lost their lives because they believed the politics, and to be able to articulate that is really threading a needle there.

Goudarzi: With Twitter's moderators practically gone, the platform's announcement that it will no

MORENS_SUBPOENA_016068
MORENS_NIH_033831
REL0000482718

longer enforce measures to combat misleading information regarding COVID-19 and will give amnesty to previously banned users, there seems to be a rise in anti-vaccination sentiment.

Hotez: It's blown up. It's gotten much tougher: Anything I put out there gets immediately pounced on, and I can trace the origins to four or five either elected leaders or these contrarians from far right think tanks and elsewhere who blow dog whistles. They will put out a (typically false or exaggerated) statement against me, and then I'll receive hundreds and hundreds of tweets or emails specifically targeting me. About half of them look like bots because the person sending it is an empty face with a gazillion numbers attached to the Twitter handle. But others are real people tuning into Fox News every night who totally fall into the rabbit hole because they seem to worship these contrarians. The other piece to this is a lot of Nazi imagery and fantasies, a lot of antisemitism, because they know I'm a Jewish scientist. And that's yet another dimension to all of this.

Goudarzi: How do you think this affects patients in healthcare settings? Have you had personal experience with those who decided not to get vaccinated because of information on the internet or social media indicating the shots are dangerous?

Hotez: I've had sort of the opposite experience, where patients were in the rabbit hole, had seen my postings, see me as credible, and because of me are taking the vaccine, which is kind of nice and spurs me on to keep going at this. But more and more I've also had the other extreme as well, which is based on what they see on social media: People will take the time to write me a threatening email or make a call to the lab or to the office. Then I have to bring in law enforcement through the Texas Medical Center Police or the Houston Police Department and the Anti-Defamation League (because they have a list of individuals who are known to make these types of threats). It's taken this very, very dark turn as a consequence.

Goudarzi: Anti-vaccination movements are nothing new and go back to the late 1700s, even before the development of the smallpox vaccine and then the 1800s and again in the 1990s and 2000s. Do you think social media has allowed the latest movement to gain even more steam than previous movements?

Hotez: I wrote an article about the whole history of [anti-vax movements] in *Journal of Clinical Investigation*. I think it really accelerated in the early 2000s with autism, in part aided by social media—it was new then but was starting up. Now, I think social media has really been an enabler. It's not only social media; I think amazon.com was a big contributor. If you search for books on vaccinations, what's out there is a horror show. My books are among the top-rated on vaccines, and they're probably ranked about number 30 or 40, because it's all preceded by the phony-baloney, anti-vaccine COVID conspiracy books. So, it's Amazon and social media. And Fox News is having a huge impact. This has been documented by Media Matters, the watchdog group, as well as this very interesting paper that came out of ETH Zurich, which is like the MIT of Central Europe.

Goudarzi: Do you think Amazon is purposefully placing these books higher up in search results, or are search results just a reflection of how much steam the movement has gained?

Hotez: I don't know. Amazon is probably amoral. I don't think they think about this one way or the other, but whatever sells. So, it's whatever people are buying—that's how they're ranking it.

Goudarzi: Are you seeing a difference in the attitudes towards COVID-19 vaccines versus say the flu or MMR vaccines?

Hotez: Yeah, because remember, MMR came out of autism; that was the [original] assertion that the MMR vaccine causes autism. That was [*The Lancet*] paper from 1998. But then around 2014, 2015 (I like to think because I was helping to take some of the wind out of the sails around autism), you started to see the anti-vaccine movement pivot around this concept of health and medical freedom, that you can't tell us what to do about our kids. And that was the first link to the Republican Tea Party here in Texas. In fact, they started getting PAC [political action committee] money… It really took off in Texas and Oklahoma and that's what you see came off the rails with COVID-19.

It has been documented now by Charles Gaba, a health analyst whose work has been mentioned in the *New York Times*, National Public Radio, Pew Research Center and Peterson Academic Center, that the

lowest vaccination rates were where health freedom propaganda was the strongest, and among those who are in red states like Texas, the redder the county, the lower the vaccination rate, the higher the numbers of deaths. It's a really tight correlation, so much so that David Leonhardt in the *New York Times* has called it red COVID. My forthcoming book, *The Deadly Rise of Antiscience: A Scientist's Warning* and it's full on linked to far-right politics and it's been embraced by the House Freedom Caucus.

After vaccines became widely available, the statements from the 2021 CPAC conference of conservatives in Dallas was first along the lines of: "they're going to vaccinate you, and then they're going to take away your guns and your bibles." It's ridiculous. A quarter of the country accepted it—mostly in Texas and the Southern states, and then [Georgia US Rep.] Marjorie Taylor Greene called people like me "medical brownshirts," using Nazi paramilitary analogy. Then, those in the Senate GOP, such as Senator Johnson from Wisconsin, held anti-vaccine roundtables, amplified by Fox News. Every night, during the last half of 2021, nighttime anchors Tucker Carlson and Laura Ingraham filled their airwaves with very strong anti-vaccine rhetoric, discrediting the effectiveness and safety of vaccines. And then contrarians from the far right think tanks piled on.

As I said, if it were just a theoretical construct, I wouldn't get so exercised, but 40,000 Texans died during the delta wave in the last half of 2021 and early Omicron BA1 wave in 2022 because they refused the COVID vaccine and were victims of this targeted aggression towards them. The number that I put out in the new book is 200,000 Americans across the country. The Kaiser Family Foundation and the health analyst Charles Gaba come up with similar numbers. On that basis, anti-vaccine activism, anti-science aggression, if you look at it as a societal killing force, is killing more Americans than gun violence, terrorism, nuclear proliferation, or cyber-attacks.

Goudarzi: And the interesting thing is that COVID-19 vaccines have been tremendously successful.

Hotez: Alison Galvani at Yale has just done a modeling exercise with the Commonwealth Fund, indicating that COVID vaccines have saved 3.1 million Americans.

Goudarzi: Yet the messaging against these vaccines seems to be just as successful and as you mentioned hundreds of thousands of deaths could have been prevented here in the United States. So, it begs the question, why are we having such an anti-science moment?

Hotez: It's because it's fully ensconced in the political landscape of the country that became part of the far right, and people refused the vaccine out of allegiance. Part of showing your allegiance to the far right is not getting vaccinated. Then, you saw the Proud Boys march in anti-vaccine rallies, and an early arrest in the January 6 insurrection included a prominent anti-vaccine activist.

The question that I get is: "Hey doc, what should we do about this?" And I say I don't know, because this goes outside the health sector. This is a political problem right now. How do you uncouple the anti-science from the politics? It's been really, really challenging, and the Biden administration has not been willing to take this on. Vivek Murthy, who is a very good Surgeon General, issued an advisory in July of 2021 about social media and said we have to work with Meta and Facebook and Twitter to prevent this stuff from going viral. That's fine, but it doesn't get to those who are generating the content. This is where we're starting to see breakdowns, in my view, among our scientific and professional societies, and even the National Academies, because this idea that we have to remain politically neutral is so strong that no one will talk about it the way I'm talking about it with you. You have to be politically neutral; it's silly.

To paraphrase Desmond Tutu and Elie Wiesel, neutrality favors the aggressor.

Goudarzi: What do you think the end goal is for those generating the content and spearheading these movements? There are certain people who truly believe that vaccines could cause x, whatever x is, but there are others like Gov. DeSantis who himself was vaccinated yet promotes anti-vaccination sentiments.

Hotez: Early on when vaccines first came out, he was actually pro-vaccines. So, what caused the change? When it was pre-health freedom, it was fairly straightforward: It was people monetizing the internet, selling nutritional supplements and books on phony autism cures. When I wrote the book, trying to look at other examples of this, I found what's going on now in Stalin's Russia in the 1930s 1940s. This is part

of the signature of an authoritarian regime: to target the science and scientists. When you read Hannah Arendt's *The Origins of Totalitarianism,* you see this is part of the playbook. Even though it's self-defeating, it still fosters allegiance and belonging. I think what happened is with the anti-vaccine groups for whom the wind was let out of their sails around autism, they needed a new thing. They found money and power and relevance by tying themselves to the far right, and the far right created a whole new cadre of people that they wouldn't have otherwise.

Goudarzi: Just add adding to that: Do you think vaccine disinformation is propagated or reinforced purposely by other governments to cause division within the United States, similar to the 2016 election?

Hotez: No question about that, and I think Russia is probably the most egregious [perpetrator], and this has been documented. David Broniatowski, a computer scientist at the George Washington University, has written about this and the Russian bots' roles. In some cases, they're using both anti-vaccine and pro-vaccine rhetoric. They are specifically using this as a wedge issue to divide the country and destabilize our democracy. And it's not only the Russians—the Chinese, North Koreans and Iranians are doing this. But I think Russia is probably the biggest state actor.

What I've recommended to the Biden administration is they create an inter-governmental agency, because the United States Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) doesn't know what to do at this point. Because of the foreign actors involved, you have to bring in Homeland Security, the Commerce Department, the Justice Department and the State Department as well. There are people smart enough who know about these big dangerous societal forces, and we need their advice on what levers we can pull and push. But they haven't wanted to take it on.

Similarly, at the level of the UN agencies, the World Health Organization doesn't know what to do at this point. So, you're starting to see that same US-style anti-vaccine activity moving to Canada, the United Kingdom and Western Europe—and I wrote about this in a paper in *Nature Reviews Immunology.* You're even seeing it now in low- and middle- income countries, including those in Africa. So, it's going to destabilize the global vaccine ecosystem, even around childhood vaccination.

Goudarzi: Scientific debate around new treatment or preventive measure used to happen more or less behind closed doors. But given the nature of a real time pandemic, some of those debates are taking place on social media, and sometimes that leads to the lay audience misunderstanding certain aspects of the discussion and spreading misinformation. How valuable, and how harmful, do you think it is to have scientific debates between researchers on social media?

Hotez: It's often not between researchers. For instance, one of the most common things when they target me on social media is they say I should be in a public debate with the lead anti-vaccine activist. And I say, "No, that's not how science is done. I've written a scientific paper and if somebody has an issue with that, they can either refute it in a scientific journal, or publish their own finding." Of course, they can't get it published because there's no science behind it. So, what they want to do instead is they want a public debate.

And I say, "Look, you can debate 18th-century enlightenment philosophy, but science is not typically something that's debated in that kind of forum; we have a mechanism for doing that through scientific publication and peer review." And they don't want to play that way. They just want to put out their propaganda because that's all they have behind it. An example is ivermectin or hydroxychloroquine, which the scientific community has clearly shown has no effect on COVID-19. Hydroxychloroquine is even harmful. But the problem is the anti-vaccine force has dominated the internet, and they say, "Hey, scientists don't want to debate us, what are they hiding?"

And that's, again, how they weaponize communication.

Goudarzi: I was actually thinking of earlier during the pandemic. Because there was so little time, some researchers were putting their papers up on open access preprint servers, which didn't require a peer review, and then others were weighing in on social media platforms. At times, you would see non-scientists take one aspect of that discussion and spread something that wasn't necessarily true.

