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Date: Thu, 9 Feb 2023 7:14:04 PM -0500
Sent: Thu, 9 Feb 2023 7:13:50 PM -0500
Subject: Re: Follow up from our call
From: "Roberts, Rich" < (b) (6)
To: Peter Daszak < (b) (6)
CC: Keusch, Gerald T < (b) (6) Hotez, Peter Jay < (b) (6) David Morens < (b) (6) Jeffrey Sturchio < (b) (6) Aleksei Chmura < (b) (6) >;
Attachments: image001.jpg; image002.jpg; image003.jpg

One person we should recruit is Neil DeGrasse Tyson

Rich

Sent from my iPhone

On Feb 9, 2023, at 7:02 PM, Peter Daszak < (b) (6) wrote:

EXTERNAL SENDER

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

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Twitter: @PeterDaszak

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

MORENS_SUBPOENA_018229
MORENS_NIH_037177
REL0000476743

From: Roberts, Rich <(b) (6) >
Sent: Thursday, February 9, 2023 3:20 PM
To: Keusch, Gerald T (b) (6) >; Peter Daszak (b) (6) >; Hotez, Peter Jay <
(b) (6)
Cc: David Morens (b) (6) ; Jeffrey Sturchio (b) (6) Aleksei Chmura <
(b) (6) >
Subject: Follow up from our call

Hi:

I have spoken with several people about the idea of a campaign to protect science and most seem on board with the idea, but a little short on ways to implement it in a way that might get wide public acceptance.

I spoke with Keith Yamamoto at some length. He is extremely supportive. He did have some insights about the NIH Directorship. He said that Biden had taken over the selection personally and no-one else seemed to be involved. His view and mine is that that means it is dead for now. He had been talking with Harold Varmus and Bob Horvitz, both of whom are very concerned about the Republican attacks on science. I will be talking with both of them tomorrow afternoon.

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

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

Rich

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

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

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

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Research!America, and Stef Bertuzzi about ASM. I'll let you know if and what I hear back from them and we can proceed from there.
Jerry

From: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >
Sent: Wednesday, February 1, 2023 6:26 PM
To: Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6) >
Cc: David Morens (b) (6) >; Roberts, Rich (b) (6) >; Keusch, Gerald T < (b) (6)
Jeffrey Sturchio (b) (6) Aleksei Chmura (b) (6)
Subject: Notes from our call
Importance: High

Attached are notes and action items (also cc'd below), as well as the concept note which I've expanded with more names of orgs to add:

Towards a Coalition to Protect Pandemic Preparedness Research

Notes from call 2/1/23
Rich Roberts, Peter Hotez, Jerry Keusch, David Morens, Jeff Sturchio, Peter Daszak, Aleksei Chmura

Action items:

Rich will speak with:
- Harold Varmus to sound him out re. this issue
- Holden Thorpe to find out the best way to engage AAAS (Sudip Parikh CEO)
- NAS: Rich will be in DC in March talking with Marcia McNutt, Nobel Foundation & NAS – will see if Nobel Foundation will endorse this effort if NAS supports it

Jerry Keusch will reach out to:
- ASM – Stephano Bertuzzi

David Morens will reach out to Tony Fauci to ask advice on how we should progress

Peter Hotez will talk with:
- Head of OSTP (Peter will speak with them in March)
- ASV – Anne Moscona (President-Elect)

Peter Daszak will contact as many of the others as possible, writing on behalf of all of us, so as to avoid concerns that people might have re EcoHealth being in the line of fire.

Next steps
- each of us will reach out to different contacts
- re-convene by conference call in 3 weeks or so (Peter D. will set up), around Feb 22nd.
- In-person meeting at EHA NYC afternoon of April 27th.

Summary of discussion:

- What could the goals of the coalition be, and what should they not be
  - Overall goal to have a 'coalition of the willing' form, organized by an independent group (hopefully AAAS, or similar level) to defend pandemic prevention research that is under attack
- How should we reach out to build a coalition?
  - Making contact with key people from each of the above, trying to set up a conference call, convened by a leading independent group (e.g. AAAS) where multiple contacts come together and the discussion is led by the independent group.
- Who should we try to engage: Academies, academic societies, pro-science pressure groups, senior figures in the field, funders, and governmental leaders. Initial list:
  - AAAS
  - AIDS Vaccine Advocacy Coalition
  - American Public Health Association (Georges Benjamin)

- American Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene (Dan Bausch, Karen Goraleski, Kent Kester)
- Association of Public & Land-Grant Universities
- Georgia Global Health Alliance
- Bay Area Global Health Alliance
- Consortium of Universities for Global Health
- COVID Collaborative
- Global Health Council
- Global Health Technologies Coalition
- Infectious Diseases Society of America Carlos del Rio (Jerry will reach out)
- International AIDS Vaccine Initiative
- Nobel Laureates Campaigns
- Pandemic Action Network
- PATH
- Research!America – Reach back out – Jerry will
- Union of Concerned Scientists
- Washington Global Health Alliance
- 156 virologists letter
- NAM
- NAS
- NL Campaigns (to be kept informed of progress by Rich)
- CUGH
- The pandemic action coalition
- FASEB
- Global Health technologies coalition
- APLU (KHG has connection)
- Wellcome Trust (Paul Schreier is the interim head).
- Dr. Tony Fauci
- Felicia Goodrum (Arizona) and Stacey Schultz-Cherry (St. Judes)
- OSTP
- ASV – Anne Moscona (President-Elect)

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

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

(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)
(b) (6) # US

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

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New York, NY 10018-6507
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Tel.: + (b) (6)
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

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From: Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6)
Sent: Tuesday, January 31, 2023 3:04 PM
To: Peter Daszak < (b) (6)
Cc: David Morens (b) (6) Roberts, Rich (b) (6) Keusch, Gerald T (b) (6)
Jeffrey Sturchio (b) (6) ; Aleksei Chmura (b) (6)
Subject: Re: Two great articles!

Many thanks Peter! Appreciate the support!

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

Texas Children's Hospital: Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics | Co-Director, Texas Children's

Hospital Center for Vaccine Development | Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

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

Baylor University, University Professor

Rice University, Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty

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

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

Amazon Author Center | Daily Beast Contributor

Senior Coordinator & Executive Support: Douglas Soriano

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Media Inquiries:

(b) (6) (b)(6)

(b) (6)

(b) (6)

iPhone

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

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

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

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

By Sara Goudarzi | January 30, 2023

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

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

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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

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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

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paper and if somebody has an issue with that, they can either refute it in a scientific journal, or publish their own finding." Of course, they can't get it published because there's no science behind it. So, what they want to do instead is they want a public debate.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Hotez: I would say social media is a major weapon of choice for spreading disinformation.

But remember, we have to get to those who are generating content. Social media is an important vehicle, but it's not the only one. I think we probably should stop calling it misinformation, disinformation or infodemic. We should call it for what it is, which is anti-science aggression, because it is a killing force. What we realized is that the science aggression is taking lives in the United States on an unprecedented scale.
For that reason, it needs to be addressed, and that's the part the scientific community has not come to terms with. When I call myself a scientist, it's not just co-heading a team of scientists making a COVID vaccine for the world that has reached a 100 million people. That's a very noble activity, but from my perspective, even that's still insufficient. Now being a scientist means, to some extent, being willing to combat the anti-science. It's nothing that any of us signed up for. I never dreamed when I got my MD-PhD in New York in the 1980s that this was something I'd be doing, but this is what's in front of us.
And I don't really feel that the scientific community—the professional societies, scientific bodies, even the academy—fully understand the impact. Hopefully it'll be clear when my book comes out, but it may become even clearer when we see the House GOP hearings. I predict the oversight committee and the judiciary committee or select subcommittees will become an anti-science witch hunt and will target prominent American scientists. And then we'll get a better picture.

Cheers,

Peter

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

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From: Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6)
Sent: Monday, January 30, 2023 6:27 PM
To: David Morens <(b) (6)
Cc: Roberts, Rich <(b) (6) Peter Daszak (b) (6) >; Keusch, Gerald T < (b) (6) Jeffrey Sturchio (b)(6) Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) >
Subject: Re: My latest

Many thanks David! Best Peter

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

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Baylor University, University Professor

Rice University, Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty

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iPhone

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

kudos to you, again! dmm

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

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

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

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

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(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
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Tel (b) (6) (b) (6)

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email: (b) (6)

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

From: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >
Sent: Friday, January 27, 2023 3:30 PM
To: Roberts, Rich <(b) (6) Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6) Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6)
Cc: David Morens (b) (6) >; Jeffrey Sturchio <(b) (6) >; Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) >
Subject: RE: Finally - virologists fight back!

EXTERNAL SENDER

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

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

Cheers,

Peter

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From: Roberts, Rich <(b) (6)
Sent: Friday, January 27, 2023 11:08 AM
To: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >; Keusch, Gerald T (b) (6) >; Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6)
Cc: David Morens (b) (6) >; Jeffrey Sturchio (b)(6) Aleksei Chmura (b) (6) g>
Subject: RE: Finally - virologists fight back!

Peter:

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REL0000476743

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
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email: (b) (6)

From: Peter Daszak (b) (6)
Sent: Friday, January 27, 2023 8:39 AM
To: Keusch, Gerald T (b) (6) ; Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6)
Cc: David Morens <(b) (6) Jeffrey Sturchio <J_(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

<image002.jpg>

NELL GREENFIELDBOYCE

<image003.jpg>

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MORENS_NIH_037193
REL0000476743

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

NIAID

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

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

The virologists issued their statement just ahead of a key meeting Friday held by outside advisors to the federal government. That group is set to wrap up a recent review of the existing oversight system for experiments that are controversial because they could create new potential threats.

The advisors' draft recommendations call for expanding a special decision-making process that currently weighs the risks and benefits of experiments that might make "potential pandemic pathogens" more dangerous.

"The government really has a strong interest on behalf of all of us, in the public, in knowing when researchers want to make a virus more lethal or more transmissible, and understanding how that would be done and why that would be done, and whether the benefits are worth it," says Tom Inglesby, director of the Center for Health Security at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health.

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He thinks if the draft recommendations were adopted by the government, "it would be a very big step forward."

The origins of the pandemic

All of this comes as the lab in China, known as the Wuhan Institute of Virology, is again in the headlines. An internal government watchdog released a report this week criticizing the National Institutes of Health, saying it failed to adequately monitor grant awards given to a nonprofit that had collaborated with scientists at the Wuhan lab.

Felicia Goodrum, a virologist at the University of Arizona, says that open-minded experts have investigated the origins of the pandemic. The available evidence, she says, supports the notion that the virus emerged from nature just like other viruses such as HIV and Ebola did — by jumping from animals into people who had contact with them.

"The evidence that we have to date suggests that SARS-CoV-2 entered the human population by that route," says Goodrum. "There is no evidence to the contrary or in support of a lab leak, nothing credible."

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

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

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"There's this complete disconnect between reality and what happened," says Michael Imperiale, a virologist at the University of Michigan.

He says that while debates have gone on for years about the wisdom of doing experiments that might make bad viruses even worse, this moment feels different.

"The pandemic," he says, "has really kind of heightened the urgency with 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

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stand-ins for people.

Critics said they'd created a super flu. Proponents said that viruses sometimes have to be manipulated in the lab to see what they might be capable of; in nature, after all, mutations occur all the time and that is how pandemic strains emerge.
That episode marked the start of a long, heated debate, plus research moratoriums and ultimately the development of new regulations. In 2017, a review system was put into place to weigh the risks and benefits of studies that might make a potential pandemic pathogen even worse. So far just three proposed lines of research, with influenza viruses, have been deemed risky enough to merit that kind of extra scrutiny.
"We are really talking about a small amount of research proposals," says Lyric Jorgenson, the acting associate director for science policy and the acting director of the Office of Science Policy at the NIH.

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She says just before the pandemic started, officials asked advisors on the National Science Advisory Board for Biosecurity to consider whether the government needed to be more transparent to the public about how it was making decisions about this kind of research. Before that work was done, the pandemic hit and everything was put on hold. Last year, officials asked the group to broaden its work and to evaluate the regulations more comprehensively.
If the draft changes developed by this advisory group are eventually adopted by the government, an extra layer of oversight would apply to any study "reasonably anticipated" to enhance the transmission or virulence of any pathogen in a way that could make it a public health threat. That means more experiments on more viruses would get a closer look.

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

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

What's "Reasonably Anticipated"

The American Society for Microbiology has responded positively to the draft recommendations, saying "we urge swift implementation of the recommended changes by the federal agencies engaged in this work."
But some virologists think the devil will be in the details if these recommendations turn into policy.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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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
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From: Keusch, Gerald T (b) (6) >
Sent: Wednesday, January 25, 2023 9:20 PM
To: Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6)
Cc: Peter Daszak (b) (6) >; David Morens <
(b) (6) Jeffrey Sturchio _(b) (6) ; Aleksei Chmura <
(b) (6) >; Rich Roberts <(b) (6)
Subject: RE: Tweet by MinerFlux on Twitter

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

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

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

Jerry

From: Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6)
Sent: Wednesday, January 25, 2023 2:38 PM

MORENS_SUBPOENA_018248
MORENS_NIH_037196
REL0000476743

To: Keusch, Gerald T (b) (6)
Cc: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >; David Morens <
(b) (6) >; Jeffrey Sturchio <(b) (6) Aleksei Chmura <
(b) (6) >; Rich Roberts (b) (6) >
Subject: Re: Tweet by MinerFlux on Twitter

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

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

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

Baylor University, University Professor

Rice University, Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty

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

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((b) (6)
b
(b) (6)

iPhone

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

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

Jerry

From: Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6)
Sent: Wednesday, January 25, 2023 2:27 PM
To: Peter Daszak <(b) (6)
Cc: David Morens (b) (6) Jeffrey Sturchio <(b) (6) Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6) Rich Roberts <(b) (6)
Subject: Re: Tweet by MinerFlux on Twitter

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

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

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

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

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(b) (6)

iPhone

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

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

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

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

Seriously, there surely are others out there?

Cheers,

Peter

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President

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

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

---

From: David Morens <(b) (6) >
Sent: Wednesday, January 25, 2023 11:38 AM
To: Peter Daszak (b)(6)
Cc: Hotez, Peter Jay (b)(6) Jeffrey Sturchio < (b)(6) >; Aleksei Chmura (b)(6)
Gerald Keusch <(b) (6) Rich Roberts (b)(6)
Subject: Re: Tweet by Miner Flux on Twitter

MORENS_SUBPOENA_018251
MORENS_NIH_037199
REL0000476743

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

I won't name the candidate but Peter S would know because her/his research at NIAID is in the area of clinical management of(b) (6)
Peter H, you could easily ID this person, but i do not want to do so, in part because i have limited personal experience with him/her and am merely relating opinions of colleagues i trust

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

MORENS_SUBPOENA_018252
MORENS_NIH_037200
REL0000476743

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

On Jan 25, 2023, at 10:58, Peter Daszak <
(b) (6) > wrote:

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

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

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

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

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

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

---

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

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

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

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

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

Baylor University, University Professor

Rice University, Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty

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

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Senior Coordinator & Executive Support: Douglas Soriano

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

Media Inquiries:

(b) (6)

(b) (6)

(b) (6)

iPhone

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

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

Disgusting. Reported to Twitter safety. They've been surprisingly good over the last few months. When there's a clear violation they've tended to lock the account.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

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

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

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

---

From: Jeffrey Sturchio (b) (6)
Sent: Tuesday, January 24, 2023 9:08 PM
To: Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6) Peter Daszak <
(b) (6) >; Aleksei Chmura <
(b) (6) >; David Morens <
(b) (6) Gerald Keusch (b) (6)
Rich Roberts (b) (6)
Subject: RE: Tweet by Miner□Flux on Twitter

Peter: What an idiot this guy is. You should be heartened by the immediate response he got to this asinine tweet!

As ever,
Jeff

From: Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6)
Sent: Tuesday, January 24, 2023 8:09 PM
To: Peter Daszak (b) (6) >; Aleksei
Chmura <(b) (6) >; David Morens <
(b) (6) Gerald Keusch < (b) (6)
Jeffrey Sturchio < (b)(6) >; Rich Roberts <
(b) (6)
Subject: Tweet by Miner□Flux on Twitter

Miner□Flux
□@randy_hoebee□

#Hotez pic.twitter.com/eOPpHym0Rw

1/24/23, 4:04 PM

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

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Baylor University, University Professor

Rice University, Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty

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

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Media Inquiries:

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(b) (6)

iPhone

Date:	Fri, 26 Mar 2021 10:47:40 AM -0400
Subject:	Re: Some prior articles on "GoF" regarding influenza
From:	Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] < (b) (6)
To:	Taubenberger, Jeffery (NIH/NIAID) [E] < (b) (6)
CC:	Peter Daszak < (b) (6)
Attachments:	mBio-2013-Taubenberger-e00365-13.full.pdf; mBio-2012-Taubenberger-e00201-12.full.pdf; 41586_2012_Article_BFnature11170.pdf

Peter, after we spoke, i chatted with Jeff and he proposed sending these papers which nibble at the GOF issue, in the sense of trying to clarify without provoking

The slant of the unfinished paper was more along the lines of clarifying why the whole issue of GOF is bogus, being essentially a misinterpretation of what virology is and can do. D

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

> On Mar 26, 2021, at 10:07, Taubenberger, Jeffery (NIH/NIAID) [E] < (b) (6) > wrote:
>
> Hi David and Peter,
>
> FYI, here a couple of articles expressing some thoughts about GoF particularly as it relates to influenza.
>
> Cheers,
>
> Jeff

MORENS_SUBPOENA_020017
MORENS_NIH_039849
REL0000476749

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-19 was 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)
(b)(6) (work)
(b)(6) (cell)

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

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

--------- Forwarded message ---------
From: Hotez, Peter Jay (b)(6)
Date: 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%2B7pP0iEeOk9iYM4dQFuwSkFTc0EDO7lBlgZaB%2Fc%3D &reserved=0

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

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Baylor University, University Professor

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

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(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: Thu, 16 Feb 2023 5:07:23 PM -0500
Sent: Thu, 16 Feb 2023 5:07:16 PM -0500
Subject: RE: New Scientist Group Calling For Pandemic Answers Has Ties to Right-Wing Dark Money
From: "Roberts, Rich" < (b) (6)
To: Jeffrey Sturchio < (b) (6) >; Keusch, Gerald T < (b) (6) Peter Daszak < (b) (6) >; Hotez, Peter Jay < (b) (6)
CC: Aleksei Chmura < (b) (6) >; David Morens < (b) (6)
Attachments: image001.jpg

Jeff:

You may be sure that will be on my agenda

Rich

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

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

From: Jeffrey Sturchio < (b) (6)
Sent: Thursday, February 16, 2023 4:47 PM
To: Keusch, Gerald T < (b) (6) Peter Daszak < (b) (6) Roberts, Rich < (b) (6) Hotez, Peter Jay < (b) (6)
Cc: Aleksei Chmura < (b) (6) David Morens < (b) (6)
Subject: RE: New Scientist Group Calling For Pandemic Answers Has Ties to Right-Wing Dark Money

EXTERNAL SENDER

I did see the notice. Is it worth talking to Marcia McNutt and Vidar Helgesen to encourage them to include COVID origins among the examples of misinformation in May?

As ever,
Jeff

From: Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6)
Sent: Thursday, February 16, 2023 4:10 PM
To: Jeffrey Sturchio (b) (6) >; Peter Daszak (b) (6) Roberts, Rich <

(b) (6) Hotez, Peter Jay (b)(6)
Cc: Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) >; David Morens <(b) (6) >
Subject: RE: New Scientist Group Calling For Pandemic Answers Has Ties to Right-Wing Dark Money

Did anybody see the notification that the National Academy of Sciences will host a Nobel Prize Summit on Countering Misinformation and Building Trust in Science on May 24-26? Now wouldn't it be nice if NASEM were to actually take a forceful public stance on misinformation and defamation of scientists?

Register to attend >>

https://www.nobelprize.org/events/nobel- prize-summit/2023/#tab-content/

From: Jeffrey Sturchio <J_(b) (6) >
Sent: Thursday, February 16, 2023 2:50 PM
To: Peter Daszak (b) (6) >; Roberts, Rich (b) (6) >; Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6)
Cc: Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) >; David Morens <(b) (6) >; Keusch, Gerald T <
(b) (6) u>
Subject: RE: New Scientist Group Calling For Pandemic Answers Has Ties to Right-Wing Dark Money

😊

From: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >
Sent: Thursday, February 16, 2023 2:41 PM
To: Roberts, Rich < (b) (6) Hotez, Peter Jay < (b) (6)
Cc: Aleksei Chmura < (b) (6) >; David Morens < (b) (6) Gerald Keusch <
(b) (6) Jeffrey Sturchio <J_(b) (6) >
Subject: RE: New Scientist Group Calling For Pandemic Answers Has Ties to Right-Wing Dark Money
Importance: High

Norfolk's famous for……..Turkeys… so that just about sums it up!



https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Norfolk_Black

MORENS_SUBPOENA_019278
MORENS_NIH_038802
REL0000476756

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
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USA

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

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---

From: Roberts, Rich <(b) (6)
Sent: Thursday, February 16, 2023 2:28 PM
To: Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6) ; Peter Daszak (b) (6) >
Cc: Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) >; David Morens <(b) (6) >; Gerald Keusch <(b) (6) Jeffrey Sturchio (b) (6) >
Subject: RE: New Scientist Group Calling For Pandemic Answers Has Ties to Right-Wing Dark Money

Peter:

Blame the pilgrims. They were not very adventurous when it came to naming places.

Rich

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

Executive Assistant: (b)(6)
Tel: (978) (b) (6)
Fax: (978) (b) (6)
email: evarney@neb.com

From: Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6)
Sent: Thursday, February 16, 2023 2:18 PM
To: Peter Daszak <(b) (6)

MORENS_SUBPOENA_019279
MORENS_NIH_038803
REL0000476756

Cc: Aleksei Chmura [(b)(6)]; David Morens [(b)(6)]; Gerald Keusch <(b) (6)> Jeffrey Sturchio [(b)(6)]; Roberts, Rich <(b) (6)>
Subject: Re: New Scientist Group Calling For Pandemic Answers Has Ties to Right-Wing Dark Money

EXTERNAL SENDER

As Angie Rasmussen says, why do they always pick names of quaint New England towns? Great Barrington, Norfolk…

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

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

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Senior Coordinator & Executive Support: Douglas Soriano
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Media Inquiries:
(b) (6) [(b)(6)]
(b) (6)
(b) (6)
Phone

On Feb 16, 2023, at 1:16 PM, Peter Daszak (b) wrote:

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

Good to see that the "Norfolk Group" is being called out in this way. No surprise it's a right-wing entity

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

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

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

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

---

From: Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6)
Sent: Thursday, February 16, 2023 1:50 PM
To: Peter Daszak (b) (6) g >; Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) >; David Morens (b) (6) Gerald Keusch (b) (6) >; Jeffrey Sturchio (b) (6) >; Rich Roberts (b) (6)
Subject: New Scientist Group Calling For Pandemic Answers Has Ties to Right-Wing Dark Money

https://importantcontext.substack.com/p/new- scientist-group-calling-for-pandemic

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

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Baylor University, University Professor
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Media Inquiries:
(b) (6)
(b) (6)
(b) (6)
iPhone

Date:	Thu, 30 Jun 2022 11:28:59 AM -0400
Sent:	Thu, 30 Jun 2022 11:24:39 AM -0400
Subject:	Re: Jeff Sachs' comments RE: COVID-19 Commission: Need approval of minor edits after first peer review
From:	"Hotez, Peter Jay" < (b) (6)
To:	Roberts, Rich < (b) (6)
CC:	Peter Daszak < (b) (6) >; Gerald T Keusch < (b) (6) Aleksei Chmura < (b) (6) >; David Morens < (b) (6) Jeffrey Sturchio < (b) (6) >;
Attachments:	image001.png; image002.png; image003.png; image001.png; image002.png; image003.png

Now a new DeSantis-RFJ Jr-Rogan alliance

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)
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Linkedin Peter Hotez

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

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

iPhone

On Jun 30, 2022, at 10:21 AM, Roberts, Rich < (b) (6) wrote:

What a joke – he should be locked up

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

From: Hotez, Peter Jay < (b) (6)
Sent: Thursday, June 30, 2022 10:50 AM
To: Peter Daszak < (b) (6) >
Cc: Gerald T Keusch < (b) (6) Aleksei Chmura < (b) (6) David Morens < (b) (6) Jeffrey Sturchio < (b) (6) Roberts, Rich < (b) (6)
Subject: Re: Jeff Sachs' comments RE: COVID-19 Commission: Need approval of minor edits after first peer review

EXTERNAL SENDER

Looks like Joe Rogan has gone full down the rabbit hole
https://twitter.com/skmorefield/status/1542497337171496961?s=21 &t=6w48UFQHdjizswS_RXhHfQ

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP
Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine
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Texas A&M University
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Adjunct Professor, University of Texas, School of Public Health

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

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Fax: 713-798-2299

iPhone

On Jun 28, 2022, at 10:54 AM, Peter Daszak (b)(6) wrote:

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

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

https://blog.whitecoatwaste.org/2022/06/24/progress- congress-defunds-wuhan-animal-lab-ecohealth-alliance/

PROGRESS! CONGRESS DEFUNDS WUHAN

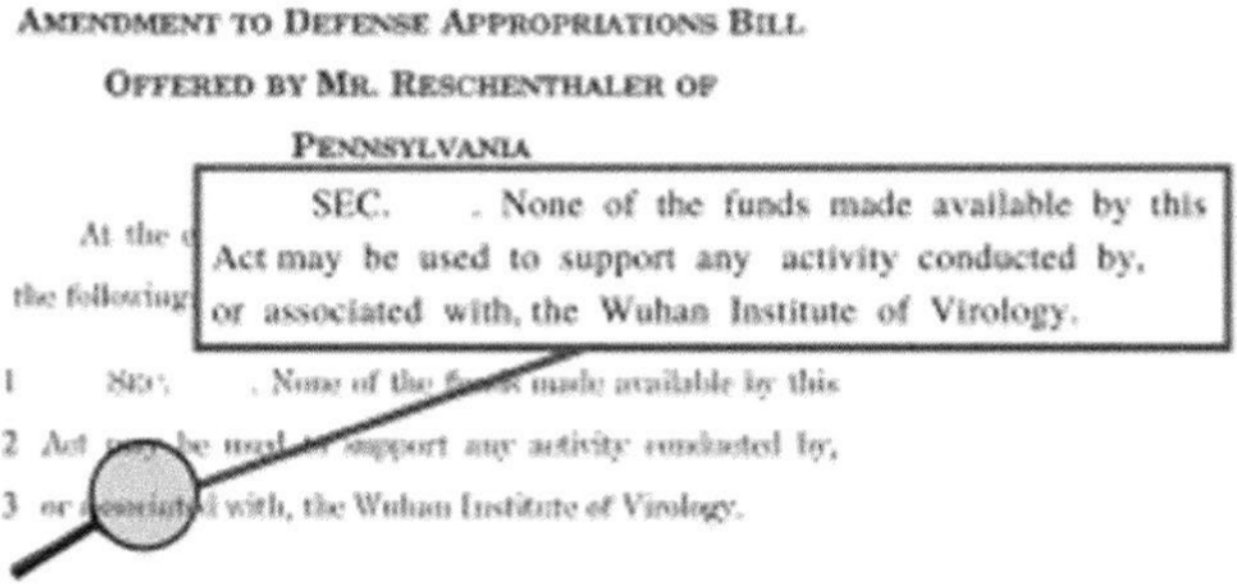
POSTED BY
24 JUNE 2022 |

Ever since White Coat Waste Project (WCW) **first exposed** that dangerous coronavirus

MORENS_SUBPOENA_007804
MORENS_NIH_017092
REL0000476758

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

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

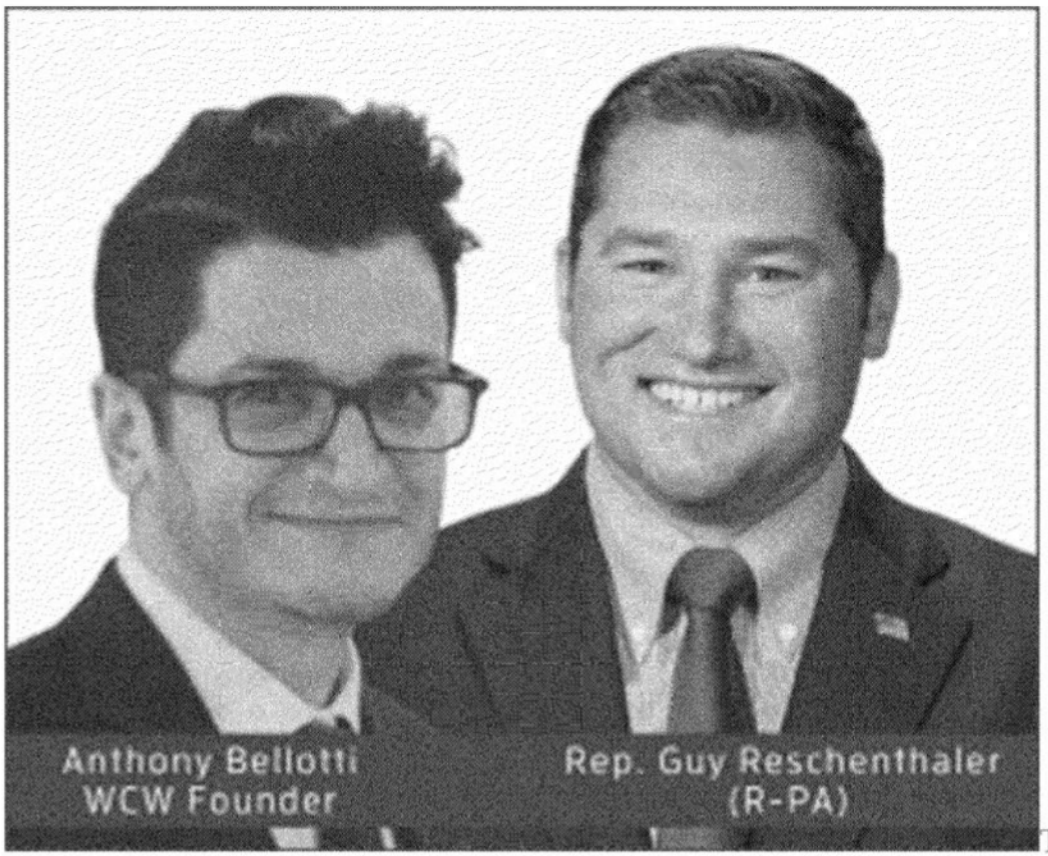


AMENDMENT TO DEFENSE APPROPRIATIONS BILL

OFFERED BY MR. RESCHENTHALER OF PENNSYLVANIA

SEC. . None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to support any activity conducted by, or associated with, the Wuhan Institute of Virology.

MORENS_SUBPOENA_007805
MORENS_NIH_017093
REL0000476758



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

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

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

MORENS_SUBPOENA_007806
MORENS_NIH_017094
REL0000476758

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

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Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

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

---

From: Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6)
Sent: Tuesday, June 28, 2022 11:44 AM
To: Peter Daszak (b) (6)
Cc: Gerald T Keusch (b) (6) >; Aleksei Chmura (b) (6) David Morens < (b)(6) >; Jeffrey Sturchio (b) (6) >; Rich Roberts < (b) (6)
Subject: Re: Jeff Sachs' comments RE: COVID-19 Commission: Need approval of minor edits after first peer review

It's beyond disgusting, hopefully Richard Horton intervenes

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

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

University Professor, Baylor University

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

MORENS_SUBPOENA_007807
MORENS_NIH_017095
REL0000476758

Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

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Skype: (b) (6)
Linkedin Peter Hotez

Amazon Author Center: https://www.amazon.com/Peter- J.-Hotez/e/B001HPIC48
Daily Beast Contributor https://www.thedailybeast.com/author/peter- j-hotez
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Senior Coordinator / Executive Support: Douglas Soriano
(b) (6) (b) (6)
Phone: ((b) (6)
Fax: 713-798-2299

iPhone

On Jun 28, 2022, at 10:42 AM, Peter Daszak (b) (6) > wrote:

Just awful to see how obstinate he's become on what should be a non-issue.

I'm also pretty disgusted with his comment "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)." It's lower down in the email chain.

That's a hell of an accusation he's stating to you, knowing you're in disagreement. I shudder to think what he's saying to those who are neutral or lean towards the conspiratorial side.

There is not a single time I lied, or other taskforce members were duplicit in dishonesty or any other 'thought-crime'. It's demonstrably clear, should anyone bother to ask, and we have the back up docs to prove it.

And by the way, speaking of adolescence, people who call me by my last name in that way take me right back to life in a UK grammar school in the 1970s…it's too easy to spit out a foreign-sounding name just as his email does. You'd think he'd have some empathy, but I guess I made the cardinal mistake of disagreeing with him, and refusing to share EcoHealth privileged documents with him. I guess the punishment for that is what's happening now.

Cheers,

MORENS_SUBPOENA_007808
MORENS_NIH_017096
REL0000476758

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

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

Tel.: (b) (6) (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, June 28, 2022 10:27 AM
To: Gerald T Keusch <(b) (6) Aleksei Chmura (b) (6) ; David Morens <(b) (6) >; Jeffrey Sturchio (b) (6) Peter Daszak < (b) (6) >; Rich Roberts (b) (6) >
Subject: Fwd: COVID-19 Commission: Need approval of minor edits after first peer review

I feel like I'm revisiting my adolescence

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

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

University Professor, Baylor University

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

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E-mail: (b)(6)

MORENS_SUBPOENA_007809
MORENS_NIH_017097
REL0000476758

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

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Daily Beast Contributor https://www.thedailybeast.com/author/peter- j-hotez
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Senior Coordinator / Executive Support: Douglas Soriano
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iPhone
Begin forwarded message:

From: "Hotez, Peter Jay" (b) (6) >
Date: June 28, 2022 at 9:23:55 AM CDT
To: Jeffrey Sachs <(b) (6) >
Subject: Re: COVID-19 Commission: Need approval of minor edits after first peer review

You mean with the guy with publicly berates virologists, including me, calling us "stooges"? Look Jeff, you're publicly supporting a fringe group and idea, and that's your right. But for a public consensus document such as a Lancet Commission report it needs to be tempered and modulated appropriately. Now that a referee has called it out as well, the scientific community is telling you to fix this. I believe my language is the most straightforward and does not ask you to retract your own strong views.

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

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

University Professor, Baylor University

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

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Twitter: @peterhotez
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Linkedin Peter Hotez

Amazon Author Center: https://www.amazon.com/Peter- J.-Hotez/e/B001HPIC48
Daily Beast Contributor https://www.thedailybeast.com/author/peter- j-hotez
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Senior Coordinator / Executive Support: Douglas Soriano
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Phone: (b) (6)
Fax: 713-798-2299

iPhone

> On Jun 28, 2022, at 9:14 AM, Jeffrey Sachs (b) (6) wrote:
>
> You should have shown up to make your case. Too bad you did not. Too bad Worobey skipped. Too bad NIH has hidden all the data, non-stop.
>
> Sent from my iPhone
>
> > On Jun 28, 2022, at 3:40 PM, Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6) wrote:
> >
> > Investigation to dot the i's and clear the falsely accused. No serious virologist looking at the data would say that this virus arose from GOF human research
> >
> > **Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP**
> > Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine

MORENS_SUBPOENA_007811
MORENS_NIH_017099
REL0000476758

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

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

University Professor, Baylor University

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

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Daily Beast Contributor https://www.thedailybeast.com/author/peter- j-hotez
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Fax: 713-798-2299

iPhone

MORENS_SUBPOENA_007812
MORENS_NIH_017100
REL0000476758

On Jun 28, 2022, at 8:31 AM, Jeffrey Sachs <
(b) (6) > wrote:

The report says only that both hypotheses are in play and should be pursued. You are free to state on your own account outside of the Commission your own conclusions at any time. Each of us can do so. There is not any hint whatsoever of "equally likely." (I personally believe, along with many scientists, that a lab release is the most likely origin, by the way, but the report in no way states that.)

Personally I find your position to be untenable. Because of FOIA we now know in remarkable detail just how much the NIH has hidden from view. Even Baric says that both hypotheses need investigation. The US Intelligence Community similarly concluded that both hypotheses are in play. The Commission is calling for transparency.

Sent from my iPhone

> On Jun 28, 2022, at 3:05 PM, Hotez, Peter Jay <
> (b) (6) > wrote:
>
> 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

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Fax: 713-798-2299

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*

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

From: (b) (6)
Sent: Monday, June 27, 2022 12:55 PM
To: (b) (6)
(b) (6)

MORENS_SUBPOENA_007817
MORENS_NIH_017105
REL0000476758

(b) (6)

(b) (6)
(b) (6) >
Cc: (b) (6) >
Subject: COVID-19 Commission: Need approval of minor edits after first peer review

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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

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MORENS_NIH_017106
REL0000476758

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
--

(b) (6)
Special Assistant to the Director
Center for Sustainable Development
The Earth Institute, Columbia University
475 Riverside Drive | Interchurch | New York, NY 10115
(b) (6)

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MORENS_NIH_017107
REL0000476758

Date: Wed, 23 Aug 2023 6:45:58 PM -0400
Sent: Wed, 23 Aug 2023 6:45:36 PM -0400
Subject: RE: Follow-up Action: NARA Allegations of Unauthorized Records Destruction
From: "Keusch, Gerald T" <(b) (6)
To: David Morens <(b) (6) >; Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >; Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) >; Peter Hotez <(b) (6) >; Jeff Sturchio <(b) (6) >; Rich Roberts <(b) (6)
Attachments: image001.gif; image002.jpg

Hi David,
I have 49 emails from you in dating from August 23, 2022 to today, exactly one year to the day, and another set of 5 from September 17, 2022 to June 29, 2023. I have gone through them and none of them have the message that I recall seeing multiple times that you cannot discuss government business, have to drop out of the group emails we use to discuss the world and science, but want to hear about new information about the science of emerging infectious diseases.

I'm going to look through my sent email box this evening to see if anything I sent to you and still have a copy of is relevant.

I regularly delete stuff just to keep the file size down and mostly newer exchanges.

Jerry

From: David Morens < (b) (6)
Sent: Wednesday, August 23, 2023 5:24 PM
To: Peter Daszak < (b) (6) Aleksei Chmura < (b) (6) Keusch, Gerald T < (b) (6) Peter Hotez < (b) (6) Jeff Sturchio <(b) (6) Rich Roberts < (b) (6)
Subject: Re: Follow-up Action: NARA Allegations of Unauthorized Records Destruction

PS, there is some urgency to my responding, with all the info i can dig up. Sorry to ask a favor but this is an important "ask".

I have told nih that i have NOT done what nih defines as "government business" on my gmail, but rather on several occasions, in emails, gmails, and phone calls, to you and others, have requested that personal emails to me or cc'd to me should be sent to my gmail, and even later, sent to my proton mail.

In my understanding, personal emails that are not business of the US govt, include things like discussing death threats to scientists, investigations of non nih scientists for alleged wrongdoing, discussions about defending scientific integrity, etc

As govt scientists we DO NOT lose first amendment rights, but cannot take public positions on matters of government policy unless we identify ourselves as citizens, ie, not as government employees. Hence we have all been trained to keep personal stuff or emails that reflect opinions which are not USG policies, off of NIH email, and by default onto private mails like gmail

That is what i believe i have done, with the extra caveat that since i was being continually foia'd i also wanted to prevent the personal and private opinions and concerns of my friends, ie, all of you, from showing up in the newspapers, and reduce the chance that your harrassments would be magnified

I hope you will recall and even find emails that are supportive of the fact that i said to all of you that i could not discuss govt business on emails, but please keep me in the loop for my info, and that you should not expect me to respond although i wanted to know what was happening

Stuff like that.

Some of you know that as of yesterday, and thanks to Rich and his daughter and her husband, both attorneys i guess, i now have

legal representation. NIH will apparently be happy to throw me under the bus to appease the House Subcommittee, but even at my age i feel i am still highly productive scientifically and have much more to do, including development of covid and influenza vaccines with our molecular pathogenesis lab and with our nih vaccine research center

Thanks for your support, david

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

> On Aug 23, 2023, at 15:41, David Morens (b) (6) > wrote:
>
> Colleagues, the below letter is related to the nih investigation of me and the definition of "government business" as opposed to personal emails to and from colleagues on gmail that do not do government business such as managing grants, organizing meetings, and thins like that
>
> If you think you might have any emails or even remembrances of such, can you please let me know
>
> For example my emails related to the one which the SSCP has quoting me as referring to the GOF unmentionables
>
> Thank you, david
>
> Sent from my iPhone
> David M Morens
> OD, NIAID, NIH
> Begin forwarded message:
>
> **From:** "Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E]" <(b) (6)
> **Date:** August 23, 2023 at 15:18:16 EDT
> **To:** David Morens <(b) (6)
> **Subject: Fwd: Follow-up Action: NARA Allegations of Unauthorized Records Destruction**
>
> Sent from my iPhone
> David M Morens
> OD, NIAID, NIH
> Begin forwarded message:
>
> **From:** "Harper, Jill (NIH/NIAID) [E]" (b) (6) >
> **Date:** August 23, 2023 at 14:54:04 EDT
> **To:** "Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E]" <(b) (6) >
> **Cc:** "Green, Christine (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6) >, "Gibson, Anthony (NIH/OD) [E]" <(b) (6) >, "Harper, Jill (NIH/NIAID) [E]" <(b) (6)
> **Subject: Follow-up Action: NARA Allegations of Unauthorized Records Destruction**
>
> David,
>
> In follow up to your email below, do you have any email correspondence in your possession that supports the following statement from your July 21, 2023, email below?
>
> > *I have never done nih business on my gmail account. The misunderstanding of the subcommittee comes, I believe, from one facetious joking email I sent to a group of scientists-friends trying to support our colleagues (Daszak, Holmes, Rasmussen, and a few others, and by default Tony) who were being stalked and threatened with death by organized groups of people who believed scientists created the pandemic. The goal of these networking emails was to support these scientists, who are my friends and who were living in literal terror. However, since this wasn't really government business, and contained a lot of dark humor, and I knew that my emails had*

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MORENS_NIH_014988
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been and would be foia'd, potentially allowing their private worries to become public, I kept repeatedly trying to get them to stop sending stuff to my govt email.

If so, please forward that entire string of emails to your NIH account as soon as possible and confirm that you have done so.

Thanks,
Jill

From: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] <(b) (6)
Sent: Friday, July 21, 2023 2:08 PM
To: Harper, Jill (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b) (6) >
Cc: Gibson, Anthony (NIH/OD) [E] <(b) (6) >; Green, Christine (NIH/OD) [E] <(b) (6)
Subject: RE: Notification and Action: NARA Allegations of Unauthorized Records Destruction

Thanks, Jill, this is helpful.

Just to clarify, I have never done nih business on my gmail account. The misunderstanding of the subcommittee comes, I believe, from one facetious joking email I sent to a group of scientists-friends trying to support our colleagues (Daszak, Holmes, Rasmussen, and a few others, and by default Tony) who were being stalked and threatened with death by organized groups of people who believed scientists created the pandemic. The goal of these networking emails was to support these scientists, who are my friends and who were living in literal terror. However, since this wasn't really government business, and contained a lot of dark humor, and I knew that my emails had been and would be foia'd, potentially allowing their private worries to become public, I kept repeatedly trying to get them to stop sending stuff to my govt email.

I noticed that on my list of 24 people, at least 9 are people with whom I have published scientific papers, 4 of those on COVID issues, so there will be a lot of emails about that, 100% on email.

Regarding the list you sent, I have already made a similar list from a combination of memory and all of the names on the 10 papers ID'd by the subcommittee. Probably 95+ percent of all of my correspondence with them will be in email, not gmail, and what's in gmail will be them sending my stuff and me not replying.

I didn't know about the 7 year thing but I recall that a couple years ago or so David Awwad told me that all my emails lived on the servers forever.

OK, focusing on my gmail now. The only other thing is my govt phone but I doubt there is anything on that. That should be easy to check…

TY,

David

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

Bethesda, MD 20892-2520
(b) (6) (assistant: Sherri DePollar)
(b) (6)
(b) (6)

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From: Harper, Jill (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b) (6)
Sent: Friday, July 21, 2023 12:55 PM
To: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b) (6)
Cc: Gibson, Anthony (NIH/OD) [E] <(b) (6) >; Green, Christine (NIH/OD) [E] <(b) (6) Harper, Jill (NIH/NIAID) [E] <(b) (6)
Subject: RE: Notification and Action: NARA Allegations of Unauthorized Records Destruction

David, please see responses in yellow below.

In addition, I would suggest looking at the individuals listed below, to identify, who if any, you have corresponded with, in conducting NIH business via your personal accounts.

a. Anthony Fauci
b. Francis Collins
c. Lawrence Tabek
d. Hugh Auchincloss
e. Cliff Lane
f. David Morens
g. Ping Chen
h. Ian Watson
i. Andrew Pope
j. Victor Dzau
k. Robert Redfield
l. Michael Lauer - NIH Employee
m. David Christian Hassell
n. Jeremy Farrar
o. Robert Garry
p. Michael Farzan
q. Edward Holmes
r. W. Ian Lipkin
s. Andrew Rambaut
t. Peter Daszak
u. Aleksei Chmura
v. Kevin Olival
w. Christian Drosten
x. Ron Fouchier
y. Marion Koopmans
z. Michael Worobey
aa. Jonathan Pekar
bb. Florence Debarre
cc. Angela Rasmussen
dd. Ralph Baric
ee. James LeDuc
ff. Shi Zhengli

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

MORENS_SUBPOENA_006100
MORENS_NIH_014990
REL0000476759

Sent: Friday, July 21, 2023 10:45 AM
To: Harper, Jill (NIH/NIAID) [E] < (b)(6)
Cc: Gibson, Anthony (NIH/OD) [E] (b)(6) >; Green, Christine (NIH/OD) [E] < (b)(6)
Subject: Re: Notification and Action: NARA Allegations of Unauthorized Records Destruction

Jill, Mason is setting up my work station now, so i am over in B31 because we dont get a wifi signal over there

i did about an hours worth of hard copy searching earlier including printing out all ten of the documents requested. Some of them i recognize and at least one i probably sent sn emsil about, that was the Jerry Keusch paper, which i though was great and recall congratulating him on it

I also looked at the list of authors on those ten papers and compiled a sublist of all of those i might have corresponded with in the past, so that i can sesrch for emails to or from. The list is quite long but i don't expect to find much except for Peter Daszak and Jerry Keusch, two old friends who i have been regularly in touch with for years

Regarding a list of things i might have deleted, for both my email and gmail there isn't any one thing i remember
deleting, just my daily or frequent getting rid of emails. That would include some but not all of my emsils to and from all the folks named above. Most of my deletions are from inbox and sent mail, once i have read them to make sure i got the info. Emails that i have transferred to a folder , eg, regarding a manuscript, should still be there

Policy dictates that emails are retained by CIO/CIT for seven years from the date of deletion; therefore CIT can recover all items deleted from an NIH account.

One further thing that is a bit puzzling. The subcommittee has not asked anything about the published manuscript on the origin of covid 19 that i led, and which was available in spring 2020 and published in July. That was one of the most forceful and reasoned of the early papers that said the virus could only have come from a bat. At least 2-3 of the 9 co authors on that paper are on the list of authors of other papers the subcommittee requests. Should i send the emails with these authors which were about our paper even though they were not requested? Sounds like a semantic question, but the info base for all of us was pretty much the same, and all of the pspers published around that time came to pretty much the same conclusion. I am thinking to err on the side of over rather than under identifying emails and stuff

I agree that over identifying is better – I would include anything COVID related.

Finally, i am still a little unclear, should i be focusing how on finding gmails and sending to email, or the infinitely larger amount of stuff already in email that will take alot of time to identify? d

When you say "stuff already in email", do you mean in your government email? You should be focusing on correspondence in gmails or any other personal email accounts or any other text messaging or social media that were used to conduct and/or communicate NIH business and forwarding that to your NIH account.

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

> On Jul 21, 2023, at 09:58, Harper, Jill (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b) (6) > wrote:
>
> David,
>
> If you forward emails from your gmail to your NIH account, NIH will be able to access them.

MORENS_SUBPOENA_006101
MORENS_NIH_014991
REL0000476759

For pdfs and word documents, you can email to your government account with an subject line that denotes the contents and how it relates to the request.

As a reminder, you have also been requested to provide a detailed list (to me via email) of any communications that were deleted – see original memo for what to include in that list.

Jill

From: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b) (6) >
Sent: Thursday, July 20, 2023 4:14 PM
To: Harper, Jill (NIH/NIAID) [E] <(b) (6)
Cc: Gibson, Anthony (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6) >; Green, Christine (NIH/OD) [E] <(b) (6)
Subject: RE: Notification and Action: NARA Allegations of Unauthorized Records Destruction

OK, thanks, then in that case maybe I will try to come in tomorrow, TY

<image001.gif>

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

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From: Harper, Jill (NIH/NIAID) [E] <(b) (6)
Sent: Thursday, July 20, 2023 3:51 PM

To: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] <(b)(6)
Cc: Gibson, Anthony (NIH/OD) [E] (b)(6) >; Green, Christine (NIH/OD) [E] < (b)(6) >; Harper, Jill (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b)(6)
Subject: RE: Notification and Action: NARA Allegations of Unauthorized Records Destruction

David, IT is able to assist you tomorrow (Friday 7/21) if you would like to come in then. Mason Fletcher is your point-of-contact.

I am trying to get clarification about your other questions.

Thanks,
Jill

From: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] <(b) (6)
Sent: Thursday, July 20, 2023 12:50 PM
To: Harper, Jill (NIH/NIAID) [E] <(b) (6)
Cc: Gibson, Anthony (NIH/OD) [E] <(b) (6) >; Green, Christine (NIH/OD) [E] < (b) (6) >
Subject: Re: Notification and Action: NARA Allegations of Unauthorized Records Destruction

Thanks Jill,

i have a few questions.... see below

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

> On Jul 20, 2023, at 11:45, Harper, Jill (NIH/NIAID) [E] <(b)(6) wrote:
>
> David,
>
> For the memorandum, you should be able to sign digitally with your PIV card using Adobe – I'm sure IT can assist with that.

OK, i will ask IT how to do that

> You may come into the office to go through your files, but please notify me in advance of what days you plan to come in. I know you need to come in to deal with your computer – please let me know what day you plan to do this.

I had hoped to come in yesterday or today, but IT told me on both days that until further notice they cannot help me. And since my computer system in my office is apparently completely dead, I dont want to come in unless i can get something done

All of my hard copy files regarding all things covid are in my office in building 33. By chance, a month or so ago i spent a full day semi-organizing those and they are in maybe 5-6 3 inch binders plus maybe several up to 2 foot high stacks, only loosely organized Most of those are either pdfs of published scientific papers or printouts from Greg's news feeds, but there could be a handful of emails too. So i should be able to go through all of that in 1/2 a day, and am very doubtful there is anything in there of importance

> Electronic versions of files are preferred as much as possible. The memo requests that you forward emails from your gmail to your government email, so no need to print those.

Likewise, electronic files that you have can be emailed to your government account. For files that only exist in paper version, the preference would be to scan those and email to your government email.

Jill, a couple of clarifications here. Do you mean that anything i find in my gmail i just forward to my email and then what? NIH sends it all, or goes over it, or I do?

To be on the safe side should i for example forward to my email everything referring to or from/to the authors of the documents noted, which would save time in having to read endless pages of stuff that probably isnt relevant, or look only for specific things requested. For example, there maybe emails on which i was copied along with an author on one of those documents, but i didn't do anything about it. In otherwords should i cast a very wide net?

By other electronic files do you mean things like pdfs or word docs?

Regarding things that only exist in paper versions i dont expect to find any or at least very few, but scanning those should be easy, and then email to my nih nih email, right?

TY, david

Jill

From: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b) (6)(6)
Sent: Wednesday, July 19, 2023 5:19 PM
To: Harper, Jill (NIH/NIAID) [E] <(b) (6)
Cc: Gibson, Anthony (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6) >; Green, Christine (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6)
Subject: Re: Notification and Action: NARA Allegations of Unauthorized Records Destruction

Jill, i have received this memorandum but as i am at home without a printer, is there a workaround way to sign it?

With respect to the NARA requests, the only way to fully respond is to go through documents which are at work, which isn't possible if i cannot go in to work

As I have said, to the best of my knowledge, i have never in my 25 years at nih generated or worked on a record that would go to NARA, so it would be helpful to get a better idea of what i should be looking for and how can i be sure that the documents i have are or are not nara documents

A couple years ago David Awwad told me that all of our emails whether in our computer files or deleted can be retrieved by IT so is this something they can do? I have no way of retrieving the estimated million or more emails i must have deleted over the years

I have many hardcopy files that i can check but it will take time

Regarding all the 10 listed papers I have no memory of any of them with the possible exception of one called "proximal origins". I got that paper off pub med last week but didn't recognize that i had ever seen it before. If i did, it will be in my hard copy files since i have not pitched any of them. david

Sent from my iPhone
David M Morens

MORENS_SUBPOENA_006104
MORENS_NIH_014994
REL0000476759

On Jul 19, 2023, at 16:52, Harper, Jill (NIH/NIAID) [E] <(b) (6)
wrote:

Dr. Morens,

Please find attached memorandum regarding NARA allegations of unauthorized records destruction. Please review, sign to acknowledge receipt, return the signed memo to me, and take appropriate actions.

Thanks,

Jill R. Harper, Ph.D.
Deputy Director for Science Management, and Executive Officer
NIAID/NIH/DHHS
Bldg. 31, Room 7A24, MSC 2520
Bethesda, MD 20892-2520
Phone: 301/ (b) (6)
(b) (6)
Pronouns – she, her, hers *(why?)*

MORENS_SUBPOENA_006105
MORENS_NIH_014995
REL0000476759

Date: Wed, 26 May 2021 4:40:37 PM -0400
Sent: Wed, 26 May 2021 4:40:35 PM -0400
Subject: RE: FW: Axios: Biden asks intelligence community to intensify investigation of COVID origins
From: "Keusch, Gerald T" (b) (6)
To: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b)(6)
Attachments: image001.gif; image002.jpg; image003.jpg; image004.jpg

Thanks David, this helps. I downloaded the HHS document from 2017 that establishes the process, so I can take a look at that later on. The number of projects assessed either means, as you say, people are shying away from this work, or they have found a way to fund it from non-USG money and as far as I know there is no restriction on that. Or, they are more carefully writing the proposals so that it doesn't fall under the review process guidelines.

Cheers, hope they serve a good scotch at the meeting tonight.

From: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b)(6)
Sent: Wednesday, May 26, 2021 4:29 PM
To: Keusch, Gerald T (b)(6)
Subject: Re: FW: Axios: Biden asks intelligence community to intensify investigation of COVID origins

Jerry, I just talked to Jeff who gave me the scoop. The nutshell is below but I am off right now to an all evevning ,meeting so if more is needed it ,might have to be tomorrow.

jeff says, very small committee that reviews this stuff, and all secret, not supposed to know who is on it and he didn't tell me. He is on it. It's a govt wide committee set up by the Sec of DHHS. In last three years only 3 GOF propposals, two accepted, one rejected. Very few folks tryinmg to do thi9s stuff because of the hassles.

d

On 5/26/2021 3:31 PM, Keusch, Gerald T wrote:

> Please ask Jeff.
>
> Do you know who is on the review committee? Is that a standing NIH committee for extramural research? Should I call my buddy Matt Lauer?
>
> Thanks for helping to prep me. My goal in talking to the reporter (highly recommended by Nahid, whose judgement I totally trust) is to lower the heat, and to the extent I am able to turn up the light.
>
> Jerry
>
> ---
>
> **From:** Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b)(6)
> **Sent:** Wednesday, May 26, 2021 2:42 PM
> **To:** Peter Daszak (b)(6); Keusch, Gerald T (b)(6) Roberts, Rich

MORENS_SUBPOENA_015651
MORENS_NIH_033326
REL0000476769

(b)(6)

Subject: Fwd: FW: Axios: Biden asks intelligence community to intensify investigation of COVID origins

Jerry, I think Petewr can answer no. 1.

regarding no.2, I don't know specifically, and I am not sure anyone else does either, although it could be founbd out. the GOF rules are so onerous that no one even bothers to try anymore (except Ralph it seems). But only two would not surprise me. The other part of this is that we seem to have strict criteria for what is GOF, and alot of GOF things (by a looser definition) are still being done, sort of with a wink it seems to me. I can ask Jeff Taubenberger, if you wish. He is much more on top of this as he was affected it by it in his research programs.

d

-------- Forwarded Message --------
Subject: FW: Axios: Biden asks intelligence community to intensify investigation of COVID origins
Date: Wed, 26 May 2021 18:37:31 +0000
From: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b)(6)
To: David Morens (b)(6)

David

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

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From: Keusch, Gerald T (b)(6)
Sent: Wednesday, May 26, 2021 2:32 PM
To: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b)(6) Peter Daszak (b)(6)
(b)(6) Rich Roberts (b)(6) (b)(6)
Subject: RE: Axios: Biden asks intelligence community to intensify investigation of COVID origins

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) v>
Sent: Wednesday, May 26, 2021 2:17 PM
To: Peter Daszak ((b) (6) ( )(b) (6) Keusch, Gerald T <
(b) (6) Rich Roberts b)
Subject: FW: Axios: Biden asks intelligence community to intensify investigation of COVID origins

David

MORENS_SUBPOENA_015653
MORENS_NIH_033328
REL0000476769

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
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Bethesda, MD 20892-2520
(b)(6) (assistants: Kimberly Barasch; Whitney Robinson)
(b) (6)

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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

MORENS_SUBPOENA_015654
MORENS_NIH_033329
REL0000476769

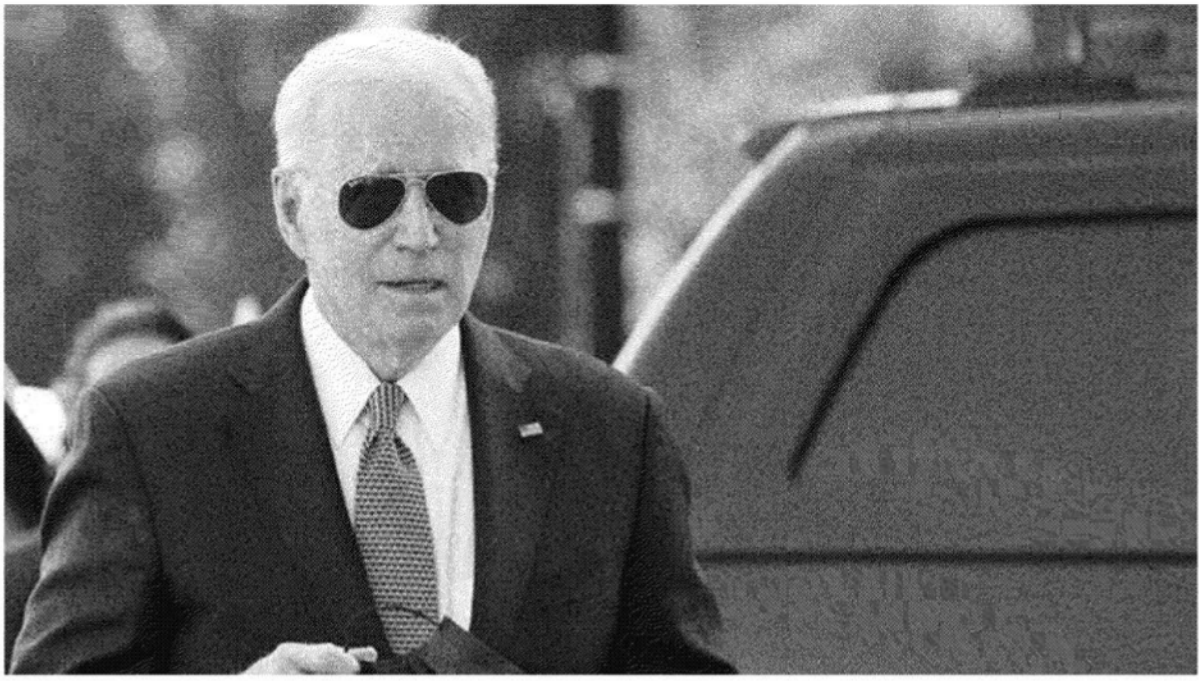

Photo: Win McNamee/Getty Images

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" 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."

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- "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

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Date: Wed, 26 May 2021 2:37:42 PM -0400
Sent: Wed, 26 May 2021 2:37:31 PM -0400
Subject: FW: Axios: Biden asks intelligence community to intensify investigation of COVID origins
From: "Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E]" (b)(6) >
To: David Morens (b) (6) (b) (6) >;
Attachments: image003.gif; image004.jpg; image005.jpg; image006.jpg

David

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

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Sent: Wednesday, May 26, 2021 2:32 PM
To: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b)(6) >; Peter Daszak (b)(6) (b)(6) ; Rich Roberts (b)(6)
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David

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

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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

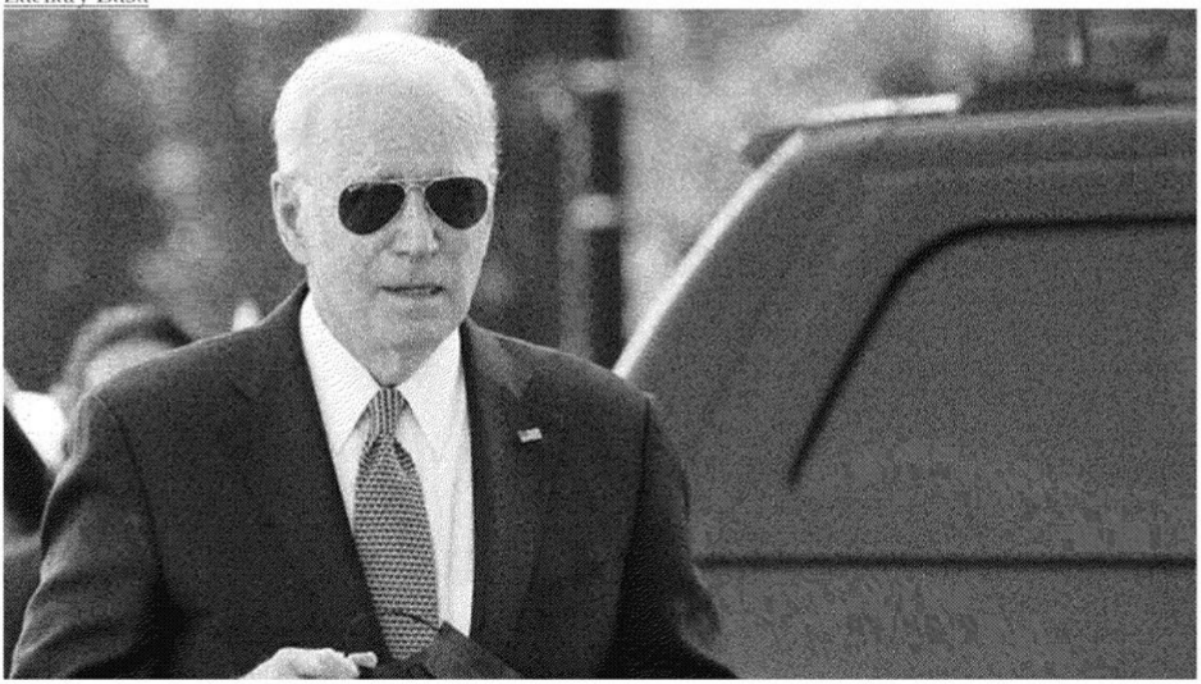

Photo: Win McNamee/Getty Images

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The state of play: Biden said in a statement that the U.S. intelligence community had "coalesced around two likely scenarios"

MORENS_SUBPOENA_012486
MORENS_NIH_023748
REL0000476771

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."
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Go deeper: The COVID lab-leak theory goes mainstream

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Date: Sun, 1 May 2022 8:11:42 PM -0400
Sent: Sun, 1 May 2022 8:10:12 PM -0400
Subject: Response from NAM FW: confidential
From: Peter Daszak < (b) (6)
To: Jeff Sturchio <(b) (6) Keusch, Gerald T < (b) (6) Roberts, Rich < (b) (6)
David Morens < (b) (6) Hotez, Peter Jay < (b) (6)
CC: Aleksei Chmura < (b) (6)

Dear all,

Please read below the response from the NAM membership secretary.

They are, so far, sticking to their goal of investigating a subset of these BS allegations. They're allowing me to communicate with honorable people such as yourselves, and giving me an extension to June 12th.

It looks like this is a response to both my formal letter and the follow up email I sent them where I complained about their communications with the Republicans who sent this letter (it's in the chain below).

I'll work with Jeff to draft a response to this, but then I'll have to get ready for the awful prospect of actually refuting the allegations with documents to back that up. They won't allow me to meet with the committee.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

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

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

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

---

From: Fuentes-Afflick, Elena <(b) (6)
Sent: Saturday, April 30, 2022 2:06 PM
To: Peter Daszak (b)(6) ; Dzau, Victor J. <(b) (6) Kim, Se (b)(6)
Subject: confidential

Dr. Daszak,

MORENS_SUBPOENA_000585
MORENS_NIH_004988
REL0000476774

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Point 5: You are correct that our policy does not include a provision to meet with the conduct review committee and I cannot offer you this option. I invite you to submit additional materials if you believe they are relevant.

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

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

Best,
Elena Fuentes-Afflick, MD, MPH

Elena Fuentes-Afflick, MD, MPH
NAM Home Secretary
University of California, San Francisco

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

Dear Victor, Elena and Kim,

MORENS_SUBPOENA_000586
MORENS_NIH_004989
REL0000476774

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

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

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

It seems rather evident that the letters you have received are part of an ongoing and systematic political campaign to destroy EcoHealth Alliance's reputation and my own, with the ultimate target of undermining the NIH, Dr. Fauci, and the Biden White House. They are hyper-partisan and disingenuous in their goals, in that the letters and the fact they are simultaneously made public on *Fox News* and *Twitter*, are clearly designed to push a false narrative. EcoHealth Alliance has repeatedly and publicly refuted such allegations in our responses to NIH that have since been made public (e.g. https://www.wsj.com/articles/coronavirus- study-of-bats-in-china-met-nih-grant-requirements-ecohealth-says-11635441406) and in carefully given interviews with the press (e.g. https://www.science.org/content/article/we- ve-done-nothing-wrong-ecohealth-leader-fights-charges-his-research-helped-spark-covid-19 and https://theintercept.com/2022/03/11/covid- nih-ecohealth-peter-daszak-interview/).