Hotez: I think with the whole preprint server mechanism, ultimately the benefits outweighed the downside. I can't tell you how many times I had to depend on data from bioRxiv, medRxiv in order to

make sense of what was going on. If I had to wait a few weeks for it to air in *New England Journal of Medicine* or *Nature* and *Science*—and by the way, they did a pretty good job too; they were able to turn that around in record time—[it would have been too late.] If you're looking for any silver lining in this pandemic, it's the journal editors, the whole preprint server mechanism, and the willingness of the scientific community to share information. And I think for most of the public understood that they were seeing this play out in real time and that there wasn't always going to be consistency. The problem was those who were who were weaponizing it for their own personal or political gain.

Goudarzi: But you still think the advantages outweighed the disadvantages?

Hotez: I think so. It's hard to imagine how I could've really talked about everything going on knowledgeably on CNN, NBC, or wherever without having access to the information. The preprints were so important.

Goudarzi: Some researchers have either left Twitter or are thinking of leaving. What will this do to scientific discourse? Would it make sense to stay on the platform to counter misinformation and disinformation and increase public awareness, or should researchers seek a more balanced platform?

Hotez: I don't have the answer. I struggle with this every day. I mean, the aggression against me and the threats would continue even if I wasn't on Twitter, because more often than not, it's not against anything that I tweeted. Ninety percent of the time, it's people who see me as a threat to undermine their politics or their business line and are just making up things about me and would still continue even if I wasn't on Twitter. So that's the reason I stay on it, because at least I'm getting out important and timely information. But it is really painful and awful to see what's going on there.

Goudarzi: Is the amount of aggression you face tied to the changing ownership of Twitter and political shifts?

Hotez: The politics around the anti-science, anti-vaccine and phony baloney about COVID origins had started with the pandemic in 2020. But now with all the contrarians back at once it reminds me of the old *Batman* series when they brought back Catwoman, Joker, Penguin, and Riddler all at once to do away with Batman. That seems to be going on, so it's been their superstars who are super energized by being invited back to Twitter, and they are using the platform very aggressively.

Goudarzi: What are some of the lessons we've learned about disinformation and misinformation over the last few years regarding social media that we should consider moving forward?

Hotez: I would say social media is a major weapon of choice for spreading disinformation. But remember, we have to get to those who are generating content. Social media is an important vehicle, but it's not the only one. I think we probably should stop calling it misinformation, disinformation or infodemic. We should call it for what it is, which is anti-science aggression, because it is a killing force. What we realized is that the science aggression is taking lives in the United States on an unprecedented scale.

For that reason, it needs to be addressed, and that's the part the scientific community has not come to terms with. When I call myself a scientist, it's not just co-heading a team of scientists making a COVID vaccine for the world that has reached a 100 million people. That's a very noble activity, but from my perspective, even that's still insufficient. Now being a scientist means, to some extent, being willing to combat the anti-science. It's nothing that any of us signed up for. I never dreamed when I got my MD-PhD in New York in the 1980s that this was something I'd be doing, but this is what's in front of us. And I don't really feel that the scientific community—the professional societies, scientific bodies, even the academy—fully understand the impact. Hopefully it'll be clear when my book comes out, but it may become even clearer when we see the House GOP hearings. I predict the oversight committee and the judiciary committee or select subcommittees will become an anti-science witch hunt and will target prominent American scientists. And then we'll get a better picture.

MORENS_SUBPOENA_016072
MORENS_NIH_033835
REL0000482718

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: Monday, January 30, 2023 6:27 PM
To: David Morens (b) (6)
Cc: Roberts, Rich (b) (6) ; Peter Daszak (b) (6) Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6)
Jeffrey Sturchio (b) (6) ; Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6)
Subject: Re: My latest

Many thanks David! Best Peter

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP

Texas Children's Hospital: Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics | Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development | Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

Baylor College of Medicine: Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine | Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology | Health Policy Scholar

Baylor University, University Professor
Rice University, Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty
Texas A&M University, Faculty-Senior Fellow, Hagler Inst for Advanced Study & Scowcroft Institute of Intl Affairs

E-mail | Twitter | LinkedIn | Skype: (b) (6)

Amazon Author Center | Daily Beast Contributor

Senior Coordinator & Executive Support: Douglas Soriano
(b) (6) | Phone: (b) (6) | Fax: 713-798-2299

Media Inquiries:
(b) (6)

iPhone

On Jan 30, 2023, at 5:22 PM, David Morens (b) (6) > wrote:

kudos to you, again! dmm

Sent from my iPhone
David M Morens
OD, NIAID, NIH

On Jan 30, 2023, at 14:37, Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6) wrote:

https://thebulletin.org/2023/01/viral- spread-peter-hotez-on-the-increase-of-anti-science-aggression-on-social-media/

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP

Texas Children's Hospital: Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics | Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development | Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

Baylor College of Medicine: Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine | Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology | Health Policy Scholar

Baylor University, University Professor
Rice University, Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty
Texas A&M University, Faculty-Senior Fellow, Hagler Inst for Advanced Study & Scowcroft Institute of Intl Affairs

E-mail | Twitter | LinkedIn | Skype: (b) (6)

Amazon Author Center | Daily Beast Contributor

Senior Coordinator & Executive Support: Douglas Soriano
(b) (6) | Phone: (b) (6) | Fax: 713-798-2299

Media Inquiries:
(b) (6)

On Jan 27, 2023, at 2:43 PM, Roberts, Rich <(b) (6) wrote:

Peter:

No, I didn't come up with the name.

But one I have recently come up with is CheatGPT instead of ChatGPT.

Rich

Richard J. Roberts
New England Biolabs
240 County Road
Ipswich, MA 01938-2723
USA

Tel: (b) (6)
Fax: (978) 412 9910
email: (b) (6)

Executive Assistant: (b) (6)
Tel: (b) (6)
Fax: (978) 412 9910
email: (b) (6)

From: Peter Daszak (b) (6)
Sent: Friday, January 27, 2023 3:30 PM
To: Roberts, Rich (b) (6); Keusch, Gerald T (b) (6); Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6)
Cc: (b) (6) >; Jeffrey Sturchio (b) (6); Aleksei Chmura (b) (6)
Subject: fight back!

EXTERNAL SENDER

I forgot about that Rich. But I'm assuming it wasn't you that came up with somewhat colonial name!!???

In all seriousness, while it's good for virologists to push back against calls to block scientific research, I don't think a campaign to support gain of function work that's designed to see what would happen if you make a lethal pathogen more transmissible is anything any of us particularly want to get behind right now!

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: +1-(b) (6)
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

From: Roberts, Rich (b) (6)
Sent: Friday, January 27, 2023 11:08 AM
To: Peter Daszak <(b) (6); Keusch, Gerald T (b) (6); Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6)
Cc: D (b) (6) Jeffrey Sturchio (b) (6); Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6)

MORENS_SUBPOENA_016075
MORENS_NIH_033838
REL0000482718

Subject: RE: Finally - virologists fightback!

Peter:

In the interests of compete disclosure, I was a member of the "Cambridge Working Group". Our concern was about the deliberate attempts to make the flu virus more infectious. It was the deliberate nature of the experiments that was troubling, not virus research in general.

Rich

Richard J. Roberts
New England Biolabs
240 County Road
Ipswich, MA 01938-2723
USA
Tel: (b) (6)
Fax: (978) 412 9910
ema (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) >
ht 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

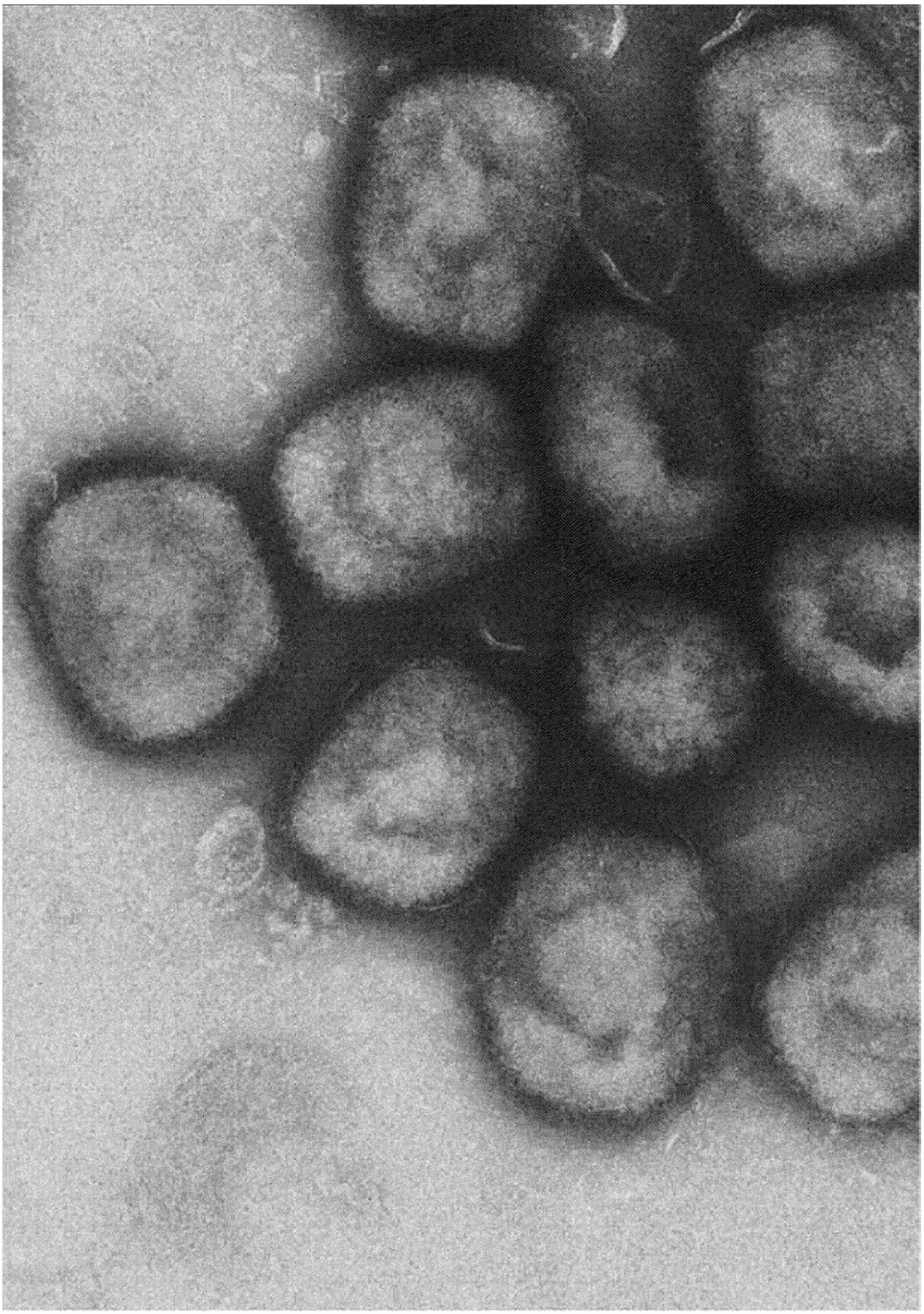
Virologists defend their science as officials eye more oversight of risky experiments

MORENS_SUBPOENA_016076
MORENS_NIH_033839
REL0000482718

NELL GREENFIELDBOYCE

[redacted]

MORENS_SUBPOENA_016077
MORENS_NIH_033840
REL0000482718



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.