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

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

action.

Yours sincerely,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

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Twitter: @PeterDaszak

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Date: Wed, 25 Jan 2023 1:03:18 PM -0500
Sent: Wed, 25 Jan 2023 1:01:55 PM -0500
Subject: OIG Audit will be released today
From: Peter Daszak < (b) (6)
To: David Morens < (b) (6) Hotez, Peter Jay < (b) (6)
CC: Jeffrey Sturchio <(b) (6) Aleksei Chmura < (b) (6) Gerald Keusch < (b) (6) Rich Roberts < (b) (6) Dennis Carroll < (b) (6)

In 'other news', the OIG will finally release their report today after an 18 month audit of our federal grant accounting. They have given us a couple of hours' notice, but we were ready with a statement and will post it as soon as the report goes live. In the end, after 18 months of auditing, the findings are pretty minor, but it will likely generate some negative publicity from the right wing press.

I'll send copies of the report and our statement as soon as it's made public today.

The report boils down to a few basic points:

- They found we miscoded $89K of costs over the 8 year period they reviewed. We've already paid this back and fixed our accounting procedure. It equals ~1% of the $8 million of grants they audited, and less-than 0.1% of our total budget over that time
- In other audits of universities etc (which we cite in our statement), OIG found <1% to 100% of the audited grants/contracts were spent on 'unallowable costs'.
- They agree that NIH owes EcoHealth $126K, which NIH has agreed to pay back within 90 days. In other words, NIH owed EHA a net of around $37K
- They share responsibility among NIH and EcoHealth for a late report on our R01 grant
- They suggest that our monitoring of Wuhan's experiments was not fully adequate, and that NIH also didn't do a fully perfect job. We gently refute some of that in our response in the report, and in our letter that's published in the report.
- They are critical of NIH's termination of our grant, and the way they monitored our work. Essentially, they make it clear that Trump's cancelation of our grant in April 2020 was 'not valid'

In our careful communications, we'll be stressing that we were grantees and working under NIH's rules and oversight, and that we stand by our statement that we fully complied with these. The fact that we continue to be funded demonstrates that these findings are not substantial, and have already been remedied.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
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Twitter: @PeterDaszak

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MORENS_SUBPOENA_015321
MORENS_NIH_032154
REL0000476776

From: David Morens (b)(6)
Sent: Wednesday, January 25, 2023 12:08 PM
To: Hotez, Peter Jay < (b)(6)
Cc: Peter Daszak < (b)(6) ; Jeffrey Sturchio < (b)(6) Aleksei Chmura < (b)(6) ; Gerald Keusch (b)(6) ; Rich Roberts (b)(6)
Subject: Re: Tweet by MinerEFlux on Twitter

You are right

I will point out that the problems in NIH OD, and the problems in NIAID are very different. In the past, the 27 Institutes/Centers have always functioned independently, and some, including some small ones, have done pretty well when not being interfered with

Our problems in niaid are unique to us, and will take years of steady vision to fix.....

d

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

On Jan 25, 2023, at 12:01, Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6) wrote:

I think it's also a problem doing this search without an NIH Director installed. NIAID is one of the biggest NIH Institutes. A real gap in White House leadership not filling the NIH post 14 months after Francis left. So dysfunctional things as described below start to happen. There is no adult supervision at NIH

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

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

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

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Senior Coordinator & Executive Support: Douglas Soriano
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Media Inquiries:
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(b) (6)
(b)(6)
iPhone

On Jan 25, 2023, at 10:38 AM, David Morens <(b)(6) > wrote:

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

I won't name the candidate but Peter S would know because her/his research at NIAID is in the area of clinical management of (b) (6) . Peter H, you could easily ID this person, but i do not want to do so, in part because i have limited personal experience with him/her and am merely relating opinions of colleagues i trust

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

At the same time, we had the ability to hire a top scientist from the outside, my good friend the (b) (6) (b) (6) from (b)(6) - Peter H, you may know him- and we was the 100% top choice of the search committee! (b) 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:

MORENS_SUBPOENA_015323
MORENS_NIH_032156
REL0000476776

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

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

Cheers,

Peter

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---

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

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

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

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

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MORENS_SUBPOENA_015324
MORENS_NIH_032157
REL0000476776

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

Media Inquiries:
(b) (6) (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

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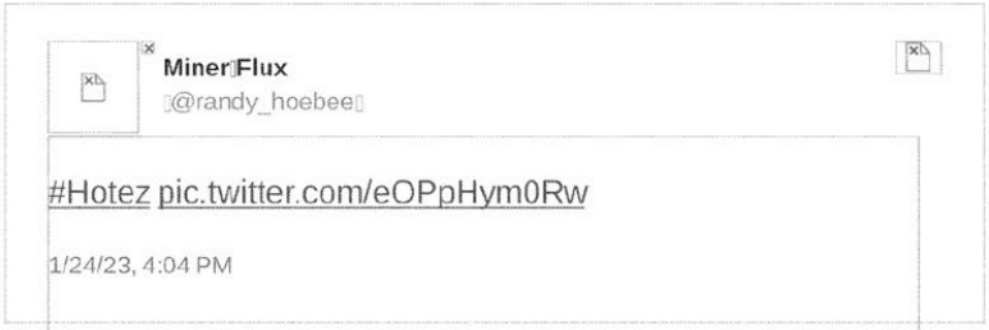
From: Jeffrey Sturchio (b)(6)
Sent: Tuesday, January 24, 2023 9:08 PM
To: Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6) >; Peter Daszak (b) (6) Aleksei Chmura (b) (6) >; David Morens <(b) (6) Gerald Keusch(b) (6) Rich Roberts (b) (6) >
Subject: RE: Tweet by MinerFlux on Twitter

Peter: What an idiot this guy is. You should be heartened by the immediate response he got to this asinine tweet!

As ever,
Jeff

From: Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6) >
Sent: Tuesday, January 24, 2023 8:09 PM
To: Peter Daszak (b) (6) >; Aleksei Chmura <
(b) (6) >; David Morens (b) (6) >; Gerald Keusch <
(b) (6) Jeffrey Sturchio (b) (6) >; Rich Roberts <(b) (6)
Subject: Tweet by MinerFlux on Twitter



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

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

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MORENS_SUBPOENA_015326
MORENS_NIH_032159
REL0000476776

Date: Mon, 1 Aug 2022 11:49:52 AM -0400
Sent: Mon, 1 Aug 2022 11:46:55 AM -0400
Subject: update...
From: Peter Daszak < (b) (6)
To: Hotez, Peter Jay < (b) (6) David Morens <(b) (6) >; Keusch, Gerald T < (b) (6) Roberts, Rich < (b) (6) Jeff Sturchio < (b) (6)
CC: Aleksei Chmura < (b) (6)
Attachments: image001.gif; image002.jpg

….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

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Twitter: @PeterDaszak

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---

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

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From: Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6) >
Sent: Tuesday, July 26, 2022 11:51 AM
To: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b) (6) >
Cc: David Morens (b) (6) >; Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >; Keusch, Gerald T < (b) (6) >; Aleksei Chmura (b) (6) g>; Roberts, Rich <(b) (6) Taubenberger, Jeffery (NIH/NIAID) [E] <(b) (6) >
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] Re:

Oh ok

MORENS_SUBPOENA_008483
MORENS_NIH_018496
REL0000476778

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

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

University Professor, Baylor University

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

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

iPhone

On Jul 26, 2022, at 11:22 AM, Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] <(b) (6) > wrote:

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

David

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

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From: Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6)
Sent: Monday, July 25, 2022 5:20 PM
To: David Morens <(b) (6) >
Cc: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] <(b) (6) >; Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >; Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6) u>; Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) >; Roberts, Rich < (b) (6) Taubenberger, Jeffery (NIH/NIAID) [E] <(b) (6) >
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Re:

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

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

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

University Professor, Baylor University

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

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Twitter: @peterhotez
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Linkedin Peter Hotez

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

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

iPhone

On Jul 25, 2022, at 5:07 PM, David Morens (b) (6) > wrote:

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Attempt no. 2, per Rich, the two attachments fell off..... dmm
David M. Morens, MD
(b) (6) (b) (6)

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

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On Mon, Jul 25, 2022 at 3:11 PM David Morens (b) (6)
wrote:
probably u have all seen these but just in case....d
David M. Morens, MD
(b) (6)
(b) (6)

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

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On Mon, Jul 25, 2022 at 3:08 PM Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] <(b) (6) ov
(b) (6) (b) (6) >> wrote:

[cid:18236c3bfd54cdccc1]
David M. Morens, M.D.
Senior Advisor to the Director
Office of the Director
National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases
National Institutes of Health
Building 31, Room 7A-03
31 Center Drive, MSC 2520
Bethesda, MD 20892-2520
- (b) (6) (assistants: Kimberly Barasch; Whitney Robinson)
- (b) (6)
- (b) (6) >

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[DMM Portrait B 12 29 15 P0923]

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Date: Mon, 20 Dec 2021 3:17:23 PM -0500
Sent: Mon, 20 Dec 2021 3:17:20 PM -0500
Subject: RE: FW: Fox: Outgoing NIH director dismisses Wuhan lab-leak theory as a 'distraction' on last day in office
From: "Keusch, Gerald T" (b)(6)
To: David Morens (b) (6) >;
CC: Peter Daszak (b) (6) >;
Attachments: image001.png; image002.jpg; image003.png

Good chat with Tony. I won't go in to details, but I am happy with the outcome.

From: David Morens (b) (6)
Sent: Monday, December 20, 2021 11:39 AM
To: Keusch, Gerald T (b) (6)
Cc: Peter Daszak (b)(6)
Subject: Re: FW: Fox: Outgoing NIH director dismisses Wuhan lab-leak theory as a 'distraction' on last day in office

I wish you the BEST! I will be on a plane to Florida but await hearing how it all went...

david

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

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On Mon, Dec 20, 2021 at 10:34 AM Keusch, Gerald T (b)(6) wrote:

> Shameful to the end. Where the fuck has he been all along? He is still at risk of reputational damage, and I will do whatever I can however long it takes to bring that to reality.
>
> I will be speaking to Tony later this afternoon and I will be asking/urging/hoping he will help put a rod up Victor Dzau's back – by whatever route he chooses – to dismiss the allegations that Peter has violated the code of behavior of the National Academy of Medicine.
>
> Jerry
>
> ---
>
> **From:** David Morens (b) (6)
> **Sent:** Monday, December 20, 2021 9:58 AM
> **To:** Peter Daszak (b)(6); Keusch, Gerald T (b)(6)
> **Subject:** Fwd: FW: Fox: Outgoing NIH director dismisses Wuhan lab-leak theory as a 'distraction' on last day in office
>
> David M. Morens, MD

(b)(6)

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

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---------- Forwarded message ---------
From: **Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E]** (b)(6)
Date: Mon, Dec 20, 2021 at 9:48 AM
Subject: FW: Fox: Outgoing NIH director dismisses Wuhan lab-leak theory as a 'distraction' on last day in office
To: (b)(6)

From: Folkers, Greg (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b)(6)
Sent: Monday, December 20, 2021 7:27 AM
Subject: Fox: Outgoing NIH director dismisses Wuhan lab-leak theory as a 'distraction' on last day in office

Fox News Flash
Published 13 hours ago

Outgoing NIH director dismisses Wuhan lab-leak theory as a 'distraction' on last day in office

New polls finds 72% of Americans believe COVID-19 originated in Wuhan lab

By Yael Halon | Fox News

Retiring NIH director Dr. Francis Collins joined 'Fox News Sunday' to discuss the latest information regarding the omicron variant.

Outgoing National Institutes of Health Director Dr. Francis Collins told Fox News on Sunday that he's "sorry" the Wuhan lab-leak theory has become such a "huge distraction" for the country, despite there being "no evidence" to support it.

Collins joined "Fox News Sunday" on his last day in office after more than a decade in the agency's top position. The geneticist and physician tapped by President Barack Obama to lead the NIH in 2009 dodged questions about his efforts to discredit the lab-leak theory at the onset of the pandemic, maintaining the most plausible explanation is that the virus spread through animal-to-human transmission.

"I'm really sorry that the lab leak has become such a distraction for so many people because frankly, we still don't know," Collins told host Bret Baier.

MEDIA FACT-CHECKERS, FACEBOOK CITED WUHAN LAB-LINKED SCIENTIST TO KNOCK DOWN LAB LEAK THEORY

"There is no evidence really to say. Most of the scientific community, myself included, think that is a possibility, but far more likely, this was a natural way in which a virus left a bat, maybe traveled through some other species and got to humans."

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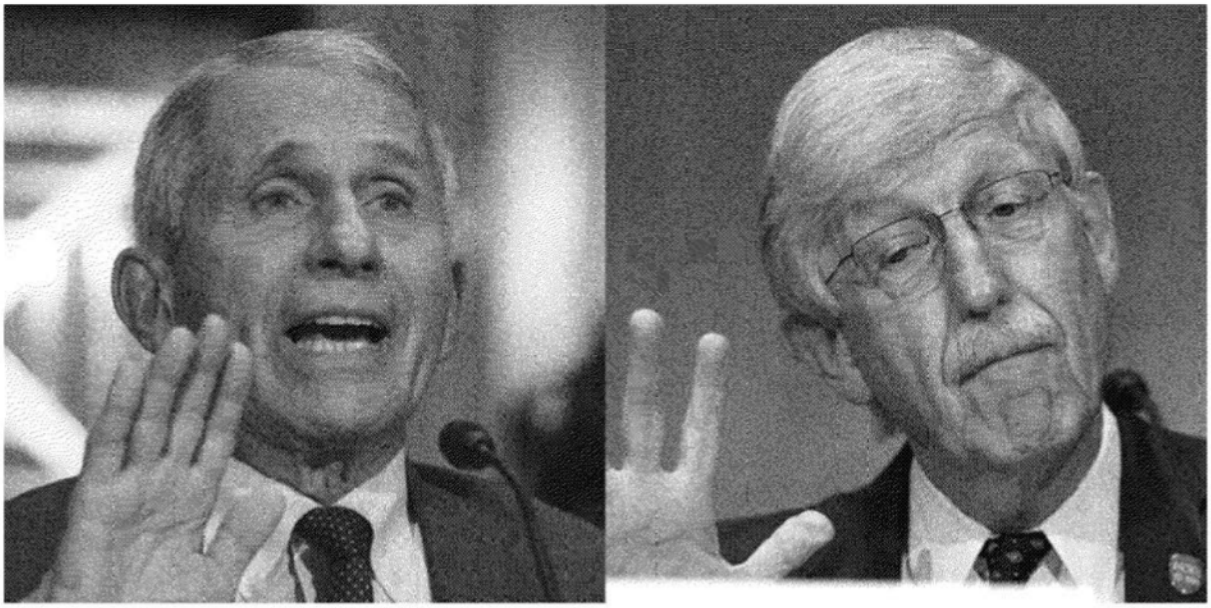
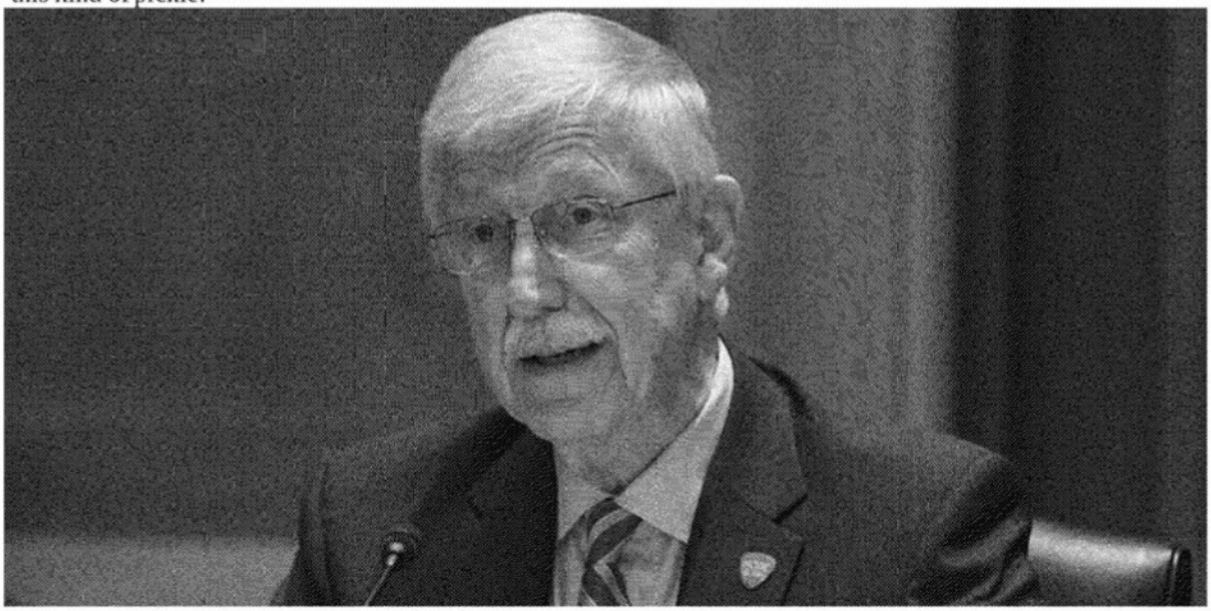


WASHINGTON, DC - JULY 20: Top infectious disease experts Dr. Anthony Fauci and Dr. Francis Collins, Director of the National Institutes of Health, on Capitol Hill. (J. Scott Applewhite-Pool/Getty Images; Greg Nash- Pool/Getty Images)
Collins said in October of this year that accusations surrounding the agency's involvement in gain-of-function research and the Wuhan Institute of Virology had "absolutely" nothing to do with his resignation.
Still, emails released by BuzzFeed that reveal private correspondence between Collins and Dr. Anthony Fauci suggest a deliberate effort to downplay theories that the coronavirus originated in the Wuhan lab and, whether deliberately or inadvertently, their funding had any involvement.
"We won't know unless China decides to open up on this which they have not done, and shame on them for that," Collins said, reiterating that "this has been a huge distraction" for the scientific community.

MOST AMERICANS BELIEVE COVID-19 LEAKED FROM WUHAN LAB, POLL FINDS

"We in this country have somehow gotten all fractured into a hyperpolarized politicized view that never should have been mixed with public health," Collins said. "It has been ruinous and history will judge harshly those people who have continued to defocus the effort and focus on conspiracies and things that are demonstrably false. Shame on all us that we've gotten into this kind of pickle."



National Institutes of Health Director Dr. Francis Collins testifies before a Senate Appropriations Subcommittee looking into the budget estimates for National Institute of Health (NIH) and the state of medical research on Capitol Hill, May 26, 2021 in Washington, D.C. (Sarah Silbiger-Pool/Getty Images)
Collins made headlines on Friday after the House Select Subcommittee on the Coronavirus Crisis released an email where he

expressed deep concerns about the herd immunity strategy being advocated by "fringe epidemiologists," and called for "a quick and devastating published takedown" of the three experts promoting the herd immunity strategy known as "The Great Barrington Declaration."

Collins told Baier that he is "not going to apologize," for his words, arguing that "hundreds of thousands of people would have died if we had followed that strategy."

"I did write that, and I will stand by that," Collins said. "Basically, these fringe epidemiologists who really did not have the credentials to be making such a grand sweeping statement, were saying just let the virus run through the population and eventually then everybody would have had it and everything will be okay."



A man walks through a deserted part of Johannesburg's OR Tambo's airport in South Africa. The World Health Organization urged countries around the world not to impose flight bans on southern African nations due to concern over the new omicron variant. (AP/Jerome Delay)

The United States recently surpassed 50 million COVID-19 cases and 800,000 deaths since the start of the pandemic. Despite the staggering numbers, Collins maintained that "hundreds of thousands of people would have died if we had followed that strategy."

"So I'm sorry I was opposed to that, I still am, and I'm not going to apologize for it," he said.

CLICK HERE TO GET THE FOX NEWS APP

As for the new omicron variant, Collins said the U.S. should brace for a "world of trouble" the next couple of months, based on its higher transmissibility than the previous strains, which "pale by comparison."

Baier pointed to recent data out of South Africa that could point to milder symptoms and fewer hospitalizations from omicron.

"I am hopeful that that is an indication that while incredibly contagious, this virus may be a bit less likely to make people sick," Collins said, "and obviously that is something we have got to hope for, or our health systems are going to be overwhelmed."

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Date: Fri, 21 Jul 2023 1:04:18 PM -0400
Subject: Fwd: Sachs and Relman quoted again today
From: David Morens < (b) (6)
To: David Morens < (b) (6)

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

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

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From: Peter Daszak < (b) (6) >
Date: Fri, Jul 1, 2022 at 9:36 AM
Subject: Sachs and Relman quoted again today
To: Roberts, Rich < (b) (6) Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6)
Cc: Gerald T Keusch < (b) (6) Aleksei Chmura
< (b) (6) >, David Morens < (b) (6) >,
Jeffrey Sturchio < (b) (6) >

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".

PURSUING TRUTH AND TRANSPARENCY FOR PUBLIC HEALTH

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

PrintEmailShareTweet

Posted on July 1, 2022 by Emily Kopp

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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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.

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"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.: + (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 joke – he should be locked up

Richard J. Roberts

New England Biolabs

240 County Road

Ipswich, MA 01938-2723

USA

Tel: (978) (b) (6)

Fax: (978) 412 9910

email: (b) (6)

From: Hotez, Peter Jay < (b) (6)
Sent: Thursday, June 30, 2022 10:50 AM
To: Peter Daszak < (b) (6) >
Cc: Gerald T Keusch < (b) (6) Aleksei Chmura < (b) (6) >; David Morens < (b) (6) >; Jeffrey Sturchio < (b) (6) >; Roberts, Rich <(b) (6) >
Subject: Re: Jeff Sachs' comments RE: COVID-19 Commission: Need approval of minor edits after first peer review

EXTERNAL SENDER

Looks like Joe Rogan has gone full down the rabbit hole
https://twitter.com/skmorefield/status/1542497337171496961?s=21 &t=6w48UFQHdjizswS_RXhHfQ

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

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On Jun 28, 2022, at 10:54 AM, Peter Daszak < (b) (6) > wrote:

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

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

https://blog.whitecoatwaste.org/2022/06/24/progress- congress-defunds-wuhan-animal-lab-ecohealth-alliance/

PROGRESS! CONGRESS DEFUNDS WUHAN ANIMAL LAB, ECOHEALTH ALLIANCE

POSTED BY AMANDA NIEVES

24 JUNE 2022 | BLOG

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

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

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

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

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

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak

President

EcoHealth Alliance

520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200

New York, NY 10018-6507

USA

Tel.: + (b) (6)

Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org

Twitter: @PeterDaszak

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

From: Hotez, Peter Jay < (b) (6)
Sent: Tuesday, June 28, 2022 11:44 AM
To: Peter Daszak < (b) (6) >
Cc: Gerald T Keusch < (b) (6) Aleksei Chmura < (b) (6) >; David Morens < (b) (6) >; Jeffrey Sturchio < (b) (6) Rich Roberts < (b) (6)
Subject: Re: Jeff Sachs' comments RE: COVID-19 Commission: Need approval of minor edits after first peer review

It's beyond disgusting, hopefully Richard Horton intervenes

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

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

Baylor College of Medicine

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

University Professor, Baylor University

Faculty Fellow, Hagler Institute for Advanced Study

Senior Fellow, Scowcroft Institute of International Affairs

Texas A&M University

Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty and Adjunct Professor of

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Bioengineering, Rice University

Adjunct Professor, University of Texas, School of Public Health

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Twitter: @peterhotez

Skype: (b) (6)

Linkedin Peter Hotez

Amazon Author Center:

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MORENS_NIH_010370
REL0000476794

Date: Fri, 21 Jul 2023 1:27:44 PM -0400
Sent: Fri, 21 Jul 2023 1:26:41 PM -0400
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Fwd: Study from 2007 shows SARS-infected civets on farms in Hubei
From: David Morens < (b) (6)
To: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] < (b) (6)

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

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

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

--------- Forwarded message --------
From: Edward Holmes <(b) (6)
Date: Mon, Sep 20, 2021 at 2:16 AM
Subject: Re: Study from 2007 shows SARS-infected civets on farms in Hubei
To: Jason Gale <(b) (6) >
Cc: Peter Daszak < (b) (6) >, David Morens < (b) (6) >, Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] < (b) (6) >, (b) (6) <(b) (6) Kristian G. Andersen < (b) (6) Wang Linfa < (b) (6) (b) (6) < (b) (6) Taubenberger, Jeffery (NIH/NIAID) [E] < (b) (6) >, (b) (6) < (b) (6)

Yes, it's very odd. I just can't follow it.

What I did think was interesting - as you note - is that they talk a lot of the market which I thought was totally off the table in China. Also, it's from Nanshan Zhong and I last time I heard him speak he was strongly pushing the frozen food idea.

Perhaps a shift?

Or could just be a wet Wednesday afternoon's ramblings.

PROFESSOR EDWARD C. HOLMES FAA FRS
ARC Australian Laureate Fellow

THE UNIVERSITY OF SYDNEY
Marie Bashir Institute for Infectious Diseases & Biosecurity,

School of Life & Environmental Sciences and School of Medical Sciences,
The University of Sydney | Sydney | NSW |2006 | Australia
T (b) (6)
E (b) (6)

On 20 Sep 2021, at 4:06 pm, Jason Gale (BLOOMBERG/ NEWSROOM:)
<(b) (6) wrote:

I thought the SARS-CoV-2 virus that emerged in Wuhan wasn't capable of infecting mice that weren't genetically engineered to express human ACE2? This paper, with its emphasis of meteorological factors, seems dodgy to me. But it's good to see research on the origins from researchers in China getting out, albeit it in an obscure journal.

From: (b) (6) At: 09/20/21 15:55:39 UTC+10:00
To: Jason Gale (BLOOMBERG/ NEWSROOM:)
Cc: (b) (6) (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

Although I can't quite tell if it is sane.

PROFESSOR EDWARD C. HOLMES FAA FRS
ARC Australian Laureate Fellow

THE UNIVERSITY OF SYDNEY
Marie Bashir Institute for Infectious Diseases & Biosecurity,
School of Life & Environmental Sciences and School of Medical Sciences,
The University of Sydney | Sydney | NSW |2006 | Australia
T + (b) (6) (b) (6)
E (b) (6)

On 20 Sep 2021, at 2:37 pm, Edward Holmes < (b) (6) > wrote:

Just found this in an obscure journal.

Interesting it is Nanshan Zhong and interesting that there's a lot about the market….

PROFESSOR EDWARD C. HOLMES FAA FRS
ARC Australian Laureate Fellow

THE UNIVERSITY OF SYDNEY
Marie Bashir Institute for Infectious Diseases & Biosecurity,
School of Life & Environmental Sciences and School of Medical Sciences,
The University of Sydney | Sydney | NSW |2006 | Australia
T +(b) (6) (b) (6)

MORENS_SUBPOENA_002497
MORENS_NIH_009013
REL0000476795

E (b) (6)

On 20 Sep 2021, at 10:52 am, Jason Gale (BLOOMBERG/ NEWSROOM:)
< (b) (6) wrote:

I did this podcast episode on bats and zoonoses at the start of 2020
with the help of Hume Field, Trevor Drew, Mark Schipp and Linfa. Still
seems relevant today.

https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fpodcasts.apple.com%2Fnz%2Fpodcast%2Fhow-it-all-started-rebroadcast%2Fid1440051086%3Fi%3D1000504072911&data=05%7C01%7Cdmorens%40niaid.nih.gov%7Ca3b2ce3da8b84891380608db8a0fca13%7C14b77578977342d585&sdata=CNua34sw%2BthDdcFIwq1Pd6mEdS0l16Oqi00Q44rb7ao%3D &reserved=0

From: (b) (6) At: 09/20/21 10:17:32 UTC+10:00
To: Jason Gale (BLOOMBERG/ NEWSROOM:)
Cc: (b) (6) (b) (6)
(b) (6) (b) (6) (b) (6)
(b) (6) (b) (6)
(b) (6) (b) (6)
Subject: Re: Study from 2007 shows SARS-infected civets on farms in Hubei

100% agree.

PROFESSOR EDWARD C. HOLMES FAA FRS
ARC Australian Laureate Fellow

THE UNIVERSITY OF SYDNEY
Marie Bashir Institute for Infectious Diseases & Biosecurity,
School of Life & Environmental Sciences and School of Medical Sciences,
The University of Sydney | Sydney | NSW | 2006 | Australia
T + (b) (6) (b) (6)
E (b) (6)

On 20 Sep 2021, at 10:16 am, Jason Gale (BLOOMBERG/ NEWSROOM:)
(b)(6) > wrote:

Suspect geopolitics is the biggest impediment to finding an animal
source in China, and the best remedy for this is to rebuild/strengthen
r'ships with scientists in China.

From: (b) (6) At: 09/20/21 10:12:48 UTC+10:00
To: (b) (6)
Cc: Jason Gale (BLOOMBERG/ NEWSROOM:) , (b) (6)
(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

MORENS_SUBPOENA_002498
MORENS_NIH_009014
REL0000476795

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) (b) (6)
E (b) (6)(b) (6)

On 20 Sep 2021, at 9:59 am, Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E]
< (b) (6) > wrote:

Agree totally except your certainty that China is the ultimate source. Admittedly much data point in that direction but how can you be sure?
d

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

On Sep 19, 2021, at 19:28, Edward Holmes < (b) (6) > wrote:

It's not phylogenetics.

One thing is ascertainment bias which could be huge.

Second thing is to distinguish the long-term ecology of these viruses from the short-term emergence of the virus. These Laos viruses are the former. Clearly these viruses are commonplace in SE Asia. And I don't just think that bats and pangolins will be the only animals with SC2-like viruses. Virus ecology does not work like that. But this is not the same as determining the events that happened in Wuhan. To me, China still looks like the most likely source.

Third, I'm pretty certain that groups in China are sitting on more SC2-like viruses. If you sample bats you find them. It is striking to me that CCDC have published so little on this yet have supposedly sampled so many animals. That doesn't add up. Never discount the politics.

Professor Edward C. Holmes FAA FRS
The University of Sydney

On 20 Sep 2021, at 9:00 am, Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E]
<(b) (6) > wrote:

Eddie, please clarify, i don't « get » all the phylogenetic asumptions you guys understand, but can you put it in lsyman's terms? As you know, i have said repeatedly to look past Yunnan to all of SE Asia, as i have bennunconconvinced of the Yunnan centrality of all this, suspecting thAt the universe of these viruses crosses borders to include not only SW and S China but all of SEA.

If that is so, the implications ate huge: this is annintetnational problem demanding international cooperation. d

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

On Sep 19, 2021, at 18:33, Edward Holmes < (b) (6) > wrote:

Yes, good idea.

The receptor binding domain of some of these Laotian bats is so close to that of SARS-CoV-2 even some of the die-hard leakers are beginning to see the light…

This also effectively excludes that virus-receptor relationship was generated through lab passage, that the pangolin sequences were faked, and that this outbreak had anything to do with the Mojiang mine as a virus from a different country is now closer. That mine will go down in history as the reddest of herrings.

That said, I am a little worried about confirmation bias for the origin being bats from Yunnan/Laos/Cambodia. The more they find there, the more they sequence. But no doubt these Laotian samples are of huge significance. As are the Hubei civets.

<Screenshot from 2021-09-19 17-04-25.png>

PROFESSOR EDWARD C. HOLMES FAA FRS
ARC Australian Laureate Fellow

THE UNIVERSITY OF SYDNEY
Marie Bashir Institute for Infectious Diseases & Biosecurity,
School of Life & Environmental Sciences and School of Medical Sciences,
The University of Sydney | Sydney | NSW | 2006 | Australia
T + (b) (6) (b) (6)
E (b) (6)

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:) (b)(6) > 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

On Sep 18, 2021, at 12:05, Peter Daszak < (b) (6) > wrote:

I put it all in a twitter thread while drinking coffee in my local diner (Saturday is "full English breakfast" day for me).

https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Ftwitter.com%2Fpeterdaszak%2Fstatus%2F1439.
&data=05%7C01%7Cdmorens%40niaid.nih.gov%7Ca3b2ce3da8b84891380608db8a0fca13%7C14b77578977342d585
&sdata=SKkEblUvCO165p4pcry8JLV2EQkA0OPHtxC73D8Thmo%3D &reserved=0

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

https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.ecohealthalliance.org%2F
&data=05%7C01%7Cdmorens%40niaid.nih.gov%7Ca3b2ce3da8b84891380608db8a0fca13%7C14b77578977342d585
&sdata=TEHtvdtbs892dgv3A1MdqCfCMfqp104asWqq5enWZwk%3D &reserved=0

On Sep 18, 2021, at 10:26 AM, Garry, Robert F < (b) (6) > wrote:

Of course, the momentum on the lab leak side will continue, with books by Sharri Markison, Alina Chan/Matt Ridley, Op Eds that criticize scientists, 70+ FoIAs by one organization alone, many other FoIAs on their way, 900 pages of FoIA'd grants and reports from EHA/NIAID showing zero evidence of lab leak.

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<Screenshot from 2021-09-19 17-04-25.png>

<healthcare-09-01132-v2.pdf>
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, 14 Apr 2022 12:20:39 PM -0400
Sent: Thu, 14 Apr 2022 12:19:21 PM -0400
Subject: Re: CIT Search Request: NIAID IOD FOIA Request 58170
From: "Hotez, Peter Jay" (b)(6)
To: David Morens (b)(6)
CC: Peter Daszak (b)(6) Gerald Keusch (b)(6) Aleksei Chmura (b)(6)

So strange

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

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

University Professor, Baylor University

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

Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

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

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

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

iPhone

On Apr 14, 2022, at 11:01 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.**

Note that this foia is ostensibly about Leishmaniasis so hopefully not of concern to you, but we have had foia folks try to sneak in through the back door recently

In 5 years here i have never heard of a foia for Leishmaniasis so just want to be sure..... d

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

On Apr 14, 2022, at 11:57, David Morens (b)(6) wrote:

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

From: "Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E]" (b)(6)
Date: April 14, 2022 at 11:56:08 EDT
To: David Morens (b)(6)
Subject: Fwd: CIT Search Request: NIAID IOD FOIA Request 58170

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

From: "Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E]" (b)(6)
Date: April 14, 2022 at 07:48:35 EDT
To: David Morens (b)(6)
Subject: Fwd: CIT Search Request: NIAID IOD FOIA Request 58170

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

MORENS_NIH_016670
REL0000476798

From: "Barasch, Kimberly (NIH/NIAID) [E]" (b)(6)
Date: April 14, 2022 at 07:46:57 EDT
To: "West, Elisabeth (NIH/NHLBI) [E]" (b)(6) >, "Awwad, David (NIH/NIAID) [C]" (b)(6) , "Folkers, Greg (NIH/NIAID) [E]" < (b) (6) >
Cc: "Harper, Jill (NIH/NIAID) [E]" (b)(6) >, "Manheim, Marianne (NIH/NHLBI) [E]" (b)(6) , "Schofield, Robin (NIH/NHLBI) [E]" (b)(6) , "Conrad, Patricia (NIH/NIAID) [E]" (b)(6) "Doepel, Laurie (NIH/NIAID) [E]" (b)(6) >, "Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E]" (b)(6)
Subject: RE: CIT Search Request: NIAID IOD FOIA Request 58170

Hi Beth,
Okay for CIT to search.

Thank you,

Kim Barasch
Office of the Director
National Institute of Allergy & Infectious Diseases
(b) (6) (b) (6)

From: West, Elisabeth (NIH/NHLBI) [E] (b)(6)
Sent: Wednesday, April 13, 2022 4:15 PM
To: Awwad, David (NIH/NIAID) [C] (b)(6) >; Folkers, Greg (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b)(6)
Cc: Harper, Jill (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b)(6) Manheim, Marianne (NIH/NHLBI) [E] < (b) (6) Schofield, Robin (NIH/NHLBI) [E] (b)(6) Conrad, Patricia (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b)(6) >; Doepel, Laurie (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b)(6) Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b)(6) ; Barasch, Kimberly (NIH/NIAID) [E] <(b) (6) >
Subject: CIT Search Request: NIAID IOD FOIA Request 58170
Importance: High

Good afternoon,

We have received a FOIA request from Dr. Aldhous, freelance journalist, on 4/13/22 (attached). I am reaching to you specifically for item 3 of his request:

- **communications among NIAID IOD/OCGR staff regarding this paper**: "Enhanced attraction of sand fly vectors of Leishmania infantum to dogs infected with zoonotic visceral leishmaniasis" https://journals.plos.org/plosntds/article?id=10.1371/journal.pntd.0009647
- date range: **July 21, 2021 and date of search**

I am seeking permission to request a CIT search of the following emails:

- Anthony Fauci
- Greg Folkers
- Patricia Conrad
- Kimberly Barasch
- David Morens
- Laurie Doepel

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Attached:

- Request

Thank you,
Beth

Elisabeth West
Government Information Specialist
NIH/NHLBI/OM/FOIA Service Center
Rockledge One, 4th Floor
(b) (6) (b)(6) (NHLBI FOIA Main Line)
(b) (6) (b) (6) (Direct Line)

MORENS_NIH_016672
REL0000476798

Date: Mon, 6 Jul 2020 7:36:52 PM -0400
Sent: Mon, 6 Jul 2020 7:36:49 PM -0400
Subject: FW: Coronavirus commentary
From: "Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E]" < (b) (6)
To: David Morens ((b) (6) < (b) (6) >;
Attachments: image001.gif; image002.jpg; AJTMH to Phil R 07 03 2020.docx

David

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

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From: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E]
Sent: Monday, July 6, 2020 7:21 PM
To: Keusch, Gerald T < (b) (6)
Cc: Peter Daszak ((b) (6) < (b) (6)
Subject: Coronavirus commentary

Dear Jerry,

See the form letter below that Jeff and I are sending out to several key folks, hoping

you'll agree to sign on. david

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

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

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

Thanks for considering this request,

Sincerely,

Jeff Taubenberger and David Morens

David

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

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MORENS_NIH_026114
REL0000476801

Date: Tue, 7 Feb 2023 7:59:30 AM -0500
Sent: Tue, 7 Feb 2023 7:59:13 AM -0500
Subject: RE: Notes from our call
From: "Roberts, Rich" (b) (6) >
To: David Morens (b)(6)
CC: Hotez, Peter Jay (b)(6) Peter Daszak (b)(6) >; Keusch, Gerald T (b)(6) Jeffrey Sturchio (b)(6) ; Aleksei Chmura (b)(6)
Attachments: image001.jpg; image002.jpg; image003.jpg

David:

I shall take that last piece of advice very seriously!

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

From: David Morens (b) (6)
Sent: Tuesday, February 7, 2023 7:48 AM
To: Roberts, Rich (b)(6)
Cc: Hotez, Peter Jay (b)(6) Peter Daszak (b)(6) ; Keusch, Gerald T (b)(6) Jeffrey Sturchio (b)(6) >; Aleksei Chmura (b)(6)
Subject: Re: Notes from our call

EXTERNAL SENDER

Rich, talk about miracles. Yours are stunning. Truly stunning. I think you were meant to enjoy many more glasses of fine wine!
david

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

On Feb 6, 2023, at 22:21, Roberts, (b) wrote:

David:

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

In addition to biomedical research, luck also plays a role. I am one of the luckiest people you know.
The last major act of the Unabomber was to send 5 letters out, one with a bomb. I didn't get the bomb.

Also I was booked on the first plane that went into the World Trade Tower on 9/11. The meeting I was going to got moved forward by a day and I ended taking the flight the day before. There's lots more, but that's enough for now.

Rich

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

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

From: David Morens < (b)(6)
Sent: Monday, February 6, 2023 8:39 PM
To: Roberts, Rich (b)(6)
Cc: Hotez, Peter Jay (b)(6) Peter Daszak (b)(6) Keusch, Gerald T < (b)(6) Jeffrey Sturchio (b)(6) Aleksei Chmura (b)(6)
Subject: Re: Notes from our call

EXTERNAL SENDER

Rich, You should definitely celebrate. I am not sure you realize how incredibly lucky u are to live in this era of medical miracles. It is folks like us, boring old biomedical scientists working under the radar screen, who are incrementally improving life, health, and longevity.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

This is our most important "job" as scientists

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

Get better soon, dmm

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

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

David:

Thanks

I'm doing my best to celebrate!

Rich

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

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

From: David Morens <(b) (6)
Sent: Monday, February 6, 2023 6:22 PM
To: Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6)
Cc: Roberts, Rich <(b) (6) >; Peter Daszak (b) (6) >; Keusch, Gerald T < (b) (6) >; Jeffrey Sturchio (b) (6) >; Aleksei Chmura (b) (6)
Subject: Re: Notes from our call

EXTERNAL SENDER

Rich, this sounds like a true modern miracle. When i was in mef school in the 1960s, aortic valve replacements were either hugely dangerous or in some cases impossible, tequired weeks of hospitalization, and life expectancy after them was statistically short. Now, 50+ years later, you go home the next day?????? It is truly a miracle

Statisticians tell us that had us over 50 men been born in-the 1800s rather than the 1900s, most of us wouldn't be alive much past 50, and the rest of us would be throwing flowers on your/our graves

Congrats to you and make sure to celebrate your new lease on life!!!!!!

david

MORENS_SUBPOENA_017648
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Sent from my iPhone
David M Morens
OD, NIAID, NIH

On Feb 6, 2023, at 17:46, Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6) (b) wrote:

Wonderful, I'm so glad it went well! MGH is an extraordinary place, it's where I did my clinical training

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

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

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

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

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

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

MORENS_SUBPOENA_017649
MORENS_NIH_035889
REL0000476802

Ipswich, MA 01938-2723
USA
Tel (b)(6)
Fax: (978) 412 9910
email: (b) (6)

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

From: Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6)
Sent: Monday, February 6, 2023 5:15 PM
To: Roberts, Rich (b) (6) >
Cc: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >; Keusch, Gerald T (b) (6) 6) ; David Morens <(b) (6) >; Jeffrey Sturchio (b _(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

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iPhone

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

Peter:

Sorry, there is no God. I wanted him last week after 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: (978) 412 9910
email:(b) (6)

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

From: Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6)
Sent: Monday, February 6, 2023 5:02 PM
To: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >; Keusch, Gerald T (b) (6)
Cc: David Morens (b) (6) >; Roberts, Rich <(b) (6) Jeffrey Sturchio <(b)(6) Aleksei Chmura(b) (6)
Subject: Re: Notes from our call

EXTERNAL SENDER

God help us, far right money to shut down virologic research

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

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

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(b) (6)

(b)(6)

From: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >
Sent: Monday, February 6, 2023 3:38 PM
To: Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6) Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6) >
Cc: David Morens (b)(6) >; Roberts, Rich <(b) (6) Jeffrey Sturchio (b)(6) ; Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) (b)
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

MORENS_SUBPOENA_017652
MORENS_NIH_035892
REL0000476802

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
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USA

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

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

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From: Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6)
Sent: Thursday, February 2, 2023 4:58 PM
To: Peter Daszak (b) (6) >; Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6)
Cc: David Morens <(b) (6) >; Roberts, Rich <(b) (6) Jeffrey Sturchio <(b)(6) Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) >
Subject: RE: Notes from our call

Just to note I have just sent a note to Carlos del Rio about NAM, to Mary Woolley about Research!America, and Stef Bertuzzi about ASM. I'll let you know if and what I hear back from them and we can proceed from there.
Jerry

From: Peter Daszak (b)(6)
Sent: Wednesday, February 1, 2023 6:26 PM
To: Hotez, Peter Jay <(b)(6)
Cc: David Morens <(b) (6) >; Roberts, Rich (b) (6) >; Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6) Jeffrey Sturchio <(b)(6); Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) >
Subject: Notes from our call
Importance: High

Attached are notes and action items (also cc'd below), as well as the concept note which I've expanded with more names of orgs to add:

Towards a Coalition to Protect Pandemic Preparedness Research

Notes from call 2/1/23
Rich Roberts, Peter Hotez, Jerry Keusch, David Morens, Jeff Sturchio, Peter Daszak, Aleksei Chmura

Action items:
Rich will speak with:
Harold Varmus to sound him out re. this issue

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Holden Thorpe to find out the best way to engage AAAS (Sudip Parikh CEO)
NAS: Rich will be in DC in March talking with Marcia McNutt, Nobel Foundation & NAS – will see if Nobel Foundation will endorse this effort if NAS supports it

Jerry Keusch will reach out to:

ASM – Stephano Bertuzzi

David Morens will reach out to Tony Fauci to ask advice on how we should progress

Peter Hotez will talk with:

Head of OSTP (Peter will speak with them in March)
ASV – Anne Moscona (President-Elect)

Peter Daszak will contact as many of the others as possible, writing on behalf of all of us, so as to avoid concerns that people might have re EcoHealth being in the line of fire.

Next steps

each of us will reach out to different contacts
re-convene by conference call in 3 weeks or so (Peter D. will set up), around Feb 22nd.
In-person meeting at EHA NYC afternoon of April 27th.

Summary of discussion:

- What could the goals of the coalition be, and what should they not be
  - Overall goal to have a 'coalition of the willing' form, organized by an independent group (hopefully AAAS, or similar level) to defend pandemic prevention research that is under attack
- How should we reach out to build a coalition?
  - Making contact with key people from each of the above, trying to set up a conference call, convened by a leading independent group (e.g. AAAS) where multiple contacts come together and the discussion is led by the independent group.
- Who should we try to engage: Academies, academic societies, pro-science pressure groups, senior figures in the field, funders, and governmental leaders. Initial list:
  - AAAS
  - AIDS Vaccine Advocacy Coalition
  - American Public Health Association (Georges Benjamin)
  - American Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene (Dan Bausch, Karen Goraleski, Kent Kester)
  - Association of Public & Land-Grant Universities
  - Georgia Global Health Alliance
  - Bay Area Global Health Alliance
  - Consortium of Universities for Global Health
  - COVID Collaborative
  - Global Health Council
  - Global Health Technologies Coalition
  - Infectious Diseases Society of America Carlos del Rio (Jerry will reach out)
  - International AIDS Vaccine Initiative
  - Nobel Laureates Campaigns
  - Pandemic Action Network
  - PATH

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- 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
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Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

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

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From: Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6)
Sent: 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 <J_(b) (6) Aleksei Chmura < (b) (6) >
Subject: Re: Update

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

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

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Baylor University, University Professor

Rice University, Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty

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

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

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

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New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

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

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

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From: 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!

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MORENS_NIH_035897
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Many thanks Peter! Appreciate the support!

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

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

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Media Inquiries:

(b) (6)

iPhone

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

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

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

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

By Sara Goudarzi | January 30, 2023

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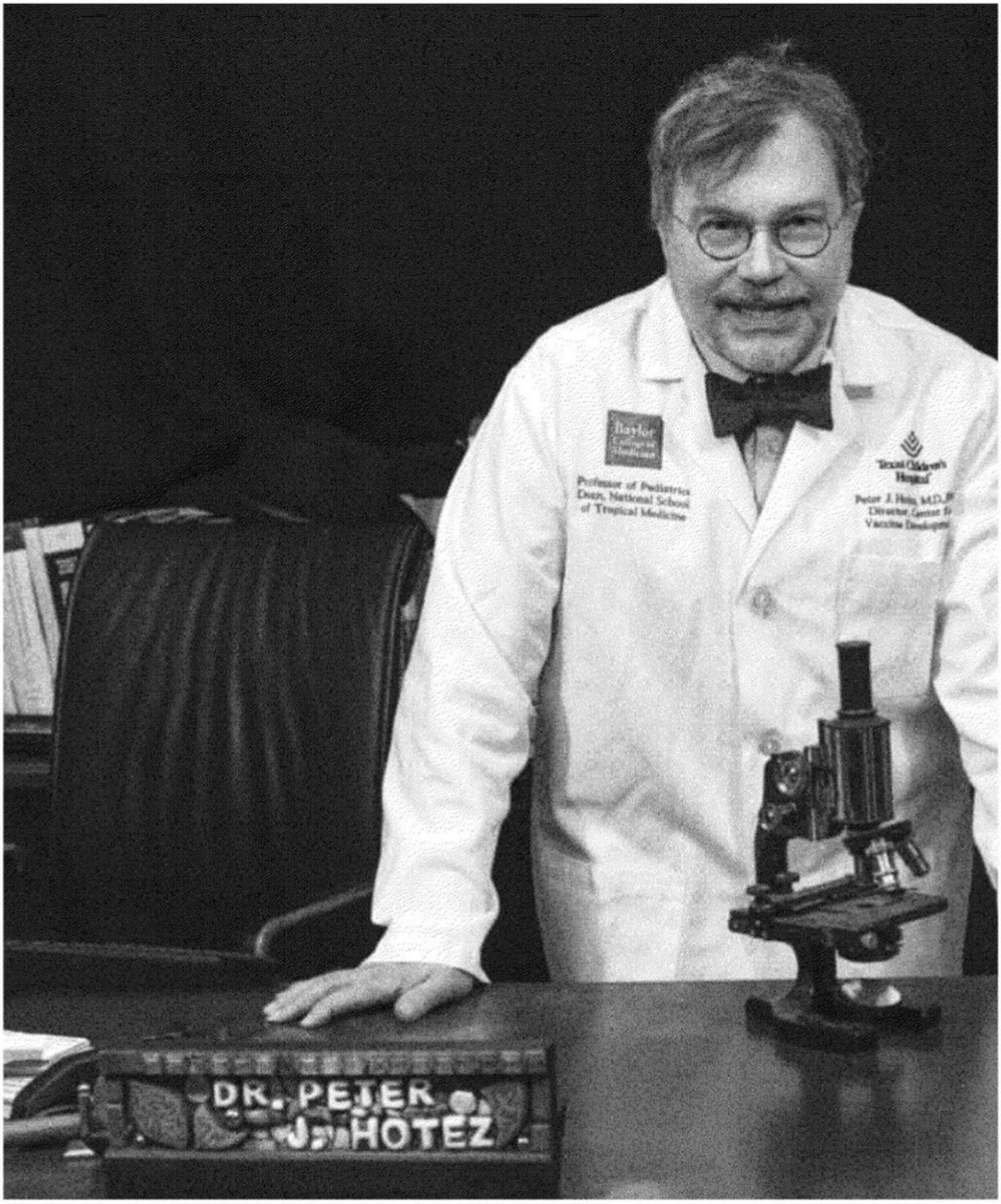

Peter Hotez (Image courtesy of Agapito Sanchez, Baylor College of Medicine)

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

Peter Hotez, a physician-scientist, dean of the National School of Tropical Medicine, and a professor in the departments of Pediatrics and Molecular Virology and Microbiology at Baylor College of Medicine, is no stranger to anti-vaccination attitudes. He has fought against misleading medical information for years. But now, he says, anti-science sentiments have been weaponized by businessmen and politicians seeking profits and power.

In the 1940s and 1950s, the House Un-American Activities Committee (HUAC) investigated and discredited several scientists who worked on the Manhattan Project. Hotez expects congressional committees under Republican control to engage in a similar targeting of scientists in an attempt to accumulate influence and foster a sense of belonging—a signature of authoritarian regimes—among their constituents. In his view, this anti-vaccine, anti-science movement, versions of which are spreading to other countries, could destabilize the global vaccine ecosystem.

I spoke with Hotez about the role of social media in spreading misleading information on vaccines and stoking anti-science aggression in many dimensions. *The resulting discussion has been edited for length and clarity.*

Sara Goudarzi: You've been on Twitter for more than a decade and often use it as a tool to communicate health and science facts, such as the importance of vaccinations. How in your experience has the social media platform changed during this time?

Peter Hotez: Well, it's become a lot more adversarial as the anti-vaccine movement has shifted. The anti-vaccine movement began in earnest around 20 years ago in the United States around false assertions that vaccines cause autism. The way I got involved was because I have a daughter with autism, and I wrote the book *Vaccines Did Not Cause Rachel's Autism: My Journey as a Vaccine Scientist, Pediatrician, and Autism Dad*, and that made me public enemy number one or two with the anti-vaccine activists.

What I would do at that time of social media was use their statements in their attacks against me as a teachable moment, to expose what the anti-vaccine movement was all about and how they were monetizing the internet with books on Amazon and nutritional supplements and the phony autism cures. So, rather than simply block people who were attacking me, I would retweet them with a little description of what they were doing. People found it very interesting because it was

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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

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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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Hotez: I would say social media is a major weapon of choice for spreading disinformation. But remember, we have to get to those who are generating content. Social media is an important vehicle, but it's not the only one. I think we probably should stop calling it misinformation, disinformation or infodemic. We should call it for

what it is, which is anti-science aggression, because it is a killing force. What we realized is that the science aggression is taking lives in the United States on an unprecedented scale.
For that reason, it needs to be addressed, and that's the part the scientific community has not come to terms with. When I call myself a scientist, it's not just co-heading a team of scientists making a COVID vaccine for the world that has reached a 100 million people. That's a very noble activity, but from my perspective, even that's still insufficient. Now being a scientist means, to some extent, being willing to combat the anti-science. It's nothing that any of us signed up for. I never dreamed when I got my MD-PhD in New York in the 1980s that this was something I'd be doing, but this is what's in front of us.
And I don't really feel that the scientific community—the professional societies, scientific bodies, even the academy—fully understand the impact. Hopefully it'll be clear when my book comes out, but it may become even clearer when we see the House GOP hearings. I predict the oversight committee and the judiciary committee or select subcommittees will become an anti-science witch hunt and will target prominent American scientists. And then we'll get a better picture.

Cheers,

Peter

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

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From: Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6)
Sent: Monday, January 30, 2023 6:27 PM
To: David Morens (b) (6) >
Cc: Roberts, Rich (b) (6) >; Peter Daszak <
(b) (6) >; Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6) >; Jeffrey

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

Many thanks David! Best Peter

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

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

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

Baylor University, University Professor

Rice University, Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty

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

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iPhone

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

kudos to you, again! dmm

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

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

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

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iPhone

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

Peter:

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

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

Rich

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

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From: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >
Sent: Friday, January 27, 2023 3:30 PM
To: Roberts, Rich <(b) (6) Keusch, Gerald T < (b) (6) Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6) >
Cc: David Morens <(b) (6) >; Jeffrey Sturchio (b) (6) Aleksei Chmura < (b) (6) >
Subject: RE: Finally - virologists fight back!

EXTERNAL SENDER

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

In all seriousness, while it's good for virologists to push back against calls to block scientific research, I don't think a campaign to support gain of function work that's designed to see what would happen if you make a lethal pathogen more

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transmissible is anything any of us particularly want to get behind right now!

Cheers,

Peter

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From: Roberts, Rich <(b) (6)
Sent: Friday, January 27, 2023 11:08 AM
To: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >; Keusch, Gerald T (b)(6) ; Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6) >
Cc: David Morens < (b) (6) Jeffrey Sturchio (b) (6) >; Aleksei Chmura < (b) (6) b) (6) >
Subject: RE: Finally - virologists fight back!

Peter:

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

Rich

Richard J. Roberts
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MORENS_NIH_035912
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Executive Assistant: (b)((b)(6)
Tel: (b)(6)
Fax: (978) 412 9910
email:(b) (6)

From: Peter Daszak [(b) (6) >
Sent: Friday, January 27, 2023 8:39 AM
To: Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6) Hotez, Peter Jay <
(b) (6)
Cc: David Morens <(b) (6) >; Jeffrey Sturchio
(b)(6) ; Aleksei Chmura <
(b) (6) >; Roberts, Rich <
(b) (6) >
Subject: Finally - virologists fight back!
Importance: High

EXTERNAL SENDER

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

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

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

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

POLICY-ISH

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

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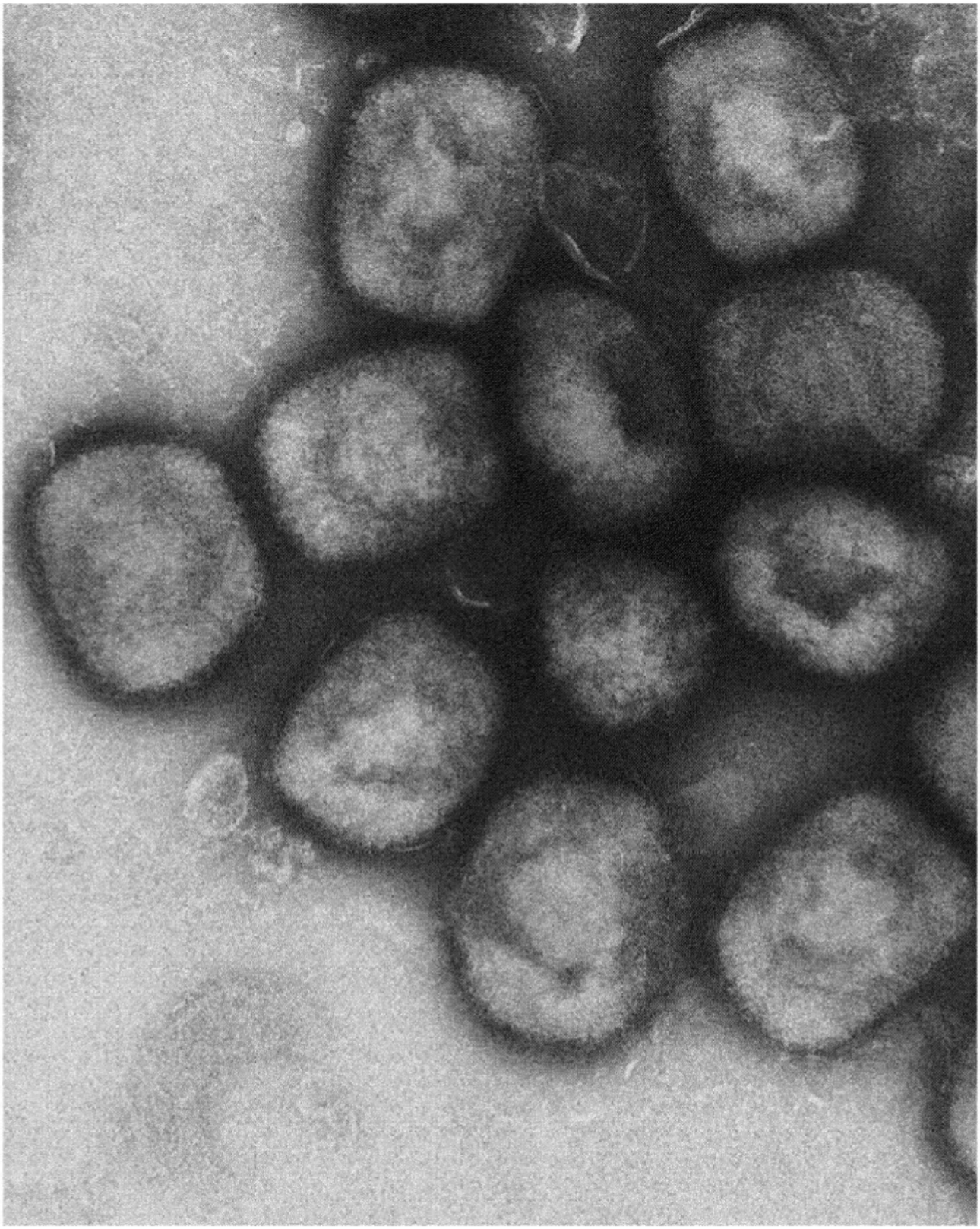

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This image shows purified particles of mpox virus, formerly called monkeypox. Viruses like these can be genetically altered in the lab in ways that might make them more dangerous.

NIAID

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

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

The virologists issued their statement just ahead of a key meeting Friday held by outside advisors to the federal government. That group is set to wrap up a recent review of the existing oversight system for experiments that are controversial because they could create new potential threats.

The advisors' draft recommendations call for expanding a special decision-making process that currently weighs the risks and benefits of experiments that might make "potential pandemic pathogens" more dangerous.

"The government really has a strong interest on behalf of all of us, in the public, in knowing when researchers want to make a virus more lethal or more transmissible, and understanding how that would be done and why that would be done, and whether the benefits are worth it," says Tom Inglesby, director of the Center for Health Security at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health.

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He thinks if the draft recommendations were adopted by the government, "it would be a very big step forward."

The origins of the pandemic

All of this comes as the lab in China, known as the Wuhan Institute of Virology, is again in the headlines. An internal government watchdog released a report this week criticizing the National Institutes of Health, saying it failed to adequately monitor grant awards given to a nonprofit that had collaborated with scientists at the Wuhan lab.

Felicia Goodrum, a virologist at the University of Arizona, says that open-minded experts have investigated the origins of the pandemic. The available evidence, she says, supports the notion that the virus emerged from nature just like other viruses such as HIV and Ebola did — by jumping from animals into people who had contact with them.

"The evidence that we have to date suggests that SARS-CoV-2 entered the human population by that route," says Goodrum. "There is no evidence to the contrary or in support of a lab leak, nothing credible."

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

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

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

"The pandemic," he says, "has really kind of heightened the urgency with 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?"

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

lab leak theory
coronavirus research
pathogens
Facebook
Twitter
Flipboard

Cheers,

Peter

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

---

From: Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6)
Sent: Wednesday, January 25, 2023 9:20 PM
To: Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6)
Cc: Peter Daszak (b)(6) >; David Morens <(b) (6) >; Jeffrey Sturchio < (b)(6) ; Aleksei Chmura < (b) (6) >; Rich Roberts < (b)(6)
Subject: RE: Tweet by MinerFlux on Twitter

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

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

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

Jerry

From: Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6)
Sent: Wednesday, January 25, 2023 2:38 PM

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REL0000476802

To: Keusch, Gerald T (b) (6) >
Cc: Peter Daszak (b) (6) >; David Morens <(b) (6) (6) >; Jeffrey Sturchio <(b) (6) >; Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) >; Rich Roberts <(b) (6)
Subject: Re: Tweet by MinerfiFlux 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

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iPhone

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

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

Jerry

From: Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6) >
Sent: Wednesday, January 25, 2023 2:27 PM
To: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >
Cc: David Morens (b) (6) >; Jeffrey Sturchio (b) (6) >; Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6) Rich Roberts (b) (6)
Subject: Re: Tweet by MinerEFlux 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

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MORENS_NIH_035921
REL0000476802

Vaccine Development

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

Baylor University, University Professor

Rice University, Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty

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

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(b)
)

iPhone

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

Disapppointed that Hugh isn't a candidate, because short of a stellar scientist from outside (and that isn't looking good), Hugh would be a

safe pair of hands for the forseeable future.

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

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

Seriously, there surely are others out there?

Cheers,

Peter

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President

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Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

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

---

From: David Morens <(b) (6) >
Sent: Wednesday, January 25, 2023 11:38 AM
To: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >
Cc: Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6) Jeffrey Sturchio (b) (6) >; Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) >; Gerald Keusch (b) (6) ; Rich Roberts <(b) (6)
Subject: Re: Tweet by MinerFlux on Twitter

Guys, although the director search seems to be proceeding with total secrecy, I learned yesterday that our worst fear has come true: a highly undesirable internal candidate has applied. This

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person is a middle to upper level physician scientist who is widely disliked as a self-serving narcissist, back stabber, and manipulator. Tthis opinion comes not from me, but from colleagues with much more knowledge of him/her than me. Of course, being an A-hole doesn't necessarily predict a bad leader, but there is widespread worry.

I won't name the candidate but Peter S would know because her/his research at NIAID is in the area of clinical management of (b) (6)

Peter H, you could easily ID this person, but i do not want to do so, in part because i have limited personal experience with him/her and am merely relating opinions of colleagues i trust

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

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

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

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

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

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

Both were in their early 30s and, as far as i can tell,

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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 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*

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MORENS_NIH_035925
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USA

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

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---

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

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

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

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

Baylor University, University Professor

Rice University, Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty

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

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Senior Coordinator & Executive Support: Douglas Soriano

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

Media Inquiries:

(b) (6)

(b) (6)

(b (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
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USA

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

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---

From: Jeffrey Sturchio <
(b)(6)
Sent: Tuesday, January 24, 2023 9:08 PM
To: Hotez, Peter Jay <
(b) (6) >; Peter Daszak <
(b) (6) >;
Aleksei Chmura <
(b) (6) >;
David Morens <
(b) (6) >; Gerald Keusch <(b) (6) ; Rich Roberts (b) (6) m>
Subject: RE: Tweet by Miner Flux on Twitter

Peter: What an idiot this guy is. You should be heartened by the immediate response he got to this asinine tweet!

As ever,
Jeff

MORENS_SUBPOENA_017688
MORENS_NIH_035928
REL0000476802

From: Hotez, Peter Jay <
(b) (6)
Sent: Tuesday, January 24, 2023 8:09 PM
To: Peter Daszak <
(b) (6)
;>;
Aleksei Chmura <
(b) (6)
>;
David Morens <
(b)(6)
; Gerald Keusch <(b) (6)
Jeffrey Sturchio
(b)(6)
Rich Roberts
(b)(6)
Subject: Tweet by Miner Flux on Twitter

Miner Flux
@randy_hoebee

#Hotez pic.twitter.com/eOPpH

1/24/23, 4:04 PM

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

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Baylor University,
University Professor

Rice University, Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty

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

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iPhone

MORENS_SUBPOENA_017690
MORENS_NIH_035930
REL0000476802

Date: Wed, 8 May 2024 5:05:40 PM -0400
Subject: Fwd: Subpoena to Dr. David Morens
From: David Morens < (b) (6)
To: Peter Daszak < (b) (6) Jeffrey Sturchio < (b) (6)
Attachments: 2024.05.08 Subpoena Cover Letter to David Morens.pdf; 2024.05.08 Subpoena to David Morens.pdf

They seem to think I am trying to delay testing g ing. Bizarre... d

From the cell phone of David Morens

--------- Forwarded message ---------
From: (b) (6) < (b) (6) >
Date: Wed, May 8, 2024, 15:19
Subject: Fwd: Subpoena to Dr. David Morens
To: David Morens (b) (6)

David, FYI. Let me know when you're available to discuss.