MORENS_SUBPOENA_016078
MORENS_NIH_033841
REL0000482718

They worry that continued speculation about a lab in China is fueling calls for more regulation of experiments with pathogens, and that this will stifle the basic research needed to prepare for future pandemics.

The virologists issued their statement just ahead of a key meeting Friday held by outside advisors to the federal government. That group is set to wrap up a recent review of the existing oversight system for experiments that are controversial because they could create new potential threats.

The advisors' draft recommendations call for expanding a special decision-making process that currently weighs the risks and benefits of experiments that might make "potential pandemic pathogens" more dangerous.

"The government really has a strong interest on behalf of all of us, in the public, in knowing when researchers want to make a virus more lethal or more transmissible, and understanding how that would be done and why that would be done, and whether the benefits are worth it," says Tom Inglesby, director of the Center for Health Security at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health.

Sponsor Message

He thinks if the draft recommendations were adopted by the government, "it would be a very big step forward."

The origins of the pandemic

All of this comes as the lab in China, known as the Wuhan Institute of Virology, is again in the headlines. An internal government watchdog released a report this week criticizing the National Institutes of Health, saying it failed to adequately monitor grant awards given to a nonprofit that had collaborated with scientists at the Wuhan lab.

Felicia Goodrum, a virologist at the University of Arizona, says that open-minded experts have investigated the origins of the pandemic. The available evidence, she says, supports the notion that the virus emerged from nature just like other viruses such as HIV and Ebola did — by jumping from animals into people who had contact with them.

"The evidence that we have to date suggests that SARS-CoV-2 entered the human population by that route," says Goodrum. "There is no evidence to the contrary or in support of a lab leak, nothing credible."

Basic research on viruses, she says, is what led to the swift development of vaccines and drugs to fight the pandemic.

And yet virologists have watched in dismay as misinformation and conspiracy theories have placed the blame on science.

Sponsor Message

"There's this complete disconnect between reality and what happened," says Michael Imperiale, a virologist at the University of Michigan.

He says that while debates have gone on for years about the wisdom of doing experiments that might make bad viruses even worse, this moment feels different.

"The pandemic," he says, "has really kind of heightened the urgency with which we need to address these issues, just because of all the controversy that's been out there regarding, you know, was this a lab leak or not?"

A bird flu study raises alarm

Unlike, say, nuclear physics research, biology has traditionally had a culture of openness. After the anthrax attacks in 2001, however, biologists began to grapple with the possibility that their published work might serve as recipes for evildoers who wanted to make bioweapons.

And in 2011, there was an outcry after government-funded researchers altered a bird flu virus that can be deadly in people. Their lab work made this virus more contagious in the lab animals that are stand-ins for people.

Critics said they'd created a super flu. Proponents said that viruses sometimes have to be manipulated in the lab to see what they might be capable of; in nature, after all, mutations occur all the time and that is how pandemic strains emerge.

That episode marked the start of a long, heated debate, plus research moratoriums and ultimately the development of new regulations. In 2017, a review system was put into place to weigh the risks and benefits of studies that might make a potential pandemic pathogen even worse. So far just three proposed lines of research, with influenza viruses, have been deemed risky enough to merit that kind of extra scrutiny.

MORENS_SUBPOENA_016079
MORENS_NIH_033842
REL0000482718

"We are really talking about a small amount of research proposals," says Lyric Jorgenson, the acting associate director for science policy and the acting director of the Office of Science Policy at the NIH.

Sponsor Message

She says just before the pandemic started, officials asked advisors on the National Science Advisory Board for Biosecurity to consider whether the government needed to be more transparent to the public about how it was making decisions about this kind of research. Before that work was done, the pandemic hit and everything was put on hold. Last year, officials asked the group to broaden its work and to evaluate the regulations more comprehensively.

If the draft changes developed by this advisory group are eventually adopted by the government, an extra layer of oversight would apply to any study "reasonably anticipated" to enhance the transmission or virulence of any pathogen in a way that could make it a public health threat. That means more experiments on more viruses would get a closer look.

"What this new recommendation is saying, is that even if you start with a virus that had no potential to cause an epidemic or pandemic, if you are doing research that will change that virus in a way where it could now cause an uncontrollable disease, or a widely spreading disease, that has to be reviewed by this new framework," says Inglesby.

What's more, the advisory group has noted that "increased transparency in the review process is needed to engender public trust in the review and oversight processes."

What's "Reasonably Anticipated"

The American Society for Microbiology has responded positively to the draft recommendations, saying "we urge swift implementation of the recommended changes by the federal agencies engaged in this work."

But some virologists think the devil will be in the details if these recommendations turn into policy.

"They keep using this phrase 'reasonably anticipated,'" says Imperiale. "How is that going to be interpreted? Is there going to be clear guidance as to what is meant by that?"

Sponsor Message

Researchers often don't know what will happen when they start an experiment, says Goodrum, especially when the science is cutting-edge.

"That's where the big scientific advancements come from. And so to tie our hands behind our back, to say we can only do the science that we can anticipate, then we're really restricting innovative science," she says.

Ron Fouchier, the virologist at Erasmus University Medical Center in the Netherlands, whose lab did the bird flu experiments over a decade ago, said in an email that he'd hoped the experience of going through a pandemic would simulate more research, not "unnecessarily delay or restrict it."

He said it looked like many infectious disease researchers in the United States "will face substantial delays in their crucial research efforts, if they can continue that research at all."

The U.S. is unusual in that it has a lot of public discussion of these issues and a system to try to manage the risks, says Inglesby.

He thinks that oversight can be made stronger without getting in the way of science.

"I am avidly, absolutely pro-science and pro-research, and in particular pro-infectious disease research," says Inglesby.

But he says there's a very small part of that research "where there is the potential for very high risk if things 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

MORENS_SUBPOENA_016080
MORENS_NIH_033843
REL0000482718

Facebook
Twitter
Flipboard
Email

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: Keusch, Gerald T (b) (6)
Sent: Wednesday, January 25, 2023 9:20 PM
To: Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6)
Cc: Peter (b) (6) _____ >; David Moren (b) (6) Jeffrey (b) (6) >; Aleksei Chmura (b) (6) >; Rich Roberts < (b) (6)
Subject: t by Miner Flux on Twitter

For what it's worth I sent a brief note to the two leads for the White House COVID response team, Ashish Jha and Nahid Bhadelia, to say why they needed to agitate at the higher levels to get on to appointing a new NIH Director, preferably from the outside, and ideally a candidate like Harold Varmus who could command respect from both sides of the congressional divide.

I also suggested they consider the point that it would be better if there was a new NIH Director before they appointed somebody to NIAID, and that was OK because Hugh Auchincloss was eminently able to be a respected interim Director, both within the NIH and the outside scientific community. And, that the next NIAID Director should come from outside of the institution.

I don't know what influence they will have, should they choose to act, but they do have access to the higher levels, and that is important.

Jerry

From: Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6)
Sent: Wednesday, Janu
To: Keusch, Gera (b) (6)
Cc: Pete (b) (6) _____ ; David Morens < (b) (6) >; Jeffrey (b) (6) >; Aleksei Chmura (b) (6) n Roberts < (b) (6)
Subject: t by Miner Flux on Twitter

MORENS_SUBPOENA_016081
MORENS_NIH_033844
REL0000482718

I think top priority is the Biden Administration appointing a new NIH Director and someone really good, I don't understand the holdup.

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP

Texas Children's Hospital: Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics | Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development | Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

Baylor College of Medicine: Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine | Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology | Health Policy Scholar

Baylor University, University Professor
Rice University, Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty
Texas A&M University, Faculty-Senior Fellow, Hagler Inst for Advanced Study & Scowcroft Institute of Intl Affairs

E-mail | Twitter | LinkedIn | Skype: (b) (6)

Amazon Author Center | Daily Beast Contributor

Senior Coordinator & Executive Support: Douglas Soriano
(b) (6) | Phone: (b) (6) | Fax: 713-798-2299

Media Inquiries:
(b) (6)

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 Miner□Flux on Twitter

I see the far right keeps putting video after video about me terrified I might take over for Tony

MORENS_SUBPOENA_016082
MORENS_NIH_033845
REL0000482718

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP

Texas Children's Hospital: Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics | Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development | Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

Baylor College of Medicine: Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine | Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology | Health Policy Scholar

Baylor University, University Professor
Rice University, Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty
Texas A&M University, Faculty-Senior Fellow, Hagler Inst for Advanced Study & Scowcroft Institute of Intl Affairs

E-mail | Twitter | LinkedIn | Skype: (b) (6)

Amazon Author Center | Daily Beast Contributor

Senior Coordinator & Executive Support: Douglas Soriano
(b) (6) | Phone: (b) (6) | Fax: 713-798-2299

Media Inquiries:
(b) (6)

iPhone

On Jan 25, 2023, at 11:35 AM, Peter Daszak <(b) (6) wrote:

Disapppointed that Hugh isn't a candidate, because short of a stellar scientist from outside (and that isn't looking good), Hugh would be a safe pair of hands for the forseeable future.

I also cannot believe for the life of me that (b) (6) would be rejected from the other position you mentioned. He's a serious scientists, a huge leader in his field, and someone who is balanced and measured in the way he deals with bureaucracy. What a stupid decision and loss to NIAID.

What we need is a leading scientist, who's got a research and public health background, with experience in dealing with difficult political issues and both sides of the political spectrum…er….Peter Hotez!

Seriously, there surely are others out there?

Cheers,

Peter

MORENS_SUBPOENA_016083
MORENS_NIH_033846
REL0000482718

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: David Morens <(b) (6)
Sent: Wednesday,
To: Peter Daszak (b) (6)
Cc: Hot (b) (6) effrey Sturchio (b) (6) Aleksei Chmur (b) (6) ; Gerald Keusch (b) (6) Rich Roberts
Subject tter

Guys, although the director search seems to be proceeding with total secrecy, I learned yesterday that our worst fear has come true: a highly undesirable internal candidate has applied. This person is a middle to upper level physician scientist who is widely disliked as a self-serving narcissist, back stabber, and manipulator. Tthis opinion comes not from me, but from colleagues with much more knowledge of him/her than me. Of course, being an A-hole doesn't necessarily predict a bad leader, but there is widespread worry.

I won't name the candidate but Peter S would know because her/his research at NIAID is in the area of clinical management of rare hereditary pediatric diseases such as Job disease and CGD. Peter H, you could easily ID this person, but i do not want to do so, in part because i have limited personal experience with him/her and am merely relating opinions of colleagues i trust

This individual is in a key management position in which she/he has earned a reputation of cresting an ant-meritocracy: screwing the best scientists while supporting those who suck up. Again this is hearsay, but from people who work under him/her.

If these negative assessments are true, it is still unclear what the implications, if any, would be for EHA, but i would worry that she/he would throw good scientists under the bus to appease politicians downtown

In any case, the best scenario is an open search with many good candidates. I am not sure whether we have that.

Also, my opinion, and that of many others, is that we need someone from the outside, in part because NIAID management and leadership has become inbred, nepotistic, and uninterested in hiring top scientists to fill positions. Moreover, we totally lack vision or any idea about where the science will and should go, and no mechanism to plan for being at/staying on the cutting edge

When i came here in the 1990s, from academia, where i was a 40-something year old full tenured professor in both med and public health school departments, i was told thst because i only had about 160 publications i had no chance of getting automatic tenure or even being put on a tenure track position
That was then.

MORENS_SUBPOENA_016084
MORENS_NIH_033847
REL0000482718

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, (b) (6) ity to hire a top scientist from the outside, my good friend the arbovirologis (b) (6) rom (b) (6) - Peter H, you may know him- and we was the 100% top choice of the search committee. However leadership below Tony refused to hire him with the excuse that he was overqualified and would make the other scientists look bad

No, i am not joking. This is where we are

I have in my had a small list of about 5-10 qualified folks for NIAID director, and have spoken or written to 4 about it, one being you, Peter H, but all four have expressed no interest. Peter D, you are clearly on that list too, but obvious to all of us is the fact that HHS would never let that happen, sadly, so i never mentioned it. In a better world, you would be at the top of that list in my view

The application deadline of 1/17 has passed, so we may be stuck with a non-ideal list, although no one knows including, i believe, our acting director Hugh, who is not a candidate, or so he told me

Sent from my iPhone
David M Morens
OD, NIAID, NIH

> On Jan 25, 2023, at 10:58, Peter Daszak <(b) (6) > wrote:
>
> Unfortunate. At this point you should just throw your hat in the ring!
>
> Why not have a confidential chat with Peter Staley and see if they have a pool of candidates yet?
>
> Cheers,
>
> Peter
>
> **Peter Daszak**
> *President*
>
> EcoHealth Alliance
> 520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
> New York, NY 10018-6507
> USA
>
> Tel.: +1-(b) (6)
> Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
> Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

From: Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6)
Sent: Wednesday, January 25, 2023 10:55 AM
To: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >
Cc: Jeffrey Sturchio <(b) (6) Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) s <(b) (6) >; Gerald Keusch <(b) (6) Rich Robert (b) (6)
Subject: Re: Tweet by MinerFlux on Tw

Unfortunately the far right made a new YouTube claiming I'm the successor to Fauci. Which is ridiculous but it has set off a new wave of aggression

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP

Texas Children's Hospital: Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics | Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development | Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

Baylor College of Medicine: Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine | Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology | Health Policy Scholar

Baylor University, University Professor
Rice University, Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty
Texas A&M University, Faculty-Senior Fellow, Hagler Inst for Advanced Study & Scowcroft Institute of Intl Affairs

E-mail | Twitter | LinkedIn | Skype: (b) (6)

Amazon Author Center | Daily Beast Contributor

Senior Coordinator & Executive Support: Douglas Soriano (b) (6) | Phone: (b) (6) | Fax: 713-798-

Media Inquiries: (b) (6)

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 Sturchi (b) (6)
Sent: Tuesday, Janu (b) (6) M
(b) (6) Peter Daszak <
(b) (6) >; Aleksei Chmura
David Morens (b) (6)
(b) ; 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, Jan (b) (6) >; Aleksei Chmura <
(b) (6) (b) (6)
Jeffrey Sturchi
Rich Roberts <(b) (6)
Subject: Twee Twitter

Miner Flux
@randy hoebee

#Hotez pic.twitter.com/eOPpHym0Rw

1/24/23, 4:04 PM

MORENS_SUBPOENA_016087
MORENS_NIH_033850
REL0000482718

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)

Date:	Sun, 12 Jun 2022 1:21:09 PM -0400
Sent:	Sun, 12 Jun 2022 1:17:51 PM -0400
Subject:	RE: Important caveat: Potential response to the PNAS paper - initial thoughts as draft bullets
From:	Peter Daszak <
To:	David Morens <( ) (6)
CC:	Hotez, Peter Jay < Jeffrey Sturchio <(b) (6) Roberts, Rich <(b) (6) erald T <(b) (6) Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) >;
Attachments:	image001.jpg; image002.jpg; image003.jpg; image014.jpg; image015.jpg; image016.jpg; image018.jpg; image019.jpg; image021.jpg; image023.jpg; image025.jpg; image027.jpg; image029.jpg; Morens et al. The origin of COVID-19 and why it matters. AJTMH 2020.pdf

Hi David – just reading some older emails while I'm finishing off my NAM defense today.

Everything you say below is duly noted and I'll make sure journalists continue to be reminded that it's possible you might be able to talk with them.

Also, I think you make a good point about the paper that you wrote. I've attached it here so that we've all got a copy of it and will start using that as a reference point also. Careful what you wish for though – UTMB emails between Jim le Duc, Tom Ksiazek, David Franz and others have been FoIA'd where they talk about the work they've done training WIV staff and these are currently being circulated by the lab leak amplifiers as 'evidence' or pro-China biases or outright involvement in 'desigining' SARS-CoV-2….

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: David Morens (b) (6)
Sent: Tuesday, May 24, 2022 7:40 PM
To: Peter Daszak (b) (6)
Cc: Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6) Jeffrey Sturchio (b) (6) ; Roberts, Rich <(b) (6)

Keusch, Gerald T (b) (6) ; Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6)
Subject: Re: Important caveat: Potential response to the PNAS paper - initial thoughts as draft bullets

Peter and colleagues,

I have long been mulling my own situation as a government employee, restrained from speaking out, not only because everything i say or write is subject to government censorship, but also because being Tony's only science advisor, anything i say that gets him into trouble hurts us all.

Thst said, i can think of at least a couple small ways in which i might be helpful, if only for my own peace of mind. Please consider....

First, the way it works here, if a reporter wants to speak to me it has to he cleared by HHS, at the very least, and sometime by the White House. It's the same with Tony and everyone else. They will ask the reporter to state, often in the form of a list of questions, what they are going to ask me, and if they think it's too sensitive, they will decline or sometimes same that only Fauci or Wallensky, or some senior person who won't go off script, can speak to them.

HOWEVER, if the reporter does get cleared, then once i get to speak to them there is no law to prevent them from asking anything they want, and i can answer candidly without getting in trouble myself, although of course being careful not to undercut Tony and other leaders

You see where this is going.... In addition i can, and very often do, speak to reporters on background or off the record. I feel like sometimes this actually does some good and I always recommend a list of other scientists they should approach

I am eager to keep helping along these lines and not worried about my own skin

Second, with respect to the issue of viral origin, feel free to recall and cite the following. In spring 2020, before the antiPeter Daszak crap had really exploded, I and 8 other colleagues uploaded snd then published a paper providing evidence as to WHY this virus arose naturally and was not engineered nor lab-leaked

The 8 folks i invited as coauthors met the following criteria: had no reason to be biased; were all internationally recognized leaders in aspects of emerging infections; and represented the various major disciplines related to the emergence questions being addressed

Among these colleagues: a leading expert in high containment virus research who trained WIV scientists in US safety standards (Jim LeDuc); a molecular virologist who sequenced the 1918 influenza virus and determined its wild waterfowl origin using phylogenetics, and also traced viral evolution over 10 months in 1918-1919 (Jeff Taubenberger); a leading viral phylogeneticist who determined and characterized the three independent emergences of the major HIV-1s (Beatrice Hahn); a renowned influenza virologist and Nobel laureate expert in RNA virus evolution (Peter Doherty); a leader in smallpox eradication and co-discoverer of Ebola (Joel Breman); a leading virologist-epidemiologist and vaccine developer (Tom Monath).... and others

What this means is that early on, a broad cross section of the top experts all agreed this question of viral origin was a non issue before it became an issue. For whatever it's worth, feel free to cite this and emphasize that there was sanity well before there was lunacy. It might add to the defense

Anything else i can possibly do to help: I'm in. david

Sent from my iPhone

MORENS_SUBPOENA_006016
MORENS_NIH_014747
REL0000482724

David M Morens
OD, NIAID, NIH

On May 20, 2022, at 13:28, Peter Daszak <(b) (6) > wrote:

I should add that the former Lancet Taskforce (Jerry and I are on it) have a "perspectives" paper to submit Monday for PNAS that reviews all the theories on origins and proposes One Health strategies to deal with future pandemic threats, so we don't need to go too far into the arguments for a natural origin – it will be dealt with in detail in that paper.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: +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: Friday, May 20, 2022 1:07 PM
To: Peter Daszak (b) (6)
Cc: Jeffrey Sturchio (b) (6) >; Roberts, Rich <(b) (6) David Morens <(b) (6) >; Keusch, Gerald T (b) (6) leksei Chmura (b) (6)
Subject: Re: Important caveat: Potential response to the PNAS paper - initial thoughts as draft bullets

Sounds good, let me know if and how you would like me to contribute, i could write a section that makes the case for natural origins as the most plausible scenario?

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP
Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine
Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology
Health Policy Scholar
Baylor College of Medicine

Texas Children's Hospital Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics
Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development

University Professor, Baylor University

Faculty Fellow, Hagler Institute for Advanced Study
Senior Fellow, Scowcroft Institute of International Affairs
Texas A&M University
Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty and Adjunct Professor of Bioengineering, Rice University
Adjunct Professor, University of Texas, School of Public Health

Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

E-mail: (b) (6)
Twitter:
Skype: (b) (6)
Linkedi 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)

Fax: 71

iPhone

On May 20, 2022, at 11:45 AM, Peter Daszak (b) (6) wrote:

Note that I should have said on the last email – I'm not necessarily saying we *should* rebut the paper, nor am I expecting that all of you would want to be involved. I respect your views, your moral support, and your wishes to remain above the fray – that has huge benefits also!

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: +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: Friday, May 20, 2022 12:40 PM
To: 'Jeffrey Sturchio' (b) (6) 'Hotez, Peter Jay' (b) (6)
Cc: 'Roberts, Ric (b) (6) (b) (6) Keusch, Gerald T' (b) (6) 'Aleksei Chmura' (b) (6)
response to the PNAS paper - initial thoughts as draft bullets
Importance: High

FYI, Rich will be speaking with Jeff and I sent him some bullets on general reasons why the call for an investigation into US scientists is flawed, inappropriate and based on easily debunked narratives and simple mistakes.