- Tim

Timothy D. Belevetz
Ice Miller LLP
Cell: (b) (6) (b) (6)

From: Benzine, Mitchell <(b) (6) >
Sent: Wednesday, May 8, 2024 12:09 PM
To: Belevetz, Timothy (b) (6) >
Cc: Policastro, Marie (b) (6) >; Osterhues, Eric (b) (6) >; Vinyard, Ashlee <(b) (6) >; Cogar, Mallory (b) (6) >; Langley, Anna-Blake <(b) (6) >
Subject: Subpoena to Dr. David Morens

Tim –

Please see the attached subpoena and cover letter for your client to testify at a hearing on May 22, 2024 at 2:00pm. Please confirm receipt.

Thank you,
Mitch

Mitch Benzine
Staff Director | Select Subcommittee on the Coronavirus Pandemic
Committee on Oversight and Accountability

****
CONFIDENTIALITY NOTICE: This E-mail and any attachments are confidential and may be protected by legal privilege. If you are not the intended recipient, be aware that any disclosure, copying, distribution, or use of this E-mail or any attachment is prohibited. If you have received this E-mail in error, please notify us immediately by returning it to the sender and delete this copy from your system.

Thank you.
ICE MILLER LLP

****

MORENS_NIH_052709
REL0000476804

Date:	Mon, 6 Feb 2023 5:21:01 PM -0500
Sent:	Mon, 6 Feb 2023 5:19:46 PM -0500
Subject:	RE: Science story on new non profit
From:	"Roberts, Rich" < (b) (6)
To:	Hotez, Peter Jay < (b) (6) Peter Daszak < (b) (6) >;
CC:	Keusch, Gerald T < (b) (6) David Morens < (b) (6) Jeffrey Sturchio < (b) (6) Aleksei Chmura < (b) (6) >;
Attachments:	image001.jpg; image002.jpg; image003.jpg

One of the few good signs from him.

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

From: Hotez, Peter Jay < (b) (6)
Sent: Monday, February 6, 2023 5:13 PM
To: Peter Daszak < (b) (6)
Cc: Keusch, Gerald T < (b) (6) David Morens < (b) (6) Roberts, Rich < (b) (6) Jeffrey Sturchio < (b) (6) Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) >
Subject: Re: Science story on new non profit

EXTERNAL SENDER

Well at least David Relman saw through it and refused to join? I guess a good sign?

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

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

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Media Inquiries:
(b) (6)

iPhone

On Feb 6, 2023, at 3:52 PM, Peter Daszak (b) (6) > wrote:

Here's a *Science* story about it:

https://www.science.org/content/article/critics- risky-virus-studies-launch-nonprofit-push-research-halt-tighter-safety-rules

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

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Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

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---

From: Peter Daszak (b) (6)
Sent: Monday, February 6, 2023 4:39 PM
To: 'Keusch, Gerald T' <(b) (6) 'Hotez, Peter Jay' <(b) (6)
Cc: 'David Morens' <(b) (6) >; 'Roberts, Rich' (b) (6) >; 'Jeffrey Sturchio' <J (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:

MORENS_SUBPOENA_017178
MORENS_NIH_035369
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https://biosafetynow.org/team/

Cheers,

Peter

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USA

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Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

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---

From: Keusch, Gerald T <(b)(6)
Sent: Thursday, February 2, 2023 4:58 PM
To: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >; Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6)
Cc: David Morens (b) (6) >; Roberts, Rich <(b) (6) Jeffrey Sturchio <
(b)(6) ; Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) >
Subject: RE: Notes from our call

Just to note I have just sent a note to Carlos del Rio about NAM, to Mary Woolley about Research!America, and Stef Bertuzzi about ASM. I'll let you know if and what I hear back from them and we can proceed from there.
Jerry

From: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >
Sent: Wednesday, February 1, 2023 6:26 PM
To: Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6)
Cc: David Morens <(b) (6) >; Roberts, Rich (b) (6) >; Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6)
Jeffrey Sturchio (b) (6) Aleksei Chmura (b) (6) >
Subject: Notes from our call
Importance: High

Attached are notes and action items (also cc'd below), as well as the concept note which I've expanded with more names of orgs to add:

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MORENS_NIH_035370
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Towards a Coalition to Protect Pandemic Preparedness Research

Notes from call 2/1/23

Rich Roberts, Peter Hotez, Jerry Keusch, David Morens, Jeff Sturchio, Peter Daszak, Aleksei Chmura

Action items:

Rich will speak with:

- Harold Varmus to sound him out re. this issue
- Holden Thorpe to find out the best way to engage AAAS (Sudip Parikh CEO)
- NAS: Rich will be in DC in March talking with Marcia McNutt, Nobel Foundation &
- NAS – will see if Nobel Foundation will endorse this effort if NAS supports it

Jerry Keusch will reach out to:

- ASM – Stephano Bertuzzi

David Morens will reach out to Tony Fauci to ask advice on how we should progress

Peter Hotez will talk with:

- Head of OSTP (Peter will speak with them in March)
- ASV – Anne Moscona (President-Elect)

Peter Daszak will contact as many of the others as possible, writing on behalf of all of us, so as to avoid concerns that people might have re EcoHealth being in the line of fire.

Next steps

- each of us will reach out to different contacts
- re-convene by conference call in 3 weeks or so (Peter D. will set up), around Feb 22nd.
- In-person meeting at EHA NYC afternoon of April 27th.

Summary of discussion:

- What could the goals of the coalition be, and what should they not be
  - Overall goal to have a 'coalition of the willing' form, organized by an independent group (hopefully AAAS, or similar level) to defend pandemic prevention research that is under attack
- How should we reach out to build a coalition?
  - Making contact with key people from each of the above, trying to set up a conference call, convened by a leading independent group (e.g. AAAS) where multiple contacts come together and the discussion is led by the independent group.
- Who should we try to engage: Academies, academic societies, pro-science pressure groups, senior figures in the field, funders, and governmental leaders. Initial list:
  - AAAS
  - AIDS Vaccine Advocacy Coalition
  - American Public Health Association (Georges Benjamin)
  - American Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene (Dan Bausch, Karen Goraleski, Kent Kester)
  - Association of Public & Land-Grant Universities
  - Georgia Global Health Alliance
  - Bay Area Global Health Alliance
  - Consortium of Universities for Global Health
  - COVID Collaborative
  - Global Health Council
  - Global Health Technologies Coalition
  - Infectious Diseases Society of America Carlos del Rio (Jerry will reach out)
  - International AIDS Vaccine Initiative
  - Nobel Laureates Campaigns
  - Pandemic Action Network
  - PATH

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- Research!America – Reach back out – Jerry will
- Union of Concerned Scientists
- Washington Global Health Alliance
- 156 virologists letter
- NAM
- NAS
- NL Campaigns (to be kept informed of progress by Rich)
- CUGH
- The pandemic action coalition
- FASEB
- Global Health technologies coalition
- APLU (KHG has connection)
- Wellcome Trust (Paul Schreier is the interim head).
- Dr. Tony Fauci
- Felicia Goodrum (Arizona) and Stacey Schultz-Cherry (St. Judes)
- OSTP
- ASV – Anne Moscona (President-Elect)

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

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Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

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---

From: Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6)
Sent: Wednesday, February 1, 2023 6:21 PM
To: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >
Cc: David Morens (b) (6) >; Roberts, Rich <(b) (6) Keusch, Gerald T (b) (6) ;
Jeffrey Sturchio (b) (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

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MORENS_NIH_035372
REL0000476809

policy issues, she will give them a heads up, thanks! Peter

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

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

Baylor University, University Professor

Rice University, Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty

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

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Senior Coordinator & Executive Support: Douglas Soriano

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

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)
(b) (6) US

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

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New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

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

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---

From: Hotez, Peter Jay < (b) (6)
Sent: Tuesday, January 31, 2023 3:04 PM
To: Peter Daszak (b) (6) @
Cc: David Morens (b) (6) >; Roberts, Rich (b) (6) Keusch, Gerald T (b) (6)
Jeffrey Sturchio (b) (6) Aleksei Chmura (b) (6)
Subject: Re: Two great articles!

Many thanks Peter! Appreciate the support!

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

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

Baylor University, University Professor

Rice University, Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty

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

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Media Inquiries:

(b) (6)

(b) (6)

kf(b) (6)

iPhone

On Jan 31, 2023, at 1:44 PM, Peter Daszak (b 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_017184
MORENS_NIH_035375
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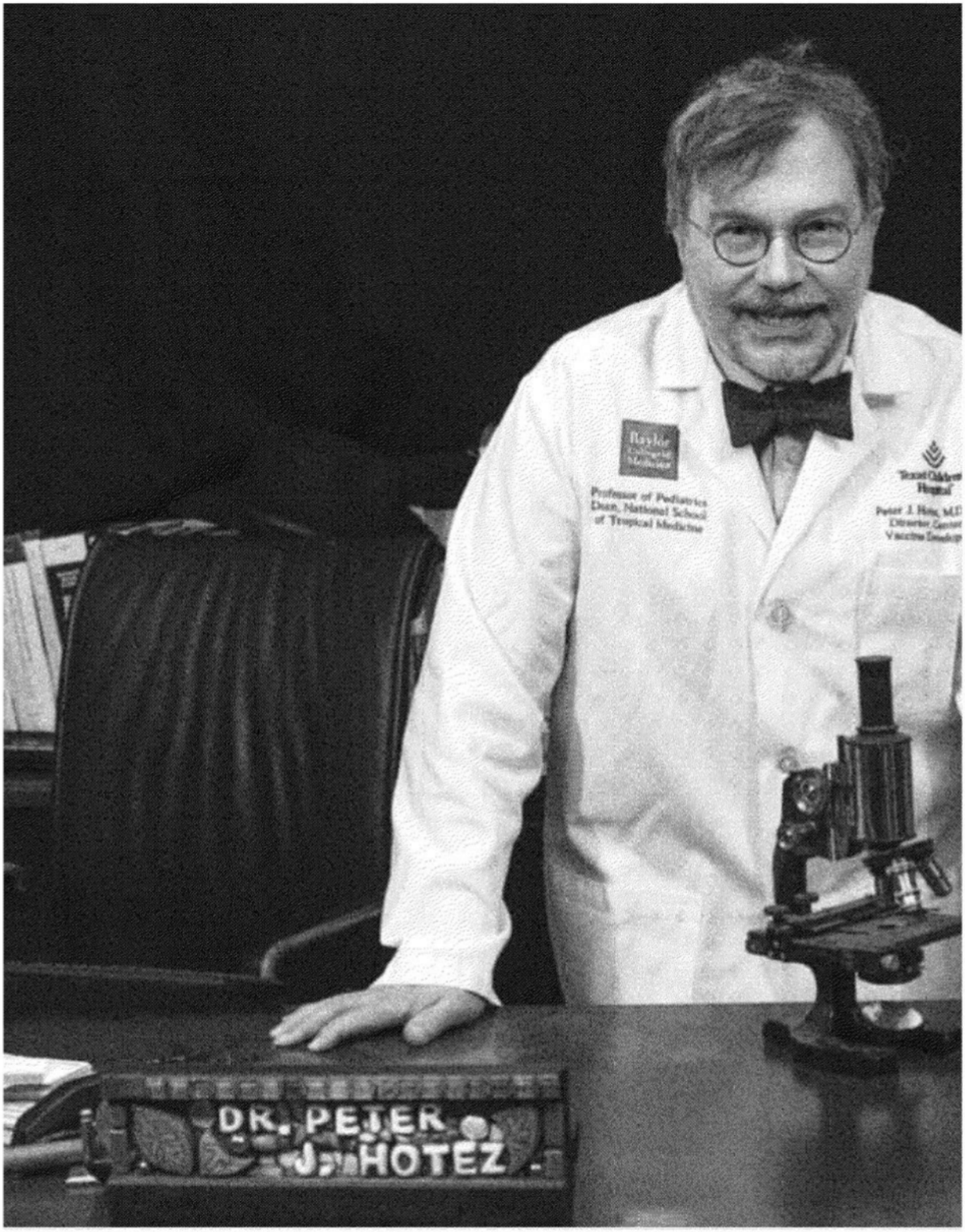

Peter Hotez (Image courtesy of Agapito Sanchez, Baylor College of Medicine)

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

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MORENS_NIH_035376
REL0000476809

COVID-19 vaccines, hundreds of thousands of Americans died after refusing it.
Peter Hotez, a physician-scientist, dean of the National School of Tropical Medicine, and a professor in the departments of Pediatrics and Molecular Virology and Microbiology at Baylor College of Medicine, is no stranger to anti-vaccination attitudes. He has fought against misleading medical information for years. But now, he says, anti-science sentiments have been weaponized by businessmen and politicians seeking profits and power.
In the 1940s and 1950s, the House Un-American Activities Committee (HUAC) investigated and discredited several scientists who worked on the Manhattan Project. Hotez expects congressional committees under Republican control to engage in a similar targeting of scientists in an attempt to accumulate influence and foster a sense of belonging—a signature of authoritarian regimes—among their constituents. In his view, this anti-vaccine, anti-science movement, versions of which are spreading to other countries, could destabilize the global vaccine ecosystem.
I spoke with Hotez about the role of social media in spreading misleading information on vaccines and stoking anti-science aggression in many dimensions. *The resulting discussion has been edited for length and clarity.*

Sara Goudarzi: You've been on Twitter for more than a decade and often use it as a tool to communicate health and science facts, such as the importance of vaccinations. How in your experience has the social media platform changed during this time?
Peter Hotez: Well, it's become a lot more adversarial as the anti-vaccine movement has shifted. The anti-vaccine movement began in earnest around 20 years ago in the United States around false assertions that vaccines cause autism. The way I got involved was because I have a daughter with autism, and I wrote the book *Vaccines Did Not Cause Rachel's Autism: My Journey as a Vaccine Scientist, Pediatrician, and Autism Dad*, and that made me public enemy number one or two with the anti-vaccine activists.
What I would do at that time of social media was use their statements in their attacks against me as a teachable moment, to expose what the anti-vaccine movement was all about and how they were monetizing the internet with books on Amazon and nutritional supplements and the phony autism cures. So, rather than simply block people who were attacking me, I would retweet them with a little description of what they were doing. People found it very interesting because it was teaching them how an anti-science movement works, and they started coming to my Twitter for that purpose.
The game changer was about nine years ago, when [vaccine disinformation] became a political movement around health and medical freedom. You saw a different set of actors come into this, and it became a lot more aggressive; people's political allegiance became tied to not giving their kids vaccinations, and that has just come off the rails with COVID-19. And I'd like to point out that 200,000 Americans now have needlessly lost their lives because they refused the COVID vaccine.
The hardest thing yet is really trying to describe the anti-vaccine ecosystem, because too often it's still couched in the old autism thing that they call infodemic or give it euphemisms like misinformation or disinformation. That is, as though it's some random stuff appearing on social media, when in fact, it's organized, politically motivated, and deliberate. It has a system in place, and what I do now is use that to actually describe who the actors that comprise that ecosystem are—elected leaders in the House Freedom Caucus, certain senators, and local leaders amplified in Fox News with designated contrarians from the far right think tanks.
All our training to be a scientist says you're not supposed to talk about Republicans, Democrats, liberals, or conservatives; you're supposed to be politically neutral. But what do you do when the anti-science, anti-vaccine aggression is predominantly coming along the

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REL0000476809

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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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

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From: Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6)
Sent: Monday, January 30, 2023 6:27 PM
To: David Morens <(b) (6)
Cc: Roberts, Rich <(b) (6) Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >; Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6) >; Jeffrey Sturchio <(b)(6) Aleksei Chmura (b) (6)
Subject: Re: My latest

Many thanks David! Best Peter

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

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

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

Baylor University, University Professor

Rice University, Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty

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

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(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

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Media Inquiries:

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iPhone

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

Peter:

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

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

Rich

Richard J. Roberts
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From: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >
Sent: Friday, January 27, 2023 3:30 PM
To: Roberts, Rich <(b) (6) Keusch, Gerald T (b) (6) >; Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6)
Cc: David Morens <(b) (6) >; Jeffrey Sturchio (b) (6) >; Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) >
Subject: RE: Finally - virologists fight back!

EXTERNAL SENDER

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

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

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

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Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

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

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From: Roberts, Rich <(b) (6)
Sent: Friday, January 27, 2023 11:08 AM
To: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >; Keusch, Gerald T (b) (6) ; Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6) >
Cc: David Morens (b) (6) >; Jeffrey Sturchio <(b) (6) >; Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) >
Subject: RE: Finally - virologists fight back!

Peter:

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

Rich

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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 <J (b)(6)
Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) >; Roberts, Rich <(b) (6)
Subject: Finally - virologists fight back!

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Importance: High

EXTERNAL SENDER

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

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

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

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

POLICY-ISH

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



NELL GREENFIELDBOYCE

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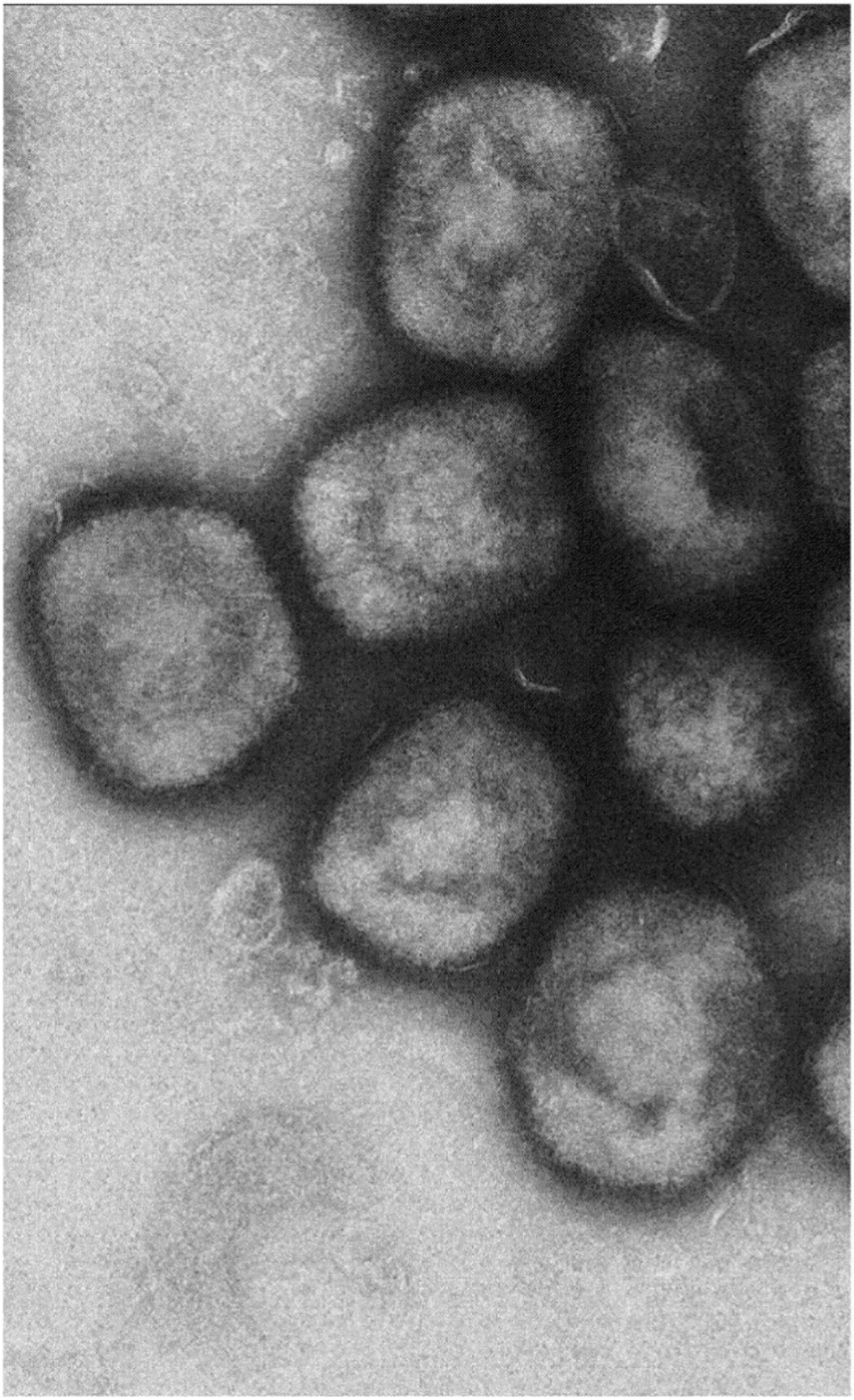

This image shows purified particles of mpox virus, formerly called monkeypox. Viruses like these can be genetically altered in the lab in ways that might make them more dangerous.

NIAID

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

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

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

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He thinks if the draft recommendations were adopted by the government, "it would be a very big step forward."

The origins of the pandemic

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

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

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

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

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

A bird flu study raises alarm

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

What's "Reasonably Anticipated"

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

lab leak theory
coronavirus research
pathogens
Facebook
Twitter
Flipboard
Email

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
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USA

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

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

---

From: Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6)
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 <J_(b) (6) >; Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) >; Rich Roberts (b) (6)
Subject: RE: Tweet by MinerFlux on Twitter

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

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

MORENS_SUBPOENA_017200
MORENS_NIH_035391
REL0000476809

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

Jerry

From: Hotez, Peter Jay < (b) (6)
Sent: Wednesday, January 25, 2023 2:38 PM
To: Keusch, Gerald T (b) (6) >
Cc: Peter Daszak <(b) (6)(b) (6)
(b) (6) >; Jeffrey Sturchio < (b)(6) Aleksei Chmura <
(b) (6) >; Rich Roberts < (b) (6)
Subject: Re: Tweet by MinerFlux on Twitter

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

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

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

Baylor University, University Professor

Rice University, Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty

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

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Media Inquiries:

(b) (6)

iPhone

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

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

Jerry

From: Hotez, Peter Ja (b)(6)
Sent: Wednesday, January 25, 2023 2:27 PM
To: Peter Daszak <(b) (6)
Cc: David Morens <(b) (6) >; Jeffrey Sturchio <
(b) (6) >; Aleksei Chmura (b) (6) >;
Keusch, Gerald T (b)(6) ; Rich Roberts <(b) (6)
Subject: Re: Tweet by MinerFlux on Twitter

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

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

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Baylor University, University Professor

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(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

MORENS_SUBPOENA_017203
MORENS_NIH_035394
REL0000476809

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

---

From: David Morens <(b) (6) >
Sent: Wednesday, January 25, 2023 11:38 AM
To: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >
Cc: Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6) Jeffrey Sturchio <
_(b) (6) >; Aleksei Chmura (b) (6) g >;
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 (b) (6)
. Peter H, you could easily ID this person, but i do not want to do so, in part because i have limited personal experience with him/her and am merely relating opinions of colleagues i trust

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

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

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

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

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

MORENS_SUBPOENA_017204
MORENS_NIH_035395
REL0000476809

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 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
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---

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

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

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

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

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

From: 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 (b)(6) Rich Roberts <
(b) (6)
Subject: Tweet by Miner□Flux on Twitter



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

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iPhone

MORENS_SUBPOENA_017209
MORENS_NIH_035400
REL0000476809

Date: Sun, 7 Aug 2022 3:45:27 PM -0400
Sent: Sun, 7 Aug 2022 3:45:23 PM -0400
Subject: RE: Reporter request for comment
From: "Roberts, Rich" < (b) (6)
To: Hotez, Peter Jay < (b) (6)
CC: Peter Daszak < (b) (6) Aleksei Chmura < (b) (6) David Morens < (b) (6) Gerald T Keusch < (b) (6) Jeffrey Sturchio < (b) (6) >;

Awful. Alex Jones all over again

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

From: Hotez, Peter Jay < (b) (6)
Sent: Sunday, August 7, 2022 3:39 PM
To: Roberts, Rich <(b) (6)
Cc: Peter Daszak < (b) (6) Aleksei Chmura < (b) (6) David Morens < (b) (6) Gerald T Keusch <(b) (6) Jeffrey Sturchio < (b) (6)
Subject: Re: Reporter request for comment

EXTERNAL SENDER

https://www.science20.com/hank_campbell/us_right_to_know_queasy_links_to_antivax_conspiracy_groups_hint_at_their_bias_against_all_science-255764

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP
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Health Policy Scholar
Baylor College of Medicine

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Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development

University Professor, Baylor University

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

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Daily Beast Contributor https://www.thedailybeast.com/author/peter- j-hotez
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Phone: (b) (6)
Fax: 713-798-2299

iPhone

On Aug 7, 2022, at 2:32 PM, Roberts, Rich <(b) (6) wrote:

Peter:

They're never going to stop.

Rich

Richard J. Roberts
New England Biolabs
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USA
Tel (b) (6) (b) (6)
Fax: (978) 412 9910
email:(b) (6)

From: Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6)
Sent: Sunday, August 7, 2022 3:15 PM
To: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >; Aleksei Chmura (b) (6) >; David Morens <(b) (6) Gerald T Keusch (b)(6) ; Jeffrey Sturchio (b) (b) (6) >; Roberts, Rich <(b) (6)
Subject: Fwd: Reporter request for comment

EXTERNAL SENDER

Here's a new one

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

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

University Professor, Baylor University

Faculty Fellow, Hagler Institute for Advanced Study
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Daily Beast Contributor https://www.thedailybeast.com/author/peter- j-hotez
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Senior Coordinator / Executive Support: Douglas Soriano
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Fax: 713-798-2299

iPhone
Begin forwarded message:

From: Emily Kopp <(b) (6)
Date: August 7, 2022 at 1:32:42 PM CDT
To: "Hotez, Peter Jay" (b) (6) >
Subject: Reporter request for comment

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

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_009339
MORENS_NIH_019794
REL0000476812

Date: Tue, 1 Nov 2022 8:55:42 PM -0400
Sent: Tue, 1 Nov 2022 8:55:31 PM -0400
Subject: Re: Jeff Sachs moderated a Lancet Commission webinar on COVID-19 origins this morning
From: "Hotez, Peter Jay" < (b) (6)
To: Jeffrey Sturchio < (b) (6)
CC: Roberts, Rich < (b) (6) Keusch, Gerald T < (b) (6) Peter Daszak < (b) (6) Aleksei Chmura < (b) (6) David Morens < (b) (6)

Kopp fabricated a story against me in the anti GMO press insinuating I'm behind GOF research. It unleashed a slew of copycat articles in the far right press and a wave of threats online. It's among the more unethical things I've ever seen from someone who calls themself a journalist.

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

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iPhone

On Nov 1, 2022, at 7:32 PM, Jeffrey Sturchio < (b) (6) wrote:

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Rich: Your summary of my summary is right on point – that was exactly the vibe of Sachs's comments during the webinar. He let Ebright and Kopp spell out the crazier aspects of the lab leakers' viewpoint. Chan was more balanced than I expected her to be (although her summary clearly had a thumb on the scale).
Best regards,
Jeff

From: Roberts, Rich < (b) (6)
Sent: Tuesday, November 1, 2022 8:28 PM
To: Jeffrey Sturchio < (b) (6) Hotez, Peter Jay < (b) (6) Keusch, Gerald T < (b) (6) >; Peter Daszak < (b) (6) Aleksei Chmura < (b) (6) David Morens < (b) (6) >
Subject: RE: Jeff Sachs moderated a Lancet Commission webinar on COVID-19 origins this morning

Jeff:

Great summary, but nothing really new as all the presenters had well-known views. My only comment is that Sachs recently seems to be a little less adamant that it was a lab leak and just now relies on innuendo.

Rich

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

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

From: Jeffrey Sturchio (b) (6) >
Sent: Tuesday, November 1, 2022 8:15 PM
To: Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6) Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6) Peter Daszak < (b) (6) >; Aleksei Chmura < (b) (6) >; Roberts, Rich (b) (6) >; David Morens <(b) (6) >
Subject: Jeff Sachs moderated a Lancet Commission webinar on COVID-19 origins this morning
Importance: High

EXTERNAL SENDER

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

Sachs served as moderator. His introduction was fairly mundane. His basic premise was that there are two "absolutely viable" hypotheses for the origin of COVID-19 – either zoonotic or due to a lab leak. (Note that the language he uses – "absolutely viable" – obscures the fact that the evidence differs significantly for each of the two hypotheses. But this was a bias that ran

through all of the presentations.) He then argued that we need to follow both lines of inquiry equally, to have a proper understanding of both possibilities. He alluded to the bimodal distribution of most discussion of these questions – with "mainstream media" coming down on natural origins, and "alternate media" arguing for laboratory origins (including in this Senator Burr's Senate Minority Report). He then turned to two "leading scientists" and a "leading reporter" for further perspectives.

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

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

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

Natural origins
- Earliest cases handled live animals?
- Were there infected animals in markets or farms?
- Were there animal variants of the virus?
- Was there antibody evidence of infected animals or traders (not presenting with pneumonia)?
- Was there a strong wildlife conduit between known bat reservoirs and the outbreak site?

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

She reviewed five categories of evidence:

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

2. USAID databases from PREDICT.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Hope this is helpful.

As ever,
Jeff

MORENS_SUBPOENA_003339
MORENS_NIH_009889
REL0000476817

Date: Sun, 9 Jun 2024 11:16:59 PM -0400
Sent: Sun, 9 Jun 2024 11:15:47 PM -0400
Subject: RE: The Ox-Bow Incident (novel) - Wikipedia
From: Peter Daszak < (b) (6)
To: David Morens < (b) (6) Keusch, Gerald T < (b) (6) Roberts, Rich < (b) (6) Jeffrey Sturchio <(b) (6) peter hotez < (b) (6) Aleksei Chmura < (b) (6)

Don't know why the link didn't work, but here is one that does work for me…

I would add it to my summer reading list, but right now I've got Kafka's "The Trial", then Vols 1,2 & 3 of the Gulag Archipelago – I reckon that'll keep me busy till ski season starts again…

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

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

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

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

From: David Morens <(b) (6)
Sent: Sunday, June 9, 2024 7:51 PM
To: Peter Daszak (b) (6) >; Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6) >; Roberts, Rich <(b) (6) >; Jeffrey Sturchio (b) (6) >; peter hotez <(b) (6) Aleksei Chmura (b) (6)
Subject: The Ox-Bow Incident (novel) - Wikipedia

in csde anyone is c interedted, the classic novel on self righteous vigilante justice, in which people are convincted without fair trial. Made into a great move in the 1940s. You could consider it a prequel to the McCarthy era,in which the shit really hit then fan. b98ut this is a ge a t aND PESCIENT Ametocan novel that anti c iPad wherewe a
e now. It
was required reading when I was a kid.

https://en.wikipediia.iorg/wiki/The_Ox- nBow_Incident_(novel)
I
From the cell phone of David Morens

Date: Fri, 3 May 2024 5:26:17 PM -0400
Sent: Fri, 3 May 2024 5:26:11 PM -0400
Subject: RE: Post by Prof Peter Hotez MD PhD on X
From: Keusch, Gerald < (b) (6)
To: Jeffrey Sturchio <(b) (6) Hotez, Peter Jay < (b) (6)
CC: Peter Daszak < (b) (6) >; Roberts, Rich < (b) (6) >; Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) >; Keith Martin < (b) (6) >; David Morens <(b) (6) >;

And maybe all the more reason we should try to get to the democratic members through our congressional representatives.

Jerry

From: Jeffrey Sturchio < (b) (6)
Sent: Friday, May 3, 2024 4:35 PM
To: Hotez, Peter Jay < (b) (6)
Cc: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >; Roberts, Rich < (b) (6) Aleksei Chmura < (b) (6) Keusch, Gerald < (b) (6) Keith Martin < (b) (6) David Morens < (b) (6)
Subject: RE: Post by Prof Peter Hotez MD PhD on X

That's encouraging!

As ever,
Jeff

From: Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6)
Sent: Friday, May 3, 2024 4:04 PM
To: Jeffrey Sturchio (b) (6)
Cc: Peter Daszak (b)(6) ; Roberts, Rich <(b) (6) Aleksei Chmura < (b) (6) >; Gerald Keusch (b) (6) >; Keith Martin(b) (6) David Morens < (b) (6) >
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)

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

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

On May 3, 2024, at 1:52 PM, Jeffrey Sturchio (b) (6) > wrote:

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All:

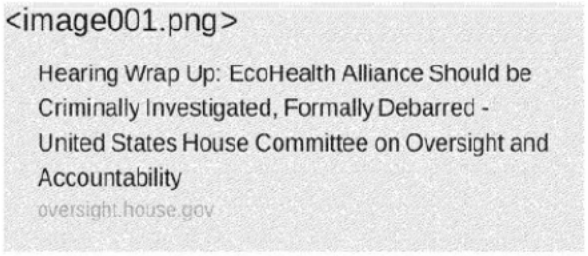
This is just Wenstrup and the Rs spiking the ball after a hearing in which they refused to let Peter answer the questions posed to him. All of the alleged "evidence" of EHA's supposed transgressions is based on misrepresentation and selective citation of the documentary evidence and false assumptions about the science involved (e.g., since when does a Republican Congresswoman with an MBA and no scientific training get to decide what the definition of gain-of-function research should be?). The only people showing contempt for the American people on Wednesday were the members of Congress and staff who used this hearing as a vehicle to propagate a malicious political narrative that falsely and unfairly blamed Peter Daszak and EHA for research that never happened and outcomes that are chimerical figments of their imagination.

As ever,
Jeff

From: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >
Sent: Friday, May 3, 2024 1:12 PM
To: Roberts, Rich (b) (6)
Cc: Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6) Aleksei Chmura (b) (6) >; Jeffrey Sturchio <
(>; Gerald Keusch (b) (6) ; Keith Martin <(b) (6) David Morens <
(b) (6)
Subject: Re: Post by Prof Peter Hotez MD PhD on X

This is the most awful piece I've seen yet - they say:

" The Select Subcommittee will take further steps to address Dr. Daszak's contempt for the American people."



I am very worried for my future and the future of EcoHealth alliance right now. At best this will drive continued hate and death threats… at worst…

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak

President
EcoHealth Alliance

520 8th Avenue, New York, NY10018-6507, USA

www.EcoHealthAlliance.org

On May 2, 2024, at 10:00 AM, Roberts, Rich (b)(6) > wrote:

Excellent article!

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

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

From: Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6)
Sent: Thursday, May 2, 2024 6:59 AM
To: Peter Daszak (b) (6) >; Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) >; Jeffrey Sturchio (b) (6) Roberts, Rich (b) (6) >; Gerald Keusch (b) (6) u>; Keith Martin (b) (6) >; David Morens (b) (6) >
Subject: Post by Prof Peter Hotez MD PhD on X

EXTERNAL SENDER



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

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

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

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

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

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

Media Inquiries:
(b) (6)

iPhone

Date: Fri, 21 Jul 2023 1:39:21 PM -0400
Sent: Fri, 21 Jul 2023 1:37:59 PM -0400
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Fwd: Fauci, Birx, Francis Collins, Baric, Azar, Daszak, Bourla, Bancel, Jha, Njoo, Theresa Tam, Walensky, Doug Ford, Williams, Kieran, Marks, de Villa, Jüni, Hotez, Tedros, CDC, FDA officials, HANG high!
From: David Morens (b)(6)
To: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b)(6)

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

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

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

--------- Forwarded message ---------
From: David Morens (b)(6)
Date: Fri, Jul 21, 2023 at 1:00 PM
Subject: Fwd: Fauci, Birx, Francis Collins, Baric, Azar, Daszak, Bourla, Bancel, Jha, Njoo, Theresa Tam, Walensky, Doug Ford, Williams, Kieran, Marks, de Villa, Jüni, Hotez, Tedros, CDC, FDA officials, HANG high!
To: David Morens (b)(6)

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

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

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

--------- Forwarded message ---------
From: Keusch, Gerald T (b)(6)
Date: Tue, Dec 27, 2022 at 6:25 PM
Subject: RE: Fauci, Birx, Francis Collins, Baric, Azar, Daszak,

Bourla, Bancel, Jha, Njoo, Theresa Tam, Walensky, Doug Ford, Williams, Kieran, Marks, de Villa, Jüni, Hotez, Tedros, CDC, FDA officials, HANG high!
To: Hotez, Peter Jay (b)(6) Peter Daszak (b)(6) Aleksei Chmura (b)(6) David Morens (b)(6) Jeffrey Sturchio (b)(6) Rich Roberts (b)(6)

Its an insane diatribe. I first wondered what in the world was going on at McMaster but then I found on the web that he had an unpaid part-time position there – seems like they got what they paid for. I also found a link to a letter from Jim Clyburn to him in April last year asking him to testify before the House Select Committee

(https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fcoronavirus.house.gov%2Fsites%2Fdemocrats.04-08.Clyburn%2520to%2520Alexander%2520re%2520COVID%2520Response%2520.pdf&data=05%7C01%7Cdmorens%40niaid.nih.gov%7Cf28037c58d304641f6c908db8a1154df%7C14b77578977342d585&sdata=kvI1D0t1VHFNHZYJjZ6QpYlZuwt8RnxFkniilZEWxwY%3D &reserved=0).
I gather he never showed up.

Who is he networked with? The incoming far out Republican right?

Jerry

From: Hotez, Peter Jay (b)(6)
Sent: Tuesday, December 27, 2022 2:16 PM
To: Peter Daszak (b)(6) >; Aleksei Chmura (b)(6) ; David Morens (b)(6) Keusch, Gerald T (b)(6) Jeffrey Sturchio (b)(6) Rich Roberts (b)(6)
Subject: Fauci, Birx, Francis Collins, Baric, Azar, Daszak, Bourla, Bancel, Jha, Njoo, Theresa Tam, Walensky, Doug Ford, Williams, Kieran, Marks, de Villa, Jüni, Hotez, Tedros, CDC, FDA officials, HANG high!

https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fpalexander.substack.com%2Fp%2Ffauci-birx-francis-collins-azar-bourla&data=05%7C01%7Cdmorens%40niaid.nih.gov%7Cf28037c58d304641f6c908db8a1154df%7C14b77578977342d585&sdata=nd7EPTK2VBE5ttBfuTEZq6JclO8XEWPWjSV7RKxUjjM%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)

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Senior Coordinator & Executive Support: Douglas Soriano

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Media Inquiries:

(b) (6)

(b) (6)

(b)(6)

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

Date: Tue, 26 Apr 2022 9:29:41 AM -0400
Sent: Tue, 26 Apr 2022 9:28:22 AM -0400
Subject: RE: Investigation of Peter Daszak
From: Peter Daszak < (b) (6)
To: Keusch, Gerald T < (b) (6) Roberts, Rich < (b) (6) Hotez, Peter Jay < (b) (6) David Morens < (b) (6)
CC: Aleksei Chmura < (b) (6)
Attachments: Dr. Daszak response to NAM letter of April 11th 2022.pdf

I really appreciate your email to Victor Jerry.

Since this is all in the public domain, I've attached the response I sent to NAM on Friday re. their decision to do a full investigation of some of these allegations against me and EcoHealth. It's much weaker and wimpier than I'd like, but just as with the NIH situation, I'm in no position to fight back since my future is entirely in the hands of a small group behind closed doors.

I'm extremely worried that Victor doesn't have the mettle to stand up to this political pressure. I believe he's just hoping that he can walk the line of least resistance between the political attacks – which are coordinated and relentless – and any protests from scientists (which haven't really begun re. this issue). My worry is that this cold calculation means he's going to do his utmost to protect NAM against receiving direct criticism from politicians on the right should they not provide them with a pound of flesh, and this means throwing me and EcoHealth under the bus. This is likely the same calculation made by Collins, Tabak and Lauer at NIH, who stated publicly that EcoHealth has a long history of lack of compliance, despite us providing documentary evidence that this is false.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

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

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

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

From: Keusch, Gerald T (b) (6) >
Sent: Monday, April 25, 2022 11:08 PM
To: Roberts, Rich <(b) (6) >; Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >; Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6)
Subject: RE: Investigation of Peter Daszak

Threaten Victor with a public outcry from the NLs if he fails to act now and cut this investigation off? That's what I intended in the last line of my note to him. I think many others would be willing to speak up. I'll be interested to see what my two colleagues and friends - both NAM members who joined me in a call to Victor when this first came up – have to say.

I'll keep you all posted.

Jerry

MORENS_SUBPOENA_000446
MORENS_NIH_004177
REL0000476835

From: Roberts, Rich (b) (6)
Sent: Monday, April 25, 2022 10:12 PM
To: Keusch, Gerald T (b) (6) Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >; Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6) >
Subject: RE: Investigation of Peter Daszak

Jerry:

I'm not sure what the NLs can do at this time that could lead to useful action. I'll give this some thought and discuss with Peter on Thursday when we will meet in NYC.

Rich

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

From: Keusch, Gerald T (b) (6)
Sent: Monday, April 25, 2022 9:38 PM
To: Peter Daszak < (b) (6) Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6) >; Roberts, Rich (b) (6)
Subject: FW: Investigation of Peter Daszak

EXTERNAL SENDER

I sent the note below to Victor, now that the internal investigation at NAM is in the public domain.
Rich, it is time to mobilize the Nobel laureates. This is going too far and there must be pressure, all the pressure possible from the scientific community, and applied to Victor and NAM to stop it now.

Jerry

From: Keusch, Gerald T
Sent: Monday, April 25, 2022 9:35 PM
To: Victor J Dzau ((b) (6)
Cc: Vermund, Sten (b) (6)
Subject: Investigation of Peter Daszak

Dear Victor,

I am surprised to see the Republican members of the House Energy and Commerce Committee providing information to Fox News about supposedly confidential procedures at NAM. They of course are repeating the baseless accusations we discussed previously, but there is the uncomfortable reality that when lies are repeated time after time people begin to believe them. But now this is in the public domain. NAM no longer has the luxury of working through this in protected space. You are in the spotlight, and like it or not you and the Academy are being dragged into this dreadful episode in the history of science.

I would hope NAM has the courage to stop this in its tracks by issuing a brief memo to them saying the initial investigation has revealed no violation by Peter Daszak of the code of conduct and their request is denied. Period. The stakes are high, certainly for Peter and his career and his organization which has generated so much critical science for the past 20 years. But beyond Peter it is the very integrity of science and the stewardship of science and separation of politics away from science that is so threatened by these accusations.

I am convinced there will be an uproar at NAM if there is any adverse judgement passed on Peter and his integrity. Please stop it in its tracks while you can.

Jerry

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MORENS_NIH_004178
REL0000476835

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Date: Fri, 3 Mar 2023 9:51:51 AM -0500
Sent: Fri, 3 Mar 2023 9:51:33 AM -0500
Subject: RE: Denounce, deny, deceive/The manipulation playbook of anti-science actors https://bit.ly/3mj0Rjk
From: Jeffrey Sturchio < (b) (6)
To: David Morens <(b) (6) Gerald Keusch <(b) (6) Peter Daszak < (b) (6) Rich Roberts < (b) (6) Peter Hotez < (b) (6) Aleksei Chmura < (b) (6)
Attachments: image001.jpg; image002.jpg; image003.jpg; image004.jpg; image005.jpg; image006.png; image007.jpg; image008.png; image009.png; image010.jpg; image011.jpg; image012.jpg; image013.jpg; image014.jpg; image015.jpg; image016.png; image017.jpg; image018.png; image019.png

David: Thanks for sharing this – it's terrific!

JLS

From: David Morens < (b) (6)
Sent: Thursday, March 2, 2023 9:36 PM
To: Gerald Keusch < (b) (6) Peter Daszak < (b) (6) Rich Roberts < (b) (6) Peter Hotez < (b) (6) Jeff Sturchio < (b) (6) Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) >
Subject: Fwd: Denounce, deny, deceive/The manipulation playbook of anti-science actors https://bit.ly/3mj0Rjk

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

From: "Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E]" < (b)(6)
Date: March 2, 2023 at 21:34:04 EST
To: David Morens < (b) (6)
Subject: Fwd: Denounce, deny, deceive/The manipulation playbook of anti-science actors https://bit.ly/3mj0Rjk

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

From: "Folkers, Greg (NIH/NIAID) [C]" <(b) (6) >
Date: March 2, 2023 at 15:41:34 EST
Subject: Denounce, deny, deceive/The manipulation playbook of anti-science actors https://bit.ly/3mj0Rjk

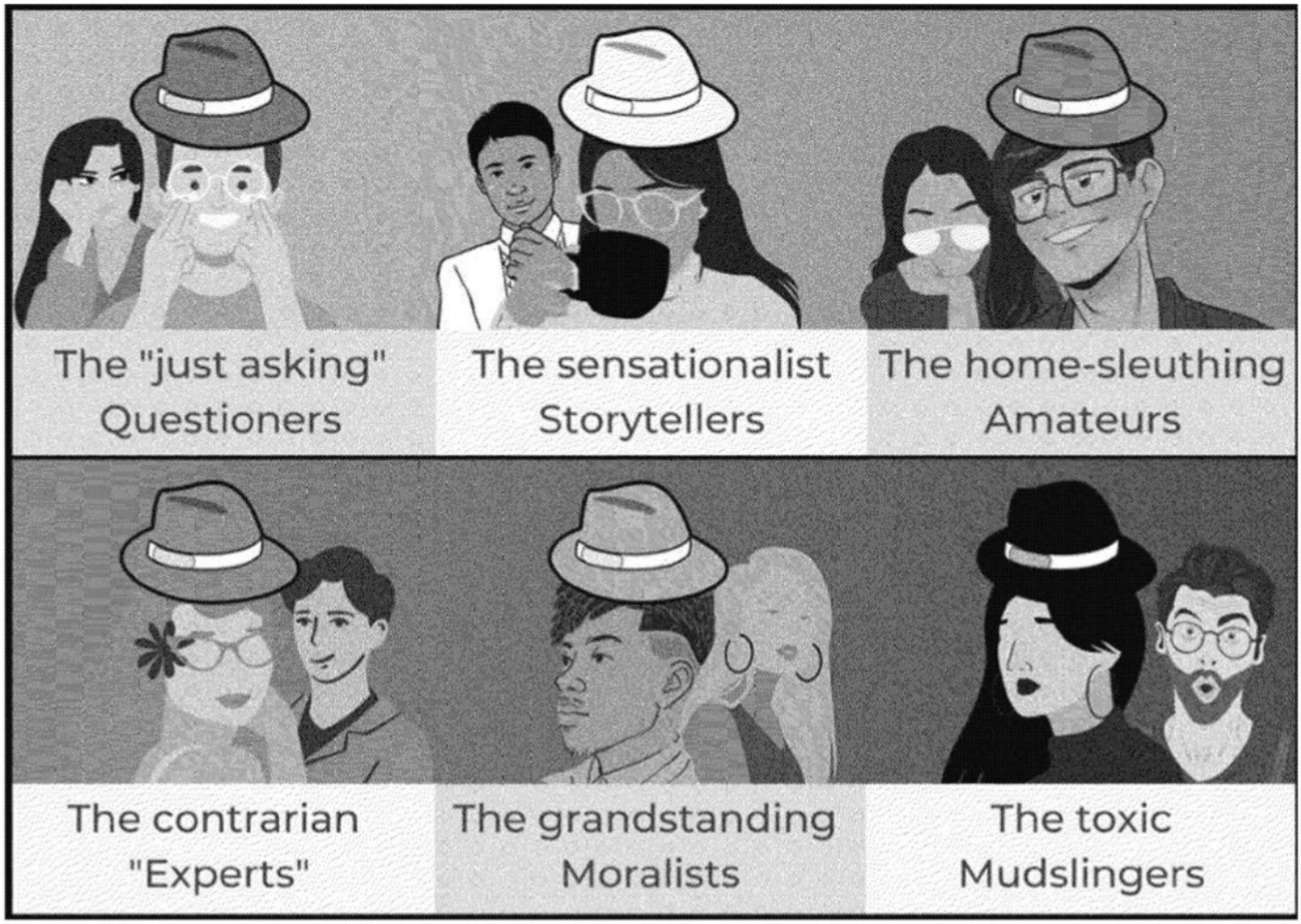
Denounce, deny, deceive

The manipulation playbook of anti-science actors



Philipp Markolin, PhD
Mar 1

MORENS_SUBPOENA_003853
MORENS_NIH_010779
REL0000476838



Background:

"The only thing the COVID vaccinations stop is the heart"

… outrageous lies catch eyeballs. That is what they are designed to do. While sometimes shocking in their maliciousness, it is no secret that the internet is rife with many such anti-science falsehoods.

Quacks, fake experts, influencers, political commentators, trolls, gurus, charlatans, contrarians, pundits and other **media manipulators** currently dominate the public discourse on a range of medical and scientific topics.

Manipulators build small digital fiefdoms where the most outrageous or popular, not the most correct, get to shape the particular flavor of alternative reality. Manipulators also reap in windfall profits from leveraging algorithmically created echo chambers and filter bubbles.

From anti-vaxxers to lableak truthers, from climate contrarians to AIDS deniers, supplement grifters, and alternative medicine charlatans, each parallel universe comes with its little niche rituals, idiosyncratic fallacies, and historical trajectory. They are all part of the current **fragmentation of reality perceptions** and **epistemic crisis** plaguing society.

However, what all these fragmented groups have in common is a shared animosity towards "mainstream" science (read: *evidence-based science that happens to go against their particular belief or worldview)*. This is no accident. To sustain their often mighty profits or influence, most **media manipulators** need to subvert science, or at least the public's understanding of it.

Yet science is held in high regard by a majority of the population, and directly attacking it is unpopular at best. Nobody comes out advocating openly to become a science denier, nor would they accept such a label. *So how do media manipulators go about discrediting inconvenient scientific knowledge? And why are their alternative explanations so appealing to us?*

In this article, I have curated some **common tactics** anti-science actors use **to manipulate discourse, sow doubt, foster distrust** in institutions, **and attack** any **unwelcome scientific finding**, be it about climate change, vaccination, evidence-based medicine, public health interventions, or one of my pet peeves, the origins of SARS-CoV-2.

Let's see how many you have encountered before.

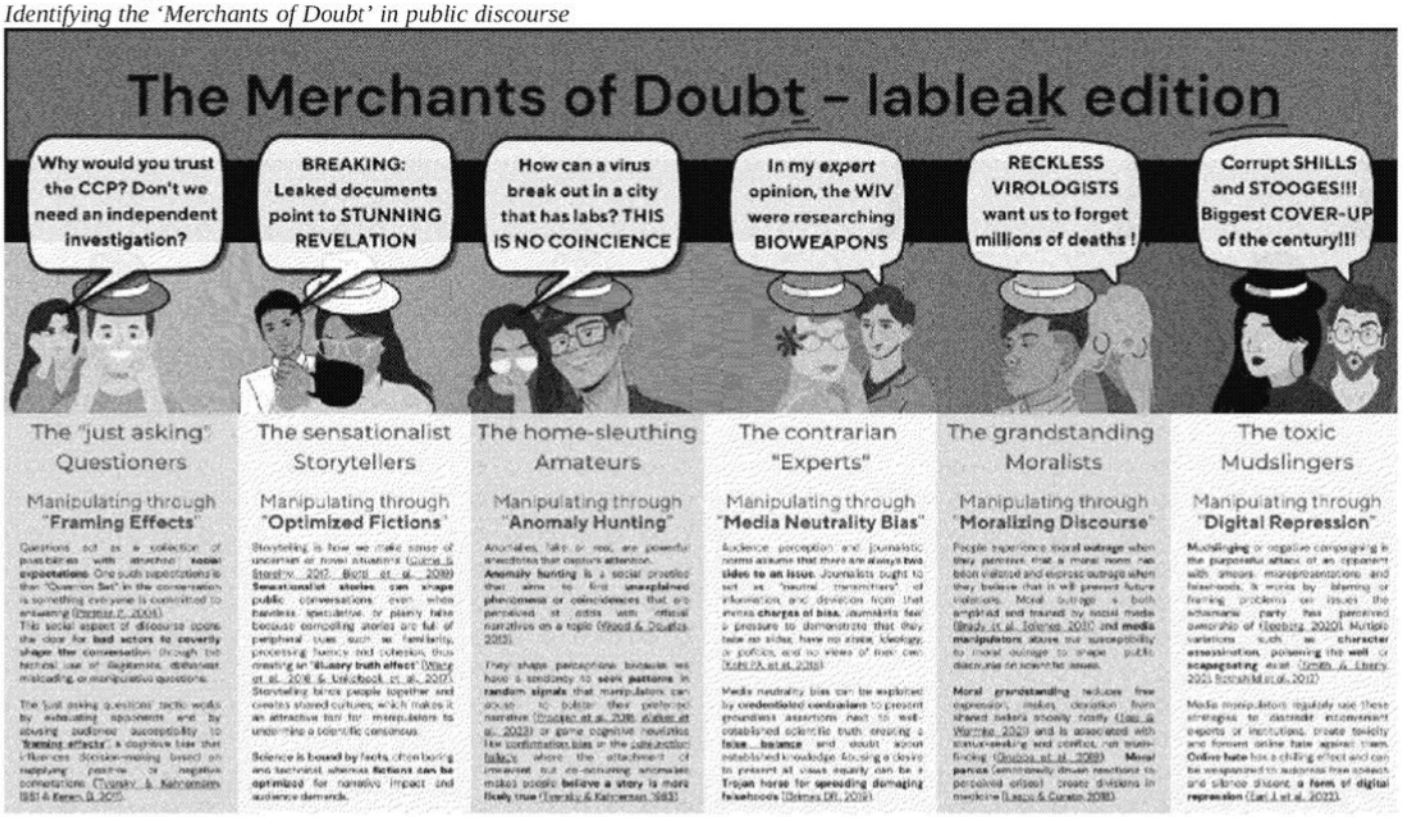
If you want to follow my work, you can subscribe for free. I post irregularly a few times a year and only about

MORENS_SUBPOENA_003854
MORENS_NIH_010780
REL0000476838

things that are worth your time. Attention is a critical good in today's information age, let's try to respect it.

The archetypes

Identifying the 'Merchants of Doubt' in public discourse



6 common tactics of media manipulators and why they work to shape or sabotage public discourse on medical and scientific issues.

"**The discourse holds so many traps for the unwary. It's a bit like financial scams and gambling that are a tax on the financially naïve. A similar tax is being levied on the intellectually naïve.**"—*Prof. Matthew Browne* from Decoding the Gurus *podcast* (personal communication)

1) The "just-asking" Questioners



Questions, just like statements, can trigger all sorts of cognitive biases.

In any discourse, questions act as a collection of possibilities with **attached social expectations,** such as that the "question set" in the conversation is **something *everyone* is committed to answering**. (Portner, P. *Semantics*, 2004)

MORENS_SUBPOENA_003855
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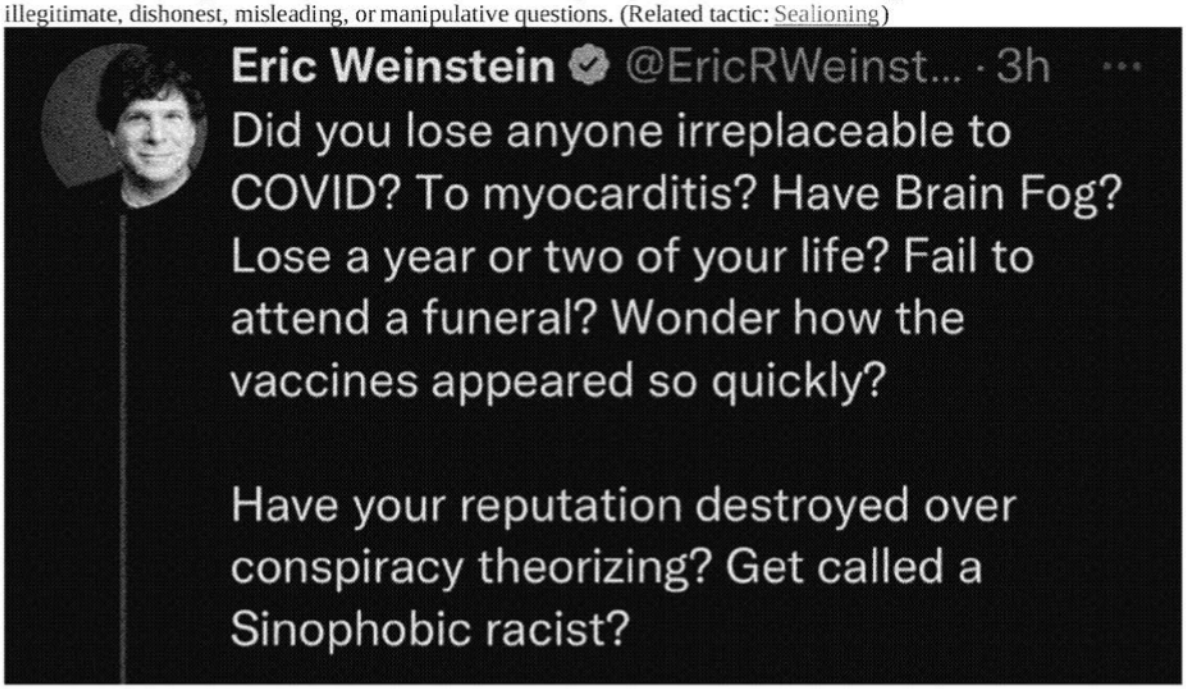
This social feature opens the door for bad actors to **covertly shape the conversation** through the **tactical use** of illegitimate, dishonest, misleading, or manipulative questions. (Related tactic: Sealioning)



Conspiracy myth "entrepreneurs" love to ask suggestive questions to reap attention and shape public discussion. (Credit: Matthew Browne)

Psychologically, the '*just asking question*' and '*sealioning*' tactics work by exhausting the opponent and abusing the audience's susceptibility to "framing effects". Framing influences subconscious decision-making based on **supplying positive or negative connotations**. (Tversky & Kahnemann, *Science*, 1981 & Keren, G. *Perspectives on framing*. Psychology Press, 2011)

The sneaky part is that manipulative **framing effects** even persist when people are asked to think deeper about the problem or justify their reasoning. (LeBoeuf et al., *Behavioral Decision Making*, 2003)

In theory, questions are there to help us solicit information we don't know

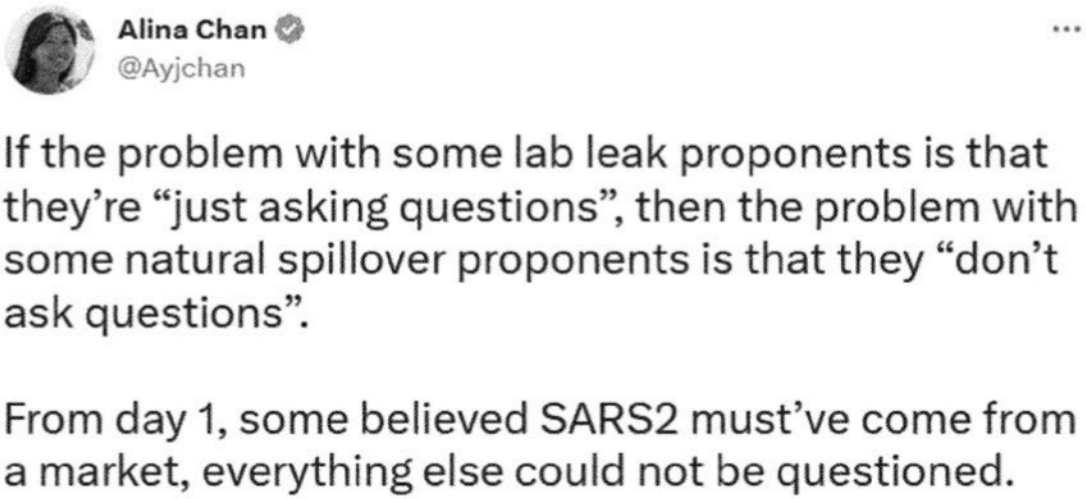
In reality, though, what we ask has an impact on how a conversation goes about. Good questions lead us down the right path, towards the truth or some other goal we have (The decision lab, 2021).

Bad questions lead us astray, and malicious actors can weaponize them to shape a conversation in a way that only benefits them.—The decision lab, 2021

When confronted, however, manipulators simply resort to saying that they are just "asking questions" because they want to find out the truth. (*They usually lament how "people can't just ask questions anymore."*)

Almost without exception, people "just asking questions" have made up their minds. They just do not want to say the quiet part out loud.

A quick "just asking questions" case study:



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Lableak influencer Dr. Chan has made a name for herself on social media by "just asking" questions while pushing a sensationalist lableak book with a climate change contrarian and AIDS conspiracist.
Public discussions around the scientific evidence for a zoonotic origin of Covid get intentionally derailed by constant repetition of variations of the following questions:
1) How can scientists discard a lableak without any investigation?
2) How do we know that Chinese scientists aren't lying about everything?
3) Why would anybody be against getting to the bottom of this?
Why do these questions work? For starters, notice that all three **frame things in a very negative light**. *They paint the picture that we have no idea what is going on, that we are completely in the dark scientifically, or worse, that we have been lied to by both scientists and untrustworthy adversaries, that something untoward has happened and is being covered up.*
This, of course, is largely misrepresenting reality and ignores that:

- there is a large body of scientific evidence pointing towards zoonosis created by hundreds of scientists which makes any research-related origin scientifically implausible (*albeit not impossible, hard to prove something did not happen*). This is an emerging consensus among domain experts (Holmes et al., *Cell*, 2021, Jiang & Wang, *Science*, 2022, Keusch et al, *PNAS*, 2022, Goodrum F et al., *Virology*, 2023)
- there were multiple occasions where a team of independent investigators went to ask questions; first a 'rapid response' by the WHO-China joint mission involving independent scientists from the international community in early 2020, same for another specific WHO origins investigation in 2021 assessing any lableak scenario as "*extremely unlikely*", a US intelligence agencies investigation, as well as a currently ongoing SAGO mission which keeps tabs on the body of origin literature. All failed to turn up any evidence of a lab leak but plenty of evidence of zoonotic spillover.
- Trust has been an issue throughout. However, many critical findings by Chinese scientists have been independently corroborated, were undertaken with global collaborators, and are consistent with published literature

More maliciously (*and manipulatively*), the above questions also **mislead audiences by creating an implicit false dichotomy**: *Either you want (yet another) investigation, or you must be against getting to the bottom of this issue.*

- This ignores the possibility that another investigation into the lableak theory might actually not be required to clarify this issue scientifically (*see consensus above*)
- It obfuscates the political costs that unreasonable grandstanding will bring. For example, focusing resources and political capital on improbable lab-based routes might prevent other, more pertinent avenues (e.g wildlife routes, farms, smugglers) from being explored instead
- It pays no attention to the reality of Chinese geopolitics and also the corollaries of implicitly blaming Chinese scientists. Baseless blame sows more distrust and sabotages international scientific collaboration and data sharing on multiple levels for present and future pandemic prevention efforts
- The false dichotomy also ignores the fact that it is highly unlikely that any *post-mortem* investigation of Chinese labs 3 years after the outbreak can even find anything relevant

So there are **good reasons to be skeptical about the cost:benefit** of unenforcible and empty demands for another investigation.
No scientist will ever object to getting more data, the question is how to go about it.
Depolarization and collaboration might be a more fruitful strategy after years of ineffective blame games, political grandstanding, and stagnation. The proper framing should be: *Do you want more of the same, or try something other than grandstanding?*
Finally, and perhaps most importantly, the above questions are not asked in earnest but repeated constantly to distract from the scientific evidence we do have, and are fundamentally incurious about the answers given.
That's the point. Many manipulators use these questions to try to deny or de-legitimize any scientific consensus on the origin issue because it serves their financial, social, or political interests (*as the witch hunts in US congress will show this year, but that's another story*).
Alright, let's move on.

2) The compelling Storytellers

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The sensationalist Storytellers

It would seem that mythological worlds would have been built up only to be shattered again, and that new worlds were built from the fragments. —Lévi-Strauss

We humans are a story-telling species. Stories help us navigate life by reducing the complexity of the natural and social world and maintaining social bonds or group-level cooperation. Storytelling represents a key element in the creation and propagation of culture, it is how we *make sense* of non-routine, uncertain, or novel situations (Currie & Sterelny, 2017, Bietti et al., *Topics in Cog Sci.*, 2019)

Sensationalist, intriguing, emotional, or outrageous stories can shape public conversations, even when they are baseless, speculative, or plainly false. This is because our judgment of truth draws mostly on personal experience, memory, and feelings, not analytical processing (Brashier & Marsch, Annual Review of Psychology, 2020).

Stories as sense-making devices are full of peripheral cues such as familiarity, processing fluency, and cohesion which create an "**illusory truth effect**" (Wang et al., *J. Cognit. Neurosci.* 2016 & Unkelback et al., *Cognition*, 2017)

For a very long time, this power of storytelling has been used by leaders, powerholders, and manipulators alike to further their goals.

Storytelling can be seen as a transaction in which the benefit to the listener is information about his or her environment, and the benefit to the storyteller is the elicitation of behavior from the listener that serves the former's interests—Sugiyama MS, *Human Nature*, 1996

In our current broken information ecosystems, **media manipulators** are interested in creating and selling engaging stories for their bottom line, and this helps the spread of sensationalist news, juicy gossip, outrageous lies, and conspiracy myths.

Even worse, science suffers a dramatic disadvantage when it comes to storytelling because it is **bound by fact**. It is also often nuanced, jargoned, and hard to explain to non-experts. Not a good combo for an asymmetric social media landscape that prefers quick, short, overconfident, and eyeballs-catching content. Content that tells us what we want to hear, not what is necessarily accurate or true.

Facts can not be optimized for **audience engagement, but fictions can.**

A compelling fiction spreads way better on social media than a frustrating truth.

A case study:

What to make of the "*Ivermectin against Covid*" debacle, or for some "*the cure they don't want you to know about*"? Miracle cures are an idea almost as old as the spoken word, and stories about them hold the promise to fulfill many psychological needs that science can hardly compete with.