I think we could draft a polite and decent rebuttal based on these. The general thrust I think should be "Why investigating US scientists is the wrong way to identify COVID-19 origins, and prevent future pandemics". This would take the moral high ground in the same way that Peter Hotez has been doing with anti-vaxx sentiment, by talking about how damaging these narratives are on science, and scientists, and how they ultimately undermine public health.

Here is the summary I sent to Rich. I'll continue to read the paper and identify factual inaccuracies we can correct, but maybe one of you (e.g. Peter) could build on this for a rebuttal draft? I have beaucoup references for each point I make, including peer-reviewed science that demolishes the FCS hypothesis, media articles where we refute some of the claims about our openness and data sharing, and reports that link to articles and emails that have been made public via FoIA.

Bullets for a draft rebuttal:
I think we could start on a conciliatory note that most reasonable scientists who believe the lab leak is 'extremely unlikely' (words of the WHO report I was involved with) also believe it is possible. Therefore, calls for further investigations into the origin (including a potential lab leak) are warranted and valid, and come from a basis of scientific inquiry that is beneficial. If a lab leak did happen, we should know, and it would benefit our defenses against future pandemics. However, we should then rapidly pivot to the main issue: that the call for an independent investigation in to US scientists and organizations that the article lays out, and many of the specific statements in it are based on flawed narratives, misunderstandings of the balance of the evidence, mistakes in interpreting the facts behind the work, and simple errors in understanding how science is conducted. Here are some key issues we could raise:

- Understanding COVID origins will require cooperation with China, not investigation of US scientists. A brief look at the history of recent emerging diseases shows that it usually takes many years to identify the reservoir hosts, the amplifier hosts, and the pathway to emergence (e.g. SARS – our paper showing bats carry SARSr-CoVs that can bind to human cells was published 12 years after the outbreak). To do this

MORENS_SUBPOENA_006019
MORENS_NIH_014750
REL0000482724

requires access to sample collection, testing and analysis within the country of origin, and cooperation with the government. Thus, investigating either a natural or a lab origin of COVID will absolutely require working with China.

- Why 'investigating US scientists' is already a witch hunt. The opinion piece calls for bipartisan independent commission that doesn't engage in a 'witch hunt'. However, we are already engaged in a witch hunt. The issue was politicized under Trump, and has led to dozens of letters from Republican members of Congress and the Senate to US scientists demanding documents and testimony, or making accusations about them to the agencies, to the DoJ, White House, and which are inevitably made public without the opportunity for US scientists to respond. Each of the allegations I have seen from Republicans against EHA are easily refuted with documentary evidence, but the volume of them, and their inflammatory nature means that responding to each is either logistically impossible, or simply amplifies these attacks. There have been NO bipartisan requests that I have seen.

- All *relevant* data have already been shared publicly or with the relevant govt. agencies. The article states that "*EHA, UNC, NIH, USAID, and other research partners have failed to disclose their activities to the US scientific community and the US public, instead declaring that they were not involved in any experiments that could have resulted in the emergence of SARS-CoV-2*." This is simply not true. Each collaborating org has published dozens of papers on this work, in US (not Chinese) journals, uploading data to US (not Chinese) databases like Genbank. All of EHA's papers are available on our website for any member of the public to review, and have been for years. Our staff have given literally hundreds of public lectures on this work. Even after these attacks began, we continued to publish data from our China work, e.g. the 700+ CoV sequences we published and uploaded into Genbank in 2020). Lead scientists from each collaborating organization have shared all unpublished data of relevance (i.e. related to SARSr-CoVs) with the relevant federal agencies including NIH, USAID, DoD, and the intelligence and law enforcement agencies. Sharing of these data has been voluntary, extensive and honorable. This information has not been made public, because it undermines the agencies' ability to conduct their work.

- Demanding release of private emails, files from US scientists does not help build trust in science. Demands on US scientists to release private emails, unpublished data, drafts of reports and other documents that are normally not made public does nothing to elucidate the origins of COVID. Neither does it help build trust in science at a time when our country is so divided along party lines, and where this issue has been so politicized. With social media algorithms demonstrably amplifying negative narratives, the release of private emails and drafts of later-published reports or papers, are easily used to drive and amplify these negative narratives. We have seen this played out already – with every FoIA release of emails, they are cherry-picked for partial-sentence quotes that are then misquoted, misconstrued, and published as part of (usually) right wing hit-pieces that drive the narrative of an elite group of scientists trying to make money by manipulating viruses or vaccines. They are dangerous and lead to people avoiding vaccines. In the case of EcoHealth, the release of private documents, and the narratives around them have also demonstrably been linked to death threats, white powder letters, break-ins, and hacking attempts that we have been suffering repeatedly for the past 2.5 years.

- Inability to prove a negative: We can't prove that China didn't release a virus accidently or by design – that's the nature of scientific hypothesis testing. If US scientists are forced to release emails or files that these do not show any evidence of a lab leak, they will be followed by allegations that other files are being hidden, and therefore more requests for data dumps. For example, if my emails show that China was not working on a SARS-CoV-2 virus with NIH funding, they will be followed by allegations that we used other private funding to do this work (this has already been alleged), and further requests for private emails. Meanwhile, every email, report or unpublished paper I'm forced to turn over is used over and over again by the political forces to attack science – misquoting, using innuendo and assumptions of motives.

- Furin cleavage site hypothesis is already debunked: Theories that the FCS of SARS-CoV-2 indicates lab manipulation have been widely circulated for 2 years and repeatedly debunked by leading virologists. Firstly, there is nothing novel about a wild-type virus having an FCS – they are found in influenza where they enhance virulence, and in other CoVs, including MERS-CoV, and a Rat coronavirus we discovered in China, in wildlife farms, hotels and train stations and published during 2021. There are now peer-reviewed

MORENS_SUBPOENA_006020
MORENS_NIH_014751
REL0000482724

scientific papers demonstrating that bat-CoVs closely related to SARS-CoV-2 have mutations around the site where the FCS in SARS-CoV-2 is found, that are a few mutations away from a true FCS, indicating that this could have easily evolved in nature. These mutations around the polybasic cleavage site are found in many of the viruses closely related to SARS-CoV-2 from SE Asia, and in CoVs from European bats. Other theories about the FCS being incredibly efficient at binding to human cells, or being enhanced easily in a lab, have been refuted in these and other papers.

- Inappropriate legal basis to investigate scientists when no evidence of a lab leak has been proffered: At the moment, it is a fact that there's simply no verifiable evidence whatsoever that a lab leak occurred leading to COVID-19. We have accusations from Secretary Pompeo that people at WIV were sick from COVID in November 2019, but these are allegedly classified. We have stories about the motivations of Chinese scientists in pulling down a database, not citing papers correctly, or removing genomic data from Genbank, but all of these (and all others) can be easily explained by the normal process of doing science, and each of them has occurred many times before with other labs and other circumstances. Many of us, and many other leading scientists have spent countless hours explaining why the theories around lab leaks do not amount to "evidence of a lab leak". Without this it would be massively inappropriate for federal authorities, including the OIG, the FBI or other agencies to launch official investigations into US scientists or US organizations. That's why they haven't, and that's why the public haven't been informed of any investigations.

In addition to these issues, there are multiple factual inaccuracies in the paper that are extremely important, because some of them are used to provide justification for the lab leak theory. For example, here is an inexhaustive list, just by looking at half of one page of the paper:

- "The exact details of the fieldwork and laboratory work of the EHA-WIV-UNC partnership, and the engagement of other institutions in the United States and China, *has not been disclosed for independent analysis*." ***This is not true because details of field and laboratory work have been published repeatedly in scientific papers in the last 15 years, in reports to NIH and USAID, and are laid out in proposals that include pages of details on human subjects, animal use, biosafety and select agent use etc. These are all now public.***
- "Much of the work on SARS-like CoVs performed in Wuhan was part of an active and highly collaborative US–China scientific research program funded by the US Government (NIH, *Defense Threat Reduction Agency [DTRA]*, and US Agency for International Development [USAID]), coordinated by researchers at EcoHealth Alliance (EHA), but involving researchers at several other US institutions." ***False - DoD DTRA do not and have not funded work in China through EHA. This is an easily verified issue, and is a mistake that causes damage because conspiracy theorists globally are on the lookout for linkages to DoD, which leads to damaging narratives such as the Ukraine Biolabs conspiracy theories. The way to check this is that DTRA are NEVER cited on any publication resulting from the work in China.***
- "The precise nature of the experiments that were conducted, *including the full array of viruses collected from the field* and the subsequent sequencing and manipulation of those viruses, *remains unknown*." ***Not true. It is a widely circulated myth that our work involved 'collection of hundreds of viruses from bats'. In fact, there were only 3 isolates of SARSr-CoVs from our work. All of these have been published and some shared with labs in the USA where they were used to test Remdesivir, Molnupiravir, COVID-19 vaccine candidates and monoclonal therapies like ADG20. This work has had a direct benefit to public health and has saved lives of US citizens!***
- "These research proposals make clear that the EHA-WIV-UNC collaboration *was involved in the collection of a large number of so-far undocumented SARS-like viruses* and was engaged in their manipulation within biological safety level (BSL)-2 and BSL-3 laboratory facilities, raising concerns that an airborne virus might have infected a laboratory worker (9)" ***Not true – there were only 3 SARS-related CoVs isolated in China. All the rest are genetic sequences of a short read of the RdRp gene, with a few dozen full genomes. It's documented repeatedly in the scientific papers we published in collaboration with WIV, in mainly US journals, all of which are available publicly on PubMED and***

MORENS_SUBPOENA_006021
MORENS_NIH_014752
REL0000482724

on our website. All sequences were uploaded into the US Genbank database and have been freely available for other scientists to peruse and use.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

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: Friday, May 20, 2022 8:13 AM
To: 'Jeffrey Sturchio' (b) (6) >; 'Hotez, Peter Jay' (b) (6)
Cc: 'Roberts, Rich' <(b) (6) 'David Morens' <(b) (6) >; 'Keusch, Gerald T' <(b) (6) Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) >
Subject: RE: Peter Hotez' tweet and Jamie Metzl's

I don't think PNAS would retract – Sachs is well-known, and this paper will be cited, so it's good for business.

We could ask them to correct, but I think Peter's idea is a good one – a response that's carefully worded, that corrects the errors, and explains why the general approach of investigating scientists based on no evidence would be flawed and damaging to medical progress.

I'm sending some bullets to Rich this morning and will share them with you as a start to addressing some of the errors.

Cheers,

Peter

MORENS_SUBPOENA_006022
MORENS_NIH_014753
REL0000482724

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: Jeffrey Sturchio (b) (6)
Sent: Friday, May 20, 2022 7:15 AM
To: Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6) Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >
Cc: Roberts, Rich (b) (6) David Morens (b) (6) Keusch, Gerald T < (b) (6) Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) >
Subject: RE: Peter Hotez' tweet and Jamie Metzl's

Peter: I think a response along the lines you suggest would be a good idea. Sachs's piece is so egregious it shouldn't be allowed to stand. Perhaps even better would be a sharp letter to the editor(s) of PNAS explaining why a retraction is necessary. As you and Peter D point out, his argument is based on a number of readily refuted erroneous assertions – it's surprising that PNAS would have published it in the first place.