Let's do a quick narrative comparison:

- **(Truth)** Scientific studies show with high confidence that Ivermectin has no plausible mechanism against Covid-19 and no efficacy when it comes to Covid-19 prevention, disease trajectory, or death rate.
- **(Fiction)** Ivermectin is a safe and effective miracle cure against Covid-19 and pharmaceutical companies try to throttle its use to maintain their profits (*or other secret agendas like pushing vaccines*)

Why is the (true) narrative a much worse story than the wishful falsehood?

We already mentioned that stories are how we make sense of our world and environment. Because of the high uncertainty stemming from the pandemic, together with real experiences of often arbitrary death, illness, and recovery, we all were put into a position of powerlessness.

In that position, when science has few or no easy solutions on offer (yet), many people might turn to alternative sources for information to '*figure this thing out*'. Anecdotes of vitamins, supplements, and rituals that helped against Covid started filling up the internet. Maybe there is hope? In this position, taking a supposed 'miracle' cure and doing something is psychologically way more salient than doing nothing, it gives people a feeling of control

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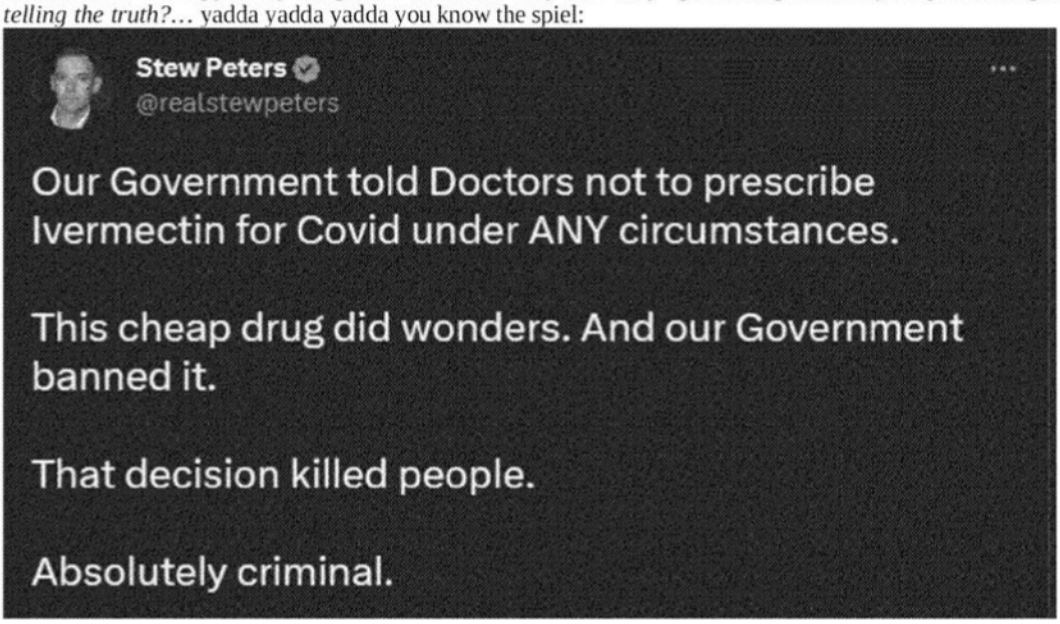
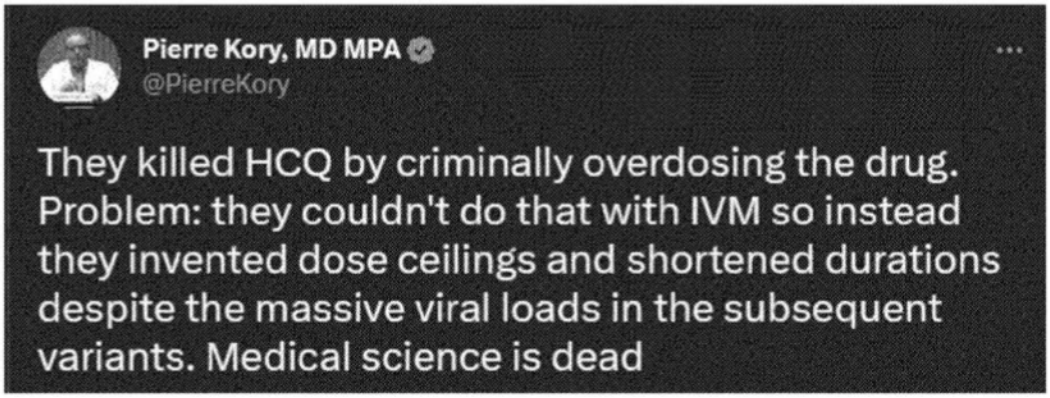
back.
Among the anecdotes comes a very powerful one: Ivermectin, an old drug that is super safe, cheap, and widely used, shows some efficacy against Covid in cell culture experiments. Also, some epidemiological studies in developing countries seemingly find a health signal with Ivermectin. Multiple clinical trials are announced all over the world. Albeit the biological mechanism of Ivermectin is understood and has nothing to do with anti-viral mechanisms, it is brought in connection with some viral proteins with shaky in silico binding studies. This, together with poorly performed and (in a few cases) fraudulent small clinical trials eventually create enough buzz and superficial plausibility for the Ivermectin story to break through and become mainstream.
This mainstream attention brings Ivermectin in conflict with science and public health authorities, who rightfully have to caution people, warn about side effects and false promises, and with it, shoot down hopes of regaining control, of salvation.
Many people can not stomach hearing it. And this is where the storytellers come in to fill that gap. *Maybe there is a sinister reason why the 'authorities' would be against the miracle cure? Don't we all know corruption between "big pharma" and the government is a thing? Did you see the horse-paste smear campaigns against Ivermectin from the government? I know so many people that took Ivermectin and never got Covid! Did you know Ivermectin has no patent protection anymore? Pharma can not make money with it, that's why they don't want it. Wasn't Pfizer working on an Ivermectin clone [no!] to sell us for high prizes so they turn a profit? Also, they hate Ivermectin because it would cut into their vaccine profits. Isn't Ivermectin a safe alternative to the supposedly dangerous vaccines? Why are "they" preventing doctors from prescribing it and telling the truth?…* yadda yadda yadda you know the spiel:





I think it comes down to a fear of the disease, as well as distrust of the medical profession, with magical thinking sprinkled on top.—*David Gorski, Science-Based Medicine*
Stories bind people together, they create shared cultures. Believing in certain miracle cures may become a type of "social glue" that connects people who hold similar beliefs to one another. That is the power of story. Evidence be dammed.
Even I have acquaintances who took Ivermectin when they got Covid. While they both were vaccinated and young,

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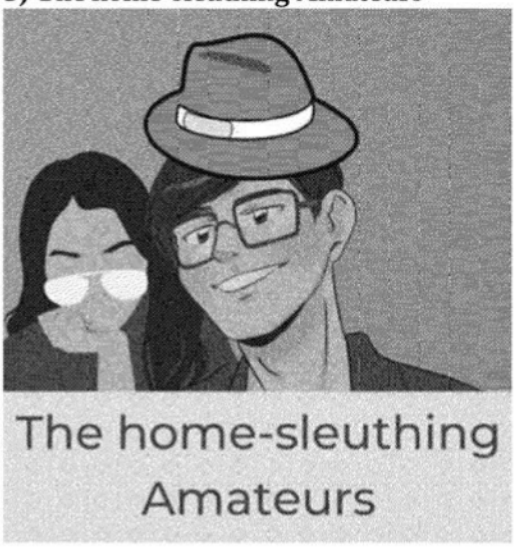
they believed that actually, the Ivermectin they took was the reason why they only had mild disease. (*I had mild disease without any Ivermectin or other supplements, just vaccination btw*)
Personal experiences or exceptional anecdotes of surprising recovery or unexpected death always make for good stories.
This brings us to the next point:

3) The home-sleuthing Amateurs



Our connected information age has made sleuthing on the internet both easy and ubiquitous. No matter what popular topic, there is always a set of sleuths willing to invest inordinate amounts of time to "do their own research" and uncover nuggets of information that they perceive as new, odd, surprising, counterintuitive, or confusing.
Within this sleuthing, **"Anomaly hunting"** is a social practice that seeks to **find unexplained phenomena or coincidences** that seem at odds with official narratives on a topic. Anomaly hunting has been traditionally associated with paranormal beliefs (Prieke et al., Thinking & Reasoning, 2020), yet some behavioral psychologists have argued that it is also a manifestation of how conspiracy theorists structure their worldviews. (Wood & Douglas, *Frontiers in Psychology*, 2013)
They imagine that if they can find (broadly defined) anomalies in that data that would point to another phenomenon at work. They then commit a pair of logical fallacies. First, they confuse unexplained with unexplainable. This leads them to prematurely declare something a true anomaly, without first exhaustively trying to explain it with conventional means. Second they use the argument from ignorance, saying that because we cannot explain an anomaly that means their specific pet theory must be true. I don't know what that fuzzy object in the sky is—therefore it is an alien spacecraft (Novella, 2009).
Conspiracism is rooted in several higher-order beliefs such as an abiding mistrust of authority, the conviction that nothing is quite as it seems, and the belief that most of what we are told is a lie. **Conspiracy theorists seek and prize anomalies** that seem to conflict with the official version of events (Keeley B., *The journal of Philosophy*, 1999)
Conspiracy theorists reject standard sources of information about the events which interest them, and have exaggerated trust both in their own perceptiveness, and in anomalous pieces of evidence—*(Hawley K, Philos Stud, 2019)*
Pair this overconfidence in their own abilities with a tendency to display hypersensitive agency detection (Douglas et al., 2016) and increased illusory pattern perception (van Prooijen et al., 2018), and it becomes quite clear why **"anomaly hunting"** has become a widespread social activity in conspiratorial circles.
On top of that, conspiratorial thinkers tend to show poor analytical thinking skills (Swami et al., 2014) and have a tendency to jump to conclusions (Pytlik, 2020).

What is the impact of anomaly hunting on the discourse?

Anomalies, fake or real, are powerful tools for manipulators because they play into conspiratorial tendencies. Unexplained anomalies and coincidences can be used to create doubt about the 'official' story, or build fallacious arguments from incredulity to delegitimize mainstream science.
Because humans have a tendency to seek patterns in random signals, manipulators and BS artists can abuse select anomalies to create an **illusion of meaningfulness** in their audience and bolster their preferred narrative (van Prooijen et al., 2018, Walker et al., 2023), often through committing a post hoc ergo propter hoc fallacy. This fallacy is not new by any means, as the Latin name suggests. It's human to make these causal connections, even when not there.
In reality, most anomalies are irrelevant or in no causal relation to the topic at hand.

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Another **impact of anomaly hunting on discourse** is that it manipulates people into cognitive biases like the conjunction fallacy, where the attachment of unrelated but co-occurring anomalies to a narrative makes people believe it more likely (Tversky, A., & Kahneman, D., Psychological Review, 1983) or other confirmation biases. If this sounds complicated, just pay attention to how anti-vaccination activists use perceived **anomalous deaths** of athletes or kids to sow doubt about vaccine safety and efficacy.

Example: Perceived anomalous deaths



Hunting for anomalous deaths has become a sport for anti-vaxxers on social media, recently brought to a peak by the activist documentary "DiedSuddenly". This is a cynical manipulation tactic, as anomalous deaths are statistically expected and have nothing to do with vaccinations, even when they happen to occur weeks/months after being vaccinated (known as post hoc ergo propter hoc fallacy).

Anomalies often serve as potent **attention-grabbing anecdotes** that can be built into larger **emotionally engaging stories**. They are also a stable for **"just-asking" questioners** and **contrarians** alike to bring up and distort public discourse.

It is worth paying attention to how so many contrarians end up in the media in the first place:

4) The contrarian "Experts"

Throughout the pandemic, fringe scientists and doctors have dominated public conversations, using their credentials to bolster outright falsehoods—and this has left us more divided, and less informed.—*Dr David Robert Grimes* in Byline Times

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Contrarian "Experts" are everywhere in the media.
This is because audience perception and journalistic norms assume that there are always two sides to an issue. There is a cultural notion of the journalist as a "neutral transmitter" of information, and deviation from that invites charges of bias. Furthermore, journalists themselves feel pressure to demonstrate their "innocence" (Rosen, 2014), that *they take no sides, have no stake, ideology, or politics, and no views of their own* (Kohl PA. et al., Public Underst Sci, 2016).
Besides journalistic norms, there is a second trend in today's fast-paced attention economy: The use of neutrality as a mere **fig leaf to cover for journalistic incompetence**:
[…] Journalists might also use balancing as a "surrogate for validity checks" when they do not have the time or the expertise to determine which side of a controversy is more likely to represent truth.—(Kohl PA. et al., Public Underst Sci, 2016)
Failing to sort genuine topical expertise from **media-savvy contrarians** outsources the task of assessing the validity of statements to consumers of journalism, who have even less time and are usually less capable to judge the veracity of presented statements. This makes **gaming the media's neutrality bias a common tactic for manipulators** on complicated, jargoned, or technical scientific topics.
On top of that, **contrarians** "validated" by being featured on mainstream media **enjoy increased visibility** to consensus-representing experts on social media (Petersen AM et al., *Nature communications*, 2019), which has also to do with attention economy incentives that favor new, sensationalist or outrageous claims over textbook knowledge. But even for serious outlets, the twisted relationship between desired media neutrality, journalistic norms, and lazy incompetence is easily exploited by credentialed contrarians to present their **groundless assertions next to well-established scientific truth**.

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BBC Apologizes For Interview With Covid Jab Skeptic Dr Aseem **Malhotra** – Deadline



deadline.com
BBC Apologizes For Interview With Cardiologist Who Said Covid Jabs...
The BBC has apologized for not being better prepared to challenge Dr Aseem Malhotra about his views on the Covid vaccine.

A Covid-contrarian cardiologist who was brought on television to talk about statins uses the spotlight to spout false assertions (covered in scientific jargon) about mRNA vaccines and heart damage, left unchallenged by a flustered reporter. The resulting medical misinformation was shared by media manipulators and watched tens of millions of times on social media.

While the above BBC reporter has been tricked, in general, the media's habit of false balance reporting by equivocating mainstream expert and contrarian opinions has dire consequences for the public's understanding of any issue, for example making parents believe the evidence for a link of MMR vaccines and autism was substantial as evidence against it (Hilton S., *BMC Public Health*, 2007), or creating doubt on the consensus about climate change:

Exposure to contrarian views reduced perceived expert consensus, even when paired with a consensus view, and regardless of the expertise of the contrarian source. — (*Imundo & Rapp*, Journal of Applied Research in Memory and Cognition, *2022*

More generally, media manipulators **can use any false balance reporting** as "validated content" to sow doubt about established knowledge. Taking advantage of the media's desire to present all views equally (*instead of for example based on merit or weight of evidence*) can be a Trojan horse helping contrarian "experts" to effectively spread damaging falsehoods (Grimes DR., *EMBO Rep.*, 2019).

Why "Expert" in quotes?

Well, most contrarian "experts" overwhelmingly commentate **outside their narrow field of expertise**, usually on topics of public interest or relevance, while failing to back up their assertions with science. Contrarians often seek to **circumvent traditional processes** of scientific inquiry, publishing, and peer review, instead disseminating their ideas directly to journalists or the public.

On social media, they **tend to inflate their actual credentials** and distract with **technical vocabulary**, convenient **anecdotes**, rhetorical tricks, and **half-truths** to **create the appearance of an authoritative source** to average consumers of information. They act as manipulative commentators, not scientists or science communicators.

Science is a systematic method of inquiry, that makes testable predictions and updates itself based on the totality of evidence. Scientists by contrast are people, subject to human foibles and biases. Any perceived authority they may have stems not from their qualification, but from accurately reflecting the totality of evidence. If they fail to do so, their credentials, education, and prestige are irrelevant—they are not practicing science.—*Dr. David Robert Grimes* in Byline Times

The "expert" is in quotes because while genuine medical/scientific experts exist that hold contrarian views based on legitimate domain expertise, 99% of the time what gets featured in the media is just a credentialed commentator for the superficial appearance of balance (*and more cynically: for getting profitable headlines*).

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'False balance reporting': when a domain expert's opinion is being put up as equal with an unqualified opinion. (Image Credit: Twisteddoodles, Cartoonist for newscientist magazine)

There could of course more be said about the role of media and how their economic incentives for creating conflict (for engagement) play into contrarian's hands as well. Or how the media class seems addicted to Twitter, a platform built around conflict, sensationalist rumors, and contrarian takes (*and that was before a controversial billionaire with autocratic tendencies bought it and removed any type of moderation of medical or scientific misinformation*).

Media coverage of scientific topics is just obsessed with highlighting the individual scientists, not the underlying science, and that makes us prone to fall for misinformation coming from **great storytellers** as well as **moral grandstanders.**

5) The grandstanding Moralists

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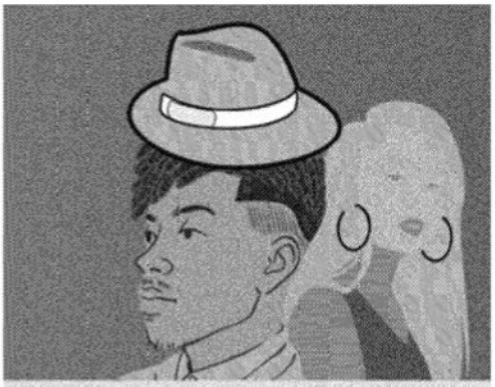

The grandstanding Moralists

If moral outrage is a fire, is the internet like gasoline?
Moral outrage is a powerful emotion with important consequences for society.
People experience moral outrage when they perceive that a moral norm has been violated and express outrage when they believe that it will prevent future violations and this is both **amplified and trained by social media** (Brady et al., Science, 2021)
[Social media] users conform to the expressive norms of their social network, expressing more outrage when they are embedded in ideologically extreme networks where outrage expressions are more widespread, even accounting for their personal ideology—*Brady et al., Science, 2021*
Performative moral outrage expression is particularly noticeable in a practice called **moral grandstanding**, the use of public moral discourse for self-promotion (*related: virtue signaling*).
Moral grandstanding is associated with **status-seeking and conflict, not truth-finding** (Grubbs et al., Plos One, 2019). This does not mean grandstanding is necessarily fake. Most dangerous consequences of grandstanding arise *because* grandstanders sincerely believe the things they say, thereby aiming to reduce free expression within the desired in-group, punishing dissent, and making deviation from shared beliefs socially costly (Tosi & Warmke, Cambridge University Press, 2021).
Grandstanders want others to be impressed with their moral qualities—that is, the purity of their moral beliefs, their level of commitment to justice, their skill at discovering moral insights, and so on.—*Tosi & Warmke, Cambridge University Press, 2021*
Sometimes, moralizing discourse and grandstanding can devolve into societal overreactions and moral panics.
Moral panics are emotionally driven reactions to societal crises in which risks are communicated using moralising discourse, generated in and through media representations of risk and harm.—(*Skog & Lundstrom, Social Science & Medicine, 2022*)
Especially during pandemics, moral panics tend to flourish (Gilman, *The Lancet*, 2010) and may sometimes constitute legitimate responses to 'real' threats such as pandemics or climate change (Rohloff, Sociology, 2011).
Moral panics are characterized by highlighting **incurable flaws in certain groups** and by interventions in which a **majority disciplines the minority** into obedience (*Skog & Lundstrom, Social Science & Medicine, 2022*), thereby often going hand in hand with activism for social or structural change.
Because moral grandstanding is polarizing, tribal, and ubiquitous on social networks, **media manipulators** can abuse our **susceptibility to moral outrage and moral panics** to shape or sabotage public discourse.
For example, moral panics have been used by manipulators to create or deepen both vertical (*e.g 'the people' vs. the 'establishment/big pharma/experts'*) and horizontal divisions (*e.g 'virtuous individuals' vs. drug addicts, racial minorities*) in medicine (Lasco & Curato, *Social Science & Medicine*, 2018).
Example: Vaccinating children

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In the anti-vax community, children are often instrumentalized by **moral grandstanders** and media manipulators, using moralizing language like 'no justification', 'moral hazard', or 'criminal' to **create a moral panic about childhood or mRNA vaccines**. This works because children are universally seen as "morally good" and worthy of protection (nobody disagrees with that) and alleged or perceived mistreatment (fake or real) prompts **moral outrage**.

Lying, fears, and moral panics about childhood vaccinations have of course been a threat to public health for decades, not just since Covid-19. In the end, moral grandstanding and moral panics are effective tools for engagement and manipulation, but they leave the public more divided, less informed, and parents unnecessarily radicalized and fearful.

Talking about radicalization…

6) The toxic Mudslingers



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One manipulation tactic common in politics has also made it into public discourse about scientific issues: **Mudslinging**, also known as negative campaigning, including *ad hominem* attacks to discredit experts.
In politics, mudslinging pays off when *blaming domain problems* or *reframing the essence of a topic* on issues the adversarial party has perceived ownership of (Seeberg, *West European Politics*, 2020). This means that against scientists and doctors, mudslinging is particularly effective when they get coupled with (*perceived or real issues*) such as profiteering by pharma companies, corruption in institutions or errors in public health policy, irrespective whether the individual expert is innocent of or even working against these practices and systemic issues.
From inventing conflicts of interests to the pharma-shill gambit, medical and scientific experts face a lot of **baseless attacks on their character** in attempt to discredit their research, arguments or expertise.
As an online discussion of health, in particular vaccines or alternative medicine, grows longer, the probability of the invocation of the 'pharma shill gambit' approaches one.— *David Gorski for Science-Based Medicine*
While socially constructed, the impact of mudslinging can become a tragic social reality in the form of **character assassination** of individual scientists (*see for example Dr. Fauci or Dr. Tedros*) or more general **stigma** (Smith & Eberly, *Journal of Applied Social Theory*, 2021). **Scapegoating and blame** are very popular topics for negative campaigns against experts too because of their moral implications and salience (Rothshild et al., *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology*, 2012). That is the nature of mudslinging, throwing stuff at the wall to see what sticks.
There is an ancient wartime practice of pouring poison into sources of fresh water before an invading army…
I just want to highlight **one particular pernicious strategy** to preemptively discredit experts before they get a word in: **Poisoning the well**
… a special form of strategic attack used by one party in the argumentation stage of a critical discussion to improperly shut down the capability of the other party for putting forward arguments— *Walton, SSRN, 2006*
A Classic example:
When a woman argues:

- *it doesn't make sense to pay a person more for doing the same job just because he is male or Caucasian.*

There might be a few ways to respond. Yet instead of addressing the argument, **well-poisoners** would counter:

- *Because she is a woman, it's to her personal advantage to favor equal pay for equal work. After all, she would get an immediate raise if her boss accepted her argument. Therefore, she is biased, not sincere, and her argument is not worth engaging with.*

Like all fallacies, it is based on some superficial plausibility enhanced by argumentation that is not only persuasive to an audience and has a rational core, yet is exploited, misdirected, or blown out of proportion in a cleverly misleading way, making it useful as a powerful tactic of deception.— *Walton, SSRN, 2006*
Poisoning the well, when successful, leaves little recourse for the other party to respond.
Poisoning the well is ubiquitous online and **effective to inoculate fragmented audiences** against arguments from doctors or scientists. For example:

- *Because doctors work for the medical establishment, they can not be trusted, especially when it comes to evaluating alternative medicines in competition with 'establishment doctrines'*
- *Because scientists get funding from institutions, they are forced to 'trot the government' line to keep the money stream open and will only do politically sanctioned science*

Media manipulators regularly use **mudslinging, scapegoating, dehumanization** or **poisoning the well** strategies to discredit inconvenient experts or institutions.
The real impact of these tactics comes however from social networks, as these strategies create online **mob dynamics so toxic and dangerous** that **experts disengage** or get bullied, harassed or **threatened out of the public discourse**.

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Hatemongers and violent rhetoric play an important role in the ecosystem of science deniers. They breed discontent, fear, anger and frustration within their audiences and mobilize people to bully, harass, intimidate scientists and doctors who speak out in the public square. What ensues is a dynamic of crowd-sourced digital repression of expert voices in social media spaces.
It is well-reported that online hate has a chilling effect on any individual and can be weaponized to suppress free speech and silence dissent, a form of **digital repression** (Earl J. et al., *Science Advances*, 2022).
While all the other manipulation tactics we covered are to the detriment of science, digital repression is antithetical not only to science but a democratic society.

So where does this leave us? What does exposure to these manipulations do to society?

Conclusion

I believe we have to rethink information ecosystems and public spaces by moving beyond talking about medical or scientific mis/disinformation.
We have to recognize that **online platforms** and **(social) media incentives** have fragmented our perception of reality. This has created **novel asymmetries and vulnerabilities** that bad actors can abuse to **hijack public conversations** and sabotage scientific discourse, often for personal profits or political goals.
I worry there is a more **dangerous meta-effect** than harmful misinformation stemming from these endless information battles online:
A general breakdown of any functional **signal-to-noise** ratio on any scientific topic that contradicts popular beliefs or interferes with the lies of manipulators and powerful interests.
For simplicity, I will call this meta-effect "**noise pollution**".
Noise pollution entails that:

- content **virality**, not content **value** (*truth, accuracy, context, reliability*) is the primary criteria for information to spread and be seen, and while **compelling fictions** can be **optimized for engagement**, facts can not
- for most citizens online (*and increasingly offline*), the **majority of popular information** they consume comes from **untrustworthy sources**
- citizens experience **cognitive overload and confusion**, which leads to either **disengagement**, fallacious processing, or falling back to **intuitive priors** (*gut feelings, not evidence-based decisions*)
- citizens end up **outsourcing opinion formation** (*when no expert or good info source can be identified*) **to proxies** within their **social trust network** or tribe

An argument can be made that **noise pollution** deeply influences our lives on more than just medical or scientific issues:
If we cannot browse reliable information, if we lack domain expertise, time, or energy to deeply engage with the topic, we either **give up and fall into inaction**, have to **follow our uninformed intuitions**, or have to **rely on our trust networks** to navigate modern life. The latter point needs some emphasis because it is a defining feature of our current societal struggles.
Relying solely on trust networks, not expert institutions, scientific consensus, or factual reporting to inform one's opinions is dangerous in a world of **fragmented realities.**
Quacks, fake experts, influencers, political commentators, and other **media manipulators** have a far wider reach than actual **trustworthy sources, including institutions.** They appeal to our intuition, are skilled to manipulate us

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into trusting them, or know how to emotionally shape public conversation to achieve their goals. On top of that, having to **rely on trust or feelings towards information sources** may predispose people to cognitive illusions, where **statements that feel good are accepted irrespective of truth**. Studies found that people share conspiracy theories they themselves knew to be false because of expected social impact.

It is a mess, and this crowd-sourcing of falsehoods in society just adds up to more noise pollution, and with it, **political polarization**.

It leads to **absurd medico-social phenomena**, for example, the association of ineffective Ivermectin prescriptions with political affiliation, or watching a specific cable news network reducing COVID-19 vaccine compliance.

So even beyond the profiteering of **media manipulators**, **noise pollution sabotages collective actions** on cooperative problems like climate change and pandemic prevention, or medical topics like vaccination and public health. This also makes **noise pollution a powerful weapon** to **detractors of science and autocrats** alike.

Disinformation researchers have long learned that narrative control in the information age works through noise pollution, not censorship.

Many scientists, doctors, and institutions have been slow to pick up on the role of trust in their communications, believing that factual information alone can help persuade society to make reasonable inferences about reality. In the meantime, well-connected and dubiously financed **merchants of doubt** have invested heavily in **sowing doubt** about established knowledge and **breaking any trust relationship** science had with society.

Like Russian propagandists, their gift has been to take things apart, to peel away the layers of the onion until nothing is left but the tears of others and their own cynical laughter. (Quote adapted from Timothy Snyder, foreign affairs, 2022)

The truly devastating part is that historians of science have warned about these tactics for a long time, to little avail in the public consciousness.

As educated public and democratic citizens, we ought to fight tooth and claw against being manipulated and deprived of our own agency by the merchants of doubt and their cynical communication tactics.

As supporters of science, reasonable discourse, and evidence-based decision-making, we need to grow wiser about the current media ecosystems and the actors that shape them.

Pollution is a threat to the public good because it degrades shared natural ecosystems. Noise pollution is no different when it comes to information ecosystems.

Our own behavior is the one thing we can change immediately. There is of course also an argument to be had about more and stricter regulation and moderation on social networks, especially when it comes to amplification, behavior, and participation.

But I will leave that for another day.

Thank you for reading! I hope this can help save your time and avoid inauthentic discourse online. Please share this article and help others avoid being manipulated too!

Share

Disclaimer:

This article held a bit of a dilemma for me, as it can also be used by bad actors as a guide on how to influence or derail discussions. Whenever situations like this arise, one has to do some cost:benefit analysis of whether the good outweighs the bad. Obviously, since you have read this article, I came down on the benefit side, so I just wanted to share a few considerations about how I reached that judgement:

- **Ubiquity**. These tactics are already widely used, many of them as old as time. My article highlighting why they work is unlikely to dramatically increase their use.
- **Harm reduction**. It is my belief that these tactics mostly work to manipulate when there is a lack of awareness. Creating awareness thus should reduce harm, especially around medical discussions.
- **Combatting side effects**. These tactics create noise pollution, and noise pollution comes with many societal diseases we yet have to wrap our heads around, like epistemic paralysis, nihilism, and conspiratorial thinking. If enough people come around to see the bigger picture, systemic changes to our info spheres are more realistic.
- **Restore agency**. Manipulation robs us of a fundamental human right, the freedom and agency to make our own decisions. There is no democracy when citizens have no agency.

As always, my hope and goals are to educate and equip citizens with conceptual tools and new perspectives to make sense of the world we inhabit.

This article took a lot of time and effort to conceptualize, research, and produce, actually almost irresponsibly so given that **I do not monetize** my scicomm and certainly do not plan to start with it now.

I see this work as a public good that I send out into the void of the internet in hopes others will get inspired to act.

You are also invited to deepen this work or just derive satisfaction from understanding our chaotic modern world a bit better.

So feel free to use, share or build on top of this work, I just ask you to properly attribute (Creative Commons CC-BY-NC 4.0).

Here is some handy resources to get you started:

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<image019.png>
Vaccine Edition
854KB · PDF File
Download

Cite this work:
Markolin P., *"Denounce, deny, deceive"*, March 1, 2023. **Free direct access link:**
https://protagonist-science.medium.com/f049879a256f?source=friends_link&sk=c339d360535c81540ecea330572671da
Also, since this topic is close to my heart, I'd be happy to hear your thoughts. I'd be even happier to hear what you plan on doing next.

Twitter: @philippmarkolin *(beware: Twitter is now hostile & anti-democratic information platform)*
Mastodon: @protagonist_future@mstdn.science

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, 29 Apr 2020 9:03:06 AM -0400
Sent: Wed, 29 Apr 2020 9:03:05 AM -0400
Subject: Eha issue just reported on npr
From: David Morens < (b) (6)
To: Peter Daszak < (b) (6) (b) (6) Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) >;

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

MORENS_SUBPOENA_007441
MORENS_NIH_016663
REL0000476839

Date: Mon, 20 May 2024 11:33:11 PM -0400
Sent: Mon, 20 May 2024 11:30:04 PM -0400
Subject: RE: RE: Disappointing tweet from Amy Maxmen re. a disappointing article in Nature.
From: Peter Daszak < (b) (6)
To: (b) (6) < (b) (6) Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6) Keusch, Gerald T < (b) (6) >; Alison Andre <(b) (6) >; Jeff Sturchio <(b) (6) (b) (6) Roberts, Rich < (b) (6)
CC: (b) (6) Aleksei Chmura < (b) (6) (b) (6)
Attachments: image001.jpg; image002.jpg; image003.jpg

My experience was that they took it to one level further than we expected, so I think you're right about what they'll demand. They can say what they want on the day, but eventually there will be opportunity for due process.

Stay strong Dr. Morens, you are a scholar and a gentleman, with a respected career in public health and service to the American people. You can stand with your head held high!

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

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

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

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

From: (b) (6)
Sent: Monday, May 20, 2024 8:12 PM
To: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6) Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6) Alison Andre (b) (6) >; Jeff Sturchio (b) (6) (b) (6) >; (b) (6) ; Roberts, Rich < (b) (6)
Cc: (b) (6) u ; Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) >; (b) (6)
Subject: Re: RE: Disappointing tweet from Amy Maxmen re. a disappointing article in Nature.

Spent about 5 hours with my lawyer today in preparation for my Wednesday testimony. Although he expects I will be skewered with false charges and press releases that will distort the truth, he also is optimistic that what I will say mostly exonerates me, not that the committee will admit that. He says that I should be prepared to be

hit with criminal charges and firing and possible jail time for using my Gmail for supposed government business. This is what the committee is pushing for and they are pushing for a Justice Department investigation already.
Please come visit me in prison and help me find a job when I get out. At least if that happens I will finally have the ability to speak out and write about what has been going in. I won't mince words. d

Sent from Proton Mail Android

-------- Original Message --------
On 5/20/24 17:57, Peter Daszak wrote:

> I'll do that – good suggestion Peter
>
> Cheers,
>
> Peter

Peter Daszak
President

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

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

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

---

From: Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6)
Sent: Monday, May 20, 2024 4:22 PM
To: Peter Daszak (b) (6) >; Keusch, Gerald <(b) (6) Alison Andre < (b) (6) >; David Morens (b) (6) >; Jeffrey Sturchio (b) (6) >; Keith Martin < (b) (6) Rich Roberts (b) (6) >
Cc: Soriano Osejo, Douglas <(b) (6) >; Aleksei Chmura (b) (6) >; Kathy Chase-Gaudreau <(b) (6) >
Subject: Re: Disappointing tweet from Amy Maxmen re. a disappointing article in Nature.

You can write to her and cc me (b) (6)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

From: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >
Sent: Monday, May 20, 2024 3:09 PM
To: Keusch, Gerald (b) (6) >; Alison Andre (b) (6) Hotez, Peter Jay <
(b) (6) >; David Morens (b) (6) >; Jeffrey Sturchio (b) (6) >; Keith Martin <
(b) (6) ; Rich Roberts <(b) (6)
Cc: Soriano Osejo, Douglas <(b) (6) >; Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) >;
Kathy Chase-Gaudreau (b)(6) >
Subject: Disappointing tweet from Amy Maxmen re. a disappointing article in Nature.

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

Shame to see Amy Maxmen following the trend of the article in Nature that seems to just parrot what the Democrats on the SSCP said - EcoHealth did something wrong, but they didn't cause COVID-19.

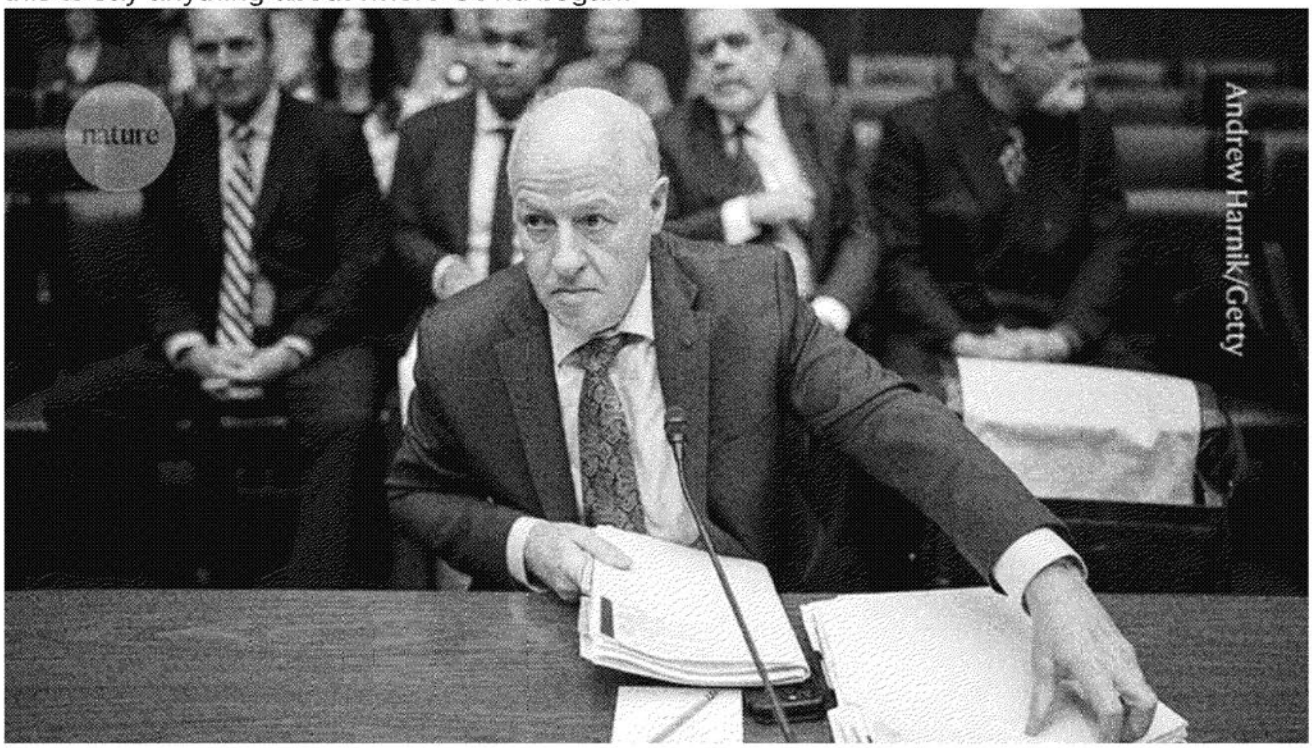
Of course, we were not given a chance to respond to allegations on the day, and now that they've moved forward with a Suspension pending debarment proceedings, we have to respond to the HHS first on a legal matter, then can talk publicly.

Amy's tweet is below, and my response (trying to be as diplomatic as possible).



Amy Maxmen, PhD
@amymaxmen
5h
EcoHealth Alliance didn't comply with NIH granting conditions, eg not sending regular updates

on its research. Without repercussions, those rules are meaningless.
https://nature.com/articles/d41586- 024-01460-3… The problem is when public/media interprets this to say anything about where Covid began.



US halts funding to controversial virus-hunting group: what researchers think

From nature.com
1.2K



Peter Daszak
@PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance has repeatedly refuted allegations that it "didn't comply" & has yet to respond to the HHS letter. Calling for "repercussions" seems premature until some level of due process has played out. Let's hear the argument against debarment before we all move on.

Cheers,

Peter

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Peter Daszak
President

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Twitter: @PeterDaszak

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

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From: Peter Daszak (b) (6) >
Sent: Monday, May 20, 2024 1:36 PM
To: 'Keusch, Gerald' (b) (6) >; Alison Andre (b) (6) >; 'Hotez, Peter Jay' < (b) (6) ; 'David Morens' (b) (6) 'Jeffrey Sturchio' (b) (6) >; 'Keith Martin' < (b) (6) >; 'Rich Roberts' (b) (6) >
Cc: 'Soriano Osejo, Douglas' <(b) (6) >; Aleksei Chmura (b) (6) >; 'Kathy Chase-Gaudreau' <(b) (6) >
Subject: Testimony by David Morens, Ralph Baric, Peter Daszak

Here are testimonies by David, myself, and Ralph Baric. David had to go through this twice because his first interview was cut short when lawyers for NIH objected to the SSCPs line of questioning.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

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

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

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From: Keusch, Gerald (b) (6)

Sent: Monday, May 20, 2024 11:49 AM
To: Alison Andre (b) (6) >; Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6) ; David Morens <
(b) (6) Jeffrey Sturchio (b)(6) >; Keith Martin (b) (6) >; Rich Roberts <
(b) (6)
Cc: Soriano Osejo, Douglas <(b) (6) >; Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) >;
Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >; Kathy Chase-Gaudreau <(b) (6) >
Subject: RE: Meeting Thursday or Friday this week

Thursday before 1 pm works. Friday is iffy and probably a no for me.

Jerry

From: Alison Andre <(b) (6) >
Sent: Monday, May 20, 2024 11:14 AM
To: Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6) Keusch, Gerald < (b) (6) David Morens (b) (6)
Jeffrey Sturchio (b)(6) Keith Martin <(b) (6) Rich Roberts (b) (6) >
Cc: Soriano Osejo, Douglas (b) (6) ; Aleksei Chmura (b) (6) >;
Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >; Kathy Chase-Gaudreau <(b) (6) >
Subject: Meeting Thursday or Friday this week

Dear All,

We'd like to schedule another meeting on Thursday May 23 or Friday May 24 this week. Could you please take a moment to indicate your availability below?

https://calendly.com/d/cp3y- mxp-j7h/small-group-meeting

Thank you,
Alison

--
Alison Andre
Executive Assistant to the President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Ave, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018

(b) (6) (direct)
1.212.380.4465 (fax)
www.ecohealthalliance.org

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

Date: Tue, 9 Aug 2022 2:38:56 PM -0400
Sent: Tue, 9 Aug 2022 2:38:16 PM -0400
Subject: Wash Post Ed Board highlighted my new Nature Rev Immunol paper today
From: "Hotez, Peter Jay" < (b) (6)
To: Peter Daszak < (b) (6)
CC: David Morens < (b) (6) Roberts, Rich <(b) (6) Aleksei Chmura < (b) (6) Gerald T Keusch < (b) (6) Jeff Sturchio < (b) (6)

https://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/2022/08/09/victor- rohe-anti-vaxxers-sarasota-hospital-board/

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

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MORENS_NIH_019892
REL0000476842

On Aug 9, 2022, at 10:57 AM, Peter Daszak < (b) (6) > wrote:

Please do David.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
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Twitter: @PeterDaszak

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---

From: David Morens < (b)(6)
Sent: Tuesday, August 9, 2022 9:46 AM
To: Peter Daszak (b) (6) g >
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

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REL0000476842

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

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USA

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

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

---

From: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >
Sent: Tuesday, August 9, 2022 12:54 AM
To: 'Roberts, Rich' <(b) (6) >; 'Hotez, Peter Jay' <(b) (6) Aleksei Chmura < (b) (6) 'David Morens' <(b) (6) >; 'Gerald T Keusch' <(b) (6) >; Jeff Sturchio(b) (6)) (b)(6)
Subject: RE: Reporter request for comment

Bizarre indeed, but this is how they do it – tangential links from you to your former postdoc to Zhengli to me, followed by accusations that you're linked to research which they (wrongly) claim is GoF, all used to try to undermine your appropriate pushback against all these other attacks.

It's exactly what the Union of Concerned Scientists called the 'disinformation playbook' that was used by big tobacco and anti-climate change activists (successfully I might add).
https://www.ucsusa.org/resources/disinformation- playbook

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
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USA

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

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

---

From: Roberts, Rich (b) (6) >
Sent: Monday, August 8, 2022 4:16 PM
To: Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6) Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >; Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) >; David Morens <(b) (6) >; David Morens <(b) (6) Gerald T Keusch <(b) (6)
Subject: RE: Reporter request for comment

Peter:

Maybe you should suggest she talk to your lawyer (at her expense).

Rich

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

From: Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6) >
Sent: Monday, August 8, 2022 4:02 PM
To: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >; Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) >; David Morens <(b) (6) >; David Morens (b) (6) v>; Gerald T Keusch <(b) (6) Roberts, Rich <(b) (6)
Subject: Fwd: Reporter request for comment

EXTERNAL SENDER

This is crazy. How would I even do that? I don't work in those areas?

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

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

University Professor, Baylor University

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

Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

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

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

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

iPhone
Begin forwarded message:

> **From:** Emily Kopp <(b) (6)
> **Date:** August 8, 2022 at 2:51:45 PM CDT
> **To:** "Hotez, Peter Jay" <(b) (6)
> **Subject: Re: Reporter request for comment**
>
> *****CAUTION:*** This email is not from a BCM Source. Only click links or open attachments you know are safe.**
>
> ---
>
> I'll also report that the paper you cofunded with EcoHealth Alliance dealt with rWIV1-SHC014S, a

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MORENS_NIH_019896
REL0000476842

chimeric virus shown to be very dangerous to mice with human airway cells, which biosafety experts consider to be gain of function, and which is already under GOP congressional investigators' microscope. Were you aware of this? Should you have disclosed this to your followers on Twitter and The Lancet Commission?

Please clarify if this is incorrect.

Thank you,
Emily

On Mon, Aug 8, 2022 at 12:31 PM Emily Kopp <(b) (6) wrote:

> Putting this back at the top of your inbox. Since you've been tweeting about this issue, do you plan on replying?
>
> On Sun, Aug 7, 2022 at 2:32 PM Emily Kopp <(b) (6) > wrote:
>
> > Dr. Hotez,
> >
> > I received an anonymous tip regarding an apparent conflict of interest relevant to your criticism of the GOP investigation into the possibility that a lab accident sparked the pandemic.
> >
> > The tipster pointed out that your grant to develop a SARS vaccine was in part motivated by the possibility that a lab accident or bioterrorist attack could result in a SARS outbreak.
> >
> > Questions:
> >
> > 1. Could you please clarify why you believe the lab origin theory of SARS-CoV-2 is ridiculous pseudoscience, even though you did research under the presumption that a SARS-like virus escaping from a laboratory was possible? Taxpayers devoted $1.6 million in funding toward that project - was it under pseudoscientific pretenses?
> >
> > 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) (b) (6)
> >
> > 

Date: Mon, 9 May 2022 7:41:37 PM -0400
Sent: Mon, 9 May 2022 7:41:30 PM -0400
Subject: Re: Get well soon Peter! e-card link inside...
From: "Hotez, Peter Jay" < (b) (6)
To: David Morens <(b) (6) >;
CC: Peter Daszak < (b) (6) >; Keusch, Gerald T < (b) (6) >; Roberts, Rich <(b) (6)>; Aleksei Chmura < (b) (6) >; Jeff Sturchio <(b) (6)>

I think so…many thanks!

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
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Adjunct Professor, University of Texas, School of Public Health

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

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iPhone

On May 9, 2022, at 6:35 PM, David Morens <(b) (6) wrote:

Peter, yikes! Please have a quick and complete recovery and then take at least a little time to smell the roses. Assuming your olfactory nerve is OK. d

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

On May 9, 2022, at 19:24, Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6) > wrote:

Many thanks Peter, I received an honorary doctorate this weekend from Roanoke College in Virginia and it looks like I may have brought back not one but two souvenirs. Lots of transmission still. Mostly fatigue and headache and some scratchy throat, appreciate the note. Fyi the Paxlovid is nasty, metallic taste, described by one as "soapy grapefruit juice" I think an apt description, best Peter

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iPhone

On May 9, 2022, at 6:14 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 All,

Just sending this e-card to wish Peter Hotez a rapid recovery: http://jlcards.com/Kg7AG5

Also, letting you all know that he tested positive for COVID, has a mild infection, and is recuperating while doing non-stop Zoom calls….!

Here's what he posted on Twitter an hour ago:

Prof Peter Hotez MD PhD
@PeterHotez

Looks like I've tested positive for COVID, moderate symptoms of fatigue, headache, sore throat, isolating at home doing zoom meetings. I'm grateful to have been vaccinated/boosted, which certainly prevented more severe illness. Just started Paxlovid. Transmission up, be careful.

Cheers,

Peter

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MORENS_NIH_019753
REL0000476852

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MORENS_NIH_019754
REL0000476852

Date:	Fri, 20 May 2022 8:45:00 AM -0400
Sent:	Fri, 20 May 2022 8:44:45 AM -0400
Subject:	RE: Peter Hotez' tweet and Jamie Metzl's
From:	"Roberts, Rich" <(b) (6)
To:	Peter Daszak < (b) (6) >; Jeffrey Sturchio < (b) (6) >; Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6) >;
CC:	David Morens <(b) (6) >; Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6) Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) >;
Attachments:	image001.jpg; image002.jpg; image003.jpg; image004.jpg; image005.jpg; image006.jpg; image007.jpg; image008.jpg; image009.jpg; image010.jpg; image011.jpg; image012.jpg; image013.jpg

Peter:

I agree. PNAS won't demand a retraction. Let's see how the conversation with Jeff goes and then we can decide any further actions.

Rich

Richard J. Roberts
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240 County Road
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USA
Tel: (978) (b) (6)
Fax: (978) 412 9910
email: (b) (6)

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

EXTERNAL SENDER

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

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

---

From: Jeffrey Sturchio <J_(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 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) u>;
Jeffrey Sturchio (b) (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

MORENS_SUBPOENA_003433
MORENS_NIH_010308
REL0000476853

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.

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

MORENS_SUBPOENA_003434
MORENS_NIH_010309
REL0000476853

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

I appreciate that Rich.

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

Cheers,

Peter

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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
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USA
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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

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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_003436
MORENS_NIH_010311
REL0000476853

Peter:

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

Thanks

Rich

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

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

EXTERNAL SENDER

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

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

Meanwhile, the witch hunt continues…

Cheers,

Peter

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MORENS_SUBPOENA_003437
MORENS_NIH_010312
REL0000476853

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

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Faculty Fellow, Hagler Institute for Advanced Study
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Daily Beast Contributor https://www.thedailybeast.com/author/peter- j-hotez
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MORENS_SUBPOENA_003438
MORENS_NIH_010313
REL0000476853

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

MORENS_SUBPOENA_003439
MORENS_NIH_010314
REL0000476853

Sachs himself.

Cheers,

Peter

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---

From: Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6)
Sent: Thursday, May 19, 2022 4:58 PM
To: Roberts, Rich <(b) (6)
Cc: Peter Daszak (b) (6) >; David Morens <(b) (6) >; Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6) >; Jeffrey Sturchio(b) (6) >; Aleksei Chmura (b) (6) rg >
Subject: Re: Jeff Sachs causing trouble via a PNAS article

How could PNAS publish this crap?

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP
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Faculty Fellow, Hagler Institute for Advanced Study

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MORENS_NIH_010315
REL0000476853

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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

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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 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

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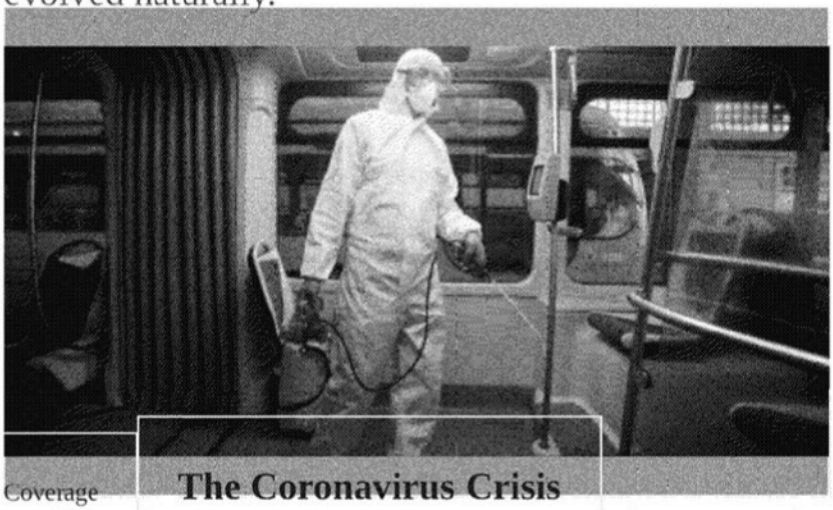
lung function. Known as an epithelial sodium channel-alpha, or ENaC-alpha, it is found in human airway cells, as well as in human kidneys and colons. Intriguingly, like SARS-CoV-2, ENaC-alpha, which facilitates the absorption of fluid in cells, is also activated by the unusual furin cleavage site. Harrison, a physiologist affiliated with Columbia's Department of Molecular Pharmacology and Therapeutics, studies ion channels, the larger category to which ENaC-alpha belongs.

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



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

Such a choice, they point out, would have been in keeping with another viral research project on which EcoHealth Alliance, the Wuhan Institute of Virology, and UNC's Baric collaborated: a 2014 grant from the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases that involved increasing the transmissibility and pathogenicity of bat coronaviruses.

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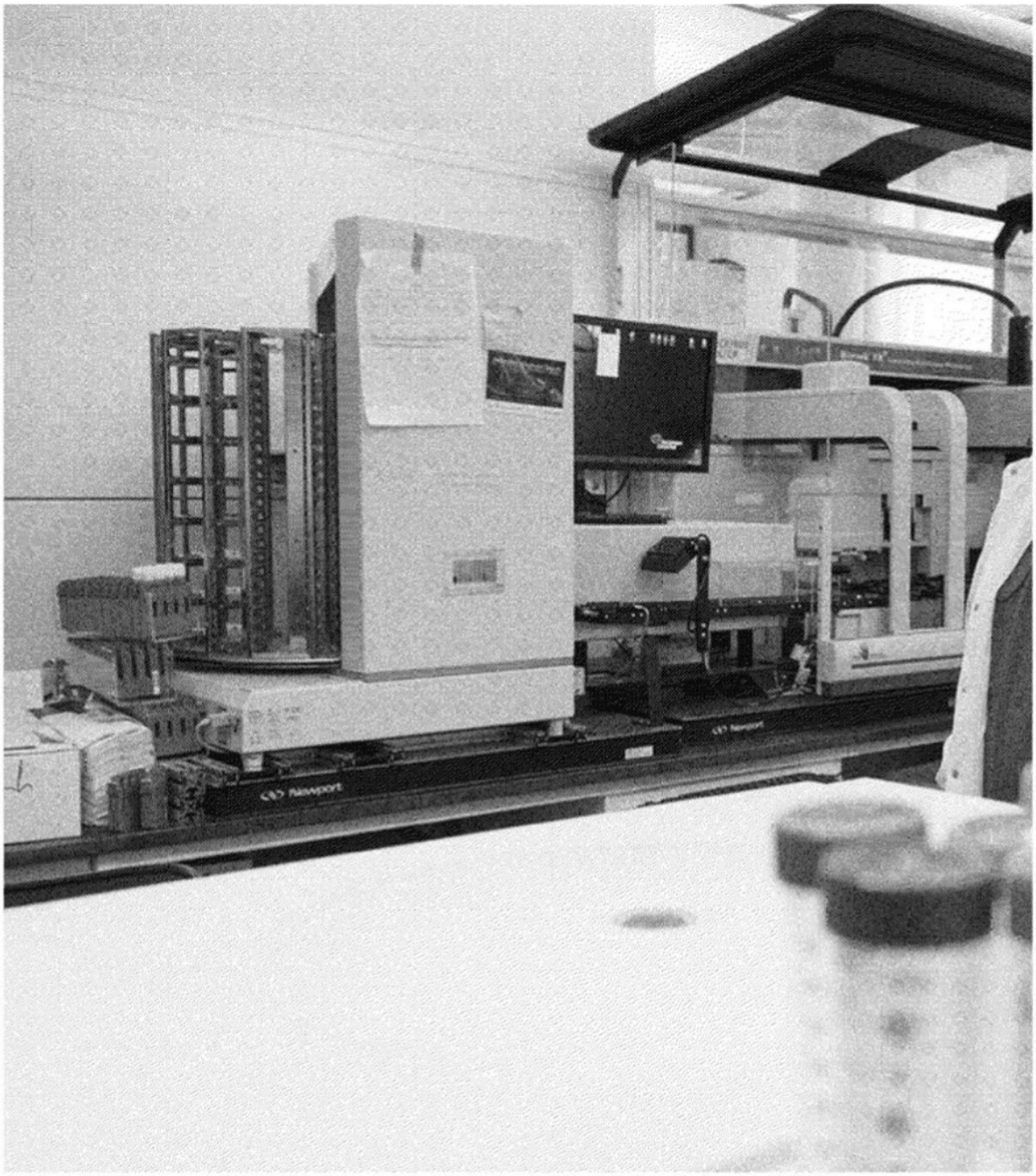

Ralph Baric, a researcher at the University of North Carolina's Gillings School of Global Public Health, in Chapel Hill, N.C., on Feb. 14, 2020.

Photo: Christopher Janaro/Bloomberg via Getty Images

Growing List of Coincidences

The intriguing theory of viral engineering hinges on two observations: that the amino acid sequences match and that experts in both the ENaC-alpha furin cleavage site and the insertion of genetic sequences into bat

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coronaviruses happen to work at the same academic institution: the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill.

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

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

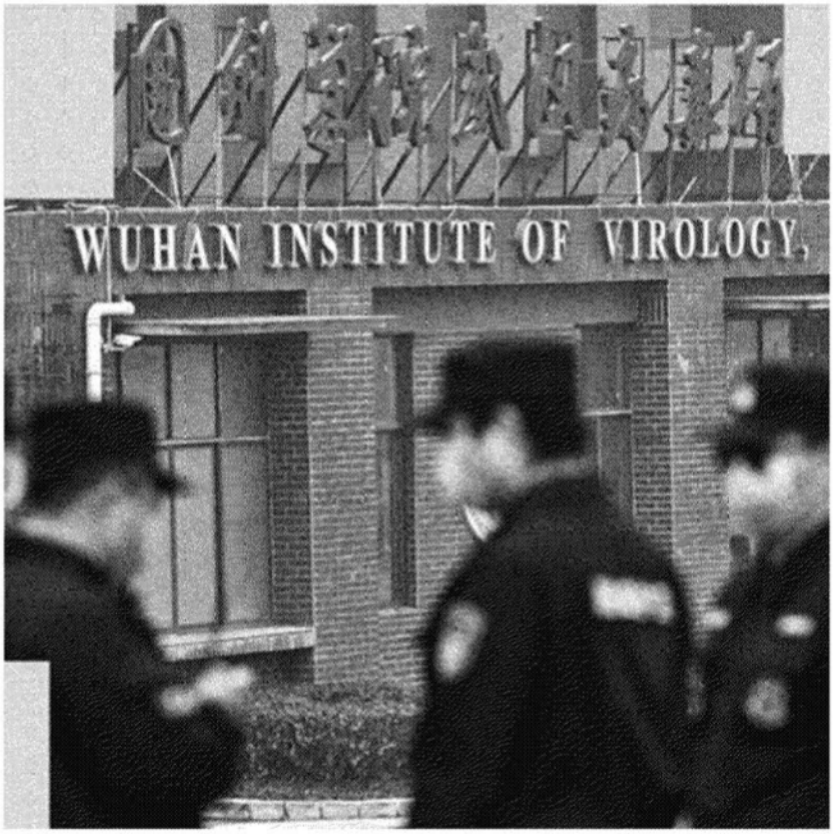
Sachs and Harrison note that the scientists who co-authored the DARPA grant proposal would have been aware of research on coronavirus furin cleavage sites, including one 2006 experiment in which a furin cleavage site was inserted into a coronavirus. "The research team would also have some familiarity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

"The list of coincidences is getting verrrrrrrrrrry long."

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

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

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



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

"The sequence encoding the FCS of the pandemic virus contained two consecutive CGG arginine codons," Ebright explained in his email. (A codon, or a combination of three nucleotides, supplies the genetic code for a single amino acid, though most amino acids can be represented by multiple different codons. Each nucleotide is represented by a letter — for

RNA, either A, C, U, or G.) "This codon usage is unusual for a natural bat SARS-related coronaviruses (for which fewer than 1 in 30 arginine codons are CGG) but is optimal for humans (for which most arginine codons are CGG codons)."

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

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

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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

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an increasingly acrimonious, coarse, and unyielding opposition.

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

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

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

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

"There's no need for them to go hunting inside the human protein catalogue to

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look for cleavage sites to put into viruses."

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

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

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

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

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

For their part, Sachs and Harrison emphasize that they're not saying

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laboratory manipulation was involved in the emergence of the pandemic virus, only "that it could have been." They also give a nod to other possibilities, including that an airborne virus might have infected a laboratory worker. Rather than argue that any of these conceivable scenarios happened, they present the clues of the matching amino acid sequences to argue for an independent and transparent scientific investigation of the U.S.-based evidence related to the origins of the virus.

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

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

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

Photo: Hector Retamal/AFP via Getty Images

A Reversal

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

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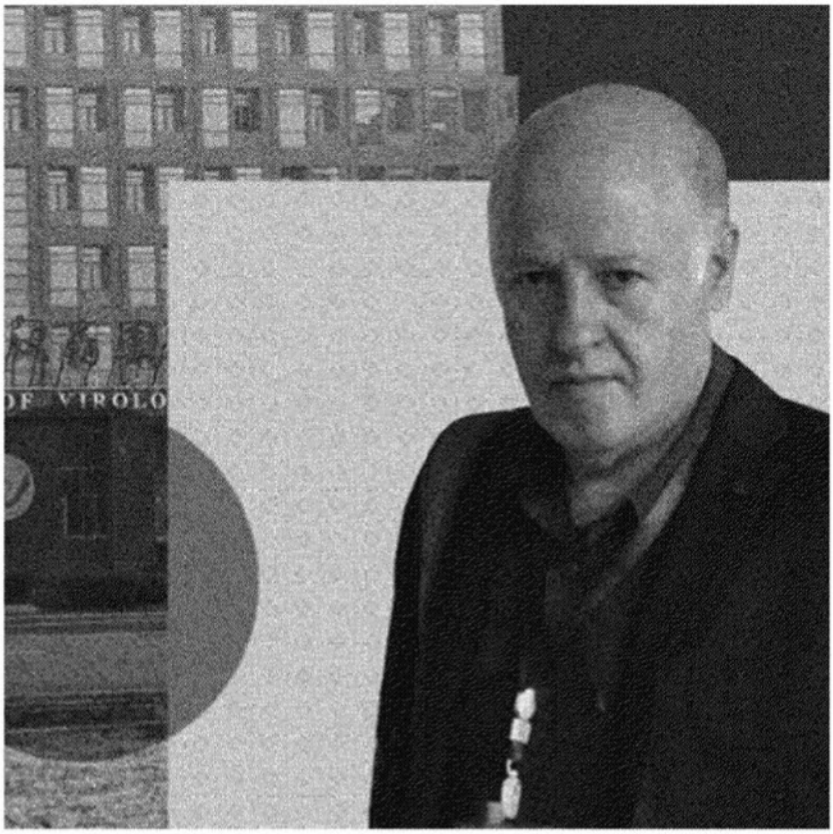
public statement published in The Lancet on behalf of scientists who said they "condemn conspiracy theories suggesting that COVID-19 does not have a natural origin."



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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

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pandemic, Sachs is now skewering it. "A steady trickle of disquieting information has cast a darkening cloud over the agency," he and Harrison write of the NIH, going on to accuse the entire federal government of not doing enough to explore the possible role of its grantees in the emergence of SARS-CoV-2 and investigate "overlooked details" such as the matching amino acid sequences.

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

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

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

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

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

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From: Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6) >
Sent: Wednesday, May 11, 2022 8:15 PM
To: David Morens <(b) (6)
Cc: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >; Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6) Jeffrey Sturchio (b) (6) >; Aleksei Chmura (b) (6) >; Roberts, Rich <(b) (6) >
Subject: Re: NY Post: NIH director confirms agency hid early COVID genes at request of Chinese scientists

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

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

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

University Professor, Baylor University

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

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

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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) [E]
To: Carl Zimmer; Wojtowicz, Em
Cc: Fine, Amanda (NIH/OD) [E]
Subject: RE: FW: Query from New Yo
Date: Wednesday, June 23, 2021

Hi Carl:

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

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

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Thanks,
Renate

Cheers,

Peter

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Peter Daszak
President

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Twitter: @PeterDaszak

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

From: David Morens (b) (6)
Sent: Wednesday, May 11, 2022 5:47 PM
To: Peter Daszak (b) (6) >; Keusch, Gerald T (b) (6) >; Jeffrey Sturchio (b) (6) >; Aleksei Chmura < (b) (6) >; peter hotez (b) (6) Roberts, Rich < (b) (6)
Subject: Fwd: FW: NY Post: NIH director confirms agency hid early COVID genes at request of Chinese scientists

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

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

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

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

--------- Forwarded message ---------
From: **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)) <(b) (6) >

From: Folkers, Greg (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b

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MORENS_NIH_010335
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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.

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

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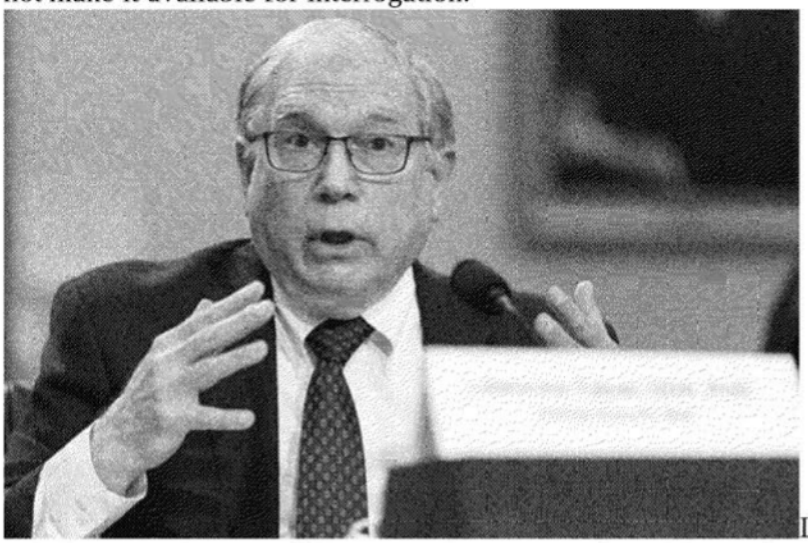
“There’s no question that the communication that we had about the sequence archive — Sequence Read Archive — could have been improved. I freely admit that,” Tabek said. “If I may, the archive never deleted the sequence, it just did not make it available for interrogation.”



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.”

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

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

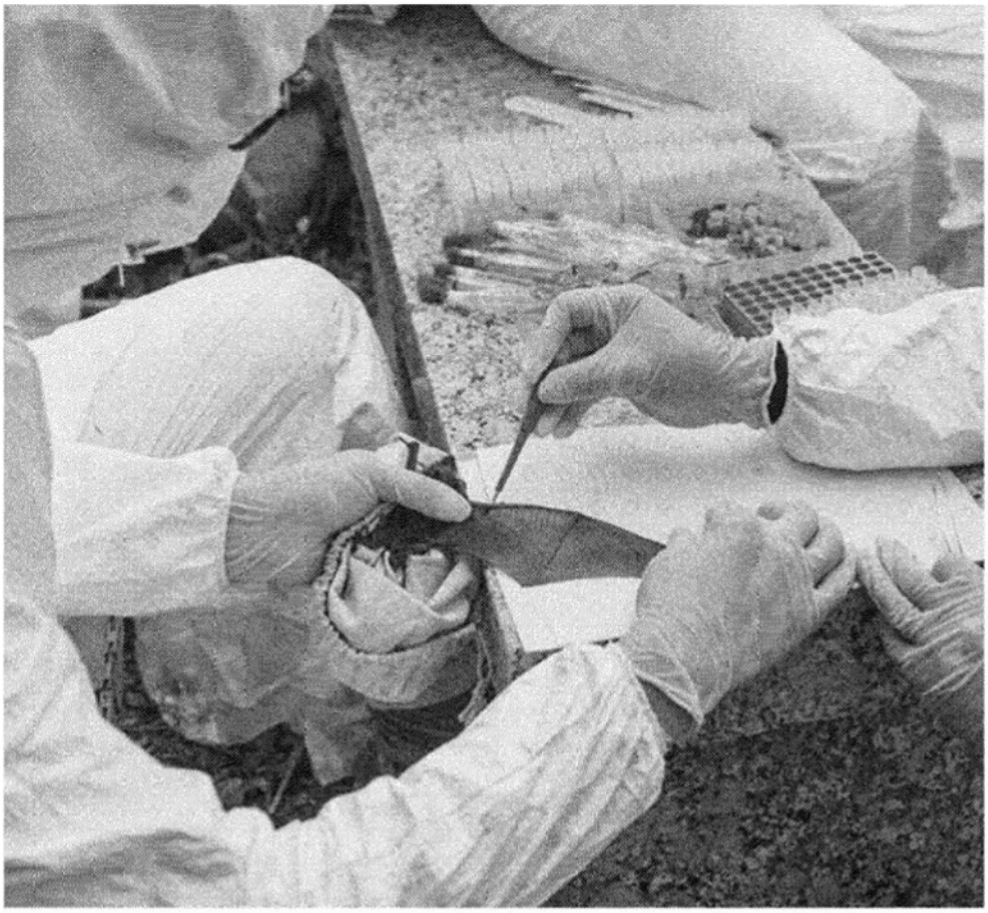
"That's correct. The information was never lost," Tabak repeated.

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

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

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

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



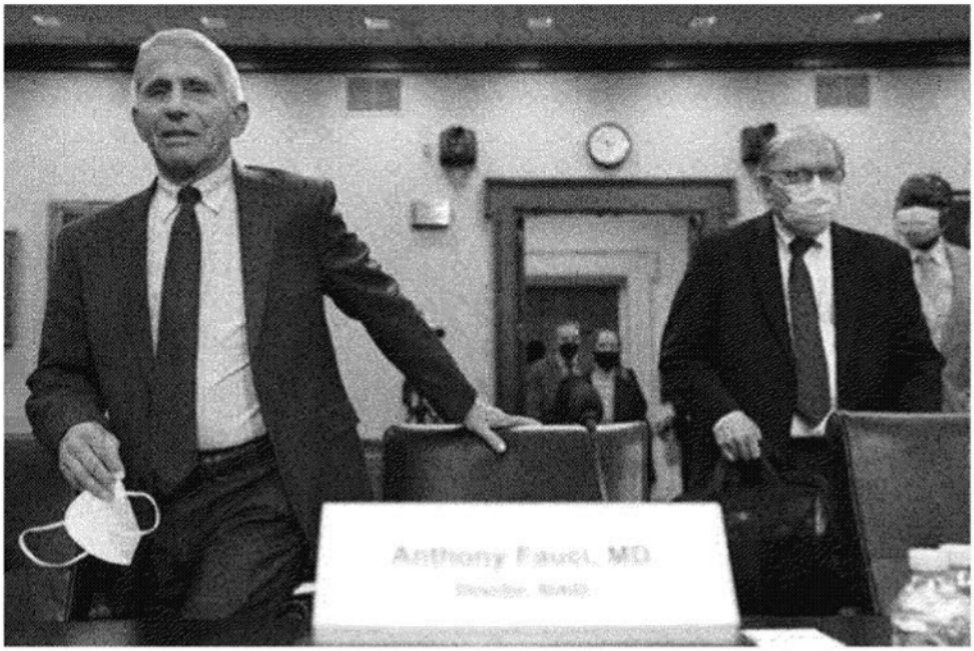
Tabak noted that while the request for information to be removed was honored, it was not erased fully.ECOHEALTH ALLIANCE

Andersen allegedly went so far as to offer to delete Bloom's article from a "preprint" server "in a way that would leave no record that this had been done."

China's government has refused to cooperate with an international investigation of the origins of the pandemic. The COVID-19 virus has killed about 1 million Americans since March 2020 and caused massive social, economic and educational disruptions.

The US intelligence community said in an August report that it's possible the virus leaked from the Wuhan Institute of Virology, calling the theory one of two "plausible" explanations along with natural transmission from animals.

MORENS_SUBPOENA_003464
MORENS_NIH_010339
REL0000476853



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

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

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

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

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Date: Sun, 23 Jul 2023 1:00:12 PM -0400
Sent: Sun, 23 Jul 2023 12:59:27 PM -0400
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Fwd: Fauci, Birx, Francis Collins, Baric, Azar, Daszak, Bourla, Bancel, Jha, Njoo, Theresa Tam, Walensky, Doug Ford, Williams, Kieran, Marks, de Villa, Jüni, Hotez, Tedros, CDC, FDA officials, HANG high!
From: David Morens < (b) (6)
To: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] < (b) (6)

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

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

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

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

--------- Forwarded message ---------
From: 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)
(b) (6) (work)
(b) (6) (cell)

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

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

--------- Forwarded message ---------
From: David Morens < (b) (6) >
Date: Fri, Jul 21, 2023 at 12:59 PM
Subject: Fwd: Fauci, Birx, Francis Collins, Baric, Azar, Daszak,

Bourla, Bancel, Jha, Njoo, Theresa Tam, Walensky, Doug Ford, Williams, Kieran, Marks, de Villa, Jüni, Hotez, Tedros, CDC, FDA officials, HANG high!
To: David Morens < (b) (6)

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

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

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

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

--------- Forwarded message ---------
From: Roberts, Rich < (b) (6)
Date: Sat, Dec 31, 2022 at 2:02 PM
Subject: RE: Fauci, Birx, Francis Collins, Baric, Azar, Daszak, Bourla, Bancel, Jha, Njoo, Theresa Tam, Walensky, Doug Ford, Williams, Kieran, Marks, de Villa, Jüni, Hotez, Tedros, CDC, FDA officials, HANG high!
To: Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6) Peter Daszak
< (b) (6) >
Cc: Aleksei Chmura < (b) (6) >, David Morens
< (b) (6) >, Gerald Keusch < (b) (6) Jeffrey Sturchio
< (b) (6) >

Awful – and so disappointing that these people live among us and vote.

Richard J. Roberts

New England Biolabs

240 County Road

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

Fax: (978) 412 9910

email: (b) (6)

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

Tel: (978) (b) (6)

Fax: (978) 412 9910

email: (b) (6)

From: Hotez, Peter Jay < (b) (6)
Sent: Saturday, December 31, 2022 1:53 PM
To: Peter Daszak < (b) (6) >
Cc: Aleksei Chmura < (b) (6) >; David Morens < (b) (6) >; Gerald Keusch < (b) (6) Jeffrey Sturchio < (b) (6) Roberts, Rich < (b) (6)
Subject: Re: Fauci, Birx, Francis Collins, Baric, Azar, Daszak, Bourla, Bancel, Jha, Njoo, Theresa Tam, Walensky, Doug Ford, Williams, Kieran, Marks, de Villa, Jüni, Hotez, Tedros, CDC, FDA officials, HANG high!

EXTERNAL SENDER

This week I had some of the lead antivaxxers: Robert Malone, Peter Koury, Peter McCullough, and Steve Kirsch all hang up on me with online harassment. Now a new round of death threats. It never ends

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

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

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

MORENS_SUBPOENA_009642
MORENS_NIH_020152
REL0000476863

Baylor University, University Professor

Rice University, Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty

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

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

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Senior Coordinator & Executive Support: Douglas Soriano

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

Media Inquiries:

(b) (6)

(b) (6)

(b) (6)

iPhone

On Dec 31, 2022, at 12:17 PM, Peter Daszak < (b) (6) > wrote:

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

Not pleasant reading but thanks for sharing this link. It's a stream-of-consciousness diatribe that makes you think this guy is simply mentally ill, but actually he's a well-known right wing 'influencer', appearing on Steve Bannon's podcast, member of the Brownstone Institute and regular on other outlets. In the end, just probably a sad lonely person looking for outside validation. Still, pretty disturbing to read…

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak

President

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520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200

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USA

Tel.: + (b) (6)

Website:
https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.ecohealthalliance.org%2F
&data=05%7C01%7Cdmorens%40niaid.nih.gov%7C680311c8b9cf4ee79f6708db8b9e44c7%7C14b77578977342d585(
&sdata=omilyVKxCuoWn96EAbhbiPhggspHoq6aNhGflfor4j8%3D &reserved=0

Twitter: @PeterDaszak

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

From: Hotez, Peter Jay < (b) (6)
Sent: Tuesday, December 27, 2022 2:16 PM
To: Peter Daszak < (b) (6) >; Aleksei Chmura < (b) (6) >; David Morens < (b) (6) >; Gerald Keusch < (b) (6) >; Jeffrey Sturchio < (b) (6) >; Rich Roberts < (b) (6)
Subject: Fauci, Birx, Francis Collins, Baric, Azar, Daszak, Bourla, Bancel, Jha, Njoo, Theresa Tam, Walensky, Doug Ford, Williams, Kieran, Marks, de Villa, Jüni, Hotez, Tedros, CDC, FDA officials, HANG high!

MORENS_SUBPOENA_009644
MORENS_NIH_020154
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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%7C680311c8b9cf4ee79f6708db8b9e44c7%7C14b77578977342d585(
&sdata=LyLTXFTo37sACSjA2cx5haU6CtE%2FMIC8vBocQXS5bAw%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)

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Senior Coordinator & Executive Support: Douglas Soriano

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

Media Inquiries:

(b) (6)

(b) (6)

(b) (6)

iPhone

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Date: Sun, 21 Aug 2022 8:19:49 PM -0400
Sent: Sun, 21 Aug 2022 8:19:32 PM -0400
Subject: Re: A new 'low' for Jeff Sachs
From: "Hotez, Peter Jay" < (b) (6)
To: Peter Daszak < (b) (6)
CC: Roberts, Rich < (b) (6) < (b) (6) David Morens < (b) (6) Gerald T Keusch < (b) (6) Jeff Sturchio < (b) (6) Aleksei Chmura >;
Attachments: image001.jpg; image001.jpg

How can Richard let him lead the LC after 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

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

Media Inquiries:
(b) (6) (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://pca.st/f4qhwghp but you have to download an app, then use your email and create a password – I didn't.

RFK Jr's anti-vaccine activities are widely known, and just 2 days ago he was removed from social media platforms for spreading conspiracies. Here's an NY Times story on that:
https://www.nytimes.com/2022/08/18/technology/facebook- instagram-robert-kennedy-jr-misinformation.html

According to lab leak proponents who are reviewing Jeff Sachs' interview, he goes through all the stuff in his PNAS article including the nasty comments about my role in the Lancet Commission. He calls the "Proximal origins" paper in Nature Medicine "ludicrous"; "almost unbelievable what it says"; "frankly, it is garbage"; "there is a narrative: a willful misdirection"; "joke"; "it is absurd".

I guess he's all-in at this point!

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

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

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

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

---

From: Roberts, Rich <(b) (6)
Sent: Saturday, August 20, 2022 7:02 PM
To: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >; David Morens <(b) (6) >; Gerald T Keusch < (b)(6) >; Jeff Sturchio (b) (6) >; Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6) >
Cc: Aleksei Chmura (b) (6) >
Subject: RE: Continued NIH action - already leaked to the press

Peter:

Yet another example of why they should close the major law schools, especially Harvard and Yale, and make the students go to Medical School instead. That tackles two problems, since a significant number of Harvard and Yale graduates go down to Congress where they do yet more harm

Rich

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

From: Peter Daszak (>
Sent: Saturday, August 20, 2022 6:55 PM b
To: Roberts, Rich <(b) (6) David Morens (b) (6) >; Gerald T Keusch (b) (6) Jeff Sturchio(b) (6) >; Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6) >
Cc: Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) >
Subject: RE: Continued NIH action - already leaked to the press

EXTERNAL SENDER

MORENS_SUBPOENA_010866
MORENS_NIH_021428
REL0000476864

I love that idea Rich.

Truth is, our lawyers told us early on that the actions NIH took are likely illegal. They've looked at all prior cases of NIH terminated grants, suspending grants and appeals against them. There are precedents for winning these cases, e.g. Planned Parenthood and others. The only catch is that suing NIH would mean litigation that drags on for a few years, discovery actions that would demand all sorts of private correspondence, and ultimately a jury that might by now be contaminated with the lab leak narrative. They advised us that the best option is to push privately for the grant to be renegotiated, which I suppose is where we are now.

All of this is of course exacerbated by the other actions and attacks that add to a general narrative that EcoHealth must have been up to no good – this includes the NAM investigation that we're still waiting to hear about, and the OIG audit. There's also a lawsuit against us that we've tried not to talk publicly about, but it's real and we have to defend against it. A lawyer in Long Island who's sued EHA, myself and even my wife for a huge sum for causing COVID-19 that then infected him etc.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

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

Tel.: +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 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) (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://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
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New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

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

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

---

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 (>
Subject: RE: Continued NIH action - already leaked to the press

Peter:

Glad you could find a glimmer to be hopeful about. Lauer is just the pits!

MORENS_SUBPOENA_010869
MORENS_NIH_021431
REL0000476864

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: (978) (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 <j_(b) (6)
>; Roberts, Rich (b) (6) >; Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6)
Cc: Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) >
Subject: RE: Continued NIH action - already leaked to the press
Importance: High

EXTERNAL SENDER

I found a copy on Twitter of Lauer's letter to Rep Comer yesterday – word doc attached, recreated using screenshot jpegs, so hope it works.

It's good that they're publicly stating we've cooperated with NIH – this is related to their continued series of letters about our other grants – making us jump through all sorts of hoops just to continue our work. At the same time, they're clearly trying to show the aggressive Republicans in Congress that NIH is going to crack down on miscreants such as us. Apparently, for at least the next 3 years we'll have to double up our reporting requirements, have no automatic carry over of unspent funds, and have to conduct 6 monthly onsite assessments of subcontractees. We've not been told all that yet by NIH, but no doubt there'll be another letter from Lauer on its way soon.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

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

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

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

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From: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >
Sent: Saturday, August 20, 2022 10:06 AM
To: 'David Morens' <(b) (6) >; 'Gerald T Keusch' <(b) (6) 'Jeff Sturchio' <

MORENS_SUBPOENA_010870
MORENS_NIH_021432
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(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

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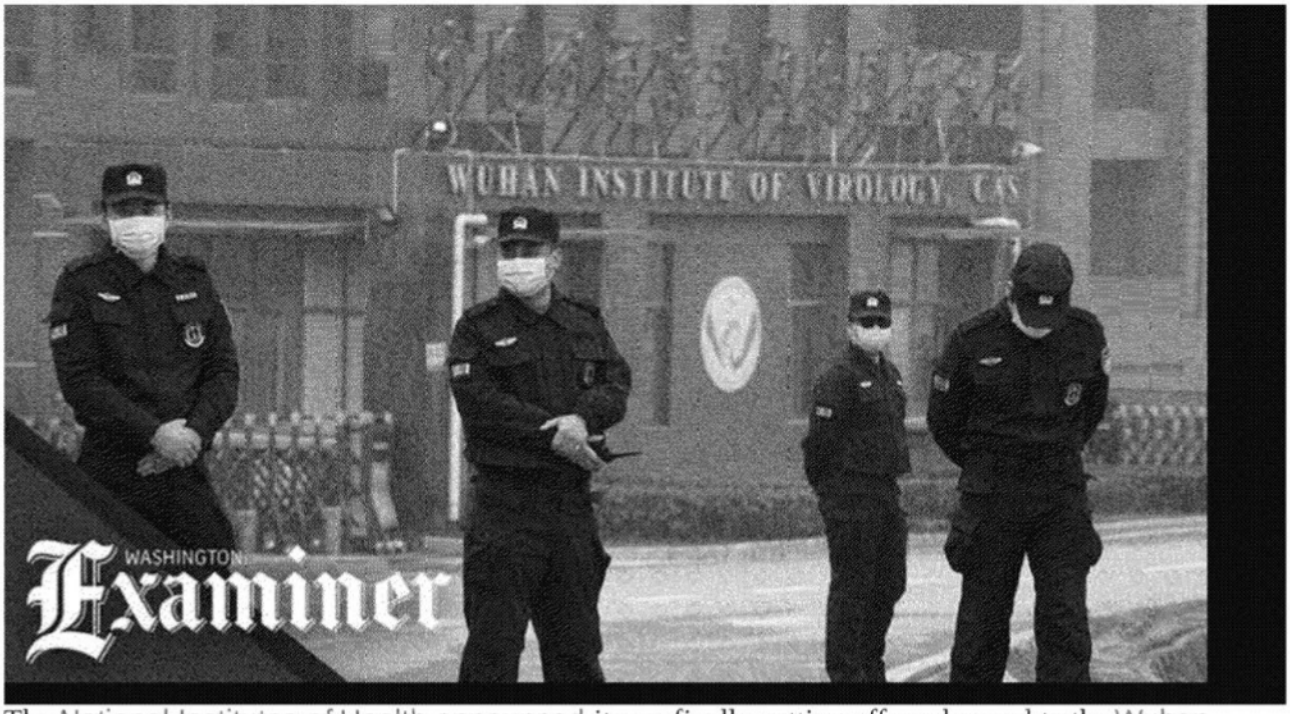

The National Institutes of Health announced it was finally cutting off a subaward to the Wuhan Institute of Virology after it continued to refuse to hand over key information about the coronavirus research it conducted with U.S. tax dollars.

NIH Deputy Director Michael Lauer made the revelation in a letter Friday to House Oversight Committee Republicans, in which he said the Wuhan lab had refused to turn over lab notebooks and electronic files connected to its research funded through an NIH subaward given to it by the U.S.-based EcoHealth Alliance.

But Lauer indicated the NIH may continue funding EcoHealth's controversial bat coronavirus research despite the group's documented noncompliance issues, its close links to the Wuhan virology institute, and its history of funneling hundreds of thousands of U.S. tax dollars to the Chinese lab.

"NIH … identified one non-compliance under the ... award that cannot be remedied with specific award conditions," Lauer said Friday. "NIH has requested on two occasions that EHA [EcoHealth Alliance] provide NIH the laboratory notebooks and original electronic files from the research conducted at the WIV [Wuhan Institute of Virology]. To date, WIV has not provided these records."

Lauer added: "Today, NIH informed EHA that since WIV is unable to fulfill its duties for the subaward grant under R01AI110964, the WIV subaward is terminated for failure to meet award terms and conditions requiring provision of records to NIH upon request."

FBI INVESTIGATED NIH AWARD TO ECOHEALTH AND WUHAN LAB

The Office of the Director of National Intelligence released an assessment in 2021 stating that one U.S. intelligence agency assessed with "moderate confidence" that COVID-19 most likely emerged from the Chinese government lab in Wuhan, while four U.S. spy agencies and the National Intelligence Council believe with "low confidence" COVID-19 most likely has a natural origin.

The NIH's Lauer also said Friday that the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, which has been led by Dr. Anthony Fauci for decades, "will begin to engage with EHA to renegotiate the specific aims and objectives of the R01 grant without the involvement of WIV … in light of the cooperation from EHA and the substantial subsequent improvements in administrative processes that EHA demonstrated."

Rep. James Comer (R-KY), the ranking member on House Oversight, hammered the NIH over this. "Terminating EcoHealth Alliance's partnership with the Wuhan Lab is the bare minimum," Comer said Friday. "It's unacceptable that the NIH continues to allow EcoHealth Alliance to receive taxpayer dollars even though it is confirmed EcoHealth violated the terms of its grant contract. EcoHealth conducted gain

of function research on bat coronaviruses in Wuhan, knew about the Chinese Communist Party's coverup, and failed to inform the U.S. government."

Comer added: "EcoHealth's dangerous experiments in Wuhan and possible efforts to cover up any evidence may have started the pandemic. EcoHealth should not receive a penny of American taxpayer dollars for their gross mismanagement of Americans' hard-earned money."

The NIH had awarded EcoHealth with a grant dubbed "R01AI110964" years ago, and EcoHealth then doled out three research subawards, including one to the Wuhan lab.

"The research approved under this grant sought to understand how bat coronaviruses evolve naturally in the environment to become more transmissible to the human population," the NIH said Friday in defending the award. "This type of research is a critical part of pandemic preparedness."

The grant to EcoHealth was suspended by the NIH in June 2020 due to "grant administrative non-compliance concerns." EcoHealth was reprimanded by the NIH in October when the agency found that the organization delayed revealing that a U.S.-funded experiment conducted with the Wuhan lab determined that mice with implanted human cells became sicker with an engineered version of bat coronavirus. The NIH found more EcoHealth violations in January.

Republicans say the findings showed EcoHealth was funding risky gain-of-function research in China .

EcoHealth leader Peter Daszak was a longtime collaborator with the Wuhan lab who steered hundreds of thousands of dollars in NIH funding to the Chinese lab and was also a key World Health Organization-China joint study team member in early 2021.

Daszak dismissed the lab leak hypothesis in March 2021 when he admitted he took Wuhan lab workers at their word. Meeting minutes from discussions between lab scientists in Wuhan and the WHO-China COVID-19 origins joint study team reveal lab leak concerns were referred to as "myths" and "conspiracy theories."

An advisory group assembled by the WHO said in June that the lab leak hypothesis needed further study.

The NIH said Friday that the prior problems it had identified with EcoHealth's handling of its coronavirus grant included "inadequate oversight in monitoring the activities of its subawardees, failure to report subawards to the General Services Administration's Federal Subaward Reporting System, and errors in indirect rate charges."

But Lauer nevertheless said EcoHealth might again soon start receiving U.S. tax funding for its bat coronavirus experiments — just without the Wuhan lab's continued involvement.

The NIH had been run until recently by Dr. Francis Collins, while Fauci still leads NIAID.

Scientists consulting with the U.S. government early in the pandemic believed COVID-19 originating from a lab in Wuhan was possible or even likely, but emails show Fauci and Collins worked behind the scenes to shut the hypothesis down.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

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USA

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

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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) (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

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Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

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

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From: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >
Sent: Tuesday, August 9, 2022 12:54 AM
To: 'Roberts, Rich' <(b) (6) >; 'Hotez, Peter Jay' <(b) (6) ; Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) >; 'David Morens' (b) (6) >; 'Gerald T Keusch' <(b) (6) >; Jeff Sturchio(b) (6) >
Subject: RE: Reporter request for comment

Bizarre indeed, but this is how they do it – tangential links from you to your former postdoc to Zhengli to me, followed by accusations that you're linked to research which they (wrongly) claim is GoF, all used to try to undermine your appropriate pushback against all these other attacks.

It's exactly what the Union of Concerned Scientists called the 'disinformation playbook' that was used by big tobacco and anti-climate change activists (successfully I might add).
https://www.ucsusa.org/resources/disinformation- playbook

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

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

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

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From: Roberts, Rich (b) (6) >
Sent: Monday, August 8, 2022 4:16 PM
To: Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6) Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >; Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) >; David Morens <(b) (6) >; David Morens <(b) (6) >; Gerald T Keusch <(b) (6) >

Subject: RE: Reporter request for comment

Peter:

Maybe you should suggest she talk to your lawyer (at her expense).

Rich

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

From: Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6) >
Sent: Monday, August 8, 2022 4:02 PM
To: Peter Daszak(b) (6) >; Aleksei Chmura (b)(6) ; David Morens (b) (6) >; David Morens (b) (6) >; Gerald T Keusch < (b) (6) >; Roberts, Rich (b) (6)
Subject: Fwd: Reporter request for comment

EXTERNAL SENDER

This is crazy. How would I even do that? I don't work in those areas?

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

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

University Professor, Baylor University

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

Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

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

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REL0000476864

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

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

iPhone
Begin forwarded message:

From: Emily Kopp <(b) (6)
Date: August 8, 2022 at 2:51:45 PM CDT
To: "Hotez, Peter Jay" (b) (6)
Subject: Re: Reporter request for comment

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

I'll also report that the paper you cofunded with EcoHealth Alliance dealt with rWIV1-SHC014S, a chimeric virus shown to be very dangerous to mice with human airway cells, which biosafety experts consider to be gain of function, and which is already under GOP congressional investigators' microscope. Were you aware of this? Should you have disclosed this to your followers on Twitter and The Lancet Commission?

Please clarify if this is incorrect.

Thank you,
Emily

On Mon, Aug 8, 2022 at 12:31 PM Emily Kopp <(b) (6) wrote:

> Putting this back at the top of your inbox. Since you've been tweeting about this issue, do you plan on replying?
>
> On Sun, Aug 7, 2022 at 2:32 PM Emily Kopp <(b) (6) wrote:
>
> > Dr. Hotez,
> >
> > 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

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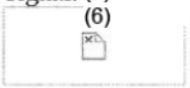
from a laboratory was possible? Taxpayers devoted $1.6 million in funding toward that project - was it under pseudoscientific pretenses?

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)


Date: Mon, 2 May 2022 9:51:07 AM -0400

Sent: Mon, 2 May 2022 9:51:03 AM -0400

Subject: RE: Another surprise in my inbox - Letter from bipartisan Homeland Security committee requesting 12 years of all communications with Federal authorities and WIV

From: "Keusch, Gerald T" < (b) (6)

To: Peter Daszak < (b) (6) >;

CC: Hotez, Peter Jay < (b) (6) >; Roberts, Rich < (b) (6) >; David Morens < (b) (6) >; Aleksei Chmura < (b) (6) >; Jeff Sturchio < (b) (6) >;

Peter,

Know that we and so many others are with you. Let your legal advisors figure out the right response – I would request a
$5 million check from Johnson and Ossoff to cover the expense of an IT team to respond to their request, and then redact every second line in it.

I am going to write a WTF message to Ossoff, as somebody who contributed to his campaign. I can only think it is to prevent Johnson from having total control over the conversation. I would be shocked otherwise. But we live in shocking and shocked world these days.

Jerry

From: Hotez, Peter Jay < (b) (6)
Sent: Monday, May 2, 2022 7:35 AM
To: Peter Daszak < (b) (6)
Cc: Keusch, Gerald T < (b) (6) Roberts, Rich < (b) (6) David Morens < (b) (6)
Aleksei Chmura < (b) (6) Jeff Sturchio < (b) (6)
Subject: Re: Another surprise in my inbox - Letter from bipartisan Homeland Security committee requesting 12 years of all communications with Federal authorities and WIV

I'm so sorry, so demoralizing and unnecessary.

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

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MORENS_NIH_018263
REL0000476865

iPhone

On May 1, 2022, at 8:14 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.**

By the way, good colleagues, imagine my joy when, after a successful annual fundraiser in New York (in person after 2 years of zoom calls) and then a very positive board meeting on Friday, I got home exhausted to find a letter from Ron Johnson, co-signed by the Democrat John Ossoff in my inbox. These are the majority and minority Chairs of the Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee, permanent subcommittee on investigations.

The request is an utterly outrageous fishing expedition – all 'records' from 2010 to 2022 on communication between EcoHealth Alliance (all staff) and any federal agency on any topic, as well as communication with the Wuhan Institute of Virology. The stated goal is for "a review of public health threats" that they are conducting. Of course, the letter implies that they consider our work a potential 'public health threat' which is ridiculous.

Obviously the concern is that this is a bipartisan request, so we're going to carefully think through what we should do, but it is clearly utterly disingenuous. This is the same committee I've already spoken with twice and spent over 4 hours on zoom with answering any and all questions on our work in China. The records they request would include grant proposals and emails over many years regarding research on frog diseases, Brazilian bats, manatees in Florida, the dynamics of bovine tuberculosis in Yellowstone, mathematical modeling of the impacts of climate change on vector borne diseases, and a couple of hundred other projects that have nothing to do with Wuhan or COVID.

Of course, they specifically mention, repeatedly, records that concern 'gain of function', which is spurious because as we've been told by the relevant Federal agency, our work is not 'gain of function'. They also mention WIV a few times. In other words, it's clear that they'd like a huge data dump so they can sift through to find the odd sentence to attack us over re. the lab leak hypothesis.

As I start to think about the scale of the request, it's clear it's way beyond our capacity to deal with. We're a $12 million annual operating budget non-profit for which the time of every single staff member is already fully allocated to the projects and funding we receive. Not only that but almost all of the requests are for records of communication with federal agencies. Because this is the Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee, permanent subcommittee on investigations, you'd think they'd have the authority to simply request these records from the federal agencies themselves, who have an inordinately higher capacity (personnel, budget) to fulfil them. I don't know why they would burden a non-profit with this (well, of course actually we all do know why).

Of course, we'll be working through the correct way to deal with this, and it may end up that we talk to them and offer to have an in-person, closed door meeting where they ask questions, or we send them a far more limited set of documents of relevance to their prime interest which is clear in this letter and in the previous meetings we've had with.

By the way – it's telling that although this is signed by both leaders (D and R), the title of the pdf file of their letter that they sent us as an email attachment is "Johnson and Ossoff request to EcoHealth Alliance." – i.e. puts the minority Republican first, and was clearly written by their staff, as have previous letters.

Anyway – just a bizarre way to end the week, after three separate lines of attack in 2 weeks, and the NAM kangaroo court going on in the background.

Cheers,

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

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

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

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

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From: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >
Sent: Sunday, May 1, 2022 8:10 PM
To: Jeff Sturchio (b) (6) 'Keusch, Gerald T' <(b) (6) 'Roberts, Rich' (b) (6) 'David Morens ((b) (6))' (b) (6) >; 'Hotez, Peter Jay' < (b) (6)
Cc: 'Aleksei Chmura (b)(6)
Subject: Response from NAM FW: confidential
Importance: High

Dear all,

Please read below the response from the NAM membership secretary.

They are, so far, sticking to their goal of investigating a subset of these BS allegations. They're allowing me to communicate with honorable people such as yourselves, and giving me an extension to June 12th.

It looks like this is a response to both my formal letter and the follow up email I sent them where I complained about their communications with the Republicans who sent this letter (it's in the chain below).

I'll work with Jeff to draft a response to this, but then I'll have to get ready for the awful prospect of actually refuting the allegations with documents to back that up. They won't allow me to meet with the committee.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak

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MORENS_NIH_018265
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President

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520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
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USA

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

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

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From: Fuentes-Afflick, Elena (b) (6)
Sent: Saturday, April 30, 2022 2:06 PM
To: Peter Daszak (b)(6) ; Dzau, Victor J. <(b) (6) Kim, Se (b)(6)
Subject: confidential

Dr. Daszak,

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Point 5: You are correct that our policy does not include a provision to meet with the conduct review committee and I cannot offer you this option. I invite you to submit additional materials if you believe they are relevant.

I want to assure you, personally, that the confidentiality requirement and following our process are my

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

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

Best,
Elena Fuentes-Afflick, MD, MPH

Elena Fuentes-Afflick, MD, MPH

NAM Home Secretary

University of California, San Francisco

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

Dear Victor, Elena and Kim,

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

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

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

It seems rather evident that the letters you have received are part of an ongoing and systematic political campaign to destroy EcoHealth Alliance's reputation and my own, with the ultimate target of undermining the NIH, Dr. Fauci, and the Biden White House. They are hyper-partisan and disingenuous in their goals, in that the letters and the fact they are simultaneously made public on *Fox News* and *Twitter*, are clearly designed to push a false narrative. EcoHealth Alliance has repeatedly and publicly refuted such allegations in our responses to NIH that have since been made public (e.g. https://www.wsj.com/articles/coronavirus- study-of-bats-in-china-met-nih-grant-requirements-ecohealth-says-11635441406) and in carefully given interviews with the press (e.g.

https://www.science.org/content/article/we- ve-done-nothing-wrong-ecohealth-leader-fights-charges-his-research-helped-spark-covid-19 and https://theintercept.com/2022/03/11/covid- nih-ecohealth-peter-daszak-interview/).

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

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

Yours sincerely,

Peter

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Date: Sun, 20 Mar 2022 3:26:39 PM -0400
Sent: Sun, 20 Mar 2022 3:26:36 PM -0400
Subject: RE: Enigma, wrapped within a riddle, peppered with a conspiracy...
From: "Keusch, Gerald T" < (b) (6)
To: David Morens < (b) (6)

Hi David,

I saw you cited somewhere on Friday, the Post or the Guardian (??) and listed at Tony's senior advisor. Does that in any way signal a change in your appointment at NIH or just a journalist's way to connect you to Tony?

Jerry

From: David Morens < (b) (6)
Sent: Sunday, March 20, 2022 2:13 PM
To: Peter Daszak < (b) (6)
Cc: Keusch, Gerald T < (b) (6) Roberts, Rich < (b) (6) Hotez, Peter Jay < (b) (6) Jeff Sturchio <(b) (6) Aleksei Chmura < (b) (6)
Subject: Re: Enigma, wrapped within a riddle, peppered with a conspiracy...

Pathetic! I have a very real conspiracy theory: the Russians invented and poisoned the whole US water supply with a secret drug that lowers everyone's IQ by 50 points. Everybody is affected, but those with IQs over 120 still have enough brain cells left to function. The rest? You can watch them every day on Fox News..... d

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

On Mar 20, 2022, at 13:17, Peter Daszak (b)(6) wrote:

Thought you might all get some mild amusement from this clip. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ROEC1EPc60E It's a couple of right wing 'journalists' at *The Hill.TV* "*Rising*" program interviewing a journalist from *The Intercept* that I spoke with a couple of weeks ago. If you look at the last couple of minutes, they actually try to make a conspiracy out of the other conspiracy journalist…

The Intercept has been attacking us for months, armed with out-of-context FoIA'd emails, sentences from reports, and unfunded grant proposals, so I agreed to talk with them to correct some of the disinformation. I answered all their questions honestly of course, including about our unfunded DARPA proposal with Ralph Baric and others. They asked repeatedly if the work in that grant had been done. I told them the grant wasn't funded so the work wasn't done, but they kept asking if others on the proposal could have done it, in particular the paragraph where Ralph Baric proposed changes to polybasic cleavage sites we might find in bat-CoVs, including furin cleavage sites and if his group could have done the work. Honest answer is of course, "I don't know". In the last two mins of the video, they have a good effort at twisting this to interpret that SARS-CoV-2 could have emerged from Univ. N. Carolina!

The Intercept journalist kept trying to correct them, but they ended with "So Dr. Baric, if you're listening, we're happy to do an interview"…

You couldn't make this crap up!

Cheers,

Peter

MORENS_SUBPOENA_005992
MORENS_NIH_014638
REL0000476868

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

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Date: Wed, 24 Apr 2024 5:37:06 PM -0400
Sent: Wed, 24 Apr 2024 5:33:11 PM -0400
Subject: Now public that Tony Fauci will testify in front of SSCP on June 3rd
From: Peter Daszak <(b) (6)
To: (b) (6) >; Roberts, Rich <(b) (6) Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6) Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6) Jeff Sturchio <(b) (6)
CC: Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) John Feigelson <(b) (6)
Attachments: image004.png; image005.jpg; image006.jpg; Fauci agrees to testify in Congress on covid origins, pandemic policies - The Washington Post.pdf

---

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

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

By the way – Allegations that me sending information to David Morens is somehow corrupt are outrageous. Tony Fauci was busy working with the White House COVID taskforce at the time, trying to halt the worse pandemic since the 1918 influenza

outbreak. I would have happy emailed him directly, but pretty sure he wasn't checking each of his 50,000 emails a day!

Cheers,

Peter

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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) ' <(b) (6)
Cc: Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) >; John Feigelson (>
b
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

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From: (b) (6) <(b) (6)
Sent: Wednesday, April 17, 2024 7:16 AM
To: Peter Daszak (b) (6) Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6) >; Jeff Sturchio <j_(b) (6) >; Roberts, Rich <(b) (6) Hotez, Peter Jay (b)(6) (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
>
> @ScienceMagazine
> AGREES that EcoHealth Alliance may have misled the U.S. government about its highly controversial DEFUSE proposal — which some believe created a blueprint for COVID-19

WATCH

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

https://youtu.be/Oru0-fYGcJU

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

Cheers,

Peter

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From: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >
Sent: Tuesday, April 16, 2024 3:22 PM
To: '(b) (6) >; 'Keusch, Gerald T (b) (6) >; 'Jeff Sturchio' <j (b) (6) >; 'Roberts, Rich' <(b) (6) 'Hotez, Peter Jay' <(b) (6) >; '(b) (6) <(b) (6)
Cc: Aleksei Chmura (b) (6) org>; 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

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

From: (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) (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

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Pinned

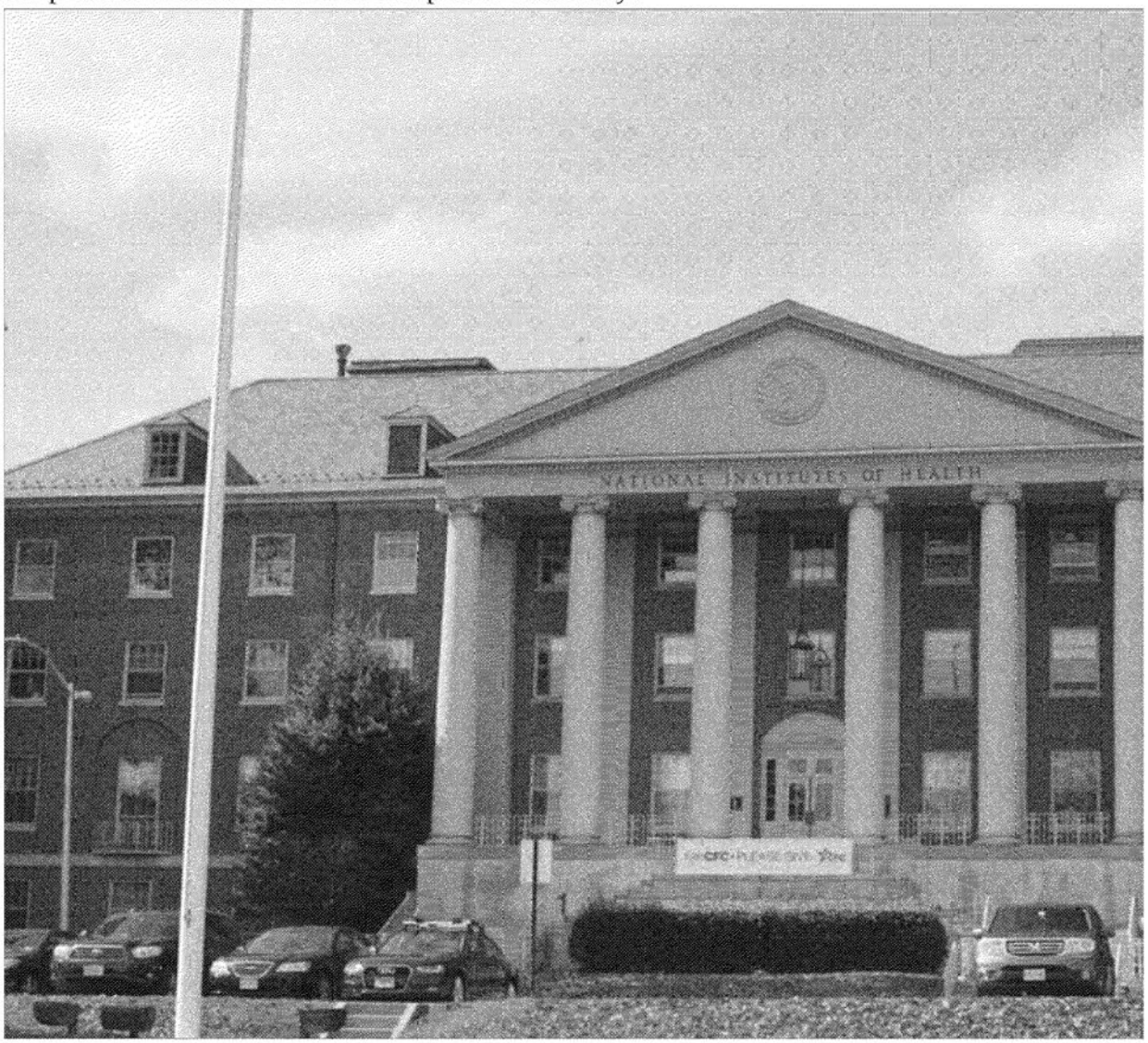
Select Subcommittee on the Coronavirus Pandemic

@COVIDSelect

BREAKING

@EcoHealthNYC

President Dr. Peter Daszak CONFIRMS whistleblower allegations that Dr. David Morens — a top advisor to Dr. Fauci — used Gmail to hide COVID-19 information. We are beginning the process to secure Dr. Morens's public testimony.



From washingtonexaminer.com

Cheers,

Peter

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From: (<(b) (6)
Sent: Friday, April 12, 2024 1:37 PM
To: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) Keusch, Gerald T (b) (6) >; Jeff Sturchio <(b) (6) >; Roberts, Rich <(b) (6) >; Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6) (b) (6)
Cc: Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) >; (b) (6)
Subject: Re: My email to Michael Hiltzik with an EcoHealth Statement and Email release today

Again. this is excellent. We need more of these stand-up-to-bullies fusillades. d

Sent from Proton Mail Android

-------- Original Message --------
On 4/12/24 11:20, Peter Daszak wrote:

> Please read the email I just sent to Michael Hiltzik. It has links to a statement from EcoHealth and the release of the full text (slight redactions) of emails that involve David and Jerry, and were reported in the NY Post and other Right wing outlets yesterday, amplified by Republicans on the COVID Committeee…

> Cheers,

MORENS_NIH_044584
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Peter

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

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

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

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

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

Cheers,

Peter

MORENS_NIH_044585
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From: Michael Hiltzik <(b) (6)
Sent: Tuesday, April 9, 2024 6:01 PM
To: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >
Subject: Re: Call tomorrow?

Absolutely. That time is good...I can call then...

MH

On Tue, Apr 9, 2024 at 2:59 PM Peter Daszak (b) (6) > wrote:

> Hi Michael – just following up on this – are you available tomorrow at 5:30pm my time, 2:30pm West Coast time?
>
> I can send a zoom link or call my cellphone (b) (6)
>
> Cheers,
>
> Peter
>
> **Peter Daszak**
> *President*
>
> EcoHealth Alliance
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> New York, NY 10018-6507
> USA
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MORENS_NIH_044586
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From: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >
Sent: Sunday, April 7, 2024 9:34 AM
To: 'Michael Hiltzik' <(b) (6) >
Cc: 'Aleksei Chmura ((b) (6))' <(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

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

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

Peter,

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

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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

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management are now suggesting that we are beyond the period of work and our subcontractees won't be able to be reimbursed. Additionally, during the past 12 months, NIH has only reimbursed EcoHealth for around $50K of the now nearly $2 million we are expecting and have expended.

As you can imagine, this puts us in a very difficult position, with institutions like UNC and Uniformed Services University likely to be outraged that their funding is threatened, and with us unable to do our work fully – work that has been reviewed, scored well, and is critical to pandemic prevention. We've tried every possible avenue to get a fair and reasonable rapid resolution. We've informed Emily Erbelding of these issues (hence the FoIA'd email), and Program staff at NIAID remain supportive of our work, but we still have no resolution. Every time we try to seek a meeting or resolution, we get a hard response from NIH that we're out of compliance and they set further deadlines and further minor issues for us to fix. Right now I believe we're probably in greater compliance with NIH rules and just about any other institution in the US, given the level of scrutiny we've gone through. I've attached some of the many recent letters between NIH OPERA, NIAID Grants managements and EcoHealth Alliance to give you an indication of the levels of detailed work that we've gone through to try and resolve these issues.

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

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

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200

New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

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

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

MORENS_NIH_044590
REL0000476871

Date:	Mon, 27 May 2024 4:00:55 PM -0400
Sent:	Mon, 27 May 2024 4:00:40 PM -0400
Subject:	Re: Document summarizing our response to the HHS debarment allegations
From:	Hotez, Peter Jay < (b) (6)
To:	Roberts, Rich < (b) (6)
CC:	Peter Daszak < (b) (6) >; Jeffrey Sturchio < (b) (6) (b)(6) Keusch, Gerald T < (b) (6)
Attachments:	IMG_6292.jpeg

She's not a virologist and believes that just because we've not found the exact virus hanging around in bats leaves the door open for lab leak. But that goes against what every virologist says. We have overwhelming evidence for natural origins.

As Michael Hiltzik says

MORENS_NIH_047066
REL0000476872

Let's be clear: There is no ev
leak. No one has ever produ
its favor other than innuend
conjecture. By contrast, evic
zoonotic transfer is almost c
has grown ever stronger ove
is widely accepted by virolo
epidemiologists.

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

MORENS_NIH_047067
REL0000476872

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

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

E-mail | Twitter | LinkedIn | Skype: (b) (6)
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Senior Coordinator & Executive Support: Douglas Soriano
(b) (6) | Phone: (b) (6) | Fax: 713-798-2299

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

On May 27, 2024, at 1:34 PM, Roberts, Rich < (b) (6) wrote:

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Peter:

I received this feedback from Marcia McNutt.

Rich

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

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

From: McNutt, Marcia K. < (b) (6)
Sent: Monday, May 27, 2024 1:01 PM
To: Roberts, Rich < (b) (6)
Subject: Re: Document summarizing our response to the HHS debarment allegations
Importance: High

EXTERNAL SENDER

Thanks for sharing this document. I don't know Peter personally, so don't understand how he wants to present himself and EcoHealth to the politicians. As we all have seen, politicians purposefully come across as combative, like to speak in sound bites, and take much liberty with the facts. As a scientist, my personal style is to stick to the facts, insist that others stick to those facts, and admit when and where science cannot answer questions. The way this statement is written, it tends towards giving the politicians a taste of their own medicine, so to speak, by stating in absolute terms topics that are more nuanced. For example:

"Many of the claims levied against EcoHealth Alliance are built on the false assumption that COVID-19 emerged from the Wuhan Institute of Virology because of a lab leak during research supported by the NIH under a subgrant from EcoHealth Alliance: There is not a scintilla of scientific evidence for this narrative. "

I probably would have stated this differently. The failure to find the SARS-COV2 virus in nature has been the primary support for the lab leak hypothesis. So I think stating that "there is not a scintilla of scientific evidence" is overstated, and could bring trouble. The epidemiology of the disease does suggest origin at the market, but without the cooperation of the Chinese, we will not solve this problem. I am sure that many interpret the lack of cooperation by the Chinese as "proof" that they engineered the disease, even if by mistake.

The rest of the statement follows in similar vein, by showing anger and frustration. (And believe me, I can completely relate to why Peter is so frustrated!) But emotion tends to detract from the impression that this is a fact-based rebuttal. I guess I would have just made the same points more dispassionately. e.g. Debarment is not an appropriate action in this case based on government regulations. The timing of the request for data and notebooks was too late, and by that time political tensions virtually guaranteed that they would not be forthcoming as distrust was evident on both sides (Chinese and US). etc.

Please note that these comments are just based on my personal experience with Congress. Peter can take or leave.

One strategy I used to use with Congress was to meet privately with the Members prior to my testimony. For those likely to be in opposition to my case, I would explain in great detail to them and in terms they can understand why they should back off or change their minds. For those likely to be sympathetic to my case, I would feed them questions to ask. I remember one case when I was testifying for the USGS budget, and the proposal had been to zero out the Earthquake Research Grants to universities, a program in place for many decades. I had one Member ask me whether these grants had any impact in the past. That gave me the opening to tell the story of a young Stanford grad student from France whose research funding had run out, and he was going to have to return to France. The USGS stepped in, supported the student, and he used the funds to conduct a strong ground motion mapping of the Bay Area to predict what areas were most vulnerable to earthquake shaking and sediment liquification. Three years later, the Loma Prieta earthquake occurred, and basically validated all of the microzonation shaking that the map had predicted. The student was able to stay in the US, finish his degree, obtain US citizenship, and at the time of my testimony was President of Caltech. All of the money for the earthquake research grants was restored by Congress as a result of that testimony, and no funds were taken out elsewhere.

Peter needs an opportunity to talk about all of the good that the EcoHealth Alliance has done, and needs to create an opening to tell that story.

Hope this is helpful. Have a great Memorial Day!

Marcia

MORENS_NIH_047069
REL0000476872

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

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On May 25, 2024, at 1:10 AM, Roberts, Rich (b) (6) > wrote:

Marcia:

Here is a draft of a document that Peter Daszak is preparing in order to answer the questions from the Congressional sub-committee concerning EcoHealth Alliance. Any comments or advice you might have would be welcome.

There is getting to be increasing concern among the colleagues I speak to about the attacks on Science from politicians and many have expressed a willingness to help with a campaign to counter them. Has any progress been made from your end? I would be happy to talk with you or your communications staff about this.

Rich

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

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

<Summary of EcoHealth's responses to SSCP and HHS allegations..pdf>

Date: Fri, 5 May 2023 11:03:01 AM -0400
Sent: Fri, 5 May 2023 11:02:49 AM -0400
Subject: Fwd: New White House pandemic center
From: David Morens (b)(6)
To: Jeffery Taubenberge (b)(6)
BCC: (b)(6)
Attachments: Untitled attachment 02017.pdf; Untitled attachment 02020.htm

---

re professor marston. d

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

From: "Hotez, Peter Jay" (b)(6)
Date: May 5, 2023 at 09:45:48 EDT
To: Peter Daszak (b)(6) Aleksei Chmura (b)(6)
David Morens (b)(6) >, Gerald Keusch (b)(6) , Jeffrey Sturchio
(b)(6) , Rich Roberts (b)(6)
Subject: New White House pandemic center

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

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

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

E-mail | Twitter | LinkedIn | Skype: (b)(6)
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Senior Coordinator & Executive Support: Douglas Soriano
(b)(6) | Phone: (b)(6) Fax: 713-798-2299

Media Inquiries:
(b)(6)

iPhone

Date:	Mon, 20 Dec 2021 10:34:11 AM -0500
Sent:	Mon, 20 Dec 2021 10:34:09 AM -0500
Subject:	RE: FW: Fox: Outgoing NIH director dismisses Wuhan lab-leak theory as a 'distraction' on last day in office
From:	"Keusch, Gerald T" (b)(6)
To:	David Morens (b) (6) >; Peter Daszak (b) (6) >;
Attachments:	image001.png; image002.jpg; image003.png

Shameful to the end. Where the fuck has he been all along? He is still at risk of reputational damage, and I will do whatever I can however long it takes to bring that to reality.

I will be speaking to Tony later this afternoon and I will be asking/urging/hoping he will help put a rod up Victor Dzau's back – by whatever route he chooses – to dismiss the allegations that Peter has violated the code of behavior of the National Academy of Medicine.

Jerry

From: David Morens (b)(6)
Sent: Monday, December 20, 2021 9:58 AM
To: Peter Daszak (b)(6) >; Keusch, Gerald T (b) (6)
Subject: Fwd: FW: Fox: Outgoing NIH director dismisses Wuhan lab-leak theory as a 'distraction' on last day in office

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

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--------- Forwarded message ---------
From: **Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E]** (b)(6)
Date: Mon, Dec 20, 2021 at 9:48 AM
Subject: FW: Fox: Outgoing NIH director dismisses Wuhan lab-leak theory as a 'distraction' on last day in office
To (b)(6)

From: Folkers, Greg (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b)(6)
Sent: Monday, December 20, 2021 7:27 AM
Subject: Fox: Outgoing NIH director dismisses Wuhan lab-leak theory as a 'distraction' on last day in office

Fox News Flash
Published 13 hours ago

Outgoing NIH director dismisses Wuhan lab-leak theory as a 'distraction' on last day in office

New polls finds 72% of Americans believe COVID-19 originated in Wuhan lab

By Yael Halon | Fox News

Retiring NIH director Dr. Francis Collins joined 'Fox News Sunday' to discuss the latest information regarding the omicron variant.

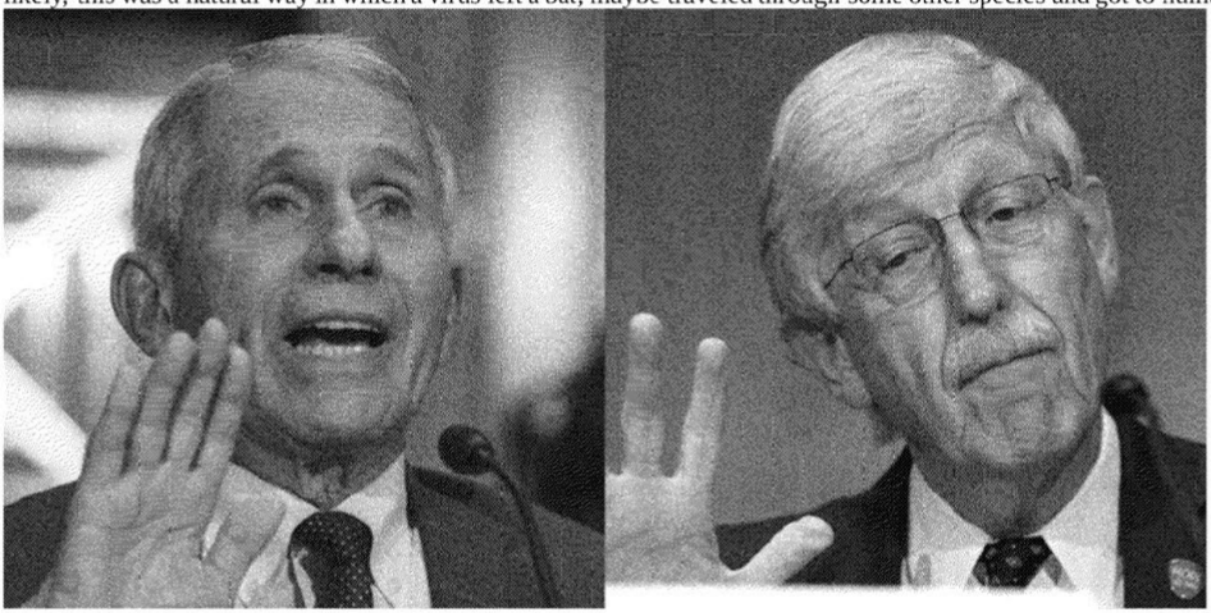
Outgoing National Institutes of Health Director Dr. Francis Collins told Fox News on Sunday that he's "sorry" the Wuhan lab-leak theory has become such a "huge distraction" for the country, despite there being "no evidence" to support it.

Collins joined "Fox News Sunday" on his last day in office after more than a decade in the agency's top position. The geneticist and physician tapped by President Barack Obama to lead the NIH in 2009 dodged questions about his efforts to discredit the lab-leak theory at the onset of the pandemic, maintaining the most plausible explanation is that the virus spread through animal-to-human transmission.

"I'm really sorry that the lab leak has become such a distraction for so many people because frankly, we still don't know," Collins told host Bret Baier.

MEDIA FACT-CHECKERS, FACEBOOK CITED WUHAN LAB-LINKED SCIENTIST TO KNOCK DOWN LAB LEAK THEORY

"There is no evidence really to say. Most of the scientific community, myself included, think that is a possibility, but far more likely, this was a natural way in which a virus left a bat, maybe traveled through some other species and got to humans."



WASHINGTON, DC - JULY 20: Top infectious disease experts Dr. Anthony Fauci and Dr. Francis Collins, Director of the National Institutes of Health, on Capitol Hill. (J. Scott Applewhite-Pool/Getty Images; Greg Nash- Pool/Getty Images)

Collins said in October of this year that accusations surrounding the agency's involvement in gain-of-function research and the Wuhan Institute of Virology had "absolutely" nothing to do with his resignation.

Still, emails released by BuzzFeed that reveal private correspondence between Collins and Dr. Anthony Fauci suggest a deliberate effort to downplay theories that the coronavirus originated in the Wuhan lab and, whether deliberately or inadvertently, their funding had any involvement.

"We won't know unless China decides to open up on this which they have not done, and shame on them for that," Collins said, reiterating that "this has been a huge distraction" for the scientific community.

MOST AMERICANS BELIEVE COVID-19 LEAKED FROM WUHAN LAB, POLL FINDS

"We in this country have somehow gotten all fractured into a hyperpolarized politicized view that never should have been mixed with public health," Collins said. "It has been ruinous and history will judge harshly those people who have continued to defocus the effort and focus on conspiracies and things that are demonstrably false. Shame on all us that we've gotten into this kind of pickle."

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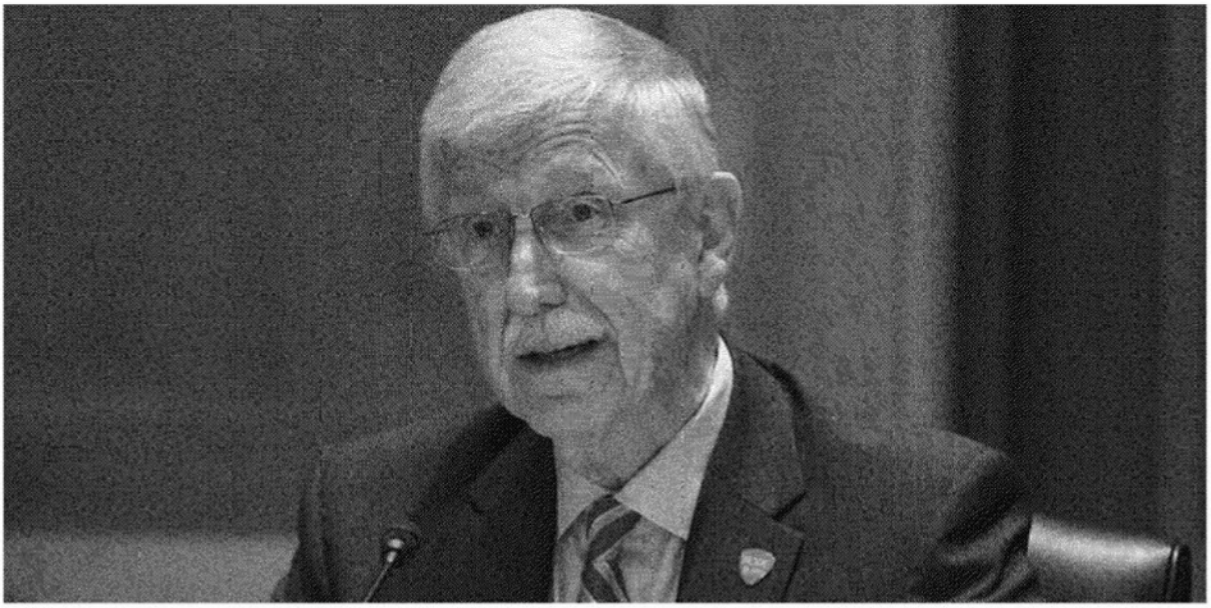
MORENS_NIH_032146
REL0000476880

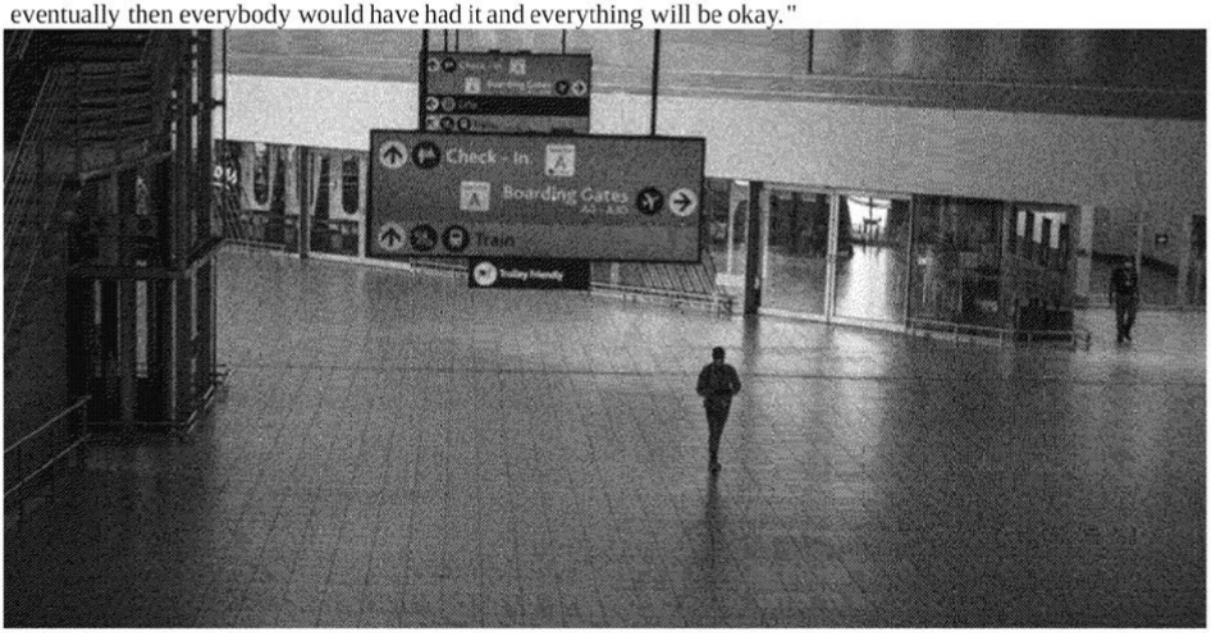


National Institutes of Health Director Dr. Francis Collins testifies before a Senate Appropriations Subcommittee looking into the budget estimates for National Institute of Health (NIH) and the state of medical research on Capitol Hill, May 26, 2021 in Washington, D.C. (Sarah Silbiger-Pool/Getty Images)

Collins made headlines on Friday after the House Select Subcommittee on the Coronavirus Crisis released an email where he expressed deep concerns about the herd immunity strategy being advocated by "fringe epidemiologists," and called for "a quick and devastating published takedown" of the three experts promoting the herd immunity strategy known as "The Great Barrington Declaration."

Collins told Baier that he is "not going to apologize," for his words, arguing that "hundreds of thousands of people would have died if we had followed that strategy."

"I did write that, and I will stand by that," Collins said. "Basically, these fringe epidemiologists who really did not have the credentials to be making such a grand sweeping statement, were saying just let the virus run through the population and eventually then everybody would have had it and everything will be okay."



A man walks through a deserted part of Johannesburg's OR Tambo's airport in South Africa. The World Health Organization urged countries around the world not to impose flight bans on southern African nations due to concern over the new omicron variant. (AP/Jerome Delay)

The United States recently surpassed 50 million COVID-19 cases and 800,000 deaths since the start of the pandemic. Despite the staggering numbers, Collins maintained that "hundreds of thousands of people would have died if we had followed that strategy."

"So I'm sorry I was opposed to that, I still am, and I'm not going to apologize for it," he said.

CLICK HERE TO GET THE FOX NEWS APP

As for the new omicron variant, Collins said the U.S. should brace for a "world of trouble" the next couple of months, based on its higher transmissibility than the previous strains, which "pale by comparison."

Baier pointed to recent data out of South Africa that could point to milder symptoms and fewer hospitalizations from omicron. "I am hopeful that that is an indication that while incredibly contagious, this virus may be a bit less likely to make people sick," Collins said, "and obviously that is something we have got to hope for, or our health systems are going to be overwhelmed."

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Date: Fri, 21 Jul 2023 1:38:35 PM -0400
Sent: Fri, 21 Jul 2023 1:37:39 PM -0400
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Fwd: Fauci, Birx, Francis Collins, Baric, Azar, Daszak, Bourla, Bancel, Jha, Njoo, Theresa Tam, Walensky, Doug Ford, Williams, Kieran, Marks, de Villa, Jüni, Hotez, Tedros, CDC, FDA officials, HANG high!
From: David Morens (b)(6)
To: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b) (6) gov>

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

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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) (work)
(cell)

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From: Hotez, Peter Jay (b)(6)
Date: Tue, Dec 27, 2022 at 2:16 PM
Subject: Fauci, Birx, Francis Collins, Baric, Azar, Daszak, Bourla,

Bancel, Jha, Njoo, Theresa Tam, Walensky, Doug Ford, Williams, Kieran, Marks, de Villa, Jüni, Hotez, Tedros, CDC, FDA officials, HANG high!
To: Peter Daszak (b)(6) Aleksei Chmura (b)(6) David Morens (b)(6) >, Gerald Keusch (b)(6) Jeffrey Sturchio (b)(6) Rich Roberts (b)(6) >

https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fpalexander.substack.com%2Fp%2Ffauci-birx-francis-collins-azar-bourla&data=05%7C01%7Cdmorens%40niaid.nih.gov%7C09761f95136e480c925108db8a114f0f%7C14b77578977342d585&sdata=GJGeD%2BYUKZSj32svzwgraVf53GSpE4c6PkRViMl9m84%3D &reserved=0

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

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

Baylor University, University Professor

Rice University, Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty

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

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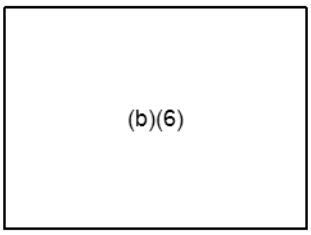
Senior Coordinator & Executive Support: Douglas Soriano

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

Media Inquiries:



iPhone

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Date: Fri, 21 Jul 2023 1:22:24 PM -0400
Subject: Fwd: Publication of Angie Rasmussen article
From: David Morens (b) (6)
To: David Morens (b)(6)

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

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---------- Forwarded message --------
From: Jeffrey Sturchio (b)(6)
Date: Thu, Sep 15, 2022 at 1:48 PM
Subject: RE: Publication of Angie Rasmussen article
To: Keusch, Gerald T (b)(6) Hotez, Peter Jay (b)(6)
Cc: Roberts, Rich (b)(6) Peter Daszak
(b)(6) , David Morens (b)(6)
Aleksei Chmura < (b) (6)

All: It's a shame that he's able to hold forth unchallenged in these venues. It would be interesting to have him interviewed by a journalist who actually knows something about virology – but he seems to gravitate toward general journalists (or partisan journalists) who are intimidated by his Ivy League credentials and accept whatever he says at face value. That's way the Rasmussen/Worobey commentary is so valuable – they show clearly and persuasively why no one should pay any attention to his views on SARS-COV-2 origins.