As ever,
Jeff

From: Hotez, Peter Ja (b) (6)
Sent: Friday, May 20, 2022 7:09 AM
To: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >
Cc: Roberts, Rich <(b) (6) David Morens <(b) (6) >; Keusch, Gerald T < (b) (6) Jeffrey Sturchio (b) (6) ; Aleksei Chmur (b) (6)
Subject: Re: Peter Hotez' tweet and Jamie Metzl's

Potentially we could write a response or a commentary piece in PNAS refuting the nonsense, one that begins with the talking points in my Twitter thread.

There is also suggestion from a Nature article that even SARS 1 exhibited some degree of furin cleavage but that with SARS 2 it accelerated and of course evolved even further with alpha then delta to make it more transmissible.

https://www.nature.com/articles/d41586- 021-02039-y

I could have added that as well. The point is it's not an all or none phenomenon as the Sachs article suggests. He wrote an awful paper that needs to be retracted.

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP
Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine
Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology
Health Policy Scholar
Baylor College of Medicine

Texas Children's Hospital Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics
Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development

University Professor, Baylor University

Faculty Fellow, Hagler Institute for Advanced Study
Senior Fellow, Scowcroft Institute of International Affairs
Texas A&M University
Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty and Adjunct Professor of Bioengineering, Rice University
Adjunct Professor, University of Texas, School of Public Health

Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

E-mail: (b) (6)
Twitter: _____
Skype: (b) (6)
Linkedin ____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)

Fax: 71

iPhone

On May 19, 2022, at 9:13 PM, Peter Daszak (b) (6) > wrote:

MORENS_SUBPOENA_006024
MORENS_NIH_014755
REL0000482724

I appreciate that Rich.

I understand his motivations – he believes that all data should be put forward because the pandemic makes this an emergency and unprecedented global concern. However, there is no getting away from the fact that there's simply no evidence whatsoever for a lab leak, so no matter how much data or emails I and other labs are forced to turn over, it will never disprove the negative. We can't prove that China didn't release a virus accidently or by design – that's the nature of scientific hypothesis testing. Meanwhile, every email, report or unpublished paper I'm forced to turn over is used over and over again by the political forces to attack science – misquoting, using innuendo and assumptions of motives. It's a naïve argument from Jeff Sachs at best, and one based on a series of easily refutable errors in black and white, in his paper.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: +1-(b) (6)
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

From: Roberts, Rich (b) (6)
Sent: Thursday, May 19, 2022 8:34 PM
To: Peter Daszak (b) (6) Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6)
Cc: David Morens (b) (6) ; Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6) Jeffrey Sturchio <(b) (6) >; Aleksei Chmura (b) (6)
Subject: RE: Peter Hotez' tweet and Jamie Metzl's

Peter:

Thanks. I intend to take this up with Jeff.

Rich

Richard J. Roberts
New England Biolabs
240 County Road

MORENS_SUBPOENA_006025
MORENS_NIH_014756
REL0000482724

Ipswich, MA 01938-2723
USA
Tel: (b) (6)
Fax: (978) 412 9910
email (b) (6)

From: Peter Daszak (b) (6)
Sent: Thursday, May 19, 2022 6:41 PM
To: Roberts, Rich (b) (6) ; Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6)
Cc: David Morens (b) (6) ; Keusch, Gerald T (b) (6) Jeffrey Sturchio <(b) (6) >; Aleksei Chmur (b) (6)
Subject: Peter Hotez' tweet and Jamie Metzl's

EXTERNAL SENDER

This might work to see the tweet – it won't take you to Twitter – it's on a webpage now

https://threadreaderapp.com/thread/1527398466305105921.html

and here's Jamie Metzl's commentary – says it's a 'critically important new opinion piece'!!

https://threadreaderapp.com/thread/1527404374804287495.html

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: +1 (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

MORENS_SUBPOENA_006026
MORENS_NIH_014757
REL0000482724

Peter:

I don't do Twitter. Can someone send me Peter's piece please?

Thanks

Rich

Richard J. Roberts
New England Biolabs
240 County Road
Ipswich, MA 01938-2723
USA
Tel: (b) (6)
Fax: (978) 412 9910
email (b) (6)

From: Peter Daszak (b) (6) >
Sent: Thursday, May
To: Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6)
Cc: (b) (6) (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

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: +1 (b) (6)
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

MORENS_SUBPOENA_006027
MORENS_NIH_014758
REL0000482724

From: Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6)
Sent: Thursday, May 19, 2022 5:36 PM
To: Peter Daszak (b) (6)
Cc: Roberts, Rich <(b) (6) David Morens (b) (6) >; Keusch, Gerald T < (b) (6) Jeffrey Sturchio (b) (6) >; Aleksei Chmura < (b) (6) >
Subject: Re: Jeff Sachs causing trouble via a PNAS article

I just put out a thread on Twitter to point out why Jeff's article does not hold much water even on scientific grounds

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP
Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine
Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology
Health Policy Scholar
Baylor College of Medicine

Texas Children's Hospital Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics
Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development

University Professor, Baylor University

Faculty Fellow, Hagler Institute for Advanced Study
Senior Fellow, Scowcroft Institute of International Affairs
Texas A&M University
Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty and Adjunct Professor of Bioengineering, Rice University
Adjunct Professor, University of Texas, School of Public Health

Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

E-mail: (b) (6)
Twitter: _____
Skype: (b) (6)
Linkedin Peter Hotez

Amazon Author Center: https://www.amazon.com/Peter- J.-Hotez/e/B001HPIC48
Daily Beast Contributor https://www.thedailybeast.com/author/peter- j-hotez
Like us on Facebook https://www.facebook.com/BCMNationalSchoolOfTropicalMedicine/

Senior Coordinator / Executive Support: Douglas Soriano
(b) (6)

Fax: 713

iPhone

On May 19, 2022, at 4:27 PM, Peter Daszak (b) (6) > wrote:

What's really irksome is that this article in PNAS is full of errors and misunderstandings.

I haven't read the whole thing, but just about every paragraph contains an erroneous assumption that could easily be refuted, e.g.:

- "EHA, UNC, NIH, USAID, and other research partners have failed to disclose their activities to the US scientific community and the US public, instead declaring that they were not involved in any experiments that could have resulted in the emergence of SARS-CoV-2." BS – we published dozens of papers on our work (they're on our website!) and sent reports in to NIH each year. We also gave hundreds of public lectures on this and spoke with the intelligence agencies about it.

  "The exact details of the fieldwork and laboratory work of the EHA-WIV-UNC partnership, and the engagement of other institutions in the United States and China, has not been disclosed for independent analysis." BS – that's what happens when you publish peer-reviewed papers. Maybe Sachs has forgotten how that works!

  "Much of the work on SARS-like CoVs performed in Wuhan was part of an active and highly 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!

MORENS_SUBPOENA_006029
MORENS_NIH_014760
REL0000482724

By the way – all of these questions have been asked repeatedly on Twitter, by journalists, by the FBI and CIA, and by hundreds of people who've spoken with me over the last 2 years. I've answered them all, now I have to do it all again, and again, and again. Problem I see here is that he just doesn't believe me, so the only option is for my laptop to be downloaded in front of a Great Inquisition, led by an eminent person such as…dare I say…Professor Sachs himself.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: +1-(b) (6)
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

---

From: Hotez, Peter Ja (b) (6)
Sent: Thursday, May 19, 2022 4:58 PM
To: Roberts, Rich (b) (6)
Cc: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) David Morens <(b) (6)
Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6) Jeffrey Sturchio (b) (6) ; Aleksei Chmura <
(b) (6) >
Subject: Re: Jeff Sachs causing trouble via a PNAS article

How could PNAS publish this crap?

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP
Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine
Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology
Health Policy Scholar
Baylor College of Medicine

Texas Children's Hospital Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics
Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development

University Professor, Baylor University

Faculty Fellow, Hagler Institute for Advanced Study
Senior Fellow, Scowcroft Institute of International Affairs
Texas A&M University
Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty and Adjunct Professor of Bioengineering, Rice University
Adjunct Professor, University of Texas, School of Public Health

Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

E-mail: (b) (6)
Twitter: @peterhotez
Skype: (b) (6)
Linkedin Peter Hotez

Amazon Author Center: https://www.amazon.com/Peter- J.-Hotez/e/B001HPIC48
Daily Beast Contributor https://www.thedailybeast.com/author/peter- j-hotez
Like us on Facebook
https://www.facebook.com/BCMNationalSchoolOfTropicalMedicine/

Senior Coordinator / Executive Support: Douglas Soriano
(b) (6)
Phone:
Fax: 713

iPhone

On May 19, 2022, at 3:54 PM, Roberts, Rich <(b) (6) > wrote:

Peter:

As you say more nonsense. My opinion of Sachs is waning rapidly.

Rich

Richard J. Roberts
New England Biolabs
240 County Road
Ipswich, MA 01938-2723

USA
Tel: (b) (6)
Fax: (978) 412 9910
email: (b) (6)

From: Peter Daszak <(b) (6)
Sent: Thursday, May 19, 2022 4:32 PM
To: Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6) David Morens (b) (6) (b) (6)
Cc: Keusch, Gerald T (b) (6) ffrey Sturchio (b) (6)
Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) >; Roberts, Ric
Subject: Jeff Sachs causing trouble via a PNAS article
Importance: High

EXTERNAL SENDER

Looks like Sachs has been taken down yet another rabbit hole by a scientist at Columbia (Harrison) who doesn't work in the field, and is just plain wrong. It's the old Furin cleavage site hypothesis again, without any new data or evidence. Of course, that's their point – the lack of evidence means we're all hiding information and need to be hung, drawn and quartered.

They've published an opinion piece in PNAS (attached) and there's this article in 'The Intercept'. Ebright is quoted, of course!

https://theintercept.com/2022/05/19/covid- lab-leak-evidence-jeffrey-sachs/

All this will be put straight into the subpoena letters that we've been told by Democrat staffers to expect to arrive in Jan/Feb 2023 when the Republicans take over the house (their words, not mine).

Blue/Bloomberg via Getty Images

JEFFREY SACHS PRESENTS EVIDENCE OF POSSIBLE LAB ORIGIN OF COVID-19

An article in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences calls for an independent investigation of information held by U.S.-based

institutions that could shed light on the origins of Covid.

Sharon Lerner
May 19 2022, 4:00 p.m.

IN AN ARTICLE published Thursday, economist Jeffrey Sachs called for an independent investigation of information held by U.S.-based institutions that could shed light on the origins of the Covid-19 pandemic. Writing in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, Sachs and his co-author, Neil Harrison, a Columbia University professor of molecular pharmacology and therapeutics, said that federal agencies and universities possess evidence that has not been adequately reviewed, including virus databases, biological samples, viral sequences, email communications, and laboratory notebooks. Sachs and Harrison also highlighted a tantalizing scientific detail that may be an indication that SARS-CoV-2, the coronavirus that causes Covid-19, originated in a laboratory: a sequence of eight amino acids on a critical part of the virus's spike protein that is identical to an amino acid sequence found in cells that line human airways.

Sachs and Harrison are hardly the first to suggest that SARS-CoV-2 might have been created in a lab. Since its genetic sequence was first published in February 2020, scientists have puzzled over the furin cleavage site, an area on the virus's spike that allows it to be broken apart by a protein on the membrane of human cells and makes the coronavirus particularly dangerous to people. Once split, the virus releases its genetic material into the cell and reproduces. While all viruses work by attaching themselves to cells, breaking apart, and releasing their genetic material, SARS-CoV-2 is the only one of its class, sarbecoviruses, to use this particular mechanism to do so.

As with past discussion of a possible lab origin of SARS-CoV-2, this latest theory has already been met with considerable pushback. Even some scientists who are open to the idea that a lab accident could have sparked the pandemic remain unconvinced by the particular trail of evidence laid out by Sachs

MORENS_SUBPOENA_006033
MORENS_NIH_014764
REL0000482724

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

MORENS_SUBPOENA_006034
MORENS_NIH_014765
REL0000482724

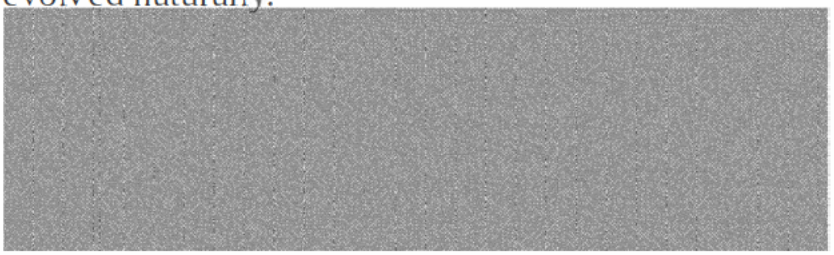
introduce appropriate human-specific cleavage sites and evaluate growth potential in [a type of mammalian cell commonly used in microbiology] and [human airway epithelial cell] cultures," the proposal stated.

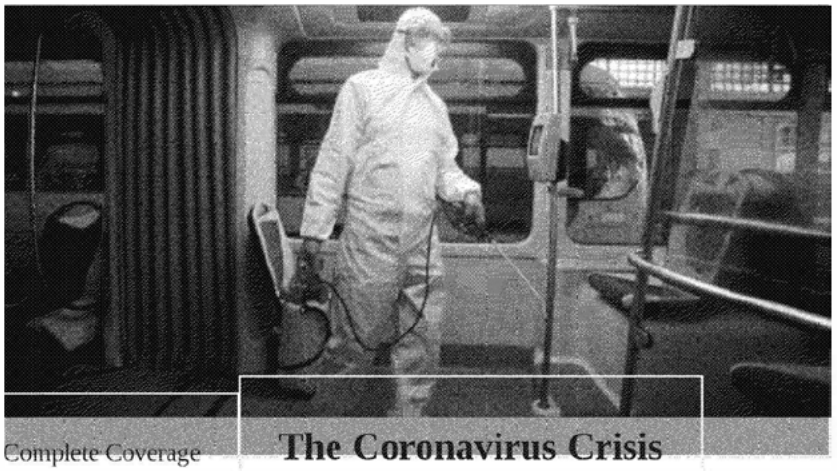
Several scientists interviewed about the DARPA proposal in September told The Intercept that scientists often begin research before seeking funding and thus that some of the experiments described in the proposal could have already been completed. But when asked about that possibility in an interview, Peter Daszak, the president of EcoHealth Alliance, rejected it: "The DARPA proposal was not funded. Therefore, the work was not done. Simple."

A Rational Choice

As Sachs and Harrison note, the part of a protein on the cell membrane that shares its amino acid sequence with the bat coronavirus is critical for lung function. Known as an epithelial sodium channel-alpha, or ENaC-alpha, it is found in human airway cells, as well as in human kidneys and colons. Intriguingly, like SARS-CoV-2, ENaC-alpha, which facilitates the absorption of fluid in cells, is also activated by the unusual furin cleavage site. Harrison, a physiologist affiliated with Columbia's Department of Molecular Pharmacology and Therapeutics, studies ion channels, the larger category to which ENaC-alpha belongs.

Other scientists have already pointed out the match between the amino acid series in the furin cleavage site of SARS-CoV-2 and the ENaC-alpha found in human airways. In 2020, a team from the biomedical company Nference suggested that the overlap between the virus and the sequence found in human lungs is part of the reason that Covid-19 is so damaging to the respiratory system. Those scientists described the sequence as having evolved naturally.



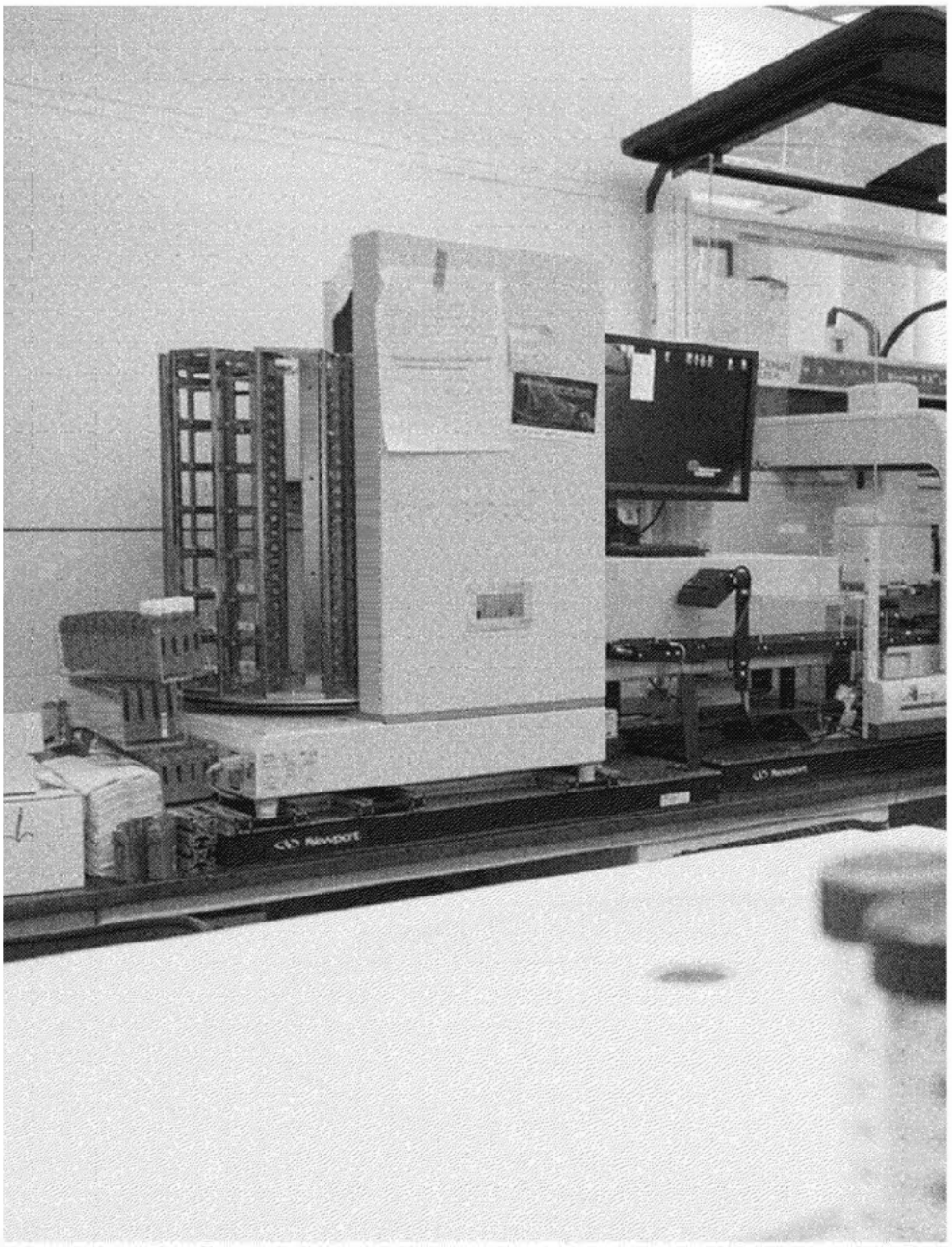


Read Our Complete Coverage **The Coronavirus Crisis**

Sachs and Harrison, in contrast, suggest that researchers may have inserted the string of amino acids into a bat coronavirus precisely because of its known importance to lung function. "For a research team assessing the pandemic potential of SARS-related coronaviruses, the FCS of human ENaC — an FCS known to be efficiently cleaved by host furin present in the target location (epithelial cells) of an important target organ (lung), of the target organism (human) — might be a rational, if not obvious, choice of FCS to introduce into a virus in order to alter its infectivity, in line with other work performed previously," they write.

Such a choice, they point out, would have been in keeping with another viral research project on which EcoHealth Alliance, the Wuhan Institute of Virology, and UNC's Baric collaborated: a 2014 grant from the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases that involved increasing the transmissibility and pathogenicity of bat coronaviruses.

MORENS_SUBPOENA_006036
MORENS_NIH_014767
REL0000482724



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

MORENS_SUBPOENA_006037
MORENS_NIH_014768
REL0000482724

insertion of genetic sequences into bat coronaviruses happen to work at the same academic institution: the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill.

Baric, whose work aims to prevent and create treatments for viral outbreaks, has previously inserted segments of DNA and RNA into viruses and created an infectious clone of SARS using his own patented "No See'm" method of inserting genetic materials without a trace. He has also collaborated on coronavirus research with scientists from a center for lung studies at UNC-Chapel Hill who are knowledgeable about ENaC-alpha. In one 2016 study, the scientists created a new virus using the spike of a bat coronavirus that had been isolated and characterized by the Wuhan Institute of Virology. The experiment found that the new virus "replicated efficiently" in human airway cells that were cultured in a lab.

In another paper, published a year earlier, Baric, along with the Wuhan Institute of Virology's Shi Zhengli and a lung expert UNC-Chapel Hill's lung institute, described creating a hybrid virus using a SARS-like virus from a bat and a "mouse-adapted" coronavirus. The new virus caused mice to get sicker than those exposed to the original virus. The goal of these experiments was to prepare for the possibility that a virus might jump naturally from animals to humans, as SARS had in 2003. But even before the pandemic, the experiment drew criticism from other scientists, who were concerned because the researchers had created a virus that was able to spread in humans.

Sachs and Harrison note that the scientists who co-authored the DARPA grant proposal would have been aware of research on coronavirus furin cleavage sites, including one 2006 experiment in which a furin cleavage site was inserted into a coronavirus. "The research team would also have some familiarity with the FCS sequence and the FCS-dependent activation mechanism of human ENaC, which was extensively characterized at UNC," they write.