As ever,

Jeff

From: Keusch, Gerald T (b)(6)
Sent: Thursday, September 15, 2022 1:31 PM
To: Jeffrey Sturchio (b) (6) >; Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6)

Cc: Roberts, Rich (b) (6) >; Peter Daszak
(b)(6) >; David Moren (b)(6)
Aleksei Chmura (b)(6)
Subject: RE: Publication of Angie Rasmussen article

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

MORENS_SUBPOENA_003766
MORENS_NIH_010678
REL0000476882

(b)(6) Peter Daszak (b) (6) >,
David Morens (b)(6) Aleksei Chmura
(b)(6)

Subject: Publication of Angie Rasmussen article

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

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

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

Baylor University, University Professor

Rice University, Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty

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

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

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Senior Coordinator & Executive Support: Douglas Soriano

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

Media Inquiries:
(b) (6)

MORENS_SUBPOENA_003767
MORENS_NIH_010679
REL0000476882

(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 Moren (b)(6) >; Aleksei Chmura
(b) (6) >
Subject: RE: Another attack from Republican Senators

He repeated every inappropriate and unbalanced view he has repeatedly pushed everywhere else. Totally inappropriate, and he more than implied that these were the conclusions of the Commission.

Jerry

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

I can't bring myself to watch

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

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MORENS_NIH_010680
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Baylor University, University Professor

Rice University, Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty

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

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

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Senior Coordinator & Executive Support: Douglas Soriano

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

Media Inquiries:

(b) (6)

(b)(6)

iPhone

On Sep 15, 2022, at 11:18 AM, Keusch, Gerald T (b)(6) wrote:

Watching Jeff expound and I am nauseated.

Sent from my iPhone

MORENS_SUBPOENA_003769
MORENS_NIH_010681
REL0000476882

On Sep 15, 2022, at 9:19 AM, Hotez, Peter Jay [(b) (6)] wrote:

It's just

(b) (6)

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

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

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Media Inquiries:

(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

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Media Inquiries:

(b)(6)

iPhone

On Sep 14, 2022, at 10:56 PM, Jeffrey Sturchio [(b)(6)] ote:

Peter: The Washington Post report was pretty balanced – and I'm glad that Dan Diamond gave you and Angela Rasmussen the space to clarify some of the more dubious elemenets of the Lancet Commission report. Your quotation was excellent – strong, succinct, clear, and true. Angela's was also terrific.

As ever,
jeff

From: Hotez, Peter Jay [(b)(6)]
Sent: Wednesday, September 14, 2022 10:05 PM
To: Peter Daszak [(b)(6)]>
Cc: Keusch, Gerald T [(b) (6)] David Morens [(b)(6)]; Rich Roberts [(b) (6)] >; Aleksei Chmura [(b)(6)]>; Jeff Sturchio [(b)(6)]
Subject: Re: Another attack from Republican Senators

It's awful, here are my quotes in the Washington Post tonight

https://www.washingtonpost.com/health/2022/09/14/lancet- covid-commission-report-who/

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

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Baylor College of Medicine: Dean,

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Date: Wed, 3 Aug 2022 12:12:09 PM -0400
Sent: Wed, 3 Aug 2022 12:07:48 PM -0400
Subject: Re: Jeff Sachs is at it again!
From: "Hotez, Peter Jay" < (b) (6)
To: Peter Daszak < (b) (6)
CC: Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6) < (b) (6) <(b) (6) Roberts, Rich < (b) (6) Aleksei Chmura < (b) (6) David Morens Jeff Sturchio

---

This is awful

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

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

iPhone

On Aug 3, 2022, at 10:27 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.**

I just saw this in *Current Affairs*. At least this is not a major daily broadsheet, but it's filled with inaccuracies again (some of them highlighted in the text below, in order of appearance).

- He responds to the two papers in *Science* this week by dismissing the scientists (all 20+ of them) as having already stated their opinions prior to the paper, so what they're doing is simply creating a narrative.
- He states that the work in our rejected DARPA proposal was underway and being promoted very actively – again simply not true as I've stated publicly – the grant was not funded and the work not done.
- He goes into details of our unfortunate conversations as he tried to remove me from the Lancet Commission. He implies I didn't share the details of my work in China with him prior to joining. This is not true – it's why he invited me to lead the taskforce.
- He accuses me of 'misdirection' re. the work I've done in China. Not sure how publishing it in dozens of papers and speaking about it daily at the beginning of the pandemic is somehow misdirecting.
- He follows a common theme from the lab leakers that we had 180 viral 'strains' in the lab. Not true – we had hundreds of short RdRp sequences (few hundred base pairs) PCR'd from bat samples – only 3 viral strains in culture. All of this publicly released, all of it repeatedly stated.
- He makes a demand for 'lab notebooks' again. This amplifies the aggressive FoIAs and congressional attacks against us. I already told him EHA doesn't have a lab and doesn't keep 'lab notebooks'. Good luck asking for these from China with this aggressive narrative.
- He outright accuses scientists arguing that the virus did not come from a lab as 'lying'.
- He follows another lab leak narrative of dismissing EcoHealth's work as simply being a 'marriage-maker' between US and China labs to shunt NIH money to China. I'm very proud of the fact that EHA's work over the last two decades has led to multiple papers in *Nature*, *Science*, and all other leading journals. You just don't end up being senior author on these papers by acting as a 'marriage maker', but dismissing our scientific status is part of the lab leak agenda to undermine science.
- He accuses me of 'not telling the truth'. No details of course!
- Accuses all the other Task Force members of hiding some alleged conflict of interest - that they are 'part of this thing', whatever that is
- Accuses the task force of trying to avoid looking into the lab leak even though he knew full well we had interviewed people like Relman, Ebright, Quay as part of our work and had stated publicly that we would look at all hypotheses re. COVID origins.
- He dodges the question on my alleged 'hiding pretty serious conflicts of interest' by saying he asked for my research proposals and I wouldn't hand them over on legal advice. What he failed to mention is the reason I gave him for this in an email – NIH had refused to make those proposals public under FoIA and had then been sued. If I then went against their direction I would run the risk of further grant terminations. That's what my lawyers advised and I have an organization to run, rather than undermine our funding base just because Jeff Sachs is inquisitive…
- Damagingly, he states that our rationale for hiding the truth is because we don't want to be guilty for millions of deaths. That is exactly the comment I get when people send me death threats (more every week now that these stories are in the news). It's a pretty straightforward incitement to violence for these people.
- He states that he doesn't trust scientists because we hide our work, when in fact we've published it in papers, and our proposals (even those that are not funded) are now public.
- He equates this work with nuclear weapons research
- He criticizes NIH for redacting 290 pages of attachments. Anyone who's bothered to look at that will see that NIH was circulating a DRAFT version of their COVID-19 research strategy that was released a few days later having been corrected and edited. It was simply an attachment to an email. There's no way that a govt agency should be circulating uncorrected versions of a strategic plan – that's just commonsense.

https://www.currentaffairs.org/2022/08/why- the-chair-of-the-lancets-covid-19-commission-thinks-the-us-government-is-preventing-a-real-investigation-into-the-pandemic

Why the Chair of the Lancet's COVID-19 Commission Thinks The US Government Is Preventing a Real Investigation Into the Pandemic

Prof. Jeffrey Sachs says he is "pretty convinced [COVID-19] came out of US lab biotechnology" and warns that there is dangerous virus research taking place without public oversight.

- Current Affairs

filed 02 August 2022 in THE VIRUS

Prof. Jeffrey Sachs is the Director of the Center for Sustainable Development at Columbia University and the President of the UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network. He has also served as the chair of the COVID-19 commission for leading medical journal the *Lancet*. Through his investigations as the head of the COVID-19 commission, Prof. Sachs has come to the conclusion that there is extremely dangerous biotechnology research being kept from public view, that the United States was supporting much of this research, and that it is very possible that SARS-CoV-2, the virus responsible for COVID-19, originated through dangerous virus research gone awry.

Prof. Sachs recently co-authored a paper in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences calling for an independent inquiry into the virus's origins. He believes that there is clear proof that the National Institutes of Health and many members of the scientific community have been impeding a serious investigation of the origins of COVID-19 and deflecting attention away from the hypothesis that risky U.S.-supported research may have led to millions of deaths. If that hypothesis is true, the implications would be earth-shaking, because it might mean that esteemed members of the scientific community bore responsibility for a global calamity. In this interview, Prof. Sachs explains how he, as the head of the COVID-19 commission for a leading medical journal, came to the conclusion that powerful actors were preventing a real investigation from taking place. He also explains why it is so important to get to the bottom of the origins of COVID: because, he says, there is extremely dangerous research taking place with little accountability, and the public has a right to know since we are the ones whose lives are being put at risk without our consent.

NATHAN ROBINSON:

I want to quote something that you said recently:

"I chaired the commission for the Lancet for two years on COVID. I'm pretty convinced it came out of U.S. lab biotechnology, not out of nature, just to mention. After two years of intensive work on this. So it's a blunder in my view of biotech, not an accident of a natural spillover. We don't know for sure, I should be absolutely clear. But there's enough evidence that it should be looked into. And it's not being investigated, not in the United States, not anywhere. And I think for real reasons that they don't want to look underneath the rug, the statement."

The statement that you made there is a controversial one. Just to read a couple of quotes from the *New York Times* in the last year:

- "In a review of recent studies and comparisons to other outbreaks, a group of virologists contends that there is more evidence to support a natural spillover from animals to humans."
- "Scientists released a pair of extensive studies over the weekend that point to a large food and live animal market in Wuhan, China, as the origin of the coronavirus pandemic."

So I want to start by asking you just to tell us a little bit about the investigation that you were part of and what led you to think that what I just quoted is a misleading statement of the state of the evidence.

JEFFREY SACHS:

Well, the funny thing is those scientists who are saying that said the same thing on February 4, 2020,

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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

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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.

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Current Af

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance

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

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

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

MORENS_SUBPOENA_009154
MORENS_NIH_019530
REL0000476885

Date: Fri, 21 Jul 2023 1:27:52 PM -0400
Sent: Fri, 21 Jul 2023 1:27:07 PM -0400
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Fwd: Study from 2007 shows SARS-infected civets on farms in Hubei
From: David Morens < (b) (6)
To: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] < (b) (6)

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

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

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

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

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Date: Mon, Sep 20, 2021 at 1:55 AM
Subject: Re: Study from 2007 shows SARS-infected civets on farms in Hubei
To: Jason Gale <(b) (6) >
Cc: Peter Daszak < (b) (6) >, (b) (6) < (b) (6) >, (b) (6) <(b) (6)
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<Screenshot from 2021-09-19 17-04-25.png>

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E (b) (6)

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To: (b) (6)
Cc: Jason Gale (BLOOMBERG/ NEWSROOM:) , (b) (6)
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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.

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REL0000476894

I think you need to promote this work, and emphasize that the conclusions are far reaching and a sort of call to arms.

Let us all keep pushing,
and keep our eyes on the
prize of getting to the bottom of it all
david

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

On Sep 18, 2021, at 12:05, Peter Daszak < (b) (6) > 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://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Ftwitter.com%2Fpeterdaszak%2Fstatus%2F1439
&data=05%7C01%7Cdmorens%40niaid.nih.gov%7Cb0a6eb81c25a4ddd026e08db8a0fce49%7C14b77578977342d585
&sdata=K78SVaYIa%2FNuFlO7fHItuidWgyQ5I%2FJj2EccAhgDQNM%3D &reserved=0

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

https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.ecohealthalliance.org%2F
&data=05%7C01%7Cdmorens%40niaid.nih.gov%7Cb0a6eb81c25a4ddd026e08db8a0fce49%7C14b77578977342d585
&sdata=LS%2FRHDTw0nNfy2y9XYZ1spxP7%2FBOQTOhtneC7lPfUD4%3D &reserved=0

On Sep 18, 2021, at 10:26 AM, Garry, Robert F < (b) (6) > wrote:

Of course, the momentum on the lab leak side will continue, with books by Sharri Markison, Alina Chan/Matt Ridley, Op Eds that criticize scientists, 70+ FoIAs by one organization alone, many other FoIAs on their way, 900 pages of FoIA'd grants and reports from EHA/NIAID showing zero evidence of lab leak.

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<Screenshot from 2021-09-19 17-04-25.png>

<healthcare-09-01132-v2.pdf>
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 1:27:32 PM -0400
Subject: Fwd: Study from 2007 shows SARS-infected civets on farms in Hubei
From: David Morens < (b) (6)
To: David Morens < (b) (6)

David M. Morens, MD
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To: Jason Gale <j.gale@bloomberg.net>
Cc: Peter Daszak < (b) (6) >, David Morens
< (b) (6) >, Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E]
< (b) (6) >, (b) (6)
<(b) (6) Kristian G. Andersen < (b) (6)
Wang Linfa < (b) (6) (b) (6)
< (b) (6) Taubenberger, Jeffery (NIH/NIAID) [E]
< (b) (6) >, (b) (6) < (b) (6) >

Yes, it's very odd. I just can't follow it.

What I did think was interesting - as you note - is that they talk a lot of the market which I thought was totally off the table in China. Also, it's from Nanshan Zhong and I last time I heard him speak he was strongly pushing the frozen food idea.

Perhaps a shift?

Or could just be a wet Wednesday afternoon's ramblings.

PROFESSOR EDWARD C. HOLMES FAA FRS
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T + (b) (6) (b) (6)
E (b) (6)

On 20 Sep 2021, at 4:06 pm, Jason Gale (BLOOMBERG/ NEWSROOM:) <j.gale@bloomberg.net > wrote:

I thought the SARS-CoV-2 virus that emerged in Wuhan wasn't capable of infecting mice that weren't genetically engineered to express human ACE2? This paper, with its emphasis of meteorological factors, seems dodgy to me. But it's good to see research on the origins from researchers in China getting out, albeit it in an obscure journal.

From: (b) (6) At: 09/20/21 15:55:39 UTC+10:00
To: Jason Gale (BLOOMBERG/ NEWSROOM:)
Cc: (b) (6) (b) (6)
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(b) (6) (b) (6)
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(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

On Sep 18, 2021, at 12:05, Peter Daszak < (b) (6) > wrote:

I put it all in a twitter thread while drinking coffee in my local diner (Saturday is "full English breakfast" day for me).

https://twitter.com/peterdaszak/status/1439236376776658945?s=21

No doubt ill be attacked by multiple lab leak aficionados but so be it
- at least eddie,
Garry and Kristian won't see. The horrors of that…

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
(Sent from my iPhone)

President
EcoHealth Alliance

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

www.EcoHealthAlliance.org

On Sep 18, 2021, at 10:26 AM, Garry, Robert F < (b) (6) > wrote:

Of course, the momentum on the lab leak side will continue, with books by Sharri Markison, Alina Chan/Matt Ridley, Op Eds that criticize scientists, 70+ FoIAs by one organization alone, many other FoIAs on their way, 900 pages of FoIA'd grants and reports from EHA/NIAID showing zero evidence of lab leak.

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<Screenshot from 2021-09-19 17-04-25.png>

<healthcare-09-01132-v2.pdf>

MORENS_SUBPOENA_006154
MORENS_NIH_015044
REL0000476895

Date: Fri, 21 Jul 2023 1:02:29 PM -0400
Sent: Fri, 21 Jul 2023 1:00:41 PM -0400
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Fwd: Fauci, Birx, Francis Collins, Baric, Azar, Daszak, Bourla, Bancel, Jha, Njoo, Theresa Tam, Walensky, Doug Ford, Williams, Kieran, Marks, de Villa, Jüni, Hotez, Tedros, CDC, FDA officials, HANG high!
From: David Morens (b) (6)
To: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b)(6)

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

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

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

--------- Forwarded message ---------
From: Keusch, Gerald T (b)(6)
Date: Tue, Dec 27, 2022 at 6:25 PM
Subject: RE: Fauci, Birx, Francis Collins, Baric, Azar, Daszak, Bourla, Bancel, Jha, Njoo, Theresa Tam, Walensky, Doug Ford, Williams, Kieran, Marks, de Villa, Jüni, Hotez, Tedros, CDC, FDA officials, HANG high!
To: Hotez, Peter Jay (b)(6), Peter Daszak (b)(6), Aleksei Chmura, David Morens (b)(6), Jeffrey Sturchio (b)(6), Rich Roberts (b)(6)

Its an insane diatribe. I first wondered what in the world was going on at McMaster but then I found on the web that he had an unpaid part-time position there – seems like they got what they paid for. I also found a link to a letter from Jim Clyburn to him in April last year asking him to testify before the House Select Committee

(https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fcoronavirus.house.gov%2Fsites%2Fdemocrats.04-08.Clyburn%2520to%2520Alexander%2520re%2520COVID%2520Response%2520.pdf&data=05%7C01%7Cdmorens%40niaid.nih.gov%7C80dd108fa6e144347c7a08db8a0c2eda%7C14b77578977342d585&sdata=qh3C%2FzGyW5JNRrsv5Snu9TcRzbfQJPUrR6C5pvcOBok%3D &reserved=0).
I gather he never showed up.

Who is he networked with? The incoming far out Republican right?

Jerry

From: Hotez, Peter Jay [(b)(6)] >
Sent: Tuesday, December 27, 2022 2:16 PM
To: Peter Daszak [(b)(6)]; Aleksei Chmura [(b) (6)] >; David Morens [(b) (6)] >;
Keusch, Gerald T [(b)(6)] ; Jeffrey Sturchio [(b)(6)] Rich Roberts [(b) (6)]
Subject: Fauci, Birx, Francis Collins, Baric, Azar, Daszak, Bourla, Bancel, Jha, Njoo, Theresa Tam, Walensky, Doug Ford, Williams, Kieran, Marks, de Villa, Jüni, Hotez, Tedros, CDC, FDA officials, HANG high!

https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fpalexander.substack.com%2Fp%2Ffauci-birx-francis-collins-azar-bourla&data=05%7C01%7Cdmorens%40niaid.nih.gov%7C80dd108fa6e144347c7a08db8a0c2eda%7C14b77578977342d585&sdata=988CSFKBcpJV0rkSMGBeASu%2BKPUqJdQEfsnIIvy6%2FLU%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)

iPhone

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

Date:	Mon, 25 Apr 2022 8:08:57 PM -0400
Sent:	Mon, 25 Apr 2022 7:02:57 PM -0400
Subject:	Re: Relentless - Another letter today from Republicans to NIH, OIG & NAM accusing EcoHealth of 'potential fraud' etc.
From:	"Hotez, Peter Jay" <(b) (6)
To:	Peter Daszak < (b) (6)
CC:	Jeff Sturchio <(b) (6) Keusch, Gerald T < (b) (6) Roberts, Rich < (b) (6) David Morens <(b) (6)
Attachments:	4.25.22-Letter-to-Dr.-Lawrence-Tabak from House E&C republicans.pdf

Fuckers. Let me know what you need me to do

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

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

University Professor, Baylor University

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

Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

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

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

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

iPhone

On Apr 25, 2022, at 3:39 PM, Peter Daszak <(b) (6) > wrote:

Today the Republicans on the House Energy and Commerce Committee are making a series of allegations about the motives behind our reporting to NIH – the timing of our reports and their content – including accusing us of 'potential fraud'.
The story is here https://www.foxnews.com/politics/house- republicans-ecohealth-alliance-concealed-data.

One important point in the article is that they are publicly stating now that NAM are investigating me: "After receiving our letter, NAM notified us they had opened an internal review of Daszak's behavior, per our request," an Energy and Commerce committee aide told Fox News Digital. "We believe this letter about EcoHealth's potential false statements and fraud is relevant to the ongoing investigation the NAM is conducting into Peter Daszak, so we have sent NAM a copy of this letter as well."

Of course, the allegations in this 17 page letter (attached) are essentially a re-hashing of earlier attacks, most of them spurious, easily explained by the process of doing science, and based on false allegations of motives coupled with a heavy dose of innuendo and hearsay. Some of the allegations are verging on the bizarre – e.g. a whole paragraph on the cropping of a figure in one report whereby the word 'dead' from 'dead point' is partially cut out. Of course, they don't accuse us of lying and fraud, just comment that "it appears the word "dead" was taken out to conceal the deaths from the peer reviewers, which raises scientific and ethical concerns."

The letter is attached – it's from just the Republicans on the committee to the NIH, the HHS OIG, and the National Academy of Medicine.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

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

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

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

---

From: Peter Daszak < (b) (6)
Sent: Thursday, April 21, 2022 9:32 AM
To: 'Hotez, Peter Jay' <(b) (6)
Cc: 'Jeff Sturchio' < (b) (6) 'Keusch, Gerald T' < (b) (6) 'Roberts, Rich' < (b) (6)
'David Morens' < (b) (6) >
Subject: RE: New GAO Report on Scientific Integrity at HHS

Exactly – it's weak and will likely be ineffective at dealing with the pressures from the rabid Right wing.

MORENS_SUBPOENA_000425
MORENS_NIH_004155
REL0000476910

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY (b) (6)
USA

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

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

---

From: Hotez, Peter Jay < (b) (6)
Sent: Thursday, April 21, 2022 9:23 AM
To: Peter Daszak < (b) (6) >
Cc: Jeff Sturchio <(b) (6) Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6) Roberts, Rich <(b) (6)
David Morens <(b) (6) >
Subject: Re: New GAO Report on Scientific Integrity at HHS

Problem is this does not address the bigger issue of widespread attacks on science and scientists, most outside the government from the US Congress, conservative news outlets and even the federal courts

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

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

University Professor, Baylor University

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

Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

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

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

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

iPhone

On Apr 21, 2022, at 7:55 AM, Peter Daszak <(b) (6) > wrote:

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The GAO was asked by the Biden administration to look into political interference in science by the white house under Trump. They interviewed me repeatedly last year and this year about the termination of our R01 grant.

https://www.gao.gov/products/gao- 22-104613

This is the first report from them on the topic. It's massively disappointing, of course, because it just comes up with broad recommendations on what agencies should do to protect themselves against political interference. However, if you read the email below, this is the first of two reports, and the second one should hopefully go into more detail about the NIH actions on EcoHealth's grant.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

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

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

Twitter: @PeterDaszak

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

---

From: Marek, Robert J < (b) (6)
Sent: Wednesday, April 20, 2022 5:56 PM
To: (b) (6)
Subject: New GAO Report on Scientific Integrity at HHS

Dear Peter,

Thank you for participating in our report on scientific integrity at HHS. Our completed report can be accessed here. Please feel free to share it with your network and colleagues. We plan to issue an additional report that will examine the key characteristics that can insulate agencies from political interference, and how, if at all, the selected HHS agencies have experienced potential political interference while carrying out their missions.

Thank you again for your time and providing information on this important topic.

Sincerely,

Rob Marek

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Date: Wed, 29 Apr 2020 7:33:33 PM -0400
Sent: Wed, 29 Apr 2020 7:33:29 PM -0400
Subject: RE: Its official
From: (b)(6)
To: David Morens <(b) (6) >;

More time to write papers with me!

-------- Original message --------
From: David Morens < (b) (6) >
Date: 4/29/20 7:06 PM (GMT-05:00)
To: Gerald T Keusch < (b) (6) Peter Daszak < (b) (6) >
Cc: Jeffery Taubenberger < (b) (6) >
Subject: Its official

Off the record.... Guys sad to say i have now been censored from speaking to the press I was contacted today by a reporter about my prior spoken public and published comments that the virus could not have been genetically engineered. Upshot is, i cant speak to him. I am truly depressed thAt it comes to this. But still pushing ahead as best i can. D

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

MORENS_NIH_024243
REL0000476916

Date: Thu, 11 Apr 2024 7:17:20 PM -0400
Subject: Fwd: [EXTERNAL] Comment request: Daily Mail
From: David Morens (b)(6)
To: Peter Daszak (b) (6) rg>; Keusch, Gerald (b)(6)
Attachments: image001.png; image001.png

Peter, I assume this is more of the same trash and flash. d

From the cell phone of David Morens

--------- Forwarded message ---------
From: **Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E]** (b)(6)
Date: Thu, Apr 11, 2024, 19:10
Subject: Fwd: [EXTERNAL] Comment request: Daily Mail
To: David Morens (b)(6)

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

From: Jon Raasch <(b) (6) .>
Date: April 11, 2024 at 17:16:28 EDT
To: "Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E]" (b) (6) :>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Comment request: Daily Mail

Dr. Morens,

My name is Jon Michael, and I am a reporter with Daily Mail.

I am writing an article about the House investigation into your use of a personal email address to avoid federal transparency and am hoping to include a comment from you in my piece.

'Today, Select Subcommittee on the Coronavirus Pandemic Chairman Brad Wenstrup (R-Ohio) revealed new information from a whistleblower that appears to provide additional evidence of Dr. David Morens — a top advisor to Dr. Anthony Fauci — intentionally subverting federal transparency laws to shield discussions related to the origins of COVID-19,' a press release from the House committee said.

I am wondering if you have any response to their release and investigation into your emails. My deadline is immediate.

Any response to the House committee's findings would better inform my reporting. Hope to hear from you.

Best,

Jon Michael Raasch

U.S. Political Reporter

Daily Mail | 923 15th St. NW, Washington, D.C., 20005

E: (b) (6)

C: (b)(6)

T: @JMRaasch

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Date: Thu, 24 Feb 2022 9:24:10 PM -0500

Sent: Thu, 24 Feb 2022 9:24:07 PM -0500

Subject: Re: open letter: United States and the investigation of COVID origin—letter from American scientists and policy specialists

From: "Keusch, Gerald T" < (b) (6)

To: Hotez, Peter Jay < (b) (6) >;

CC: Peter Daszak < (b) (6) >; Roberts, Rich < (b) (6) >; David Morens < (b) (6) >; Aleksei Chmura < (b) (6) >;

Thanks Peter,

This information will come out and the place for it is PNAS and not Lancet. It should be the Task Force and not the Commission that gets it right and says it right. Jerry

Sent from my iPhone

On Feb 24, 2022, at 6:01 PM, Hotez, Peter Jay < (b) (6) wrote:

Ok sure, I won't send

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 Feb 24, 2022, at 5:53 PM, Keusch, Gerald T < (b) (6) wrote:

I would not like that, Peter H. While I understand what you are thinking I do not want to help the Commission improve the document that Sachs is preparing because the disbanded task force is writing a perspectives for PNAS and we will be talking about these developments in our piece. I don't want Sachs to improve his report, rush to publish, and beat us to the punch once again (that is he fired us before we could quit, because we were trying hard to negotiate an acceptable solution first with Sachs and then with Horton).
Selfish for the now Independent Task Force? Yes. Rational? Yes. Responsible, maybe not, if the interest of better science prevailing in the Commission report is the central issue. I can understand how that would be your concern, but it is not mine.

Jerry

From: Hotez, Peter Jay < (b) (6)
Sent: Thursday, February 24, 2022 4:21 PM
To: Peter Daszak <(b) (6)
Cc: Roberts, Rich < (b) (6) Keusch, Gerald T < (b) (6) David Morens < (b) (6) Aleksei Chmura < (b) (6)
Subject: Re: open letter: United States and the investigation of COVID origin—letter from American scientists and policy specialists

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

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

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

University Professor, Baylor University

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

MORENS_SUBPOENA_015882
MORENS_NIH_033620
REL0000476929

University
Adjunct Professor, University of Texas, School of Public Health

Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

MORENS_SUBPOENA_015883
MORENS_NIH_033621
REL0000476929

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

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
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USA

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

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

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

Peter:

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

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

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

Rich

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

-----Original Message-----
From (b) (6) <(b) (6) >

MORENS_SUBPOENA_015884
MORENS_NIH_033622
REL0000476929

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

EXTERNAL SENDER

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

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

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

Thank you in advance.

RHE

Disclaimer

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Date: Sun, 7 Apr 2024 11:04:02 AM -0400
Sent: Sun, 7 Apr 2024 11:03:53 AM -0400
Subject: RE: EcoHealth's statement circulated by NIH O/D
From: Peter Daszak < (b) (6)
To: David Morens < (b) (6)
CC: Keusch, Gerald T < peter hotez < (b) (6) Roberts, Rich < (b) (6) Jeffrey Sturchio < (b) (6) Aleksei Chmura < (b) (6) Keith Martin < (b) (6)

I hope it isn't one of the frivolous lawsuits, like the 8 we're fighting.

If it is, and if we're named or others, it will reduce the impact re. legal fees, because our lawyers will team up. We've already got 5 of them summarily dismissed, but it takes time and costs money.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

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

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

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

From: David Morens <(b) (6) >
Sent: Sunday, April 7, 2024 10:54 AM
To: Peter Daszak <(b) (6)
Cc: Keusch, Gerald T (b) (6) >; peter hotez <(b) (6) Roberts, Rich <(b) (6) Jeffrey Sturchio <J (b) (6) >; Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) >; Keith Martin (b) (6) >
Subject: Re: EcoHealth's statement circulated by NIH O/D

Thanks, and best of luck with all this. I am hoping we are seeing light at the end of the tunnel

FYI. on Thursday I got a voicemail that a process server wanted to speak to me about being served, no indication about what. Both my personal lawyer and the one handling my SSCP stuff though it was very strange. I have nothing legal going on except the SSCP fiasco.

Benzine and my lawyer agreed in my presence that if I was subpoenaed it would go to the lawyer not to me, and my lawyer thought he would not break that agreement, so this might be from someone else like Sen. Paul. My lawyer tried to follow up on the voice mail to ask for details but no one has yet returned his message.
dmm
From the cell phone of David Morens

On Sun, Apr 7, 2024, 09:30 Peter Daszak (> wrote:
b

> Great to hear that David. I purposefully included the phrase "fully in compliance" to make sure Michael Lauer and others are reminded that their continued harassment is going to be challenged.
>
> I've also reached out to Jon Cohen, Jocelyn Kaiser and Jeffrey Mervis at *Science* and Michael Hiltzik at the LA Times with off-the-record full details about the NIH issues we're going through. Jeffrey Mervis did the full expose of Michael Lauer's attacks on Chinese American scientists with often false allegations of financial impropriety (https://www.science.org/content/article/pall- suspicion-nihs-secretive-china-initiative-destroyed-scores-academic-careers). I don't know if they'll do a story on this or add it to the news re. my public hearing when they write about that. I will pass your names on as potential commentators, and we'll make limited comments to them, bearing in mind we're under NIH's thumb.
>
> Cheers,
>
> Peter
>
> **Peter Daszak**
> *President*
>
> EcoHealth Alliance
> 520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
> New York, NY 10018-6507
> USA
>
> Tel.: + (b) (6)
> Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
> Twitter: @PeterDaszak
>
> *EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation*
>
> **From:** David Morens <(b) (6)
> **Sent:** Saturday, April 6, 2024 3:52 PM
> **To:** Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >; Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6) peter hotez (b) (6) >; Roberts, Rich (b) (6) >; Jeffrey Sturchio (b) (6) >; Aleksei Chmura < (b) (6)
> **Subject:** Fwd: EcoHealth Alliance Statement Concerning SSCP Comments as Reported by Fox News
>
> Circulated thru niaid od. d

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From the cell phone of David Morens

---------- Forwarded message ---------
From: **Folkers, Greg (NIH/NIAID) [C]** <(b) (6) >
Date: Sat, Apr 6, 2024, 14:54
Subject: EcoHealth Alliance Statement Concerning SSCP Comments as Reported by Fox News
To:

EcoHealth Alliance Statement Concerning SSCP Comments as Reported by Fox News

April 6, 2024 – EcoHealth Alliance shares the interest of members of the Select Subcommittee on the Coronavirus Pandemic (SSCP) reported in a Fox News article on Thursday (https://www.foxnews.com/politics/covid- origins-ecohealth-alliance-president-testify-publicly-congress-next-month) in ensuring that reporting requirements on Federal grants are met so that grantee organizations are held accountable to the American people. This is precisely why EHA has cooperated fully with all inquiries into our use of Federal funds to carry out our mission to reduce the threat of future outbreaks, and prevent future pandemics.

We note that the HHS Office of the Inspector General (OIG), in its audit of EHA's and NIH's grant oversight and compliance, did not find significant issues and summarized its findings as follows: "EcoHealth had steps in place to conduct risk assessments of its subrecipients, and also had standardized checklists to document routine monitoring of its subrecipients." The NIH's Division of Financial Advisory Services subsequently informed EHA that all of the findings of the HHS OIG audit have now been resolved, indicating that EHA is fully in compliance. We look forward to the hearing on May 1, when we will have an opportunity to clarify misunderstandings about EHA's reporting on its Federal grants.

Press contact: communications@ecohealthalliance.org

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

Date:	Thu, 5 May 2022 9:29:29 AM -0400
Sent:	Thu, 5 May 2022 9:26:39 AM -0400
Subject:	Article in Buzzfeed yesterday detailing political motivation behind Termination of EHA's grant
From:	Peter Daszak < (b) (6)
To:	Keusch, Gerald T < (b) (6) Roberts, Rich < (b) (6) David Morens < (b) (6) Hotez, Peter Jay < (b) (6) Jeff Sturchio < (b) (6)
CC:	Aleksei Chmura < (b) (6)
Attachments:	image001.jpg; image002.jpg; image003.png; image004.jpg; image005.jpg; image006.jpg

Dear All,

Peter Aldhous from Buzzfeed has done a deep dive on FoIA'd emails and put together a convincing account of how a pretty awful Animal Rights group (White Coat Waste) was behind much of the initial efforts to get our grant terminated by NIH. It shows that the campaign against EHA and myself was politically motivated and as Jeff Sturchio said in an email to me today 'cravenly opportunistic'. It shows clearly that Francis Collins, Michael Lauer, and a bunch of lawyers at NIH have been on a two-year long campaign to find justification for their actions so they can throw us under the bus to avoid political pressure.

https://www.buzzfeednews.com/article/peteraldhous/white- coat-waste-anthony-fauci-nih-ecohealth-alliance-lab

Note the following line, when Michael Lauer discovered that our Yr 5 report arrived late, so they could try to nail us for 'non-compliance' even though we'd already reported the experiment the year earlier.

A heavily redacted series of emails from May 2021 centers on the July 2016 letter from the NIAID that had given EcoHealth permission to resume the chimera work. Accepting a suggestion made by Daszak himself, it stated that if any of the chimeric viruses showed unexpectedly rapid growth, he would "immediately stop all experiments with these viruses" and provide NIAID officials with information about the unexpected outcomes. Shortly after receiving the letter, Lauer sent it on to a senior attorney with the Department of Health and Human Services, assigned to the NIH, changing the subject line on the email thread to "Gift."

What an awful bunch of disingenuous bureaucrats in the Office of the Director – a real rats nest – focused entirely on saving their own jobs, not caring about science or grantees…

Here's the text of the article:

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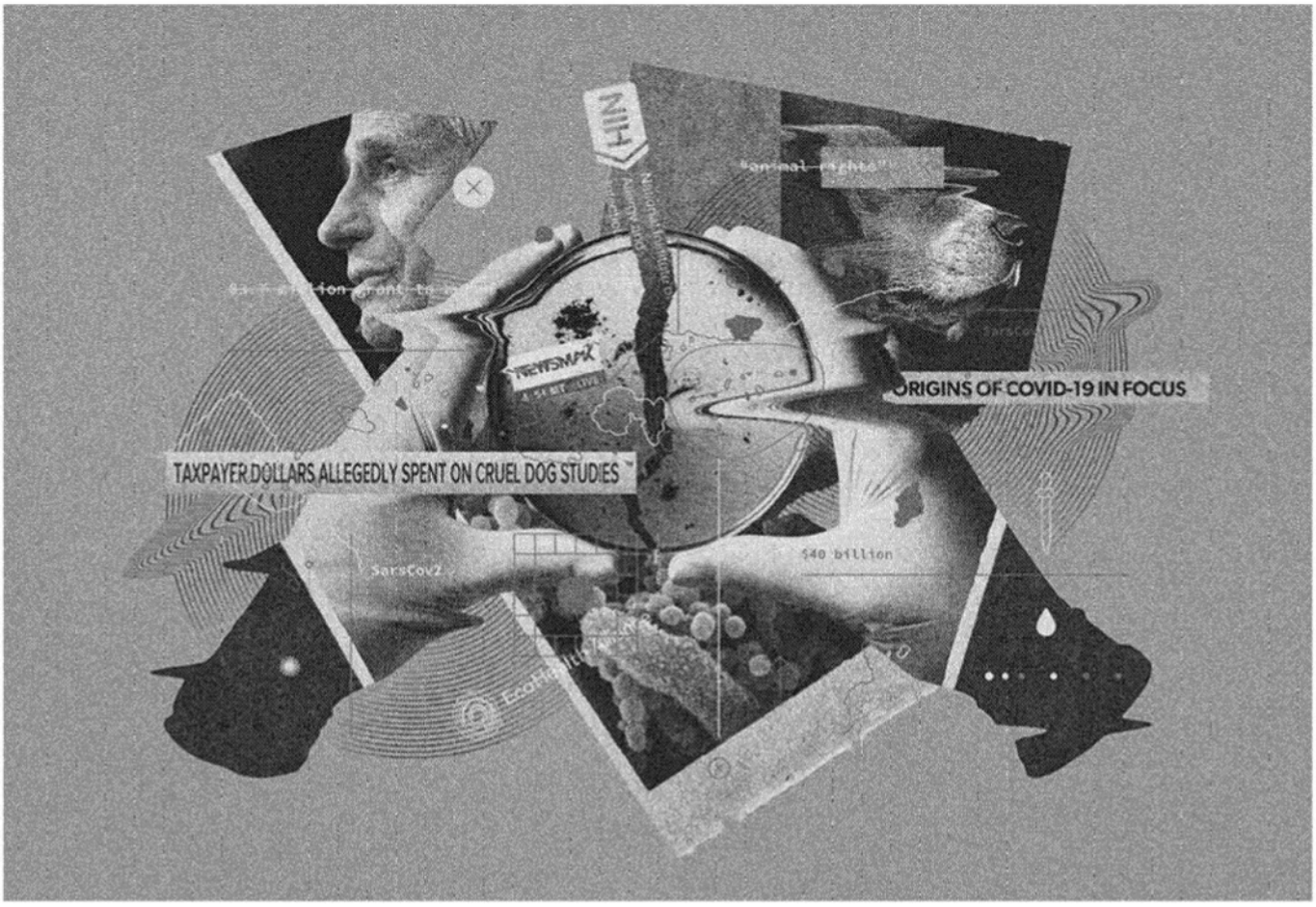

Israel Vargas for BuzzFeed News

As much of the United States entered COVID lockdowns in April 2020, a tiny group that campaigns against federal funding for animal experiments spotted an opportunity.

Speculation was swirling in right-leaning media that the virus behind the pandemic had emerged from a lab in Wuhan, China, rather than from wildlife sold for food in the city's markets. As it happened, the White Coat Waste Project had been looking into taxpayer money going to labs in China, including in Wuhan. The group's founder had strong contacts with Republican politicians and had launched the group with the mission of getting conservatives into animal activism.

The White Coat Waste Project sprung into action, persuading DailyMail.com to run a story saying the US government had funded the lab. Then all hell broke loose.

Then-president Donald Trump, keen to blame China for the pandemic, was soon involved. After prodding from the conservative outlet Newsmax at a press conference, his administration terminated the grant from the National Institutes of Health, which had been awarded to a New York–based nonprofit called the EcoHealth Alliance.

Since then, the controversy over whether the COVID pandemic started with a "lab leak" has escalated into a ferocious fight, with conflicting narratives that paint EcoHealth and the Wuhan Institute of Virology either as out-of-control scientists who may have caused the pandemic through inherently risky research or as the victims of politically motivated conspiracy theories, unfairly vilified as the architects of a catastrophe that they worked for years to prevent by studying the risks posed by bat coronaviruses.

Two years on, and with the scientific trail going cold, it's possible that the mystery of the origins of SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19, may never be conclusively solved. But thousands of

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pages of NIH emails and other documents released to BuzzFeed News through a Freedom of Information Act lawsuit show how the White Coat Waste Project rode the wave of partisan pandemic politics to serve its cause, and in the process triggered a storm that engulfed EcoHealth, one of the world's largest groups studying potentially dangerous animal viruses. They also show how the NIH, a behemoth that spends more than $40 billion annually on biomedical research, stumbled under the political pressure the White Coat Waste Project brought to bear.

The White Coat Waste Project has subsequently channeled right-wing anger toward Anthony Fauci, the public face of COVID policies including mask and vaccine mandates, accusing his National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, which is part of the NIH, of funding "beagle torture." The White Coat Waste Project is writing a controversial new activist playbook — and it's unclear whether anyone can control the forces that it has helped to unleash.

"They jumped on the bandwagon of how I have become public enemy number one of the far right," Fauci told BuzzFeed News. "If you engage and try and push back on that, it very often only gives it legs. And then it becomes even worse of a problem."



White Coat Waste via YouTube / Via youtube.com

Anthony Bellotti

The White Coat Waste Project was formed in 2013 by Anthony Bellotti, a campaign consultant who over the years had worked for Republican candidates including Arnold Schwarzenegger and Lisa Murkowski, and on efforts to defund Planned Parenthood and Obamacare. But Bellotti's real passion had long been animal protection, he told BuzzFeed News — an interest forged at the age of 17 when he worked as a summer intern in a lab doing research on pigs, studying ways to extend the time they could be kept under anesthesia during heart surgery. Bellotti said he was struck both by the animals' suffering and the "repugnant and callous attitude" of the experimenters. "It really made a mark on me," he said. Poring over polling data, Bellotti could see that there was a big gap between Democrats and Republicans on the issue. Democrats were much more likely to support campaigns against animal experiments,

which had often focused on corporate labs, and Republicans tended to back the research. So Bellotti crafted a message calculated to bring the missing Republicans on board, focusing on government spending. He avoids the label "animal rights," and has cast the White Coat Waste Project as a "taxpayer watchdog uniting liberty-lovers and animal-lovers."

In addition to mobilizing support from the political right, there was another reason to target government spending: Congress has the power to shut it down. "The goal isn't to change hearts and minds, it's to win the fight," Bellotti told BuzzFeed News. "We had to get to the root cause of the problem, which was the government spending."

The group didn't really take off until 2016, when Bellotti hired Justin Goodman, a former director of laboratory investigations with People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals, to head the White Coat Waste Project's advocacy efforts. Goodman started digging into government databases and filing FOIA requests to identify projects that the group could campaign to defund.

Even before the pandemic, the White Coat Waste Project scored some victories. An early campaign, launched in a report called "Spending to Death," highlighted experiments involving dogs in federal labs, including one studying the effects of blood transfusions in dogs with pneumonia in which some of the animals died. The group then turned up the heat on the Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center in Richmond, Virginia, focusing on experiments into heart disease in which dogs were run on treadmills after their heart rhythms were disrupted using implanted pacemaker devices. The White Coast Waste Project's multiyear effort to shut down Veterans Affairs dog research eventually led Congress to restrict spending on the work and demand explicit approval from the secretary for veterans affairs for new dog experiments by the agency.

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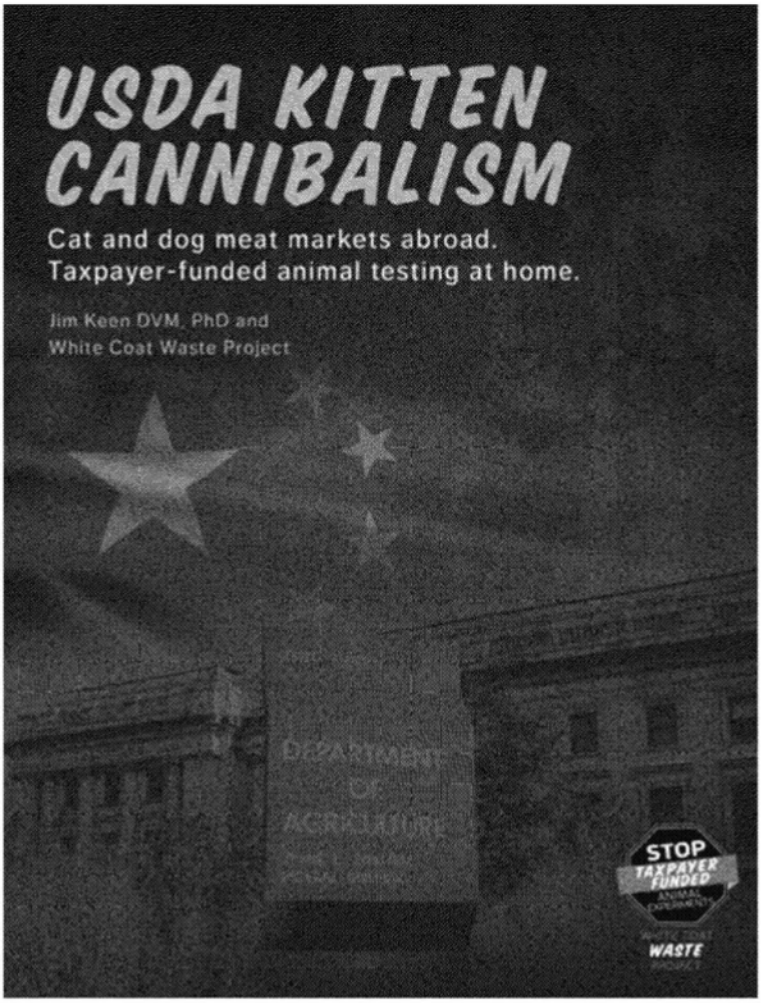


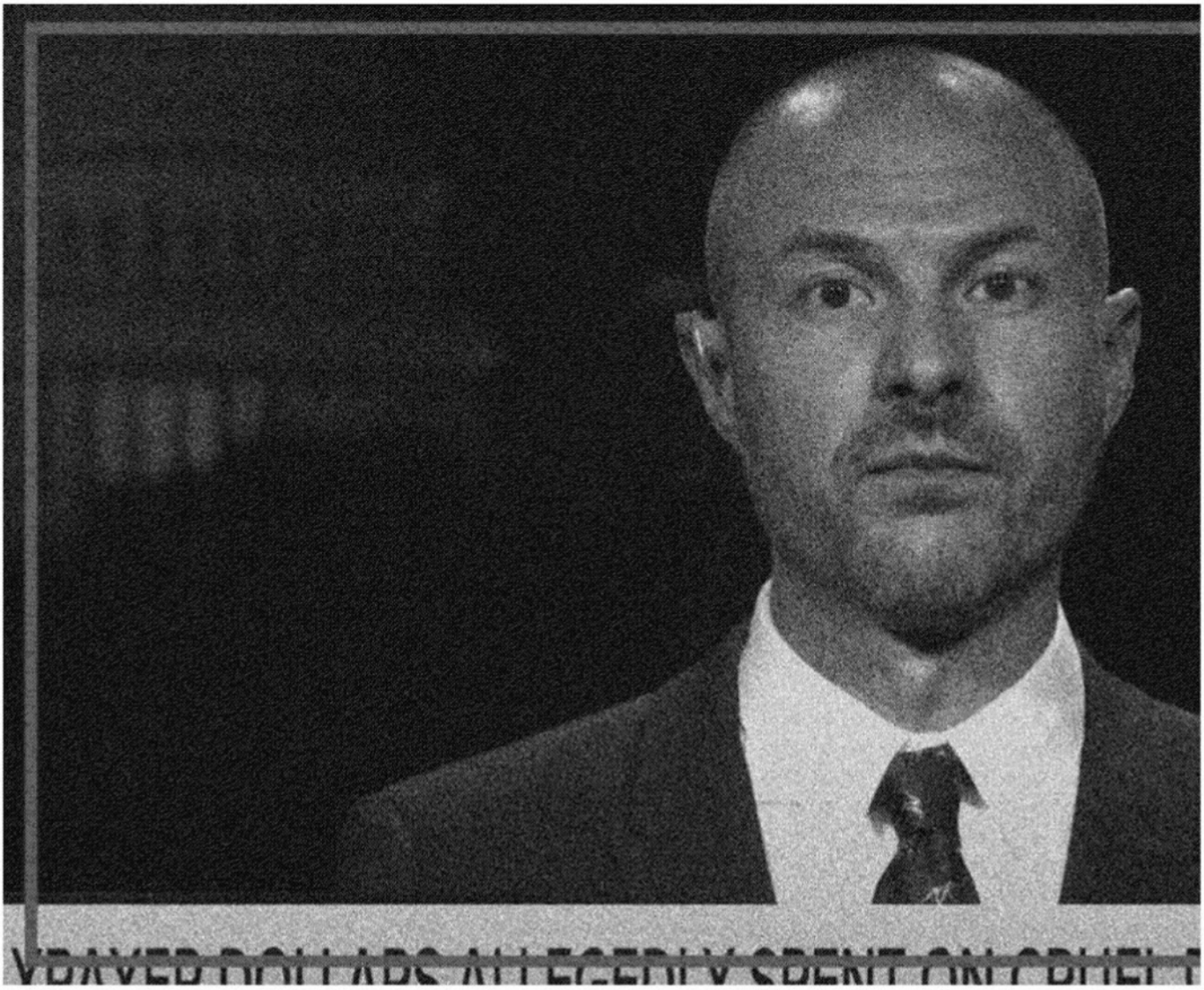
White Coat Waste

The cover of the White Coat Waste Project's 2019 report titled "USDA Kitten Cannibalism"

But it was another campaign that sowed the seeds for the attack on EcoHealth and its collaboration with the Wuhan Institute of Virology. In 2018, the White Coat Waste Project began to target the US Department of Agriculture's Animal Parasitic Diseases Laboratory in Beltsville, Maryland, zeroing in on its research into toxoplasmosis, which can infect people exposed to cat feces and can cause brain or eye damage in those with compromised immune systems. The campaign culminated in a March 2019 White Coat Waste Project report called "USDA Kitten Cannibalism." Its cover featured the Chinese flag superimposed over a photo of USDA's headquarters in Washington, DC.

That framing drew on an experiment published in 2007 in which cats at the Maryland facility were fed meat from other cats purchased at a market in China to gauge its infectivity. Although the full report noted that these experiments were no longer being run, the association between this gruesome-sounding research and a nation seen as a major adversary to the US resonated with members of Congress from both parties and with the media. Within a couple of weeks, the USDA announced that the cat toxoplasmosis research would be shut down, stating that it had "reached its maturity."

After that win, Bellotti said that the White Coat Waste Project started to wonder about what else was being funded with taxpayer dollars outside of the US: "This is horrible stuff. What else is going on?" So Goodman started to look at research in foreign labs funded by the NIH, turning to a list of those given an "animal welfare assurance" needed to receive federal dollars for animal experiments. He focused particularly on labs in the US's two main geopolitical rivals. "One of the things that struck us was that there were at the time 31 labs in Russia and China," Goodman told BuzzFeed News.



NewsNation via YouTube / Via youtube.com
Justin Goodman

Still, the White Coat Waste Project remained a small player in the world of animal activism: Its total revenue in 2019 of around $1.4 million was dwarfed by the $60 million pulled in by Goodman's former employer PETA. And initial efforts to interest the Trump administration in Goodman's findings on the NIH's overseas animal research didn't gain much traction. In January 2020, as reports emerged of a dangerous new virus spreading in China, the White Coat Waste Project had a meeting with White House officials. Goodman recalls specifically mentioning the Wuhan Institute of Virology, but the Trump staffers didn't bite. "We gave them a bunch of information and never heard back," Goodman said. "We got a cursory 'thank you.'"

At that time, Peter Daszak, president of the EcoHealth Alliance, had never heard of the White Coat Waste Project and had no inkling of the storm that was brewing. "If you would have told me that this chain of events was going to happen, I would have said, 'No way, this is absolutely impossible,'" he told BuzzFeed News.
Federal spending records show that EcoHealth has received almost $120 million from research grants and contracts since 2008, from agencies including USAID, the NIH, and the Defense Threat Reduction

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Agency. EcoHealth's emergence as a major player in assessing pandemic threats, working with labs across the world, was fueled in part by the "near miss" with SARS, another respiratory disease caused by a coronavirus that emerged in southern China in 2002 and killed nearly 800 people before its spread was brought under control.

Indeed, in late January 2020, officials in Fauci's institute who were preparing talking points for their boss, due to appear at a Jan. 28 press conference on the US response to the new coronavirus, described Daszak's research into the risks posed by bat coronaviruses in glowing terms. The EcoHealth group was "among the biggest players in coronavirus research," wrote David Morens, senior adviser to Fauci, in an email obtained through the BuzzFeed News FOIA lawsuit. "In short, we have on our team … probably the world's experts in these non-human coronaviruses."

> "If you would have told me that this chain of events was going to happen, I would have said, 'No way, this is absolutely impossible.'"

Fast-forward to April 2020, and the White Coat Waste Project's findings about NIH funding for the Wuhan Institute of Virology were starting to find a receptive audience. On April 11, the group succeeded in getting DailyMail.com, the website of a British tabloid newspaper with a large online readership in the US, to run the story: "REVEALED: U.S. Government Gave $3.7 Million Grant to Wuhan Lab at Center of Coronavirus Leak Scrutiny." ($3.7 million was actually the total sum paid over six years to EcoHealth, gleaned by Goodman from the NIH's grants database; in fact, less than $600,000 went to the Wuhan institute.)

The White Coat Waste Project started reaching out to Republicans in Congress — and the NIH was soon reeling. By April 13, NIH officials were scrambling to respond to a request for information from the office of Florida Sen. Marco Rubio, which had forwarded an email from Goodman noting the press coverage of the White Coat Waste Project's "troubling find" about the Wuhan institute. In that email, Goodman noted: "We're working with Rep. Matt Gaetz (R-FL) and others on a sign-on letter about this."

Two days later, the alarm bells were ringing at the very top of the NIH. Lawrence Tabak, deputy to Francis Collins, then director of the NIH, wrote to his boss and Fauci, whose institute had awarded the grant, emphasizing in bold that the Trump White House was on the warpath: "The **WH has strongly embraced concerns** raised by Congressman Gaetz who is publicly criticizing HHS/NIH for funding the Wuhan laboratory's bat research."

"I reached Tony, he is now informed," Collins replied, confirming Fauci was in the loop.

Then, on April 17, a Newsmax reporter asked Trump about the project, repeating the false claim that $3.7 million had gone to the Wuhan institute. "We will end that grant very quickly," Trump said.

Michael Lauer, head of the NIH Office of Extramural Research, part of Collins' central command, then took control. On April 19, Lauer wrote to inform EcoHealth that NIH was looking to suspend the Wuhan institute from receiving federal funds. Other spending could continue, but EcoHealth should send no more money to China. In an April 21 email, Daszak told Lauer that since the grant was renewed for a second five-year term in July 2019, no funds had gone to Wuhan "nor has any contract been signed."

But three days later, NIH terminated the entire grant, for "convenience." In a one-page letter to EcoHealth on April 24, Lauer wrote: "At this time, NIH does not believe that the current project outcomes align with the program goals and agency priorities."

Daszak was stunned. So too were many other scientists, disturbed that research that had been exceptionally highly rated in peer review, and which was directly related to the pandemic, could be canceled at a stroke. On May 21, 77 US Nobel Prize winners in science wrote to NIH director Collins

and Alex Azar, secretary of health and human services, protesting the decision and describing the explanation given by Lauer about the NIH's priorities as "preposterous under the circumstances."

EcoHealth's response came on the day after the Nobelists' letter, when the group's pro bono lawyer wrote to Lauer contending that the NIH didn't have the legal authority to terminate a research grant in this way, without cause. The letter also argued that EcoHealth's goals were virtually identical to those laid out in the NIAID Strategic Plan for COVID-19 Research, released the day before the grant termination.

Later, in a congressional hearing, Fauci was asked why the grant was terminated. "It was canceled because the NIH was told to cancel it," he told the House Energy and Commerce Committee on June 23, 2020. "We got it from the highest office of the president: 'Cancel that grant,'" Fauci confirmed to BuzzFeed News.

The backlash against Lauer's initial letter seemed to prompt a rethink from the NIH. As first reported by the Wall Street Journal, Lauer came back to EcoHealth with a second letter on July 8. Abandoning the explanation about the NIH's priorities, Lauer wrote that the grant was reinstated, but immediately suspended because of concerns about biosafety at the Wuhan Institute of Virology. That tied the suspension directly to the lab leak theory, which posits that the pandemic may have started with the accidental release of a virus being studied in the lab, perhaps through a worker who became infected.

"We have concerns that WIV has not satisfied safety requirements under the award, and that EcoHealth Alliance has not satisfied its obligations to monitor the activities of its subrecipient to ensure compliance," Lauer wrote.

To lift that suspension, EcoHealth would have to respond to seven requests for information and materials. They included: "EcoHealth Alliance must arrange for WIV to submit to an outside inspection team charged to review the lab facilities and lab records, with specific attention to addressing the question of whether WIV staff had SARS-CoV-2 in their possession prior to December 2019." There was no way a US nonprofit could get the Chinese authorities to agree to such a request: Even the WHO team, including Daszak, that later visited the institute in February 2021 as part of its study of the origins of COVID-19 didn't get this unfettered access.

With Lauer's second letter, the grant entered a state of limbo from which it has yet to emerge — and seems unlikely to.

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Hector Retamal / AFP via Getty Images

The Wuhan Institute of Virology on Feb. 3, 2021

Since then, Republicans in Congress have leaned hard into the lab leak theory and the related idea that the NIH funded EcoHealth and the Wuhan institute to conduct "gain-of-function" research — when scientists deliberately make viruses more dangerous in order to study pandemic risks. Internal correspondence obtained by BuzzFeed News shows NIH officials discussing at length how to respond to demands for information from congressional Republicans about the agency's funding for EcoHealth and the Wuhan institute.

The White Coat Waste Project once again entered the fray. In November 2021, it released 378 pages of documents obtained through FOIA, including a back-and-forth in 2016 between Daszak and two NIAID officials. Those officials were concerned that some experiments under EcoHealth's collaboration with the Wuhan institute might breach a pause the US government had imposed on gain-of-function work that could create a potentially pandemic virus. The experiments involved creating "chimeric"

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coronaviruses, engineered to combine genetic sequences from different viruses sampled from the wild.

Some proposed experiments involved chimeras based on the virus that causes MERS, a respiratory disease that first showed up in Saudi Arabia in 2012 and has since killed almost 900 people. EcoHealth wanted to replace the MERS virus's "spike" protein, used to enter animal or human cells, with those from these new viruses, to see whether they were also able to latch onto a molecule on cell surfaces targeted by the MERS virus. The NIAID officials also wanted to know more about two chimeras that had already been made, in which the genes for spike proteins from newly discovered bat coronaviruses had been put into another bat coronavirus called WIV1, named after the Wuhan Institute of Virology.

The NIAID officials accepted Daszak's explanation that these experiments didn't meet the US government's definition of gain-of-function research: He had argued that there was no reason to suppose the chimeric viruses would be any more dangerous than the viruses behind MERS and SARS. So the NIAID allowed the research to continue.

Daszak responded: "This is terrific! We are very happy to hear that our Gain of Function research funding pause has been lifted." The White Coat Waste Project later claimed that it had caught Daszak "red-handed, admitting to gain-of-function research" — omitting the context that this quote was part of an exchange in which he had argued that the research didn't meet the US government's definition of that term.

"We'll have to agree to disagree here," Goodman said, when BuzzFeed News questioned this claim. "We're not interested in debating the interpretation of these emails or the definition of gain-of-function. We're only interested in exposing and ending wasteful government spending on dangerous animal experiments."

Emails and other documents obtained by BuzzFeed News show that the chimera experiments had already been deepening EcoHealth's problems, as Lauer and other NIH officials looked for evidence that EcoHealth had breached the terms and conditions of its grant.

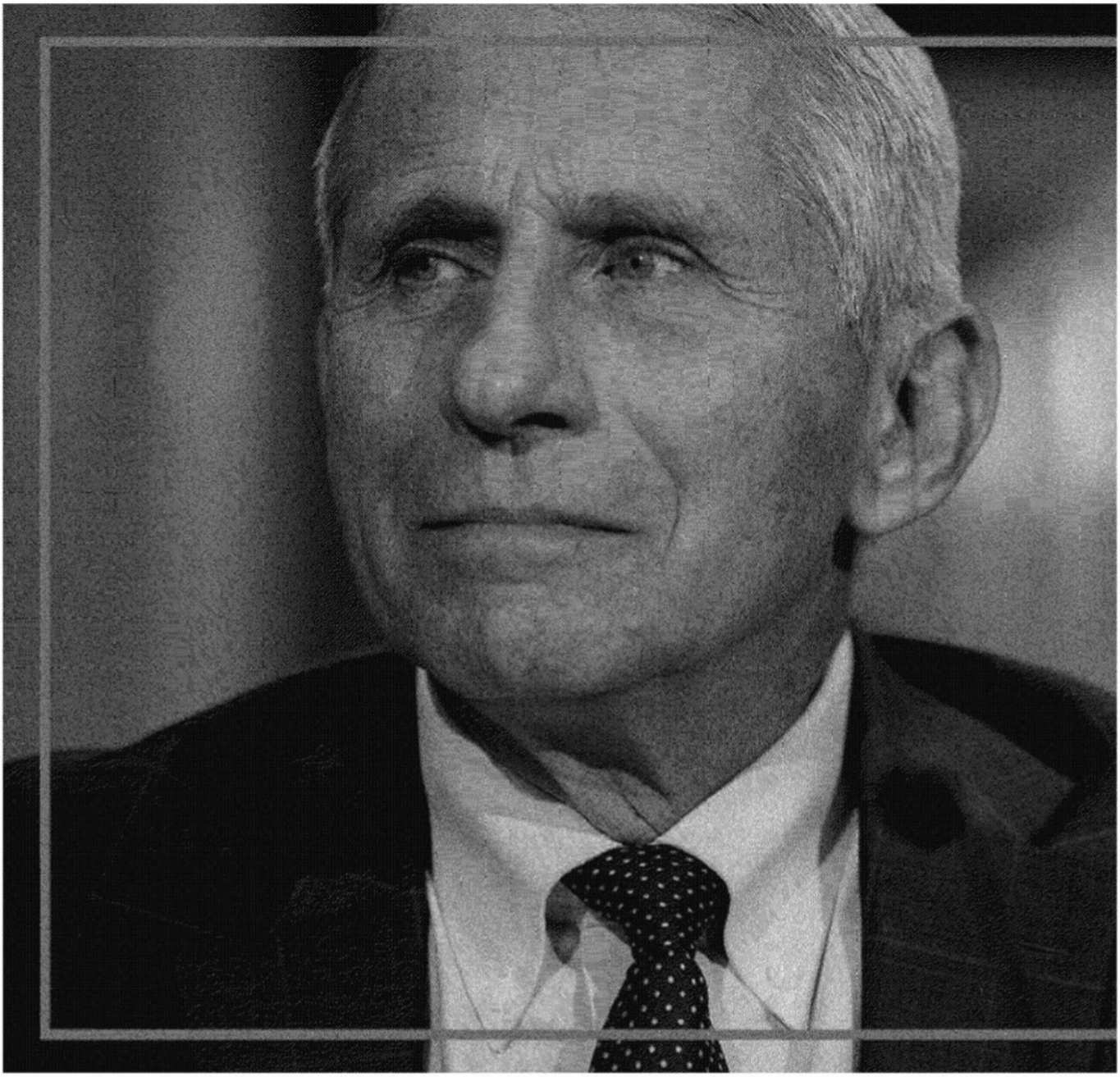
> "Because [Fauci] became a household name as the pandemic progressed, sure, it created an opportunity to go after him for animal testing in a way that would really make waves."

A heavily redacted series of emails from May 2021 centers on the July 2016 letter from the NIAID that had given EcoHealth permission to resume the chimera work. Accepting a suggestion made by Daszak himself, it stated that if any of the chimeric viruses showed unexpectedly rapid growth, he would "immediately stop all experiments with these viruses" and provide NIAID officials with information about the unexpected outcomes. Shortly after receiving the letter, Lauer sent it on to a senior attorney with the Department of Health and Human Services, assigned to the NIH, changing the subject line on the email thread to "Gift."

Daszak's problem was that the NIH determined that an experiment described in annual progress reports for the grant indicated that one of these viruses had made mice engineered to carry the human receptor targeted by SARS-like viruses sicker than expected and showed signs of rapid growth. "EcoHealth failed to report this finding right away," NIH deputy director Tabak later wrote in an October 2021 letter to James Comer, the ranking Republican member on the House of Representatives Committee on Oversight and Reform.

None of this amounts to a smoking gun linking EcoHealth and the Wuhan institute to the origins of COVID, as the viruses involved were very different to SARS-CoV-2. And in a letter to Lauer and Tabak

after the latter's communication with Comer, Daszak contested the conclusion that the experiment did show rapid viral growth and argued that EcoHealth had complied with its reporting requirements.
But it gave Lauer evidence that he was looking for. EcoHealth is now under audit from the Office of Inspector General for the Department of Health and Human Services, an independent watchdog that monitors fraud, waste, and other problems, as part of a review of the NIH and "selected grantees" initiated on June 11, 2021. Documents received by BuzzFeed News through its FOIA lawsuit, including a timeline of events put together by Lauer dated June 13, 2021, indicate that the suggestion for an OIG audit of EcoHealth came from the NIH, just days after Lauer sent his "Gift" email.
The NIH declined to discuss Lauer's email and timeline, saying in a statement: "NIH doesn't comment on internal deliberation of grant awards."
In December 2021, the White Coat Waste Project claimed a win from its activism around the EcoHealth grant when President Joe Biden signed the 2022 National Defense Authorization Act into law. It contained specific wording blocking the Department of Defense — which over the years has provided almost $40 million to EcoHealth — from supporting the nonprofit's research in China.