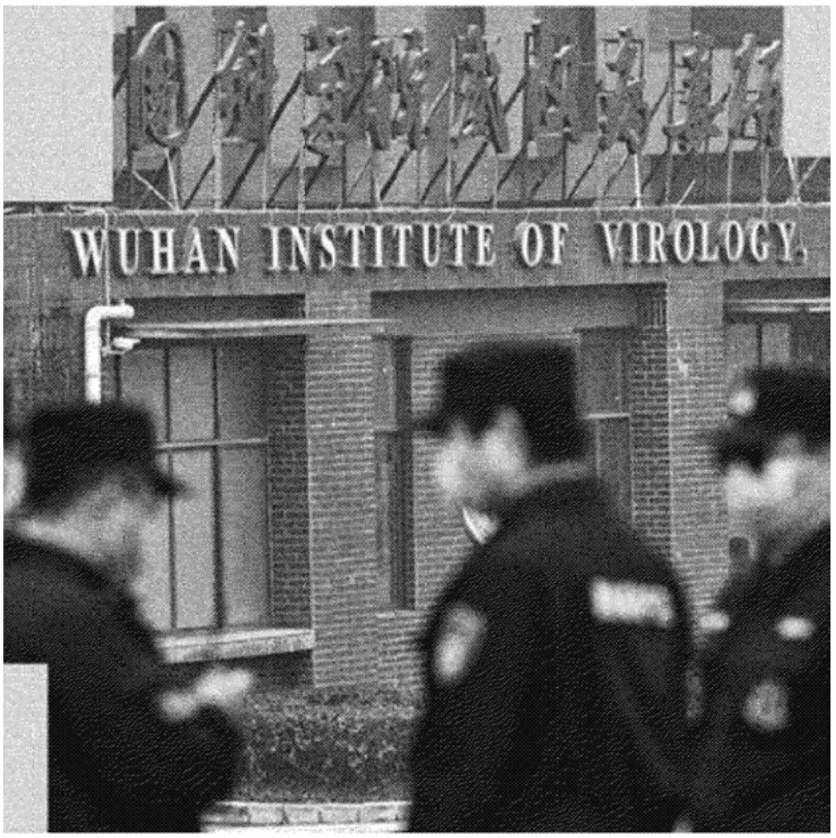
"The list of coincidences is getting verrrrrrrrrry long."

MORENS_SUBPOENA_006038
MORENS_NIH_014769
REL0000482724

Still, both the overlap in the amino acid sequence and the fact that experts in the furin cleavage site of the ENaC-alpha and insertion of genetic material into bat coronaviruses work at the same university could be coincidental, as Harrison and Sachs acknowledge. Some virologists, though, say that the coincidence strains credulity.

"Could be," Richard Ebright, a molecular biologist at Rutgers University, wrote in an email to The Intercept when asked about the possibility that these things are both chance occurrences. "But the list of coincidences is getting verrrrrrrrrry long."

Ebright, a vocal proponent of the lab-leak theory whom Harrison and Sachs thank "for helpful commentary on the manuscript," spelled out some of the other Covid coincidences that he considers questionable, including its initial outbreak in a city that, well before 2019, had already been pegged as a biosafety risk. Ebright also noted Wuhan's 1,000-mile distance from the nearest wild bats that carry the type of SARS-related coronaviruses that caused the pandemic. And he pointed to the particular coding of the amino acids in the furin cleavage site of SARS-CoV2.



MORENS_SUBPOENA_006039
MORENS_NIH_014770
REL0000482724

Related

The Lab-Leak Theory Is Looking Stronger by the Day. Here's What We Know.

"The sequence encoding the FCS of the pandemic virus contained two consecutive CGG arginine codons," Ebright explained in his email. (A codon, or a combination of three nucleotides, supplies the genetic code for a single amino acid, though most amino acids can be represented by multiple different codons. Each nucleotide is represented by a letter — for RNA, either A, C, U, or G.) "This codon usage is unusual for a natural bat SARS-related coronaviruses (for which fewer than 1 in 30 arginine codons are CGG) but is optimal for humans (for which most arginine codons are CGG codons)."

Still, Ebright said that at first he didn't see the identical amino acid sequences as particularly suspicious. "I had known for more than a year that there was a perfect match to an eight-amino acid sequence present in human ENaC. What I had not known was that the sequence was known to be a functional furin cleavage site and that it was a sequence extensively studied at UNC," he said. "The crucial point that the ENaC sequence was a known functional site, not just that there happens to be a match to a protein that happens to be in humans. … That suddenly turned it from what I thought to be largely irrelevant to being a logical and obvious choice to proceed."

Ralph Baric and the University of North Carolina did not immediately respond to requests for comment.

The Wuhan Institute of Virology in Wuhan, China, on June 24, 2021.

Photo: Kyodo via AP Images

Name Calling

Other scientists dismiss the idea that the ENaC sequence might have been purposefully inserted into a coronavirus. Scientists who are already convinced that the new coronavirus emerged naturally are unlikely to be persuaded by Sachs and Harrison's article, which appears in the opinion section of the esteemed journal. Over the past year, many scientists involved in the

MORENS_SUBPOENA_006041
MORENS_NIH_014772
REL0000482724

debate over the origins of the pandemic have settled into an increasingly acrimonious, coarse, and unyielding opposition.

Some proponents of the natural origin theory became particularly dismissive of those open to the possibility of a lab leak after the February release of two pre-print studies mapping the early spread of the virus at the Huanan market in Wuhan. Angela Rasmussen, one of a team of virologists who worked on the project, described it on Twitter as "dispositive evidence of a zoonotic origin" that will "drive those with personal interest in the lab leak hypothesis out of their goddam minds." In another tweet, Rasmussen referred to proponents of the lab-leak theory as a "pack of ghouls, who through gullibility, stupidity, & conspiracist thinking have decided this is their thing despite zero expertise."

Although the pre-prints had not been peer-reviewed and may have simply illustrated the spread of the virus rather than its original outbreak, the New York Times ran a front-page story about them that quoted an epidemiologist as saying that the origins debate "has been settled with a very high degree of evidence." The story, which was announced by a push notification from the paper, also noted a lack of direct evidence for a lab leak.

Meanwhile, Kristian Andersen, another co-author of the pre-prints and a virologist at the well-regarded Scripps Research Institute, used the "poop" emoji to criticize a deeply researched article by Katherine Eban about EcoHealth Alliance. On Twitter, Andersen tarred Eban, New York Times columnist Zeynep Tufekci, and others reporting on biosafety issues that could have led to the release of SARS-CoV-2 as "deep in conspiracy theories" and on the other side of "a clear split" from journalists who dismiss the possibility of a lab origin, whom Andersen referred to as "science-based."

Even some scientists who have been vocal about the possibility that the pandemic may have been sparked by research have expressed skepticism about the theory suggested by Harrison and Sachs. "I'm sure that these authors believe in their own hypothesis and arguments, but to me, it's not one that is particularly convincing," said Alina Chan, a scientist who laid

MORENS_SUBPOENA_006042
MORENS_NIH_014773
REL0000482724

out a number of possible routes for how the coronavirus might have emerged through research-related incidents in her recent book "Viral: The Search for the Origin of Covid-19."

"There's no need for them to go hunting inside the human protein catalogue to look for cleavage sites to put into viruses."

While she is open to the possibility that the furin cleavage site might have been purposefully inserted into the coronavirus, Chan said there was no reason to think that researchers would mine humans for such material. "These scientists literally had access to hundreds of SARS-like viruses and sequences," said Chan, referring to the vast collection of coronaviruses from bats and other animals that researchers amassed at the Wuhan Institute of Virology. "There's no need for them to go hunting inside the human protein catalogue to look for cleavage sites to put into viruses."

Jack Nunberg, a virologist at the University of Montana, was also not immediately persuaded by the theory of engineering suggested by Sachs and Harrison. "It's possible," Nunberg said of the idea that the ENaC segment was inserted into a bat coronavirus as part of research designed to gauge the pandemic potential of a virus. "But I don't find their evidence on ENaC compelling because furin cleavage sites have a lot of common amino acids, and therefore it may just have happened by chance."

Others say that the article adds noteworthy information to the public conversation about the origins of the pandemic. "The defenders of the natural origin indicate that the virus on which this type of experiment could have been done — the backbone has never been published and that specialists in the furin cleavage sites would have chosen a more commonly used furin cleavage site like RARR rather than PRRAR. The Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences article contradicts this argument and indicates that specialists knew that the RRAR'SVAS site was efficiently cleaved by furin," Etienne

MORENS_SUBPOENA_006043
MORENS_NIH_014774
REL0000482724

Decroly, director of virology research at the Aix-Marseille Université in France, wrote in an email to The Intercept.

Decroly added, "It is impossible to decide on the basis of the information currently available and it is urgent that the WHO Special Advisory Group for the Origins of Novel Pathogens investigate this question."

On the suggestion of an investigation, Nunberg is in agreement. "You can't argue with that," he told The Intercept. "Who's going to argue for burying one's head in the sand?"

For their part, Sachs and Harrison emphasize that they're not saying laboratory manipulation was involved in the emergence of the pandemic virus, only "that it could have been." They also give a nod to other possibilities, including that an airborne virus might have infected a laboratory worker. Rather than argue that any of these conceivable scenarios happened, they present the clues of the matching amino acid sequences to argue for an independent and transparent scientific investigation of the U.S.-based evidence related to the origins of the virus.

Among the institutions that Sachs and Harrison list as possibly having "knowledge of the detailed activities that were underway in Wuhan and in the United States" are the National Institutes of Health; the Defense Threat Reduction Agency, which has provided grant funding to EcoHealth Alliance; the Department of Homeland Security; DARPA; the U.S. Agency for International Development, which funded the $200 million PREDICT program that catalogued potential pandemic viruses; and the University of California, Davis, which participated in that program.

The authors suggest that EcoHealth Alliance and UNC may have particularly important untapped resources. "The exact details of the fieldwork and laboratory work of the EHA-WIV-UNC partnership, and the engagement of other institutions in the US and China, has not been disclosed for independent analysis," they write. "The precise nature of the experiments that were conducted, including the full array of viruses collected from the field and the subsequent sequencing and manipulation of those viruses, remains unknown."

Peter Daszak, one of the members of the World Health Organization team investigating the origins of the Covid-19, on a balcony at a hotel in Wuhan, China, on Feb. 6, 2021.

Photo: Hector Retamal/AFP via Getty Images

A Reversal

The publication in the prestigious Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences marks a reversal of sorts for Sachs, the chair of the Lancet Covid-19 Commission who, in November 2020, appointed Daszak, the EcoHealth Alliance president, to lead a task force to investigate the origins of the pandemic.

MORENS_SUBPOENA_006045
MORENS_NIH_014776
REL0000482724