Stefani Reynolds / POOL / AFP via Getty Images
Anthony Fauci

The gain-of-function fight had also intensified the pressure on Fauci, who was by now a hate figure for many on the political right. In November 2021, he and Kentucky Republican Sen. Rand Paul clashed angrily in a Senate hearing, as Paul accused Fauci of changing the definition of gain-of-function and funding dangerous research in Wuhan. "He is egregiously incorrect," Fauci responded. In January, they locked horns in another hearing, featuring an extraordinary exchange in which Fauci accused Paul of jeopardizing his personal safety for political gain.

"What happens when he gets out and accuses me of things that are completely untrue is that all of a sudden that kindles the crazies out there, and I have threats upon my life, harassment of my family and my children," Fauci said.

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By the time of these acrimonious exchanges, the White Coat Waste Project had embarked on another campaign that made Fauci its main focus. In July 2021, the White Coat Waste Project launched its "BeagleGate" campaign, highlighting research on dogs funded by the NIAID, with a blog post headlined: "WCW Exposé: Fauci Spent $424K on Beagle Experiments, Dogs Bitten to Death by Flies."
The next month, the White Coat Waste Project accused Fauci of funding "beagle torture" in Tunisia, referring to a paper published in July 2021 investigating whether the biting sand flies that spread visceral leishmaniasis, a potentially fatal disease, preferred to feed on dogs already infected with the parasites that cause the condition.
The story really took off on Oct. 24, 2021, when 24 members of Congress from both parties, led by Rep. Nancy Mace, a Republican from South Carolina, wrote to Fauci protesting "costly, cruel, and unnecessary taxpayer-funded experiments on dogs." Fauci's nemesis, Rand Paul, wasn't among the signatories, but weighed in with a tweet touting the White Coat Waste Project's original blog post:

The Washington Post later reported that Fauci's office received 3,600 calls in 36 hours, causing his assistant to stop answering the phone for two weeks. The newspaper linked the onslaught to "a campaign by a little-known animal rights group called the White Coat Waste Project."

The NIAID tried to address the controversy, stating that it didn't actually fund the Tunisian beagle research paper — which in November 2021 was corrected to remove reference to a grant from the institute, which had been awarded to a researcher at Ohio State University for related work. "NIAID was listed as a courtesy because it had supported other leishmaniasis research in the past," a spokesperson for the university told BuzzFeed News. But that correction seemed only to give the White Coat Waste Project more ammunition. "Once again…color us unconvinced," it wrote in a later blog post disputing the NIAID's denial of funding the work.
The White Coat Waste Project's critics argue that its demonization of Fauci, seemingly calculated to channel existing right-wing anger with the government scientist seen as the public face of mask and COVID vaccine mandates, has taken animal activism into scary territory.
"They take a tiny sliver of truth, and then around that they build this highly emotional somewhat fictional narrative to build their case," Jim Newman, director of strategic communications with Americans for Medical Progress, which argues that animal experiments are essential to develop new treatments and vaccines, told BuzzFeed News. Animal activists have long been accused of cherry-picking facts and ignoring the goals of research to present animal experiments in the worst possible light. But portraying individuals as cruel villains in the current febrile political climate is "a very dangerous direction to be headed," Newman said.
"Of course, the pro-animal experimentation lobby hates that we hold government bosses accountable for funneling tax dollars to cruel and wasteful animal tests," Goodman said. "We generally don't run campaigns targeting individual taxpayer-funded animal experimenters to respect their privacy and because we question the approach's effectiveness, but federal agency bosses are public figures and fair game."

Threats to Fauci's life, which began well before the White Coat Waste Project's BeagleGate campaign, have been widely documented. Daszak, too, has faced security scares, including an incident in August 2020 when an envelope containing a mysterious white powder reportedly turned up at his home. "I get death threats regularly and we get crank calls at home trying to keep us awake at night," Daszak told BuzzFeed News.

The White Coat Waste Project stresses that it opposes violence and issued a statement in October 2021 saying it had no quarrel with Fauci over his advice on COVID policies. "You could stand shoulder-to-shoulder with him on COVID response and go toe-to-toe with him on other issues," said Goodman, who makes no apology for the group's decision to make Fauci the focus of the BeagleGate campaign.

"Because he became a household name as the pandemic progressed, sure, it created an opportunity to go after him for animal testing in a way that would really make waves."

As the White Coat Waste Project has seized its opportunities and gained a higher public profile, the group has itself come under scrutiny. In February, the Campaign for Accountability filed a complaint with the IRS and the Federal Election Commission, alleging that the White Coat Waste Project had coordinated with the White Coat Waste Political Action Committee, founded in 2017, in breach of regulations prohibiting tax-exempt nonprofits from engaging in political campaign activities.

In an interview with BuzzFeed News, Bellotti declined to answer questions about the political action committee, which he said was a separate organization. Goodman later sent a statement describing the Campaign for Accountability's complaint as a "politically-motivated, baseless, and frivolous attack," noting: "The WCW Project *does not* fund activities of the distinct, all-volunteer WCW PAC."

Despite the partisan dynamics that have driven the White Coat Waste Project's campaign against funding for the Wuhan Institute of Virology, Bellotti told BuzzFeed News that his group's goal remains finding ways to unite Democrats and Republicans on defunding animal experiments backed by the US government. "We didn't know when we launched this that it would get partisan in the way it did," he said.

The White Coat Waste Project's latest campaign, again tapping into concern about US taxpayer dollars going to the nation's most powerful adversaries, might just have broader political appeal. Less than a week after Russia's invasion of Ukraine, it published a new blog post: "Breaking: WCW Discovers NIH Pays For Cruel Kitten Experiments…in Russia!" •

Cheers,

Peter

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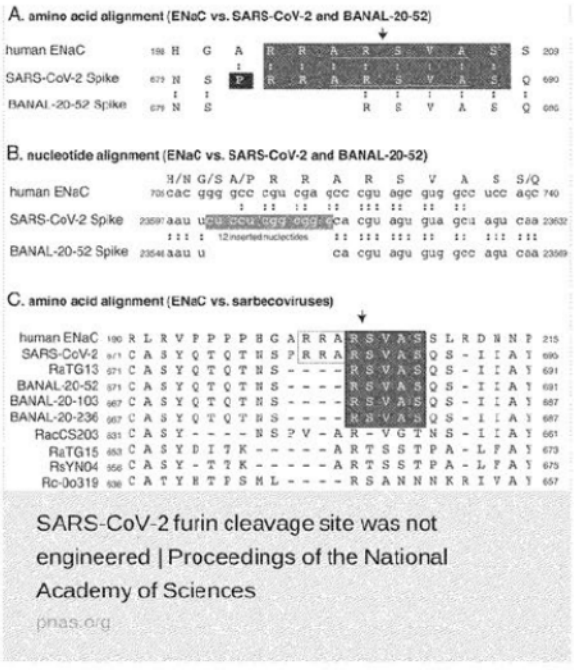
Date: Sun, 14 Apr 2024 3:44:20 PM -0400
Sent: Sun, 14 Apr 2024 3:44:15 PM -0400
Subject: RE:
From: Jeffrey Sturchio (b)(6)
To: Hotez, Peter Jay (b)(6)
CC: David Morens (b)(6); Peter Daszak (b)(6); Keusch, Gerald T (b)(6); Jeffery Taubenberger (b)(6); Aleksei Chmura (b) (6); Roberts, Rich (b)(6);
Attachments: image001.jpg

Peter: Agree – Garry's article seemed definitive to me at the time. But the lab leakers seem to have missed the memo!

As ever,
Jeff

From: Hotez, Peter Jay (b)(6)
Sent: Sunday, April 14, 2024 3:36 PM
To: Jeffrey Sturchio (b)(6)
Cc: David Morens (b)(6); Peter Daszak (b)(6); Keusch, Gerald T (b) (6) Jeffery Taubenberger (b)(6); Aleksei Chmura (b)(6); Roberts, Rich (b) (6)
Subject: Re:

Furin cleavage was debunked long ago by Robert Garry



SARS-CoV-2 furin cleavage site was not engineered | Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences
pnas.org

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

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Baylor University, University Professor
Rice University, Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty
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Media Inquiries:
(b)(6)
iPhone

On Apr 14, 2024, at 2:29 PM, Jeffrey Sturchio (b)(6) wrote:

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David: This is a terrific article – clear, persuasive, and fully documented. It reminds me of what Carl Sagan once said in response to questions about where there was intelligent life elsewhere in the universe: "It's possible – but there isn't a smidgen of evidence for it." Kristian Andersen deserves a medal for taking the time to unravel the ins & outs of his interactions with McNeil – and how McNeil used selective evidence to build a case that isn't supported by the facts. Note, for example, that McNeil keeps banging on about the alleged insertion of a furin cleavage site into a bat coronavirus to turn it into SARS-CoV-2 as a "smoking gun" – and how Kristian Andersen dismisses that argument quickly and elegantly.

As ever,
Jeff

From: David Morens (b)(6)
Sent: Sunday, April 14, 2024 1:46 PM
To: Peter Daszak (b)(6) Keusch, Gerald T (b)(6) Jeffery Taubenberger < (b) (6) >; Jeffrey Sturchio (b)(6) peter hotez (b)(6) Aleksei Chmura < (b)(6) >; Roberts, Rich (b)(6)
Subject:

https://medium.com/@K_G_Andersen/its- not-about-getting-the-scoop-it-s-about-getting-it-right-origin-of-covid-19-my-emails-7447e59d79e3

From the cell phone of David Morens

Date: Fri, 22 Jan 2021 10:53:13 PM -0500
Sent: Fri, 22 Jan 2021 10:53:11 PM -0500
Subject: Report on pandemic disease to Biden transition team
From: "Keusch, Gerald T (b)(6)
To: Peter Daszak (b) (6) (b) (6) David Morens (b)(6)
CC: Aleksei Chmura (b) (6) (b)(6) Robert Kessler
Attachments: Vital Directions infectious diseaser threats.pdf

Hi Peter et al,

In case you hadn't seen it I am attaching the online version of the report we prepared as part of the National Academy of Medicine Vital Directions 2021 initiative for the incoming administration. Ours is on pandemic disease preparedness – there are others all of which will be published in Health Affairs on Monday.
Jerry

MORENS_NIH_014423
REL0000476951

Date: Wed, 6 Mar 2024 8:25:39 PM -0500
Subject: Re: Chili recipe
From: (b) (6) (b) (6)
To: (b) (6)

David – the attachment didn't come through, but just reading your email has made me hungry!

Cheers,

Peter

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From: David Morens <(b) (6)
Sent: Monday, March 4, 2024 3:59 PM
To: Peter Daszak (b) (6)
Subject: Chili recipe

Peter, it's taken me a long time to get you the chili recipe I promised, because my scanner had brokene down. Today I got it semi fixed although it is scanning upside down

You can either print it and reverse it, or else read it while standing on your head.

I have made this recipe a number of times, and it always gets rave reviews.

The two key/unusual ingredients are the addition to the beef of the Italian sausage and the pitted black olives, which change the taste significantly, and for the better.

The original recipe came from my 84 year old hashing friend Nelson Joyner, passed down through the family and tweaked and modified by him and his Swedish wife Susanne.

Over the years, I added my own embellishments (shown with asterisks*), mostly to add more chili heat and also some poblano, as well as being served with sour cream, chopped cilantro, chopped purrple onion, etc.

This is the basic and you might add or take out as your tasted disctate. Enjoy! david

David Morens
(b) (6)

(b) (6)
(b) (6) (mobile)

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

Date:	Tue, 28 Jun 2022 11:44:30 AM -0400
Sent:	Tue, 28 Jun 2022 11:44:12 AM -0400
Subject:	Re: Jeff Sachs' comments RE: COVID-19 Commission: Need approval of minor edits after first peer review
From:	"Hotez, Peter Jay" < (b) (6)
To:	Peter Daszak < (b) (6)
CC:	Gerald T Keusch <(b) (6) Aleksei Chmura < (b) (6) David Morens < (b) (6) Jeffrey Sturchio < (b) (6) Rich Roberts < (b) (6)
Attachments:	image001.png; image001.png

It's beyond disgusting, hopefully Richard Horton intervenes

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iPhone

On Jun 28, 2022, at 10:42 AM, Peter Daszak <(b) (6) > wrote:

Just awful to see how obstinate he's become on what should be a non-issue.

I'm also pretty disgusted with his comment "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)." It's lower down in the email chain.

That's a hell of an accusation he's stating to you, knowing you're in disagreement. I shudder to think what he's saying to those who are neutral or lean towards the conspiratorial side.

There is not a single time I lied, or other taskforce members were duplicit in dishonesty or any other 'thought-crime'. It's demonstrably clear, should anyone bother to ask, and we have the back up docs to prove it.

And by the way, speaking of adolescence, people who call me by my last name in that way take me right back to life in a UK grammar school in the 1970s…it's too easy to spit out a foreign-sounding name just as his email does. You'd think he'd have some empathy, but I guess I made the cardinal mistake of disagreeing with him, and refusing to share EcoHealth privileged documents with him. I guess the punishment for that is what's happening now.

Cheers,

Peter

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---

From: Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6)
Sent: Tuesday, June 28, 2022 10:27 AM
To: Gerald T Keusch (b) (6) >; Aleksei Chmura (b) (6) >; David Morens <(b) (6) >; Jeffrey Sturchio (b)(6) eter Daszak (b) (6) Rich Roberts <(b) (6)
Subject: Fwd: COVID-19 Commission: Need approval of minor edits after first peer review

I feel like I'm revisiting my adolescence

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

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MORENS_NIH_016539
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iPhone
Begin forwarded message:

> **From**: "Hotez, Peter Jay" <(b) (6) >
> **Date:** June 28, 2022 at 9:23:55 AM CDT
> **To:** Jeffrey Sachs <(b) (6) >
> **Subject: Re: COVID-19 Commission: Need approval of minor edits after first peer review**
>
> You mean with the guy with publicly berates virologists, including me, calling us "stooges"? Look Jeff, you're publicly supporting a fringe group and idea, and that's your right. But for a public consensus document such as a Lancet Commission report it needs to be tempered and modulated appropriately. Now that a referee has called it out as well, the scientific community is telling you to fix this. I believe my language is the most straightforward and does not ask you to retract your own

strong views.

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Fax: 713-798-2299

iPhone

> On Jun 28, 2022, at 9:14 AM, Jeffrey Sachs <(b) (6) wrote:
>
> You should have shown up to make your case. Too bad you did not. Too bad Worobey skipped. Too bad NIH has hidden all the data, non-stop.
>
> Sent from my iPhone

MORENS_SUBPOENA_007344
MORENS_NIH_016541
REL0000476958

On Jun 28, 2022, at 3:40 PM, Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6) > wrote:

Investigation to dot the i's and clear the falsely accused. No serious virologist looking at the data would say that this virus arose from GOF human research

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP
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Fax: 713-798-2299

iPhone

> On Jun 28, 2022, at 8:31 AM, Jeffrey Sachs <(b) (6) > wrote:
>
> The report says only that both hypotheses are in play and should be pursued.

You are free to state on your own account outside of the Commission your own conclusions at any time. Each of us can do so. There is not any hint whatsoever of "equally likely." (I personally believe, along with many scientists, that a lab release is the most likely origin, by the way, but the report in no way states that.)

Personally I find your position to be untenable. Because of FOIA we now know in remarkable detail just how much the NIH has hidden from view. Even Baric says that both hypotheses need investigation. The US Intelligence Community similarly concluded that both hypotheses are in play. The Commission is calling for transparency.

Sent from my iPhone

> On Jun 28, 2022, at 3:05 PM, Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6) > wrote:
>
> 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
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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

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Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine
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Senior Coordinator / Executive Support: Douglas Soriano
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From: (b) (6) >
Sent: Monday, June 27, 2022 12:55 PM
To: (b) (6) <
(b) (6)

(b) (6)

<

(b) (6) >

Cc: (b) (6) >

Subject: COVID-19 Commission: Need approval of minor edits after first peer review

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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
--

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Special Assistant to the Director
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(b) (6)

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Date: Thu, 19 May 2022 10:12:37 PM -0400
Sent: Thu, 19 May 2022 10:10:28 PM -0400
Subject: RE: Peter Hotez' tweet and Jamie Metzl's
From: Peter Daszak < (b) (6)
To: Roberts, Rich < (b) (6) Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6)
CC: David Morens < (b) (6) Keusch, Gerald T < (b) (6) Jeffrey Sturchio < (b) (6) Aleksei Chmura < (b) (6)
Attachments: image001.jpg; image002.jpg; image003.jpg; image014.jpg; image015.jpg; image016.jpg; image017.jpg; image018.jpg; image019.jpg; image020.jpg; image021.jpg; image022.jpg; image023.jpg

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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

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Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

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

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From: Roberts, Rich (b) (6)
Sent: 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
Tel: (978) (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 <J_(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

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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
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Ipswich, MA (b) (6)
USA
Tel:(b) (6)
Fax: (978) 412 9910
email: (b) (6)

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

EXTERNAL SENDER

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

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

Meanwhile, the witch hunt continues…

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance

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---

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

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E-mail: (b) (6)
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Linkedin Peter Hotez

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

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

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!

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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

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Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

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From: Hotez, Peter Jay (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

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Faculty Fellow, Hagler Institute for Advanced Study
Senior Fellow, Scowcroft Institute of International Affairs
Texas A&M University
Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty and Adjunct Professor of Bioengineering, Rice University
Adjunct Professor, University of Texas, School of Public Health

Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

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Fax: 713-798-2299

iPhone

On May 19, 2022, at 3:54 PM, Roberts, Rich (b) (6) > wrote:

Peter:

As you say more nonsense. My opinion of Sachs is waning rapidly.

Rich

Richard J. Roberts
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USA
Tel: (b) (6)
Fax: (978) 412 9910
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From: Peter Daszak (b) (6)
Sent: Thursday, May 19, 2022 4:32 PM
To: Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6) David Morens <(b) (6)
Cc: Keusch, Gerald T < (b)(6) >; Jeffrey Sturchio <J_ (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 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.



The Coronavirus Crisis

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Sachs and Harrison, in contrast, suggest that researchers may have inserted the string of amino acids into a bat coronavirus precisely because of its known importance to lung function. "For a research team assessing the pandemic potential of SARS-related coronaviruses, the FCS of human ENaC — an FCS known to be efficiently cleaved by host furin present in the target location (epithelial cells) of an important target organ (lung), of the target organism (human) — might be a rational, if not obvious, choice of FCS to introduce into a virus in order to alter its infectivity, in line with other work performed previously," they write.

Such a choice, they point out, would have been in keeping with another viral research project on which EcoHealth Alliance, the Wuhan Institute of Virology, and UNC's Baric collaborated: a 2014 grant from the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases that involved increasing the transmissibility and pathogenicity of bat coronaviruses.



Ralph Baric, a researcher at the University of North Carolina's Gillings School of Global Public Health, in Chapel Hill, N.C., on Feb. 14, 2020.

Photo: Christopher Janaro/Bloomberg via Getty Images

Growing List of Coincidences

The intriguing theory of viral engineering hinges on two observations: that the amino acid sequences match and that experts in both the ENaC-alpha furin cleavage site and the insertion of genetic sequences into bat coronaviruses

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happen to work at the same academic institution: the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill.

Baric, whose work aims to prevent and create treatments for viral outbreaks, has previously inserted segments of DNA and RNA into viruses and created an infectious clone of SARS using his own patented "No See'm" method of inserting genetic materials without a trace. He has also collaborated on coronavirus research with scientists from a center for lung studies at UNC-Chapel Hill who are knowledgeable about ENaC-alpha. In one 2016 study, the scientists created a new virus using the spike of a bat coronavirus that had been isolated and characterized by the Wuhan Institute of Virology. The experiment found that the new virus "replicated efficiently" in human airway cells that were cultured in a lab.

In another paper, published a year earlier, Baric, along with the Wuhan Institute of Virology's Shi Zhengli and a lung expert UNC-Chapel Hill's lung institute, described creating a hybrid virus using a SARS-like virus from a bat and a "mouse-adapted" coronavirus. The new virus caused mice to get sicker than those exposed to the original virus. The goal of these experiments was to prepare for the possibility that a virus might jump naturally from animals to humans, as SARS had in 2003. But even before the pandemic, the experiment drew criticism from other scientists, who were concerned because the researchers had created a virus that was able to spread in humans.

Sachs and Harrison note that the scientists who co-authored the DARPA grant proposal would have been aware of research on coronavirus furin cleavage sites, including one 2006 experiment in which a furin cleavage site was inserted into a coronavirus. "The research team would also have some familiarity with the FCS sequence and the FCS-dependent activation mechanism of human ENaC, which was extensively characterized at UNC," they write.

"The list of coincidences is getting verrrrrrrrrrry long."

Still, both the overlap in the amino acid sequence and the fact that experts in the furin cleavage site of the ENaC-alpha and insertion of genetic material into bat coronaviruses work at the same university could be coincidental, as Harrison and Sachs acknowledge. Some virologists, though, say that the coincidence strains credulity.

"Could be," Richard Ebright, a molecular biologist at Rutgers University,

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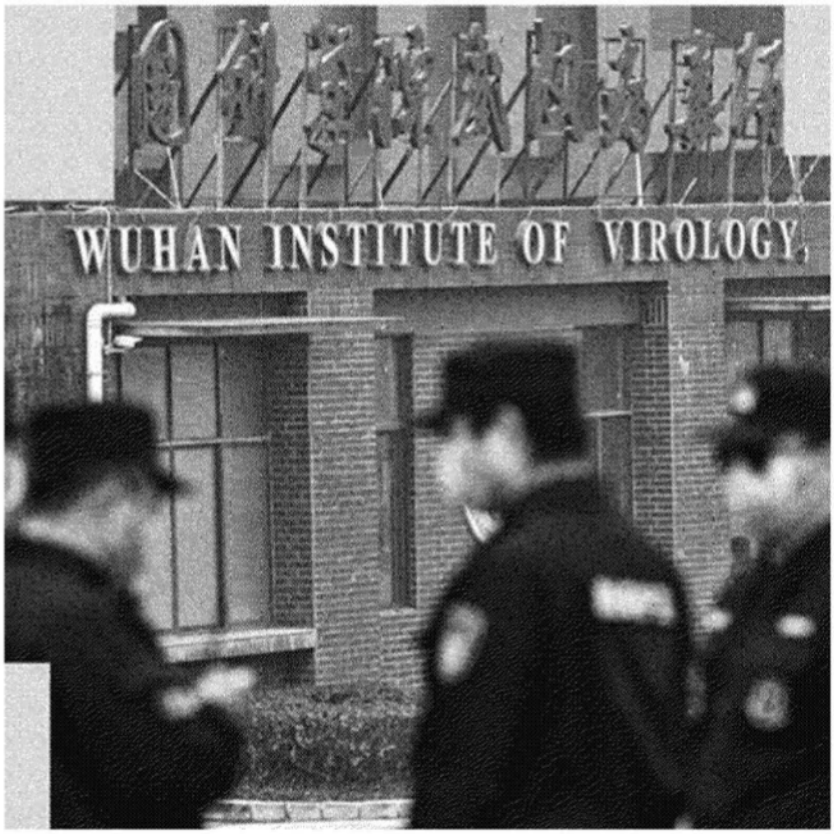
wrote in an email to The Intercept when asked about the possibility that these things are both chance occurrences. “But the list of coincidences is getting verrrrrrrrrry long.”

Ebright, a vocal proponent of the lab-leak theory whom Harrison and Sachs thank “for helpful commentary on the manuscript,” spelled out some of the other Covid coincidences that he considers questionable, including its initial outbreak in a city that, well before 2019, had already been pegged as a biosafety risk. Ebright also noted Wuhan’s 1,000-mile distance from the nearest wild bats that carry the type of SARS-related coronaviruses that caused the pandemic. And he pointed to the particular coding of the amino acids in the furin cleavage site of SARS-CoV2.



Related

The Lab-Leak Theory Is Looking Stronger by the Day. Here’s What We Know.

“The sequence encoding the FCS of the pandemic virus contained two consecutive CGG arginine codons,” Ebright explained in his email. (A codon, or a combination of three nucleotides, supplies the genetic code for a single amino acid, though most amino acids can be represented by multiple different codons. Each nucleotide is represented by a letter — for RNA, either A, C, U, or G.) “This codon usage is unusual for a natural bat SARS-related

coronaviruses (for which fewer than 1 in 30 arginine codons are CGG) but is optimal for humans (for which most arginine codons are CGG codons)."

Still, Ebright said that at first he didn't see the identical amino acid sequences as particularly suspicious. "I had known for more than a year that there was a perfect match to an eight-amino acid sequence present in human ENaC. What I had not known was that the sequence was known to be a functional furin cleavage site and that it was a sequence extensively studied at UNC," he said. "The crucial point that the ENaC sequence was a known functional site, not just that there happens to be a match to a protein that happens to be in humans. … That suddenly turned it from what I thought to be largely irrelevant to being a logical and obvious choice to proceed."

Ralph Baric and the University of North Carolina did not immediately respond to requests for comment.



The Wuhan Institute of Virology in Wuhan, China, on June 24, 2021.

Photo: Kyodo via AP Images

Name Calling

Other scientists dismiss the idea that the ENaC sequence might have been purposefully inserted into a coronavirus. Scientists who are already convinced that the new coronavirus emerged naturally are unlikely to be persuaded by Sachs and Harrison's article, which appears in the opinion section of the esteemed journal. Over the past year, many scientists involved in the debate over the origins of the pandemic have settled into an increasingly acrimonious,

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coarse, and unyielding opposition.

Some proponents of the natural origin theory became particularly dismissive of those open to the possibility of a lab leak after the February release of two pre-print studies mapping the early spread of the virus at the Huanan market in Wuhan. Angela Rasmussen, one of a team of virologists who worked on the project, described it on Twitter as "dispositive evidence of a zoonotic origin" that will "drive those with personal interest in the lab leak hypothesis out of their goddam minds." In another tweet, Rasmussen referred to proponents of the lab-leak theory as a "pack of ghouls, who through gullibility, stupidity, & conspiracist thinking have decided this is their thing despite zero expertise."

Although the pre-prints had not been peer-reviewed and may have simply illustrated the spread of the virus rather than its original outbreak, the New York Times ran a front-page story about them that quoted an epidemiologist as saying that the origins debate "has been settled with a very high degree of evidence." The story, which was announced by a push notification from the paper, also noted a lack of direct evidence for a lab leak.

Meanwhile, Kristian Andersen, another co-author of the pre-prints and a virologist at the well-regarded Scripps Research Institute, used the "poop" emoji to criticize a deeply researched article by Katherine Eban about EcoHealth Alliance. On Twitter, Andersen tarred Eban, New York Times columnist Zeynep Tufekci, and others reporting on biosafety issues that could have led to the release of SARS-CoV-2 as "deep in conspiracy theories" and on the other side of "a clear split" from journalists who dismiss the possibility of a lab origin, whom Andersen referred to as "science-based."

Even some scientists who have been vocal about the possibility that the pandemic may have been sparked by research have expressed skepticism about the theory suggested by Harrison and Sachs. "I'm sure that these authors believe in their own hypothesis and arguments, but to me, it's not one that is particularly convincing," said Alina Chan, a scientist who laid out a number of possible routes for how the coronavirus might have emerged through research-related incidents in her recent book "Viral: The Search for the Origin of Covid-19."

"There's no need for them to go hunting inside the human protein catalogue to look for cleavage sites to put into viruses."

While she is open to the possibility that the furin cleavage site might have been

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purposefully inserted into the coronavirus, Chan said there was no reason to think that researchers would mine humans for such material. "These scientists literally had access to hundreds of SARS-like viruses and sequences," said Chan, referring to the vast collection of coronaviruses from bats and other animals that researchers amassed at the Wuhan Institute of Virology. "There's no need for them to go hunting inside the human protein catalogue to look for cleavage sites to put into viruses."

Jack Nunberg, a virologist at the University of Montana, was also not immediately persuaded by the theory of engineering suggested by Sachs and Harrison. "It's possible," Nunberg said of the idea that the ENaC segment was inserted into a bat coronavirus as part of research designed to gauge the pandemic potential of a virus. "But I don't find their evidence on ENaC compelling because furin cleavage sites have a lot of common amino acids, and therefore it may just have happened by chance."

Others say that the article adds noteworthy information to the public conversation about the origins of the pandemic. "The defenders of the natural origin indicate that the virus on which this type of experiment could have been done — the backbone — has never been published and that specialists in the furin cleavage sites would have chosen a more commonly used furin cleavage site like RARR rather than PRRAR. The Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences article contradicts this argument and indicates that specialists knew that the RRAR'SVAS site was efficiently cleaved by furin," Etienne Decroly, director of virology research at the Aix-Marseille Université in France, wrote in an email to The Intercept.

Decroly added, "It is impossible to decide on the basis of the information currently available and it is urgent that the WHO Special Advisory Group for the Origins of Novel Pathogens investigate this question."

On the suggestion of an investigation, Nunberg is in agreement. "You can't argue with that," he told The Intercept. "Who's going to argue for burying one's head in the sand?"

For their part, Sachs and Harrison emphasize that they're not saying laboratory manipulation was involved in the emergence of the pandemic virus, only "that it could have been." They also give a nod to other possibilities, including that an airborne virus might have infected a laboratory worker. Rather than argue that any of these conceivable scenarios happened, they present the clues of the matching amino acid sequences to argue for an independent and transparent scientific investigation of the U.S.-based evidence related to the origins of the virus.

Among the institutions that Sachs and Harrison list as possibly having "knowledge of the detailed activities that were underway in Wuhan and in the United States" are the National Institutes of Health; the Defense Threat Reduction Agency, which has provided grant funding to EcoHealth Alliance; the Department of Homeland Security; DARPA; the U.S. Agency for International Development, which funded the $200 million PREDICT program that catalogued potential pandemic viruses; and the University of California, Davis, which participated in that program.

The authors suggest that EcoHealth Alliance and UNC may have particularly important untapped resources. "The exact details of the fieldwork and laboratory work of the EHA-WIV-UNC partnership, and the engagement of other institutions in the US and China, has not been disclosed for independent analysis," they write. "The precise nature of the experiments that were conducted, including the full array of viruses collected from the field and the subsequent sequencing and manipulation of those viruses, remains unknown."



Peter Daszak, one of the members of the World Health Organization team investigating the origins of the Covid-19, on a balcony at a hotel in Wuhan, China, on Feb. 6, 2021.

Photo: Hector Retamal/AFP via Getty Images

A Reversal

The publication in the prestigious Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences marks a reversal of sorts for Sachs, the chair of the Lancet Covid-19 Commission who, in November 2020, appointed Daszak, the EcoHealth Alliance president, to lead a task force to investigate the origins of the pandemic. Earlier that year, Daszak had signed on to a public statement

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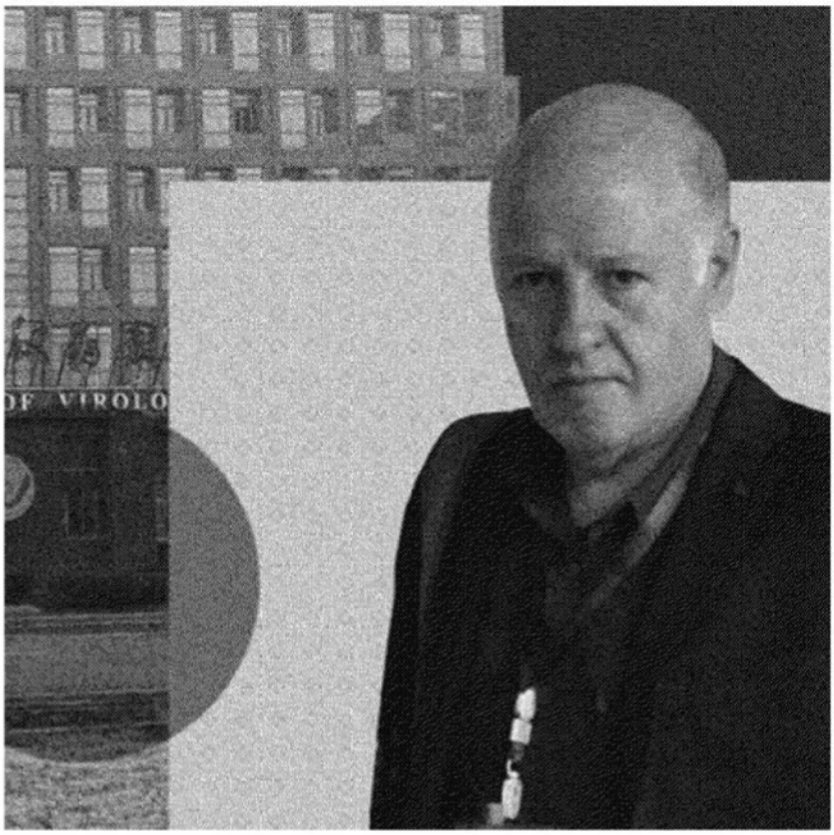
published in The Lancet on behalf of scientists who said they "condemn conspiracy theories suggesting that COVID-19 does not have a natural origin."



Related

Peter Daszak Answers Critics and Defends Coronavirus Research

Yet that early certainty about the pandemic's origins — and the sense of shared civic responsibility among members of the Lancet task force — soon disintegrated. In February 2021, emails revealed that Daszak coordinated the public statement in The Lancet tamping down suspicions of a lab leak. And by June 2021, Sachs was expressing his openness to the possibility of a lab origin, writing that NIH-funded research at the Wuhan Institute of Virology "deserves scrutiny under the hypothesis of a laboratory-related release of the virus." Three months later, he disbanded the task force that had been organized to "carefully scrutinize the origin of the SARS-CoV-2 virus" in the hopes of preventing future disease outbreaks, explaining that he had concerns that several members of the commission had conflicts of interest because of their ties to EcoHealth Alliance.

After leading the mainstream scientific inquiry into the origins of the pandemic, Sachs is now skewering it. "A steady trickle of disquieting information has cast a darkening cloud over the agency," he and Harrison write

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MORENS_NIH_009761
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of the NIH, going on to accuse the entire federal government of not doing enough to explore the possible role of its grantees in the emergence of SARS-CoV-2 and investigate "overlooked details" such as the matching amino acid sequences.

Noting that the NIH has insisted that "the pandemic virus could not have resulted from the work sponsored by" the agency, Sachs and Harrison write that "blanket denials from the NIH are no longer good enough."

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: + (b) (6)
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

---

From: Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6)
Sent: Wednesday, May 11, 2022 8:15 PM
To: David Morens <(b) (6)
Cc: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >; Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6) >; Jeffrey Sturchio <J (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

Texas Children's Hospital Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics
Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development

University Professor, Baylor University

Faculty Fellow, Hagler Institute for Advanced Study
Senior Fellow, Scowcroft Institute of International Affairs
Texas A&M University
Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty and Adjunct Professor of Bioengineering, Rice University
Adjunct Professor, University of Texas, School of Public Health

Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

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Twitter: @peterhotez
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Linkedin Peter Hotez

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Daily Beast Contributor https://www.thedailybeast.com/author/peter- j-hotez
Like us on Facebook https://www.facebook.com/BCMNationalSchoolOfTropicalMedicine/

Senior Coordinator / Executive Support: Douglas Soriano
(b) (6)
Phone: (b) (6)
Fax: 713-798-2299

iPhone

On May 11, 2022, at 6:39 PM, David Morens (b) (6) > wrote:

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Yes, i know. I fail to understand why our nih leaders keep forming circular firing squads. one thing is for sure: in recent times nih has suffered abysmal leadership

MORENS_SUBPOENA_003218
MORENS_NIH_009763
REL0000476960

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_003219
MORENS_NIH_009764
REL0000476960

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_003220
MORENS_NIH_009765
REL0000476960

Peter Daszak
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Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

From: David Morens <(b) (6) >
Sent: Wednesday, May 11, 2022 5:47 PM
To: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >; Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6) Jeffrey Sturchio (b) (6) >; Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) >; peter hotez (b) (6) Roberts, Rich <(b) (6)
Subject: Fwd: FW: NY Post: NIH director confirms agency hid early COVID genes at request of Chinese scientists

David M. Morens, MD
(b) (6)
(b)(6)
(b) (6)
(b) (6) (work)
(b) (6) (cell)

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IMPORTANT: For US Government-related email, please also reply to my NIAID address

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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) <(b) (6) >

From: Folkers, Greg (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b) (6) >
Sent: Wednesday, May 11, 2022 4:12 PM

To: NIAID COGCORE <COGCORE@mail.nih.gov>; NIAID OCGR Leg <(b) (6) >; NIAID OD AM <(b) (6) >
Subject: NY Post: NIH director confirms agency hid early COVID genes at request of Chinese scientists

NIH director confirms agency hid early COVID genes at request of Chinese scientists

By
Steven Nelson
May 11, 2022 3:47pm



National Institutes of Health acting director Lawrence Tabak confirmed to lawmakers Wednesday that US health officials concealed early genomic sequences of COVID-19 at the request of Chinese scientists — but insisted the data remains on file.

Tabak told a House Appropriations subcommittee that the NIH "eliminated from public view" the data from the pandemic epicenter in Wuhan, China, before adding that researchers can still access it via an archaic "tape drive."

Vanity Fair recently reported that the information was hidden in response to a request from Chinese scientists, despite potentially resolving whether the virus leaked from the Wuhan Institute of Virology or passed naturally from animals to humans.

Rep. Jaime Herrera Beutler (R-Wash.) asked Tabek to explain why US officials would comply with such a request.

"There's no question that the communication that we had about the sequence archive — Sequence Read Archive — could have been improved. I freely admit that," Tabek said. "If I may, the archive never deleted the sequence, it just did not make it available for interrogation."

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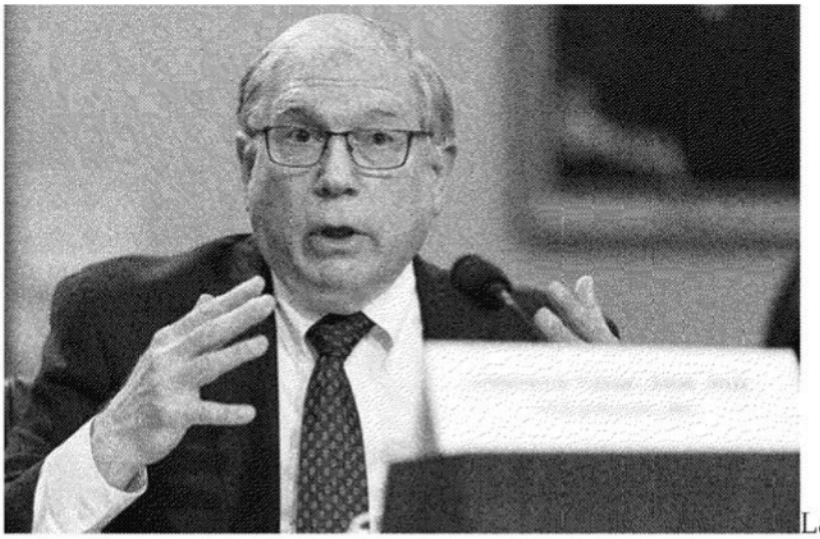
MORENS_NIH_009767
REL0000476960


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.

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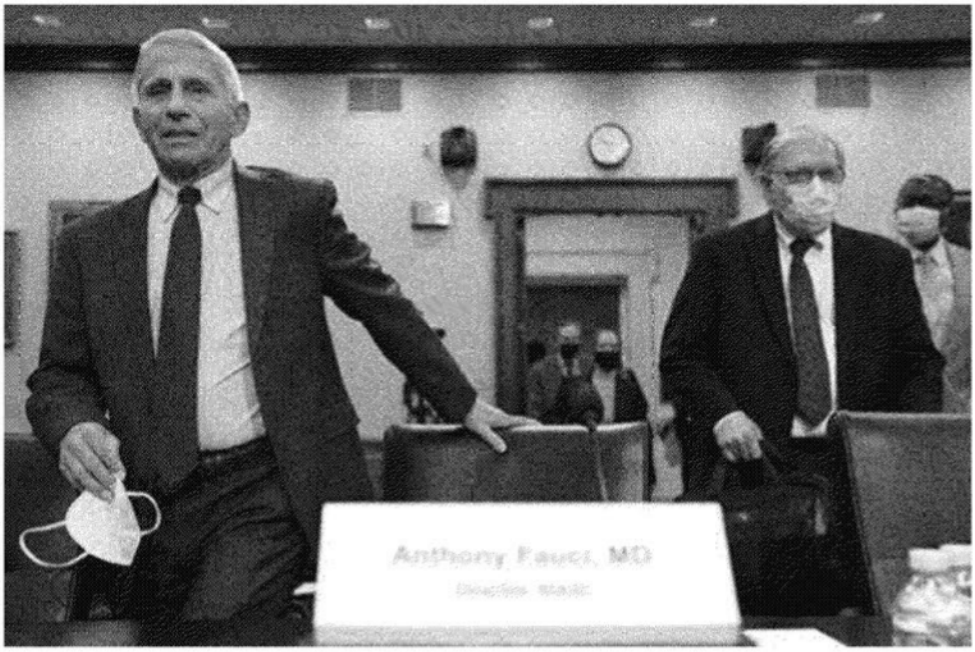
MORENS_NIH_009770
REL0000476960



Lawrence Tabak confirmed Wednesday that early genomic sequences of COVID-19 were concealed at the request of Chinese specialists. Jacquelyn Martin/AP

President Biden rarely speaks publicly about wanting China to be transparent about the origins of the pandemic. Former President Donald Trump, by contrast, has demanded that China pay $10 trillion in reparations.

The Biden administration is considering undoing some of Trump's tariffs on Chinese goods "separately" from US pressure for coronavirus transparency, White House press secretary Jen Psaki told The Post on Monday.

Documents published in September by The Intercept revealed that US health officials indirectly funded so-called "gain of function" research at the Wuhan lab — including the modification three bat coronaviruses distinct from COVID-19 and the discovery that they became much more infectious among "humanized" mice when human-type receptors were added to them.

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Date: Fri, 21 Jul 2023 1:01:45 PM -0400
Sent: Fri, 21 Jul 2023 1:00:59 PM -0400
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Fwd: Fauci, Birx, Francis Collins, Baric, Azar, Daszak, Bourla, Bancel, Jha, Njoo, Theresa Tam, Walensky, Doug Ford, Williams, Kieran, Marks, de Villa, Jüni, Hotez, Tedros, CDC, FDA officials, HANG high!
From: David Morens (b)(6)
To: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E (b)(6)

David M. Morens, MD
(b)(6)
(b)(6) (work)
(cell)

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From: Hotez, Peter Jay (b)(6)
Date: Tue, Dec 27, 2022 at 2:16 PM
Subject: Fauci, Birx, Francis Collins, Baric, Azar, Daszak, Bourla, Bancel, Jha, Njoo, Theresa Tam, Walensky, Doug Ford, Williams, Kieran, Marks, de Villa, Jüni, Hotez, Tedros, CDC, FDA officials, HANG high!
To: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >, Aleksei Chmura (b)(6) >, David Morens <
Gerald Keusch (b)(6) >, Jeffrey Sturchio (b)(6) ,
Rich Roberts <(b) (6) >

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Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP

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Baylor College of Medicine: Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine | Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology | Health Policy Scholar

Baylor University, University Professor

Rice University, Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty

Texas A&M University, Faculty-Senior Fellow, Hagler Inst for Advanced Study & Scowcroft Institute of Intl Affairs

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Date: Mon, 6 Feb 2023 5:13:44 PM -0500
Sent: Mon, 6 Feb 2023 5:13:27 PM -0500
Subject: Re: Science story on new non profit
From: "Hotez, Peter Jay" < (b) (6)
To: Peter Daszak < (b) (6)
CC: Keusch, Gerald T < (b) (6) David Morens <(b) (6) Roberts, Rich < (b) (6) Jeffrey Sturchio < (b) (6) Aleksei Chmura < (b) (6) >;
Attachments: image001.jpg; image002.jpg; image003.jpg; image001.jpg; image002.jpg; image003.jpg

Well at least David Relman saw through it and refused to join? I guess a good sign?

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP

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Baylor College of Medicine: Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine | Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology | Health Policy Scholar

Baylor University, University Professor
Rice University, Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty
Texas A&M University, Faculty-Senior Fellow, Hagler Inst for Advanced Study & Scowcroft Institute of Intl Affairs

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Senior Coordinator & Executive Support: Douglas Soriano
(b) (6) | Phone: (b) (6) | Fax: 713-798-2299

Media Inquiries:
(b)(6)

iPhone

On Feb 6, 2023, at 3:52 PM, Peter Daszak <(b) (6) > wrote:

Here's a *Science* story about it:

https://www.science.org/content/article/critics- risky-virus-studies-launch-nonprofit-push-research-halt-tighter-safety-rules

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: + (b) (6)
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

---

From: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >
Sent: Monday, February 6, 2023 4:39 PM
To: 'Keusch, Gerald T' <(b) (6) >; 'Hotez, Peter Jay' (b)(6)
Cc: 'David Morens' < (b) (6) 'Roberts, Rich' (b)(6) 'Jeffrey Sturchio' <
J (b) (6) Aleksei Chmura (b)(6)
Subject: RE: Notes from our call

Just saw that Richard Ebright and others have formed a new 501c3 to combat research that will enhance pathogens:

https://biosafetynow.org/team/

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: +(b) (6)
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

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MORENS_NIH_035265
REL0000476963

From: Keusch, Gerald T <(b)(6)
Sent: Thursday, February 2, 2023 4:58 PM
To: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >; Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6)
Cc: David Morens <(b) (6) >; Roberts, Rich <(b)(6) >; Jeffrey Sturchio <J (b)(6) >; Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) >
Subject: RE: Notes from our call

Just to note I have just sent a note to Carlos del Rio about NAM, to Mary Woolley about Research!America, and Stef Bertuzzi about ASM. I'll let you know if and what I hear back from them and we can proceed from there.
Jerry

From: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >
Sent: Wednesday, February 1, 2023 6:26 PM
To: Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6)
Cc: David Morens <(b)(6) >; Roberts, Rich <(b) (6) Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6)
Jeffrey Sturchio <(b)(6) Aleksei Chmura <(b)(6) >
Subject: Notes from our call
Importance: High

Attached are notes and action items (also cc'd below), as well as the concept note which I've expanded with more names of orgs to add:

Towards a Coalition to Protect Pandemic Preparedness Research

Notes from call 2/1/23
Rich Roberts, Peter Hotez, Jerry Keusch, David Morens, Jeff Sturchio, Peter Daszak, Aleksei Chmura

Action items:

Rich will speak with:
- Harold Varmus to sound him out re. this issue
- Holden Thorpe to find out the best way to engage AAAS (Sudip Parikh CEO)
- NAS: Rich will be in DC in March talking with Marcia McNutt, Nobel Foundation &
- NAS – will see if Nobel Foundation will endorse this effort if NAS supports it

Jerry Keusch will reach out to:
- ASM – Stephano Bertuzzi

David Morens will reach out to Tony Fauci to ask advice on how we should progress
Peter Hotez will talk with:
- Head of OSTP (Peter will speak with them in March)
- ASV – Anne Moscona (President-Elect)

Peter Daszak will contact as many of the others as possible, writing on behalf of all of us, so as to avoid concerns that people might have re EcoHealth being in the line of fire.
Next steps
- each of us will reach out to different contacts
- re-convene by conference call in 3 weeks or so (Peter D. will set up), around Feb 22nd.
- In-person meeting at EHA NYC afternoon of April 27th.

Summary of discussion:

- What could the goals of the coalition be, and what should they not be
  - Overall goal to have a 'coalition of the willing' form, organized by an independent group (hopefully AAAS, or similar level) to defend pandemic prevention research that is under attack
- How should we reach out to build a coalition?
  - Making contact with key people from each of the above, trying to set up a conference call, convened by a leading independent group (e.g. AAAS) where multiple contacts come together and the discussion is led by the independent group.
- Who should we try to engage: Academies, academic societies, pro-science pressure groups, senior figures in the field, funders, and governmental leaders. Initial list:
  - AAAS
  - AIDS Vaccine Advocacy Coalition
  - American Public Health Association (Georges Benjamin)
  - American Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene (Dan Bausch, Karen Goraleski, Kent Kester)
  - Association of Public & Land-Grant Universities
  - Georgia Global Health Alliance
  - Bay Area Global Health Alliance
  - Consortium of Universities for Global Health
  - COVID Collaborative
  - Global Health Council
  - Global Health Technologies Coalition
  - Infectious Diseases Society of America Carlos del Rio (Jerry will reach out)
  - International AIDS Vaccine Initiative
  - Nobel Laureates Campaigns
  - Pandemic Action Network
  - PATH
  - Research!America – Reach back out – Jerry will
  - Union of Concerned Scientists
  - Washington Global Health Alliance
  - 156 virologists letter
  - NAM
  - NAS
  - NL Campaigns (to be kept informed of progress by Rich)
  - CUGH
  - The pandemic action coalition
  - FASEB
  - Global Health technologies coalition
  - APLU (KHG has connection)
  - Wellcome Trust (Paul Schreier is the interim head).
  - Dr. Tony Fauci
  - Felicia Goodrum (Arizona) and Stacey Schultz-Cherry (St. Judes)
  - OSTP
  - ASV – Anne Moscona (President-Elect)

Cheers,

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Peter

Peter Daszak
President

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USA

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Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

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From: Hotez, Peter Jay <(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

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Media Inquiries:

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From: Peter Daszak (b) (6) >
Sent: Wednesday, February 1, 2023 8:14 AM
To: Hotez, Peter Jay (b)(6)
Cc: David Morens (b)(6) ; Roberts, Rich (b) (6) Keusch, Gerald T (b) (6) (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)
(b) (6) # US

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
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Twitter: @PeterDaszak

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From: Hotez, Peter Jay < (b) (6)
Sent: Tuesday, January 31, 2023 3:04 PM
To: Peter Daszak (b) (6) >
Cc: David Morens (b) (6) >; Roberts, Rich <(b) (6) Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6)
Jeffrey Sturchio (b) (6) Aleksei Chmura (b) (6)
Subject: Re: Two great articles!

Many thanks Peter! Appreciate the support!

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP

Texas Children's Hospital: Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics | Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development | Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

Baylor College of Medicine: Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine | Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology | Health Policy Scholar

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Texas A&M University, Faculty-Senior Fellow, Hagler Inst for Advanced Study & Scowcroft Institute of Intl Affairs

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Media Inquiries:

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(b) (6)

iPhone

On Jan 31, 2023, at 1:44 PM, Peter Daszak <(b) (6) > wrote:

First, want to send my appreciation for your great interview in the Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists yesterday, Peter:

https://thebulletin.org/2023/01/viral- spread-peter-hotez-on-the-increase-of-anti-science-aggression-on-social-media/

Viral spread: Peter Hotez on the increase of anti-science aggression on social media

By Sara Goudarzi | January 30, 2023

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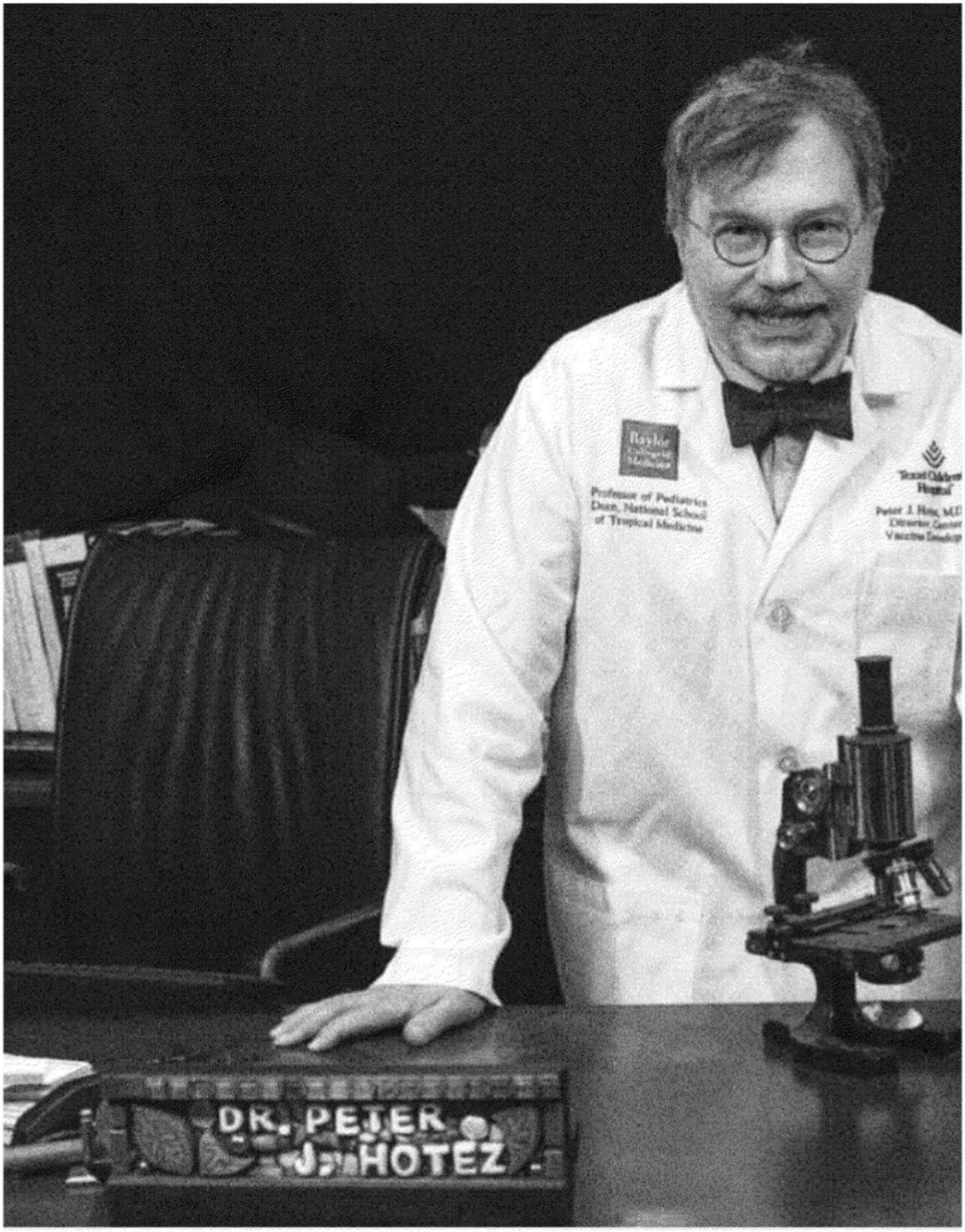

Peter Hotez (Image courtesy of Agapito Sanchez, Baylor College of Medicine)

Last November, Twitter announced it will no longer enforce "the COVID-19 misleading information policy." The platform also allowed previously banned users to rejoin the site. Since then, anti-vaccination messaging has gained renewed energy, distressing scientists and researchers who have been combatting misinformation and disinformation on social media. According to research, there's a strong relationship between anti-vaccination efforts on social media and vaccine hesitancy, and while millions of people were saved by having taken the

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COVID-19 vaccines, hundreds of thousands of Americans died after refusing it.
Peter Hotez, a physician-scientist, dean of the National School of Tropical Medicine, and a professor in the departments of Pediatrics and Molecular Virology and Microbiology at Baylor College of Medicine, is no stranger to anti-vaccination attitudes. He has fought against misleading medical information for years. But now, he says, anti-science sentiments have been weaponized by businessmen and politicians seeking profits and power.
In the 1940s and 1950s, the House Un-American Activities Committee (HUAC) investigated and discredited several scientists who worked on the Manhattan Project. Hotez expects congressional committees under Republican control to engage in a similar targeting of scientists in an attempt to accumulate influence and foster a sense of belonging—a signature of authoritarian regimes—among their constituents. In his view, this anti-vaccine, anti-science movement, versions of which are spreading to other countries, could destabilize the global vaccine ecosystem.
I spoke with Hotez about the role of social media in spreading misleading information on vaccines and stoking anti-science aggression in many dimensions. *The resulting discussion has been edited for length and clarity.*

Sara Goudarzi: You've been on Twitter for more than a decade and often use it as a tool to communicate health and science facts, such as the importance of vaccinations. How in your experience has the social media platform changed during this time?
Peter Hotez: Well, it's become a lot more adversarial as the anti-vaccine movement has shifted. The anti-vaccine movement began in earnest around 20 years ago in the United States around false assertions that vaccines cause autism. The way I got involved was because I have a daughter with autism, and I wrote the book *Vaccines Did Not Cause Rachel's Autism: My Journey as a Vaccine Scientist, Pediatrician, and Autism Dad*, and that made me public enemy number one or two with the anti-vaccine activists.
What I would do at that time of social media was use their statements in their attacks against me as a teachable moment, to expose what the anti-vaccine movement was all about and how they were monetizing the internet with books on Amazon and nutritional supplements and the phony autism cures. So, rather than simply block people who were attacking me, I would retweet them with a little description of what they were doing. People found it very interesting because it was teaching them how an anti-science movement works, and they started coming to my Twitter for that purpose.
The game changer was about nine years ago, when [vaccine disinformation] became a political movement around health and medical freedom. You saw a different set of actors come into this, and it became a lot more aggressive; people's political allegiance became tied to not giving their kids vaccinations, and that has just come off the rails with COVID-19. And I'd like to point out that 200,000 Americans now have needlessly lost their lives because they refused the COVID vaccine.
The hardest thing yet is really trying to describe the anti-vaccine ecosystem, because too often it's still couched in the old autism thing that they call infodemic or give it euphemisms like misinformation or disinformation. That is, as though it's some random stuff appearing on social media, when in fact, it's organized, politically motivated, and deliberate. It has a system in place, and what I do now is use that to actually describe who the actors that comprise that ecosystem are—elected leaders in the House Freedom Caucus, certain senators, and local leaders amplified in Fox News with designated contrarians from the far right think tanks.
All our training to be a scientist says you're not supposed to talk about Republicans, Democrats, liberals, or conservatives; you're supposed to be politically neutral. But what do you do when the anti-science, anti-vaccine aggression is predominantly coming along the

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partisan lines from the far right? How do you articulate that without basically saying, "the reason I'm doing this is to save lives?" It's no longer a theoretical discussion; Americans have lost their lives because they believed the politics, and to be able to articulate that is really threading a needle there.

Goudarzi: With Twitter's moderators practically gone, the platform's announcement that it will no longer enforce measures to combat misleading information regarding COVID-19 and will give amnesty to previously banned users, there seems to be a rise in anti-vaccination sentiment.

Hotez: It's blown up. It's gotten much tougher: Anything I put out there gets immediately pounced on, and I can trace the origins to four or five either elected leaders or these contrarians from far right think tanks and elsewhere who blow dog whistles. They will put out a (typically false or exaggerated) statement against me, and then I'll receive hundreds and hundreds of tweets or emails specifically targeting me. About half of them look like bots because the person sending it is an empty face with a gazillion numbers attached to the Twitter handle. But others are real people tuning into Fox News every night who totally fall into the rabbit hole because they seem to worship these contrarians. The other piece to this is a lot of Nazi imagery and fantasies, a lot of antisemitism, because they know I'm a Jewish scientist. And that's yet another dimension to all of this.

Goudarzi: How do you think this affects patients in healthcare settings? Have you had personal experience with those who decided not to get vaccinated because of information on the internet or social media indicating the shots are dangerous?

Hotez: I've had sort of the opposite experience, where patients were in the rabbit hole, had seen my postings, see me as credible, and because of me are taking the vaccine, which is kind of nice and spurs me on to keep going at this. But more and more I've also had the other extreme as well, which is based on what they see on social media: People will take the time to write me a threatening email or make a call to the lab or to the office. Then I have to bring in law enforcement through the Texas Medical Center Police or the Houston Police Department and the Anti-Defamation League (because they have a list of individuals who are known to make these types of threats). It's taken this very, very dark turn as a consequence.

Goudarzi: Anti-vaccination movements are nothing new and go back to the late 1700s, even before the development of the smallpox vaccine and then the 1800s and again in the 1990s and 2000s. Do you think social media has allowed the latest movement to gain even more steam than previous movements?

Hotez: I wrote an article about the whole history of [anti-vax movements] in *Journal of Clinical Investigation*. I think it really accelerated in the early 2000s with autism, in part aided by social media—it was new then but was starting up. Now, I think social media has really been an enabler. It's not only social media; I think amazon.com was a big contributor. If you search for books on vaccinations, what's out there is a horror show. My books are among the top-rated on vaccines, and they're probably ranked about number 30 or 40, because it's all preceded by the phony-baloney, anti-vaccine COVID conspiracy books. So, it's Amazon and social media. And Fox News is having a huge impact. This has been documented by Media Matters, the watchdog group, as well as this very interesting paper that came out of ETH Zurich, which is like the MIT of Central Europe.

Goudarzi: Do you think Amazon is purposefully placing these books higher up in search results, or are search results just a reflection of how much steam the movement has gained?

Hotez: I don't know. Amazon is probably amoral. I don't think they think about this one way or the other, but whatever sells. So, it's whatever people are buying—that's how they're ranking it.

Goudarzi: Are you seeing a difference in the attitudes towards COVID-19 vaccines versus

say the flu or MMR vaccines?

Hotez: Yeah, because remember, MMR came out of autism; that was the [original] assertion that the MMR vaccine causes autism. That was [*The Lancet*] paper from 1998. But then around 2014, 2015 (I like to think because I was helping to take some of the wind out of the sails around autism), you started to see the anti-vaccine movement pivot around this concept of health and medical freedom, that you can't tell us what to do about our kids. And that was the first link to the Republican Tea Party here in Texas. In fact, they started getting PAC [political action committee] money… It really took off in Texas and Oklahoma and that's what you see came off the rails with COVID-19.

It has been documented now by Charles Gaba, a health analyst whose work has been mentioned in the *New York Times*, National Public Radio, Pew Research Center and Peterson Academic Center, that the lowest vaccination rates were where health freedom propaganda was the strongest, and among those who are in red states like Texas, the redder the county, the lower the vaccination rate, the higher the numbers of deaths. It's a really tight correlation, so much so that David Leonhardt in the *New York Times* has called it red COVID. My forthcoming book, *The Deadly Rise of Antiscience: A Scientist's Warning* and it's full on linked to far-right politics and it's been embraced by the House Freedom Caucus.

After vaccines became widely available, the statements from the 2021 CPAC conference of conservatives in Dallas was first along the lines of: "they're going to vaccinate you, and then they're going to take away your guns and your bibles." It's ridiculous. A quarter of the country accepted it—mostly in Texas and the Southern states, and then [Georgia US Rep.] Marjorie Taylor Greene called people like me "medical brownshirts," using Nazi paramilitary analogy. Then, those in the Senate GOP, such as Senator Johnson from Wisconsin, held anti-vaccine roundtables, amplified by Fox News. Every night, during the last half of 2021, nighttime anchors Tucker Carlson and Laura Ingraham filled their airwaves with very strong anti-vaccine rhetoric, discrediting the effectiveness and safety of vaccines. And then contrarians from the far right think tanks piled on.

As I said, if it were just a theoretical construct, I wouldn't get so exercised, but 40,000 Texans died during the delta wave in the last half of 2021 and early Omicron BA1 wave in 2022 because they refused the COVID vaccine and were victims of this targeted aggression towards them. The number that I put out in the new book is 200,000 Americans across the country. The Kaiser Family Foundation and the health analyst Charles Gaba come up with similar numbers. On that basis, anti-vaccine activism, anti-science aggression, if you look at it as a societal killing force, is killing more Americans than gun violence, terrorism, nuclear proliferation, or cyber-attacks.

Goudarzi: And the interesting thing is that COVID-19 vaccines have been tremendously successful.

Hotez: Alison Galvani at Yale has just done a modeling exercise with the Commonwealth Fund, indicating that COVID vaccines have saved 3.1 million Americans.

Goudarzi: Yet the messaging against these vaccines seems to be just as successful and as you mentioned hundreds of thousands of deaths could have been prevented here in the United States. So, it begs the question, why are we having such an anti-science moment?

Hotez: It's because it's fully ensconced in the political landscape of the country that became part of the far right, and people refused the vaccine out of allegiance. Part of showing your allegiance to the far right is not getting vaccinated. Then, you saw the Proud Boys march in anti-vaccine rallies, and an early arrest in the January 6 insurrection included a prominent anti-vaccine activist.

The question that I get is: "Hey doc, what should we do about this?" And I say I don't know, because this goes outside the health sector. This is a political problem right now. How do you uncouple the anti-science from the politics? It's been really, really challenging, and the Biden

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administration has not been willing to take this on. Vivek Murthy, who is a very good Surgeon General, issued an advisory in July of 2021 about social media and said we have to work with Meta and Facebook and Twitter to prevent this stuff from going viral. That's fine, but it doesn't get to those who are generating the content. This is where we're starting to see breakdowns, in my view, among our scientific and professional societies, and even the National Academies, because this idea that we have to remain politically neutral is so strong that no one will talk about it the way I'm talking about it with you. You have to be politically neutral; it's silly.

To paraphrase Desmond Tutu and Elie Wiesel, neutrality favors the aggressor.

Goudarzi: What do you think the end goal is for those generating the content and spearheading these movements? There are certain people who truly believe that vaccines could cause x, whatever x is, but there are others like Gov. DeSantis who himself was vaccinated yet promotes anti-vaccination sentiments.

Hotez: Early on when vaccines first came out, he was actually pro-vaccines. So, what caused the change? When it was pre-health freedom, it was fairly straightforward: It was people monetizing the internet, selling nutritional supplements and books on phony autism cures. When I wrote the book, trying to look at other examples of this, I found what's going on now in Stalin's Russia in the 1930s 1940s. This is part of the signature of an authoritarian regime: to target the science and scientists. When you read Hannah Arendt's *The Origins of Totalitarianism*, you see this is part of the playbook. Even though it's self-defeating, it still fosters allegiance and belonging. I think what happened is with the anti-vaccine groups for whom the wind was let out of their sails around autism, they needed a new thing. They found money and power and relevance by tying themselves to the far right, and the far right created a whole new cadre of people that they wouldn't have otherwise.

Goudarzi: Just add adding to that: Do you think vaccine disinformation is propagated or reinforced purposely by other governments to cause division within the United States, similar to the 2016 election?

Hotez: No question about that, and I think Russia is probably the most egregious [perpetrator], and this has been documented. David Broniatowski, a computer scientist at the George Washington University, has written about this and the Russian bots' roles. In some cases, they're using both anti-vaccine and pro-vaccine rhetoric. They are specifically using this as a wedge issue to divide the country and destabilize our democracy. And it's not only the Russians—the Chinese, North Koreans and Iranians are doing this. But I think Russia is probably the biggest state actor.

What I've recommended to the Biden administration is they create an inter-governmental agency, because the United States Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) doesn't know what to do at this point. Because of the foreign actors involved, you have to bring in Homeland Security, the Commerce Department, the Justice Department and the State Department as well. There are people smart enough who know about these big dangerous societal forces, and we need their advice on what levers we can pull and push. But they haven't wanted to take it on.

Similarly, at the level of the UN agencies, the World Health Organization doesn't know what to do at this point. So, you're starting to see that same US-style anti-vaccine activity moving to Canada, the United Kingdom and Western Europe—and I wrote about this in a paper in *Nature Reviews Immunology*. You're even seeing it now in low- and middle- income countries, including those in Africa. So, it's going to destabilize the global vaccine ecosystem, even around childhood vaccination.

Goudarzi: Scientific debate around new treatment or preventive measure used to happen more or less behind closed doors. But given the nature of a real time pandemic, some of those debates are taking place on social media, and sometimes that leads to the lay audience

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misunderstanding certain aspects of the discussion and spreading misinformation. How valuable, and how harmful, do you think it is to have scientific debates between researchers on social media?

Hotez: It's often not between researchers. For instance, one of the most common things when they target me on social media is they say I should be in a public debate with the lead anti-vaccine activist. And I say, "No, that's not how science is done. I've written a scientific paper and if somebody has an issue with that, they can either refute it in a scientific journal, or publish their own finding." Of course, they can't get it published because there's no science behind it. So, what they want to do instead is they want a public debate.

And I say, "Look, you can debate 18th-century enlightenment philosophy, but science is not typically something that's debated in that kind of forum; we have a mechanism for doing that through scientific publication and peer review." And they don't want to play that way. They just want to put out their propaganda because that's all they have behind it. An example is ivermectin or hydroxychloroquine, which the scientific community has clearly shown has no effect on COVID-19. Hydroxychloroquine is even harmful. But the problem is the anti-vaccine force has dominated the internet, and they say, "Hey, scientists don't want to debate us, what are they hiding?"

And that's, again, how they weaponize communication.

Goudarzi: I was actually thinking of earlier during the pandemic. Because there was so little time, some researchers were putting their papers up on open access preprint servers, which didn't require a peer review, and then others were weighing in on social media platforms. At times, you would see non-scientists take one aspect of that discussion and spread something that wasn't necessarily true.

Hotez: I think with the whole preprint server mechanism, ultimately the benefits outweighed the downside. I can't tell you how many times I had to depend on data from bioRxiv, medRxiv in order to make sense of what was going on. If I had to wait a few weeks for it to air in *New England Journal of Medicine* or *Nature* and *Science*—and by the way, they did a pretty good job too; they were able to turn that around in record time—[it would have been too late.] If you're looking for any silver lining in this pandemic, it's the journal editors, the whole preprint server mechanism, and the willingness of the scientific community to share information. And I think for most of the public understood that they were seeing this play out in real time and that there wasn't always going to be consistency. The problem was those who were who were weaponizing it for their own personal or political gain.

Goudarzi: But you still think the advantages outweighed the disadvantages?

Hotez: I think so. It's hard to imagine how I could've really talked about everything going on knowledgeably on CNN, NBC, or wherever without having access to the information. The preprints were so important.

Goudarzi: Some researchers have either left Twitter or are thinking of leaving. What will this do to scientific discourse? Would it make sense to stay on the platform to counter misinformation and disinformation and increase public awareness, or should researchers seek a more balanced platform?

Hotez: I don't have the answer. I struggle with this every day. I mean, the aggression against me and the threats would continue even if I wasn't on Twitter, because more often than not, it's not against anything that I tweeted. Ninety percent of the time, it's people who see me as a threat to undermine their politics or their business line and are just making up things about me and would still continue even if I wasn't on Twitter. So that's the reason I stay on it, because at least I'm getting out important and timely information. But it is really painful and awful to see what's going on there.

Goudarzi: Is the amount of aggression you face tied to the changing ownership of Twitter and political shifts?

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Hotez: The politics around the anti-science, anti-vaccine and phony baloney about COVID origins had started with the pandemic in 2020. But now with all the contrarians back at once it reminds me of the old *Batman* series when they brought back Catwoman, Joker, Penguin, and Riddler all at once to do away with Batman. That seems to be going on, so it's been their superstars who are super energized by being invited back to Twitter, and they are using the platform very aggressively.

Goudarzi: What are some of the lessons we've learned about disinformation and misinformation over the last few years regarding social media that we should consider moving forward?

Hotez: I would say social media is a major weapon of choice for spreading disinformation. But remember, we have to get to those who are generating content. Social media is an important vehicle, but it's not the only one. I think we probably should stop calling it misinformation, disinformation or infodemic. We should call it for what it is, which is anti-science aggression, because it is a killing force. What we realized is that the science aggression is taking lives in the United States on an unprecedented scale.

For that reason, it needs to be addressed, and that's the part the scientific community has not come to terms with. When I call myself a scientist, it's not just co-heading a team of scientists making a COVID vaccine for the world that has reached a 100 million people. That's a very noble activity, but from my perspective, even that's still insufficient. Now being a scientist means, to some extent, being willing to combat the anti-science. It's nothing that any of us signed up for. I never dreamed when I got my MD-PhD in New York in the 1980s that this was something I'd be doing, but this is what's in front of us.

And I don't really feel that the scientific community—the professional societies, scientific bodies, even the academy—fully understand the impact. Hopefully it'll be clear when my book comes out, but it may become even clearer when we see the House GOP hearings. I predict the oversight committee and the judiciary committee or select subcommittees will become an anti-science witch hunt and will target prominent American scientists. And then we'll get a better picture.

Cheers,

Peter

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President

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From: Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6)
Sent: Monday, January 30, 2023 6:27 PM
To: David Morens <(b) (6)
Cc: Roberts, Rich <(b) (6) Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >; Keusch, Gerald T <
(b)(6) >; Jeffrey Sturchio <J (b) (6) >; Aleksei Chmura (b) (6)
Subject: Re: My latest

Many thanks David! Best Peter

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP

Texas Children's Hospital: Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics | Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development | Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

Baylor College of Medicine: Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine | Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology | Health Policy Scholar

Baylor University, University Professor

Rice University, Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty

Texas A&M University, Faculty-Senior Fellow, Hagler Inst for Advanced Study & Scowcroft Institute of Intl Affairs

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(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

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Baylor University, University Professor

Rice University, Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty

Texas A&M University, Faculty-Senior Fellow, Hagler Inst for Advanced Study & Scowcroft Institute of Intl Affairs

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Media Inquiries:

(b)(6)

iPhone

On 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 0 (b) (6)
USA
Tel: (b)(6)
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From: Peter Daszak (b) (6) (b)
Sent: Friday, January 27, 2023 3:30 PM
To: Roberts, Rich (b)(6) Keusch, Gerald T (b) (6) ; Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6)
Cc: David Morens (b) (6) ; Jeffrey Sturchio (b) (6) >; Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) >
Subject: RE: Finally - virologists fight back!

EXTERNAL SENDER

I forgot about that Rich. But I'm assuming it wasn't you that came up with somewhat colonial name!!???

In all seriousness, while it's good for virologists to push back against calls to block scientific research, I don't think a campaign to support gain of function work that's designed to see what would happen if you make a lethal pathogen more transmissible is anything any of us particularly want to get behind right now!

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
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Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

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From: Roberts, Rich < (b) (6)
Sent: Friday, January 27, 2023 11:08 AM
To: Peter Daszak (b) (6) g >; 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!

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
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email: (b) (6)

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email: (b) (6)

From: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >
Sent: Friday, January 27, 2023 8:39 AM
To: Keusch, Gerald T (b) (6) >; Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6) >
Cc: David Morens <(b) (6) >; Jeffrey Sturchio (b) (b) (6) >;
Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) >; Roberts, Rich < (b) (6)
Subject: Finally - virologists fight back!

MORENS_SUBPOENA_017094
MORENS_NIH_035282
REL0000476963

Importance: High

EXTERNAL SENDER

Article in NPR this morning (https://www.npr.org/sections/health-shots/2023/01/27/1151867224/virologists- science-oversight-risky-experiments) – and below, based on a Commentary (attached) in mBio and various ASM journals signed by >150 virologists that fights back against the anti-science, defends virus research and gives a table of positive results from gain of function work.

I'll reach out to Felicia Goodrum (lead author) today to see if they will talk about helping with some sort of coalition. Michael Imperiale was quoted so if any of you know him or Felicia or others who are leading this (e.g. Arturo Casadevall), it would be good to reach out to let them know the urgency.

Some of these people were involved in the coalition (Scientists for Science - http://www.scientistsforscience.org/) to push back against earlier efforts to cancel Gain of function work by the "Cambridge Working Group" (a pretentious name, of course)…

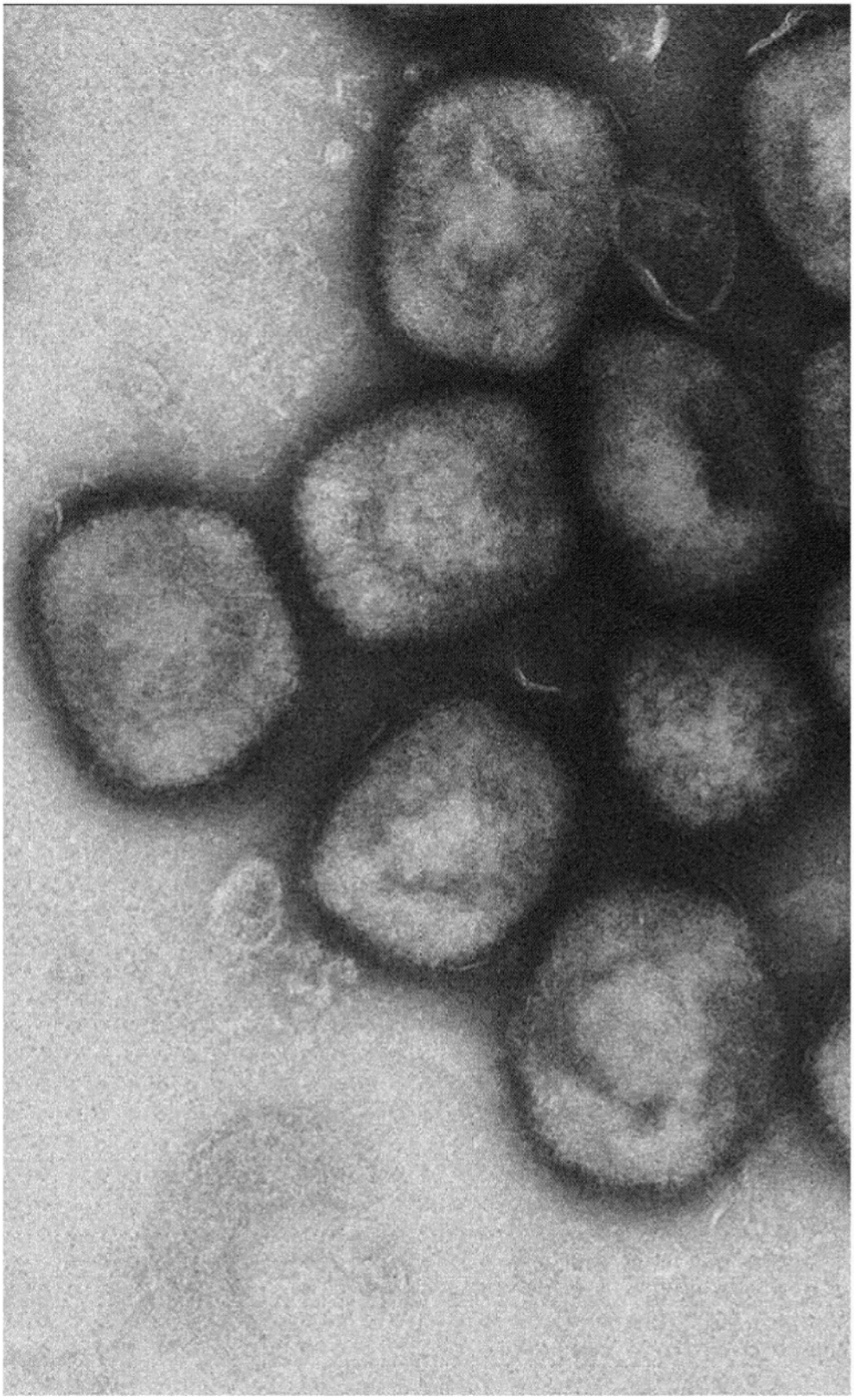
BTW – saw your name on the Scientists for Science website Jerry!

POLICY-ISH

Virologists defend their science as officials eye more oversight of risky experiments



NELL GREENFIELDBOYCE



This image shows purified particles of mpox virus, formerly called monkeypox. Viruses like these can be genetically altered in the lab in ways that might make them more dangerous.

NIAID

Over 150 virologists have signed on to a commentary that says all the evidence to date indicates that the coronavirus pandemic started naturally, and it wasn't the result of some kind of lab accident

MORENS_SUBPOENA_017096
MORENS_NIH_035284
REL0000476963

or malicious attack.
They worry that continued speculation about a lab in China is fueling calls for more regulation of experiments with pathogens, and that this will stifle the basic research needed to prepare for future pandemics.

The virologists issued their statement just ahead of a key meeting Friday held by outside advisors to the federal government. That group is set to wrap up a recent review of the existing oversight system for experiments that are controversial because they could create new potential threats.
The advisors' draft recommendations call for expanding a special decision-making process that currently weighs the risks and benefits of experiments that might make "potential pandemic pathogens" more dangerous.
"The government really has a strong interest on behalf of all of us, in the public, in knowing when researchers want to make a virus more lethal or more transmissible, and understanding how that would be done and why that would be done, and whether the benefits are worth it," says Tom Inglesby, director of the Center for Health Security at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health.

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He thinks if the draft recommendations were adopted by the government, "it would be a very big step forward."

The origins of the pandemic

All of this comes as the lab in China, known as the Wuhan Institute of Virology, is again in the headlines. An internal government watchdog released a report this week criticizing the National Institutes of Health, saying it failed to adequately monitor grant awards given to a nonprofit that had collaborated with scientists at the Wuhan lab.
Felicia Goodrum, a virologist at the University of Arizona, says that open-minded experts have investigated the origins of the pandemic. The available evidence, she says, supports the notion that the virus emerged from nature just like other viruses such as HIV and Ebola did — by jumping from animals into people who had contact with them.
"The evidence that we have to date suggests that SARS-CoV-2 entered the human population by that route," says Goodrum. "There is no evidence to the contrary or in support of a lab leak, nothing credible."

Basic research on viruses, she says, is what led to the swift development of vaccines and drugs to fight the pandemic.

And yet virologists have watched in dismay as misinformation and conspiracy theories have placed the blame on science.

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"There's this complete disconnect between reality and what happened," says Michael Imperiale, a virologist at the University of Michigan.
He says that while debates have gone on for years about the wisdom of doing experiments that might make bad viruses even worse, this moment feels different.

"The pandemic," he says, "has really kind of heightened the urgency with which we need to address these issues, just because of all the controversy that's been out there regarding, you know, was this a lab leak or not?"

A bird flu study raises alarm

Unlike, say, nuclear physics research, biology has traditionally had a culture of openness. After the anthrax attacks in 2001, however, biologists began to grapple with the possibility that their published work might serve as recipes for evildoers who wanted to make bioweapons.

And in 2011, there was an outcry after government-funded researchers altered a bird flu virus that can be deadly in people. Their lab work made this virus more contagious in the lab animals that are stand-ins for people.

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Critics said they'd created a super flu. Proponents said that viruses sometimes have to be manipulated in the lab to see what they might be capable of; in nature, after all, mutations occur all the time and that is how pandemic strains emerge.

That episode marked the start of a long, heated debate, plus research moratoriums and ultimately the development of new regulations. In 2017, a review system was put into place to weigh the risks and benefits of studies that might make a potential pandemic pathogen even worse. So far just three proposed lines of research, with influenza viruses, have been deemed risky enough to merit that kind of extra scrutiny.

"We are really talking about a small amount of research proposals," says Lyric Jorgenson, the acting associate director for science policy and the acting director of the Office of Science Policy at the NIH.

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She says just before the pandemic started, officials asked advisors on the National Science Advisory Board for Biosecurity to consider whether the government needed to be more transparent to the public about how it was making decisions about this kind of research. Before that work was done, the pandemic hit and everything was put on hold. Last year, officials asked the group to broaden its work and to evaluate the regulations more comprehensively.

If the draft changes developed by this advisory group are eventually adopted by the government, an extra layer of oversight would apply to any study "reasonably anticipated" to enhance the transmission or virulence of any pathogen in a way that could make it a public health threat. That means more experiments on more viruses would get a closer look.

"What this new recommendation is saying, is that even if you start with a virus that had no potential to cause an epidemic or pandemic, if you are doing research that will change that virus in a way where it could now cause an uncontrollable disease, or a widely spreading disease, that has to be reviewed by this new framework," says Inglesby.

What's more, the advisory group has noted that "increased transparency in the review process is needed to engender public trust in the review and oversight processes."

What's "Reasonably Anticipated"

The American Society for Microbiology has responded positively to the draft recommendations, saying "we urge swift implementation of the recommended changes by the federal agencies engaged in this work."

But some virologists think the devil will be in the details if these recommendations turn into policy.

"They keep using this phrase 'reasonably anticipated,'" says Imperiale. "How is that going to be interpreted? Is there going to be clear guidance as to what is meant by that?"

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Researchers often don't know what will happen when they start an experiment, says Goodrum, especially when the science is cutting-edge.

"That's where the big scientific advancements come from. And so to tie our hands behind our back, to say we can only do the science that we can anticipate, then we're really restricting innovative science," she says.

Ron Fouchier, the virologist at Erasmus University Medical Center in the Netherlands, whose lab did the bird flu experiments over a decade ago, said in an email that he'd hoped the experience of going through a pandemic would simulate more research, not "unnecessarily delay or restrict it." He said it looked like many infectious disease researchers in the United States "will face substantial delays in their crucial research efforts, if they can continue that research at all."

The U.S. is unusual in that it has a lot of public discussion of these issues and a system to try to manage the risks, says Inglesby.

He thinks that oversight can be made stronger without getting in the way of science.

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"I am avidly, absolutely pro-science and pro-research, and in particular pro-infectious disease research," says Inglesby.

But he says there's a very small part of that research "where there is the potential for very high risk if things go wrong, either by accident or on purpose. And so we have to get the balance right, between the risks that could unfold and the potential benefits."

lab leak theory
coronavirus research
pathogens
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Twitter
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Email

Cheers,

Peter

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---

From: Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6)
Sent: Wednesday, January 25, 2023 9:20 PM
To: Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6)
Cc: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >; David Morens <(b) (6) >; Jeffrey Sturchio (b) (6) >; Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) >; Rich Roberts (b) (6)
Subject: RE: Tweet by 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 Director before they appointed somebody to NIAID, and that was OK because Hugh Auchincloss was eminently able to be a respected interim Director, both within the NIH and the outside scientific community. And, that the next NIAID Director should come from outside of the institution.

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MORENS_NIH_035287
REL0000476963

I don't know what influence they will have, should they choose to act, but they do have access to the higher levels, and that is important.

Jerry

From: Hotez, Peter Jay < (b) (6)
Sent: Wednesday, January 25, 2023 2:38 PM
To: Keusch, Gerald T < (b)(6)
Cc: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >; David Morens < (b)(6) >; Jeffrey Sturchio <J (b) (6) >; Aleksei Chmura < (b) (6) >; Rich Roberts < (b) (6)
Subject: Re: Tweet by MinerFlux on Twitter

I think top priority is the Biden Administration appointing a new NIH Director and someone really good, I don't understand the holdup.

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP

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Baylor College of Medicine: Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine | Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology | Health Policy Scholar

Baylor University, University Professor

Rice University, Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty

Texas A&M University, Faculty-Senior Fellow, Hagler Inst for Advanced Study & Scowcroft Institute of Intl Affairs

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Media Inquiries:

(b) (6)

iPhone

On Jan 25, 2023, at 1:34 PM, Keusch, Gerald T (b)(6) wrote:

Well, if that were to occur there would not only be continued messaging to the public but more push back to the politicians and others spreading misinformation, and I suspect a more focused and strategic scientific plan for the institute. It has been pretty good under Tony, with some gaps that seem glaring to me, but it could also be better. How do we find and support the right outside scientist to take on the challenge?

Jerry

From: Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6)
Sent: Wednesday, January 25, 2023 2:27 PM
To: Peter Daszak (b) (6) >
Cc: David Morens <(b) (6) >; Jeffrey Sturchio <(b) (6) >; Aleksei Chmura (b) (6)
Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6) ; Rich Roberts <(b) (6)
Subject: Re: Tweet by MinerEFlux on Twitter

I see the far right keeps putting video after video about me terrified I might take over for Tony

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP

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Baylor University, University Professor

Rice University, Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty

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MORENS_NIH_035289
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(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

MORENS_SUBPOENA_017102
MORENS_NIH_035290
REL0000476963

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EcoIIealth 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 (b) (6)
(b) (6) . Peter H, you could easily ID this person, but i do not want to do so, in part because i have limited personal experience with him/her and am merely relating opinions of colleagues i trust

This individual is in a key management position in which she/he has earned a reputation of cresting an ant-meritocracy: screwing the best scientists while supporting those who suck up. Again this is hearsay, but from people who work under him/her.

If these negative assessments are true, it is still unclear what the implications, if any, would be for EHA, but i would worry that she/he would throw good scientists under the bus to appease politicians downtown

In any case, the best scenario is an open search with many good candidates. I am not sure whether we have that.

Also, my opinion, and that of many others, is that we need someone from the outside, in part because NIAID management and leadership has become inbred, nepotistic, and uninterested in hiring top scientists to fill positions. Moreover, we totally lack vision or any idea about where the science will and should go, and no mechanism to plan for being at/staying on the cutting edge

When i came here in the 1990s, from academia, where i was a 40-something year old full tenured professor in both med and public health school departments, i was told thst because i only had about 160 publications i had no chance of getting automatic tenure or even being put on a tenure track position

That was then.

Of our two most recent hires placed into tenured positions, one had only 10 publications and the other came straight out of a post doc with few publications as well.

Both were in their early 30s and, as far as i can tell, are unlikely to ever do much

At the same time, we had the ability to hire a top scientist from the outside, my good friend the arbovirologist (b) (6) from (b)(6) - Peter H, you may know him- and we was the 100% top choice of the search committee. However leadership below Tony refused to hire him with the excuse that he was overqualified and would make the other scientists look bad

No, i am not joking. This is where we are

I have in my had a small list of about 5-10 qualified folks for NIAID director, and have spoken or written to 4 about it, one being you, Peter H, but all four have expressed no interest. Peter D, you are clearly on that list too, but obvious to all of us is the fact that HHS would never let that happen, sadly, so i never mentioned it. In a better world, you would be at the top of that list in my view

The application deadline of 1/17 has passed, so we may be stuck with a non-ideal list, although no one knows including, i believe, our acting director Hugh, who is not a candidate, or so he told me

Sent from my iPhone
David M Morens
OD, NIAID, NIH

On Jan 25, 2023, at 10:58, Peter Daszak <
(b)(6)
wrote:

Unfortunate. At this point you should just throw your hat in the ring!

Why not have a confidential chat with Peter Staley and see if they have a pool of candidates yet?

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

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---

From: Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6)
Sent: Wednesday, January 25, 2023 10:55 AM
To: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >
Cc: Jeffrey Sturchio (b)(6); Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) >; David Morens <(b) (6) >; Gerald Keusch <(b) (6) Rich Roberts < (b) (6)
Subject: Re: Tweet by MinerEFlux on Twitter

Unfortunately the far right made a new YouTube claiming I'm the successor to Fauci. Which is ridiculous but it has set off a new wave of aggression

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP

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Rice University, Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty

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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

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Twitter: @PeterDaszak

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From: Jeffrey Sturchio (b) (6)

Sent: Tuesday, January 24, 2023 9:08 PM
To: Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6) >; Peter Daszak <
(b) (6) >; 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 (b)(6) Rich Roberts <
(b) (6)
Subject: Tweet by Miner□Flux on Twitter



Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP

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Texas A&M University, Faculty-Senior Fellow, Hagler Inst for Advanced Study & Scowcroft Institute of Intl Affairs

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Media Inquiries:

(b) (6)

iPhone

Date: Sat, 21 May 2022 12:12:14 PM -0400
Sent: Sat, 21 May 2022 12:12:10 PM -0400
Subject: RE: Request from National Geographic
From: "Keusch, Gerald T" <(b) (6)
To: Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6) Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >;
CC: Aleksei Chmura < (b) (6) >; David Morens < (b) (6) >; Jeffrey Sturchio <(b) (6) Rich Roberts <(b) (6)

Hi Peter H,

The (former) Lancet Task Force on Origins, Early Spread and One Health Solutions (you will all recall that Jeff Sachs disbanded us in September 2021 because we resisted his interference in our independence to write our report) will submit an invited Perspective article to PNAS on Monday. If you follow up with her you can let her know there is another MS under consideration by the journal, although I have to say my respect has been severely diminished by the Harrison/Sachs trash.

Peter D is one of our authors.

I'm not going to share it yet until we hear back from the editors, but I suspect some of them will be happy to have a science and evidence based report to publish and as it was invited and they are aware of the imminent submission I suspect they will make a rapid decision. That said, I would appreciate this not be shared with Jane Qiu at this time. I want the pleasure of forwarding it to Sachs personally and I don't want any leaks down the road.

Jerry

From: Hotez, Peter Jay < (b) (6)
Sent: Saturday, May 21, 2022 11:44 AM
To: Peter Daszak < (b) (6)
Cc: Aleksei Chmura < (b) (6) David Morens < (b) (6) Keusch, Gerald T < (b) (6) Jeffrey Sturchio < (b) (6) Rich Roberts < (b) (6)
Subject: Re: Request from National Geographic

Maybe Jerry can give her a heads up on his paper forthcoming

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP
Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine
Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology
Health Policy Scholar
Baylor College of Medicine

Texas Children's Hospital Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics
Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development

University Professor, Baylor University

Faculty Fellow, Hagler Institute for Advanced Study
Senior Fellow, Scowcroft Institute of International Affairs
Texas A&M University
Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty and Adjunct Professor of Bioengineering, Rice University
Adjunct Professor, University of Texas, School of Public Health

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Daily Beast Contributor https://www.thedailybeast.com/author/peter- j-hotez
Like us on Facebook https://www.facebook.com/BCMNationalSchoolOfTropicalMedicine/

Senior Coordinator / Executive Support: Douglas Soriano
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iPhone

On May 21, 2022, at 9:09 AM, Peter Daszak <(b) (6) wrote:

Yes – I know Jane Qiu, she's good, balanced and has been widely attacked for not following the lab leak hype.

Bit of a red flag is her comment that the current PNAS op ed has anything at all to do with actually understanding the origins – the other papers are analyses of data, by scientists who know what they're doing in virology, disease ecology, epidemiology. Jeff Sachs and Neil Harrison are none of the above, and their paper is pure opinion. I guess Jeff Sachs and PNAS make it topical though..

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance

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MORENS_NIH_005723
REL0000476971

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Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

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From: Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6)
Sent: Saturday, May 21, 2022 7:37 AM
To: Peter Daszak (b) (6) >; Aleksei Chmura (b) (6) Morens (b) (6) >; Gerald T Keusch (b) (6) >; Jeffrey Sturchio (b) (6) >; Rich Roberts <(b) (6)
Subject: Fwd: Request from National Geographic

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
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Linkedin Peter Hotez

Amazon Author Center: https://www.amazon.com/Peter- J.-Hotez/e/B001HPlC48
Daily Beast Contributor https://www.thedailybeast.com/author/peter- j-hotez
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Senior Coordinator / Executive Support: Douglas Soriano

(b) (6)
Phone: (b) (6)
Fax: 713-798-2299

iPhone
Begin forwarded message:

From: Jane Qiu (b) (6) >
Date: May 21, 2022 at 3:54:52 AM CDT
To: "Hotez, Peter Jay" (b) (6) >
Subject: Request from National Geographic

*****CAUTION:*** This email is not from a BCM Source. Only click links or open attachments you know are safe.**

Dear Professor Hotez

I hope this message finds you well. I'm an independent science writer in Beijing, contributing to publications such as Nature, Science, Scientific American, MIT Technology Review, and The Economist.

I'm writing with regarding to an indepth article I'm writing for National Geographic (US) about covid origins. It will have a critical take on three preprints posted in late February—in the context of the latest PNAS Opinion article (please see the links below). A few scientists I talked to think that the jury is still out regarding the precise of role of the Huanan market. I wonder if we could have a chat about this and how best to move forward the debate.

1. The Huanan market was the epicenter of SARS-CoV-2 emergence, Worobey et al
https://zenodo.org/record/6299600
2. Surveillance of SARS-CoV-2 in the environment and animal samples of the Huanan Seafood Market, Gao et al.
https://www.researchsquare.com/article/rs- 1370392/v1
3. SARS-CoV-2 emergence very likely resulted from at least two zoonotic events, Pekar et al
https://zenodo.org/record/6291628
4. A call for an independent inquiry into the origin of the SARS-CoV-2 virus, Harrison & Sachs
https://www.pnas.org/doi/10.1073/pnas.2202769119
If you are happy to talk, please let me know a date and time that would suit you the most. I can talk this weekend if that would be easier for you.

The origins debate has become rather toxic and it's been quite tricky to get people with the right expertise to help me. **But it's an enormously important debate and we desperately need critical journalism, which is totally dependent on experts like yourself.**

Incidentally, I've been living and breathing the topic of covid origins since December 2020, and have spent a total of 6 weeks in Wuhan, supported by a Pulitzer Centre grant (which also supports

the current work). Please find a couple of my recent stories below, including a 10K narrative longform published by MIT Technology Review. **So I'm well versed in the relevant scientific literature as well all the nuances, intricacies and complexities involved.**
https://www.technologyreview.com/2022/02/09/1044985/shi- zhengli-covid-lab-leak-wuhan/
https://www.technologyreview.com/2021/11/19/1040390/covid- wuhan-natural-spillover-wuhan-wet-market-huanan/

I have a BSc in cellar and molecular biology in Engliand and PhD in cancer genetics in Scotland. After spending 6 years working as a postdoc on molecular neuroscience (in New York and London) and 2 years as an associated editor at Nature Reviews Neuroscience, I became a full time science writer and spent the first 5 years as a Beijing correspondent for Nature. **I have a super strong science background to tackle the nuances and complexities of the subject matter.**

Your help will be greatly and infinitely appreciated. **I can guarantee that you will not be misquoted or misrepresented**, and that the story will be nothing but constructive. I totally appreciate the sensitivity and the complexity of the issues at stake. I will do my utter best to do justice to this enormously important topic.

Thank you for your attention. I look forward to hearing from you.

With warmest regards,

Jane

***
Jane Qiu, PhD
Independent science writer, Beijing
2017-2018 Knight Science Journalism Fellow at MIT
Email: jane@janeqiu.com
Website: https://muckrack.com/jane- qiu
Twitter: @janeqiuchina

Awards
- 2021: The Best American Science and Nature Writing — notable writing
- 2021: Association of British Science Writers (ABSW)' Science Writers' Awards for Britain and Ireland: Feature of the Year category — finalist
- 2018 American Geophysical Union (AGU)'s Walter Sullivan Award for Excellence in Science Journalism: Feature category — finalist
- 2017 South Asian Journalists Association Awards: Outstanding Enterprise Reporting category — winner
- 2017 Association of British Science Writers (ABSW)' Science Writers' Awards for Britain and Ireland: Best Feature category — winner
- 2016 American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) Kavli Science Journalism Awards: Magazine category — winner
- 2016 Asian Environmental Journalism Awards: Environmental Journalist of the Year category — winner

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Date:	Thu, 9 Feb 2023 3:44:38 PM -0500
Sent:	Thu, 9 Feb 2023 3:44:15 PM -0500
Subject:	Re: Follow up from our call
From:	"Hotez, Peter Jay" <(b) (6)
To:	Roberts, Rich < (b) (6) >;
CC:	Keusch, Gerald T < (b) (6) Peter Daszak < (b) (6) >; David Morens < (b) (6) >; Jeffrey Sturchio < (b) (6) >; Aleksei Chmura < (b) (6) >;
Attachments:	image001.jpg; image002.jpg; image003.jpg; image001.jpg; image002.jpg; image003.jpg

LeBron was not great on the vaccine issue, he refused to rebuke Kyrie Irving, citing "freedom of choice". We need a strong NIH Director, and more forceful statements from the National Academies. I speak with Holden pretty regularly who gets it and is concerned. When I pick up my Purple Heart AAAS Scientific Freedom Medal on March 5, he'll be there and hopefully we can strategize then. So far only AAAS and to some extent AMA and AAMC seem interested or worried.

Many thanks Rich!

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP

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Baylor College of Medicine: Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine | Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology | Health Policy Scholar

Baylor University, University Professor
Rice University, Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty
Texas A&M University, Faculty-Senior Fellow, Hagler Inst for Advanced Study & Scowcroft Institute of Intl Affairs

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Media Inquiries:
(b) (6)

iPhone

On Feb 9, 2023, at 2:21 PM, Roberts, Rich < (b) (6) wrote:

Hi:

I have spoken with several people about the idea of a campaign to protect science and most seem on board with the idea, but a little short on ways to implement it in a way that might get wide public acceptance.

I spoke with Keith Yamamoto at some length. He is extremely supportive. He did have some insights about the NIH Directorship. He said that Biden had taken over the selection personally and no-one else seemed to be involved. His view and mine is that that means it is dead for now. He had been talking with Harold Varmus and Bob Horvitz, both of whom are very concerned about the Republican attacks on science. I will be talking with both of them tomorrow afternoon.

I spoke with John Deutsch (ex-President of MIT) and he is supportive, but has no clear ideas of how to proceed. He did say that we should talk with Holden Thorp (as we had discussed) and get AAAS involved. I had contacted Holden previously and he and I have a talk scheduled for next week.

Some of the more interesting suggestions that have emerged are that we should try to garner support from individuals and organizations that are not viewed by the general public, or politicians, as belong to the "elite" segment of society. I am thinking that someone like LeBron James could be an excellent spokesperson if we can reach him and his views are pro-science. He seems like a decent person and so maybe he is Pro-science. There are others who fit that category such as other sports stars and even some Hollywood people. I believe George Clooney would be favorable and maybe Harrison Ford, whom I met many years ago.

Rich

Richard J. Roberts
New England Biolabs
240 County Road
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Tel: (978) (b) (6)
Fax: (978) 412 9910
email: (b) (6) m

Executive Assistant: (b)((b)(6)
Tel: (978) (b) (6)
Fax: (978) 412 9910
email: (b) (6)

From: Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6)
Sent: Thursday, February 2, 2023 4:58 PM
To: Peter Daszak < (b) (6) Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6)
Cc: David Morens < (b) (6) >; Roberts, Rich < (b) (6) Jeffrey Sturchio < (b) (6) Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) >
Subject: RE: Notes from our call

EXTERNAL SENDER

Just to note I have just sent a note to Carlos del Rio about NAM, to Mary Woolley about Research!America, and Stef Bertuzzi about ASM. I'll let you know if and what I hear back from them and we can proceed from there.
Jerry

From: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >
Sent: Wednesday, February 1, 2023 6:26 PM
To: Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6)
Cc: David Morens (b) (6) >; Roberts, Rich <(b) (6) Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6)

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Jeffrey Sturchio (b)(6) >; Aleksei Chmura < (b)(6)
Subject: Notes from our call
Importance: High

Attached are notes and action items (also cc'd below), as well as the concept note which I've expanded with more names of orgs to add:

Towards a Coalition to Protect Pandemic Preparedness Research

Notes from call 2/1/23
Rich Roberts, Peter Hotez, Jerry Keusch, David Morens, Jeff Sturchio, Peter Daszak, Aleksei Chmura

Action items:

Rich will speak with:
- Harold Varmus to sound him out re. this issue
- Holden Thorpe to find out the best way to engage AAAS (Sudip Parikh CEO)
- NAS: Rich will be in DC in March talking with Marcia McNutt, Nobel Foundation &
- NAS – will see if Nobel Foundation will endorse this effort if NAS supports it

Jerry Keusch will reach out to:
- ASM – Stephano Bertuzzi

David Morens will reach out to Tony Fauci to ask advice on how we should progress

Peter Hotez will talk with:
- Head of OSTP (Peter will speak with them in March)
- ASV – Anne Moscona (President-Elect)

Peter Daszak will contact as many of the others as possible, writing on behalf of all of us, so as to avoid concerns that people might have re EcoHealth being in the line of fire.

Next steps
- each of us will reach out to different contacts
- re-convene by conference call in 3 weeks or so (Peter D. will set up), around Feb 22nd.
- In-person meeting at EHA NYC afternoon of April 27th.

Summary of discussion:

- What could the goals of the coalition be, and what should they not be
  - Overall goal to have a 'coalition of the willing' form, organized by an independent group (hopefully AAAS, or similar level) to defend pandemic prevention research that is under attack
- How should we reach out to build a coalition?
  - Making contact with key people from each of the above, trying to set up a conference call, convened by a leading independent group (e.g. AAAS) where multiple contacts come together and the discussion is led by the independent group.
- Who should we try to engage: Academies, academic societies, pro-science pressure groups, senior figures in the field, funders, and governmental leaders. Initial list:
  - AAAS
  - AIDS Vaccine Advocacy Coalition
  - American Public Health Association (Georges Benjamin)
  - American Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene (Dan Bausch, Karen Goraleski, Kent Kester)
  - Association of Public & Land-Grant Universities
  - Georgia Global Health Alliance
  - Bay Area Global Health Alliance

- Consortium of Universities for Global Health
- COVID Collaborative
- Global Health Council
- Global Health Technologies Coalition
- Infectious Diseases Society of America Carlos del Rio (Jerry will reach out)
- International AIDS Vaccine Initiative
- Nobel Laureates Campaigns
- Pandemic Action Network
- PATH
- Research!America – Reach back out – Jerry will
- Union of Concerned Scientists
- Washington Global Health Alliance
- 156 virologists letter
- NAM
- NAS
- NL Campaigns (to be kept informed of progress by Rich)
- CUGH
- The pandemic action coalition
- FASEB
- Global Health technologies coalition
- APLU (KHG has connection)
- Wellcome Trust (Paul Schreier is the interim head).
- Dr. Tony Fauci
- Felicia Goodrum (Arizona) and Stacey Schultz-Cherry (St. Judes)
- OSTP
- ASV – Anne Moscona (President-Elect)

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: + (b) (6)
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

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From: Hotez, Peter Jay (b)(6)
Sent: Wednesday, February 1, 2023 6:21 PM
To: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >
Cc: David Morens (b)(6) >; Roberts, Rich < (b)(6) >; Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6)
Jeffrey Sturchio (b)(6) ; Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) >
Subject: Re: Update

Dear all, I spoke with Ann Moscona President-Elect at ASV and she's all in. She also suggested adding Felicia Goodrum (Arizona) and Stacey Schultz-Cherry (St. Judes) both really good on policy issues, she will give them a heads up, thanks! Peter

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP

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Rice University, Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty

Texas A&M University, Faculty-Senior Fellow, Hagler Inst for Advanced Study & Scowcroft Institute of Intl Affairs

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Media Inquiries:

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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 (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)
(b) (6) # US

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: + (b) (6)
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

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From: Hotez, Peter Jay < (b) (6)
Sent: Tuesday, January 31, 2023 3:04 PM
To: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >
Cc: David Morens <(b) (6) >; Roberts, Rich <(b) (6) Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6)
Jeffrey Sturchio (b)(6) >; Aleksei Chmura (b)(6)
Subject: Re: Two great articles!

Many thanks Peter! Appreciate the support!

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Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP

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Baylor University, University Professor

Rice University, Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty

Texas A&M University, Faculty-Senior Fellow, Hagler Inst for Advanced Study & Scowcroft Institute of Intl Affairs

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Senior Coordinator & Executive Support: Douglas Soriano

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Media Inquiries:

(b) (6)

iPhone

On Jan 31, 2023, at 1:44 PM, Peter Daszak <(b)(6)> wrote:

First, want to send my appreciation for your great interview in the Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists yesterday, Peter:

https://thebulletin.org/2023/01/viral- spread-peter-hotez-on-the-increase-of-anti-science-aggression-on-social-media/

Viral spread: Peter Hotez on the increase of anti-science aggression on social media

By Sara Goudarzi | January 30, 2023

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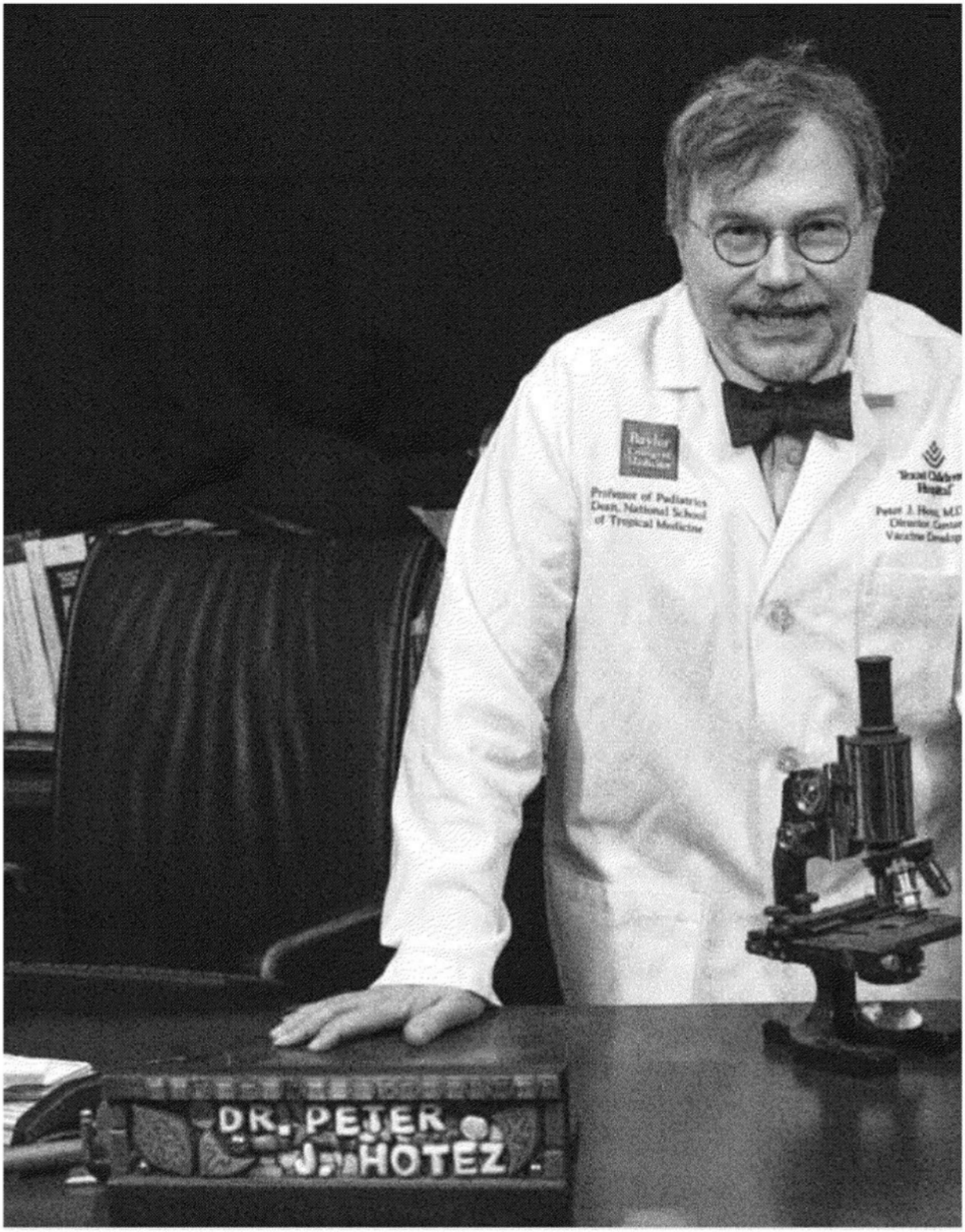

Peter Hotez (Image courtesy of Agapito Sanchez, Baylor College of Medicine)

Last November, Twitter announced it will no longer enforce "the COVID-19 misleading information policy." The platform also allowed previously banned users to rejoin the site. Since then, anti-vaccination messaging has gained renewed energy, distressing scientists and researchers who have been combatting misinformation and disinformation on social media. According to research, there's a strong relationship between anti-vaccination efforts on social media and vaccine hesitancy, and while millions of people were saved by having taken the

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COVID-19 vaccines, hundreds of thousands of Americans died after refusing it.
Peter Hotez, a physician-scientist, dean of the National School of Tropical Medicine, and a professor in the departments of Pediatrics and Molecular Virology and Microbiology at Baylor College of Medicine, is no stranger to anti-vaccination attitudes. He has fought against misleading medical information for years. But now, he says, anti-science sentiments have been weaponized by businessmen and politicians seeking profits and power.
In the 1940s and 1950s, the House Un-American Activities Committee (HUAC) investigated and discredited several scientists who worked on the Manhattan Project. Hotez expects congressional committees under Republican control to engage in a similar targeting of scientists in an attempt to accumulate influence and foster a sense of belonging—a signature of authoritarian regimes—among their constituents. In his view, this anti-vaccine, anti-science movement, versions of which are spreading to other countries, could destabilize the global vaccine ecosystem.
I spoke with Hotez about the role of social media in spreading misleading information on vaccines and stoking anti-science aggression in many dimensions. *The resulting discussion has been edited for length and clarity.*

Sara Goudarzi: You've been on Twitter for more than a decade and often use it as a tool to communicate health and science facts, such as the importance of vaccinations. How in your experience has the social media platform changed during this time?
Peter Hotez: Well, it's become a lot more adversarial as the anti-vaccine movement has shifted. The anti-vaccine movement began in earnest around 20 years ago in the United States around false assertions that vaccines cause autism. The way I got involved was because I have a daughter with autism, and I wrote the book *Vaccines Did Not Cause Rachel's Autism: My Journey as a Vaccine Scientist, Pediatrician, and Autism Dad*, and that made me public enemy number one or two with the anti-vaccine activists.
What I would do at that time of social media was use their statements in their attacks against me as a teachable moment, to expose what the anti-vaccine movement was all about and how they were monetizing the internet with books on Amazon and nutritional supplements and the phony autism cures. So, rather than simply block people who were attacking me, I would retweet them with a little description of what they were doing. People found it very interesting because it was teaching them how an anti-science movement works, and they started coming to my Twitter for that purpose.
The game changer was about nine years ago, when [vaccine disinformation] became a political movement around health and medical freedom. You saw a different set of actors come into this, and it became a lot more aggressive; people's political allegiance became tied to not giving their kids vaccinations, and that has just come off the rails with COVID-19. And I'd like to point out that 200,000 Americans now have needlessly lost their lives because they refused the COVID vaccine.
The hardest thing yet is really trying to describe the anti-vaccine ecosystem, because too often it's still couched in the old autism thing that they call infodemic or give it euphemisms like misinformation or disinformation. That is, as though it's some random stuff appearing on social media, when in fact, it's organized, politically motivated, and deliberate. It has a system in place, and what I do now is use that to actually describe who the actors that comprise that ecosystem are—elected leaders in the House Freedom Caucus, certain senators, and local leaders amplified in Fox News with designated contrarians from the far right think tanks.
All our training to be a scientist says you're not supposed to talk about Republicans, Democrats, liberals, or conservatives; you're supposed to be politically neutral. But what do you do when the anti-science, anti-vaccine aggression is predominantly coming along the

partisan lines from the far right? How do you articulate that without basically saying, "the reason I'm doing this is to save lives?" It's no longer a theoretical discussion; Americans have lost their lives because they believed the politics, and to be able to articulate that is really threading a needle there.

Goudarzi: With Twitter's moderators practically gone, the platform's announcement that it will no longer enforce measures to combat misleading information regarding COVID-19 and will give amnesty to previously banned users, there seems to be a rise in anti-vaccination sentiment.

Hotez: It's blown up. It's gotten much tougher: Anything I put out there gets immediately pounced on, and I can trace the origins to four or five either elected leaders or these contrarians from far right think tanks and elsewhere who blow dog whistles. They will put out a (typically false or exaggerated) statement against me, and then I'll receive hundreds and hundreds of tweets or emails specifically targeting me. About half of them look like bots because the person sending it is an empty face with a gazillion numbers attached to the Twitter handle. But others are real people tuning into Fox News every night who totally fall into the rabbit hole because they seem to worship these contrarians. The other piece to this is a lot of Nazi imagery and fantasies, a lot of antisemitism, because they know I'm a Jewish scientist. And that's yet another dimension to all of this.

Goudarzi: How do you think this affects patients in healthcare settings? Have you had personal experience with those who decided not to get vaccinated because of information on the internet or social media indicating the shots are dangerous?

Hotez: I've had sort of the opposite experience, where patients were in the rabbit hole, had seen my postings, see me as credible, and because of me are taking the vaccine, which is kind of nice and spurs me on to keep going at this. But more and more I've also had the other extreme as well, which is based on what they see on social media: People will take the time to write me a threatening email or make a call to the lab or to the office. Then I have to bring in law enforcement through the Texas Medical Center Police or the Houston Police Department and the Anti-Defamation League (because they have a list of individuals who are known to make these types of threats). It's taken this very, very dark turn as a consequence.

Goudarzi: Anti-vaccination movements are nothing new and go back to the late 1700s, even before the development of the smallpox vaccine and then the 1800s and again in the 1990s and 2000s. Do you think social media has allowed the latest movement to gain even more steam than previous movements?

Hotez: I wrote an article about the whole history of [anti-vax movements] in *Journal of Clinical Investigation*. I think it really accelerated in the early 2000s with autism, in part aided by social media—it was new then but was starting up. Now, I think social media has really been an enabler. It's not only social media; I think amazon.com was a big contributor. If you search for books on vaccinations, what's out there is a horror show. My books are among the top-rated on vaccines, and they're probably ranked about number 30 or 40, because it's all preceded by the phony-baloney, anti-vaccine COVID conspiracy books. So, it's Amazon and social media. And Fox News is having a huge impact. This has been documented by Media Matters, the watchdog group, as well as this very interesting paper that came out of ETH Zurich, which is like the MIT of Central Europe.

Goudarzi: Do you think Amazon is purposefully placing these books higher up in search results, or are search results just a reflection of how much steam the movement has gained?

Hotez: I don't know. Amazon is probably amoral. I don't think they think about this one way or the other, but whatever sells. So, it's whatever people are buying—that's how they're ranking it.

Goudarzi: Are you seeing a difference in the attitudes towards COVID-19 vaccines versus

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say the flu or MMR vaccines?

Hotez: Yeah, because remember, MMR came out of autism; that was the [original] assertion that the MMR vaccine causes autism. That was [*The Lancet*] paper from 1998. But then around 2014, 2015 (I like to think because I was helping to take some of the wind out of the sails around autism), you started to see the anti-vaccine movement pivot around this concept of health and medical freedom, that you can't tell us what to do about our kids. And that was the first link to the Republican Tea Party here in Texas. In fact, they started getting PAC [political action committee] money… It really took off in Texas and Oklahoma and that's what you see came off the rails with COVID-19.

It has been documented now by Charles Gaba, a health analyst whose work has been mentioned in the *New York Times*, National Public Radio, Pew Research Center and Peterson Academic Center, that the lowest vaccination rates were where health freedom propaganda was the strongest, and among those who are in red states like Texas, the redder the county, the lower the vaccination rate, the higher the numbers of deaths. It's a really tight correlation, so much so that David Leonhardt in the *New York Times* has called it red COVID. My forthcoming book, *The Deadly Rise of Antiscience: A Scientist's Warning* and it's full on linked to far-right politics and it's been embraced by the House Freedom Caucus.

After vaccines became widely available, the statements from the 2021 CPAC conference of conservatives in Dallas was first along the lines of: "they're going to vaccinate you, and then they're going to take away your guns and your bibles." It's ridiculous. A quarter of the country accepted it—mostly in Texas and the Southern states, and then [Georgia US Rep.] Marjorie Taylor Greene called people like me "medical brownshirts," using Nazi paramilitary analogy. Then, those in the Senate GOP, such as Senator Johnson from Wisconsin, held anti-vaccine roundtables, amplified by Fox News. Every night, during the last half of 2021, nighttime anchors Tucker Carlson and Laura Ingraham filled their airwaves with very strong anti-vaccine rhetoric, discrediting the effectiveness and safety of vaccines. And then contrarians from the far right think tanks piled on.

As I said, if it were just a theoretical construct, I wouldn't get so exercised, but 40,000 Texans died during the delta wave in the last half of 2021 and early Omicron BA1 wave in 2022 because they refused the COVID vaccine and were victims of this targeted aggression towards them. The number that I put out in the new book is 200,000 Americans across the country. The Kaiser Family Foundation and the health analyst Charles Gaba come up with similar numbers. On that basis, anti-vaccine activism, anti-science aggression, if you look at it as a societal killing force, is killing more Americans than gun violence, terrorism, nuclear proliferation, or cyber-attacks.

Goudarzi: And the interesting thing is that COVID-19 vaccines have been tremendously successful.

Hotez: Alison Galvani at Yale has just done a modeling exercise with the Commonwealth Fund, indicating that COVID vaccines have saved 3.1 million Americans.

Goudarzi: Yet the messaging against these vaccines seems to be just as successful and as you mentioned hundreds of thousands of deaths could have been prevented here in the United States. So, it begs the question, why are we having such an anti-science moment?

Hotez: It's because it's fully ensconced in the political landscape of the country that became part of the far right, and people refused the vaccine out of allegiance. Part of showing your allegiance to the far right is not getting vaccinated. Then, you saw the Proud Boys march in anti-vaccine rallies, and an early arrest in the January 6 insurrection included a prominent anti-vaccine activist.

The question that I get is: "Hey doc, what should we do about this?" And I say I don't know, because this goes outside the health sector. This is a political problem right now. How do you uncouple the anti-science from the politics? It's been really, really challenging, and the Biden

administration has not been willing to take this on. Vivek Murthy, who is a very good Surgeon General, issued an advisory in July of 2021 about social media and said we have to work with Meta and Facebook and Twitter to prevent this stuff from going viral. That's fine, but it doesn't get to those who are generating the content. This is where we're starting to see breakdowns, in my view, among our scientific and professional societies, and even the National Academies, because this idea that we have to remain politically neutral is so strong that no one will talk about it the way I'm talking about it with you. You have to be politically neutral; it's silly.

To paraphrase Desmond Tutu and Elie Wiesel, neutrality favors the aggressor.

Goudarzi: What do you think the end goal is for those generating the content and spearheading these movements? There are certain people who truly believe that vaccines could cause x, whatever x is, but there are others like Gov. DeSantis who himself was vaccinated yet promotes anti-vaccination sentiments.

Hotez: Early on when vaccines first came out, he was actually pro-vaccines. So, what caused the change? When it was pre-health freedom, it was fairly straightforward: It was people monetizing the internet, selling nutritional supplements and books on phony autism cures. When I wrote the book, trying to look at other examples of this, I found what's going on now in Stalin's Russia in the 1930s 1940s. This is part of the signature of an authoritarian regime: to target the science and scientists. When you read Hannah Arendt's *The Origins of Totalitarianism,* you see this is part of the playbook. Even though it's self-defeating, it still fosters allegiance and belonging. I think what happened is with the anti-vaccine groups for whom the wind was let out of their sails around autism, they needed a new thing. They found money and power and relevance by tying themselves to the far right, and the far right created a whole new cadre of people that they wouldn't have otherwise.

Goudarzi: Just add adding to that: Do you think vaccine disinformation is propagated or reinforced purposely by other governments to cause division within the United States, similar to the 2016 election?

Hotez: No question about that, and I think Russia is probably the most egregious [perpetrator], and this has been documented. David Broniatowski, a computer scientist at the George Washington University, has written about this and the Russian bots' roles. In some cases, they're using both anti-vaccine and pro-vaccine rhetoric. They are specifically using this as a wedge issue to divide the country and destabilize our democracy. And it's not only the Russians—the Chinese, North Koreans and Iranians are doing this. But I think Russia is probably the biggest state actor.

What I've recommended to the Biden administration is they create an inter-governmental agency, because the United States Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) doesn't know what to do at this point. Because of the foreign actors involved, you have to bring in Homeland Security, the Commerce Department, the Justice Department and the State Department as well. There are people smart enough who know about these big dangerous societal forces, and we need their advice on what levers we can pull and push. But they haven't wanted to take it on.

Similarly, at the level of the UN agencies, the World Health Organization doesn't know what to do at this point. So, you're starting to see that same US-style anti-vaccine activity moving to Canada, the United Kingdom and Western Europe—and I wrote about this in a paper in *Nature Reviews Immunology*. You're even seeing it now in low- and middle- income countries, including those in Africa. So, it's going to destabilize the global vaccine ecosystem, even around childhood vaccination.

Goudarzi: Scientific debate around new treatment or preventive measure used to happen more or less behind closed doors. But given the nature of a real time pandemic, some of those debates are taking place on social media, and sometimes that leads to the lay audience

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misunderstanding certain aspects of the discussion and spreading misinformation. How valuable, and how harmful, do you think it is to have scientific debates between researchers on social media?

Hotez: It's often not between researchers. For instance, one of the most common things when they target me on social media is they say I should be in a public debate with the lead anti-vaccine activist. And I say, "No, that's not how science is done. I've written a scientific paper and if somebody has an issue with that, they can either refute it in a scientific journal, or publish their own finding." Of course, they can't get it published because there's no science behind it. So, what they want to do instead is they want a public debate.

And I say, "Look, you can debate 18th-century enlightenment philosophy, but science is not typically something that's debated in that kind of forum; we have a mechanism for doing that through scientific publication and peer review." And they don't want to play that way. They just want to put out their propaganda because that's all they have behind it. An example is ivermectin or hydroxychloroquine, which the scientific community has clearly shown has no effect on COVID-19. Hydroxychloroquine is even harmful. But the problem is the anti-vaccine force has dominated the internet, and they say, "Hey, scientists don't want to debate us, what are they hiding?"

And that's, again, how they weaponize communication.

Goudarzi: I was actually thinking of earlier during the pandemic. Because there was so little time, some researchers were putting their papers up on open access preprint servers, which didn't require a peer review, and then others were weighing in on social media platforms. At times, you would see non-scientists take one aspect of that discussion and spread something that wasn't necessarily true.

Hotez: I think with the whole preprint server mechanism, ultimately the benefits outweighed the downside. I can't tell you how many times I had to depend on data from bioRxiv, medRxiv in order to make sense of what was going on. If I had to wait a few weeks for it to air in *New England Journal of Medicine* or *Nature* and *Science*—and by the way, they did a pretty good job too; they were able to turn that around in record time—[it would have been too late.] If you're looking for any silver lining in this pandemic, it's the journal editors, the whole preprint server mechanism, and the willingness of the scientific community to share information. And I think for most of the public understood that they were seeing this play out in real time and that there wasn't always going to be consistency. The problem was those who were who were weaponizing it for their own personal or political gain.

Goudarzi: But you still think the advantages outweighed the disadvantages?

Hotez: I think so. It's hard to imagine how I could've really talked about everything going on knowledgeably on CNN, NBC, or wherever without having access to the information. The preprints were so important.

Goudarzi: Some researchers have either left Twitter or are thinking of leaving. What will this do to scientific discourse? Would it make sense to stay on the platform to counter misinformation and disinformation and increase public awareness, or should researchers seek a more balanced platform?

Hotez: I don't have the answer. I struggle with this every day. I mean, the aggression against me and the threats would continue even if I wasn't on Twitter, because more often than not, it's not against anything that I tweeted. Ninety percent of the time, it's people who see me as a threat to undermine their politics or their business line and are just making up things about me and would still continue even if I wasn't on Twitter. So that's the reason I stay on it, because at least I'm getting out important and timely information. But it is really painful and awful to see what's going on there.

Goudarzi: Is the amount of aggression you face tied to the changing ownership of Twitter and political shifts?

Hotez: The politics around the anti-science, anti-vaccine and phony baloney about COVID origins had started with the pandemic in 2020. But now with all the contrarians back at once it reminds me of the old *Batman* series when they brought back Catwoman, Joker, Penguin, and Riddler all at once to do away with Batman. That seems to be going on, so it's been their superstars who are super energized by being invited back to Twitter, and they are using the platform very aggressively.

Goudarzi: What are some of the lessons we've learned about disinformation and misinformation over the last few years regarding social media that we should consider moving forward?

Hotez: I would say social media is a major weapon of choice for spreading disinformation. But remember, we have to get to those who are generating content. Social media is an important vehicle, but it's not the only one. I think we probably should stop calling it misinformation, disinformation or infodemic. We should call it for what it is, which is anti-science aggression, because it is a killing force. What we realized is that the science aggression is taking lives in the United States on an unprecedented scale.

For that reason, it needs to be addressed, and that's the part the scientific community has not come to terms with. When I call myself a scientist, it's not just co-heading a team of scientists making a COVID vaccine for the world that has reached a 100 million people. That's a very noble activity, but from my perspective, even that's still insufficient. Now being a scientist means, to some extent, being willing to combat the anti-science. It's nothing that any of us signed up for. I never dreamed when I got my MD-PhD in New York in the 1980s that this was something I'd be doing, but this is what's in front of us.

And I don't really feel that the scientific community—the professional societies, scientific bodies, even the academy—fully understand the impact. Hopefully it'll be clear when my book comes out, but it may become even clearer when we see the House GOP hearings. I predict the oversight committee and the judiciary committee or select subcommittees will become an anti-science witch hunt and will target prominent American scientists. And then we'll get a better picture.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
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From: Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6)
Sent: Monday, January 30, 2023 6:27 PM
To: David Morens <(b) (6)
Cc: Roberts, Rich <(b) (6) Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >; Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6) >; Jeffrey Sturchio (b)(6) Aleksei Chmura (b) (6)
Subject: Re: My latest

Many thanks David! Best Peter

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP

Texas Children's Hospital: Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics | Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development | Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

Baylor College of Medicine: Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine | Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology | Health Policy Scholar

Baylor University, University Professor

Rice University, Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty

Texas A&M University, Faculty-Senior Fellow, Hagler Inst for Advanced Study & Scowcroft Institute of Intl Affairs

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Media Inquiries:

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(b) (6)

iPhone

On Jan 30, 2023, at 5:22 PM, David Morens <(b) (6) > wrote:

kudos to you, again! dmm

Sent from my iPhone
David M Morens
OD, NIAID, NIH

On Jan 30, 2023, at 14:37, Hotez, Peter Jay < (b) (6) wrote:

https://thebulletin.org/2023/01/viral- spread-peter-hotez-on-the-increase-of-anti-science-aggression-on-social-media/

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Baylor College of Medicine: Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine | Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology | Health Policy Scholar

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iPhone

On Jan 27, 2023, at 2:43 PM, Roberts, Rich <(b) (6) wrote:

Peter:

No, I didn't come up with the name.

But one I have recently come up with is CheatGPT instead of ChatGPT.

Rich

Richard J. Roberts
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From: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >
Sent: Friday, January 27, 2023 3:30 PM
To: Roberts, Rich <(b) (6) Keusch, Gerald T (b) (6) >; Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6)
Cc: David Morens (b) (6) >; Jeffrey Sturchio (b) (6)
Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) >
Subject: RE: Finally - virologists fight back!

EXTERNAL SENDER

I forgot about that Rich. But I'm assuming it wasn't you that came up with somewhat colonial name!!???

In all seriousness, while it's good for virologists to push back against calls to block scientific research, I don't think a campaign to support gain of function work that's designed to see what would happen if you make a lethal pathogen more transmissible is anything any of us particularly want to get behind right now!

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Cheers,

Peter

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EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

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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)(b) (6) (b)(6)
Cc: David Morens (b) (6) >; Jeffrey Sturchio <(b) (6) ; Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) >
Subject: RE: Finally - virologists fight back!

Peter:

In the interests of compete disclosure, I was a member of the "Cambridge Working Group". Our concern was about the deliberate attempts to make the flu virus more infectious. It was the deliberate nature of the experiments that was troubling, not virus research in general.

Rich

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From: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >
Sent: Friday, January 27, 2023 8:39 AM
To: Keusch, Gerald T (b) (6) ; Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6) >
Cc: David Morens <(b) (6) >; Jeffrey Sturchio (b)(6) >; Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) >; Roberts, Rich <(b) (6)
Subject: Finally - virologists fight back!

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Importance: High

EXTERNAL SENDER

Article in NPR this morning (https://www.npr.org/sections/health-shots/2023/01/27/1151867224/virologists- science-oversight-risky-experiments) – and below, based on a Commentary (attached) in mBio and various ASM journals signed by >150 virologists that fights back against the anti-science, defends virus research and gives a table of positive results from gain of function work.

I'll reach out to Felicia Goodrum (lead author) today to see if they will talk about helping with some sort of coalition. Michael Imperiale was quoted so if any of you know him or Felicia or others who are leading this (e.g. Arturo Casadevall), it would be good to reach out to let them know the urgency.

Some of these people were involved in the coalition (Scientists for Science - http://www.scientistsforscience.org/) to push back against earlier efforts to cancel Gain of function work by the "Cambridge Working Group" (a pretentious name, of course)…

BTW – saw your name on the Scientists for Science website Jerry!

POLICY-ISH

Virologists defend their science as officials eye more oversight of risky experiments



NELL GREENFIELDBOYCE

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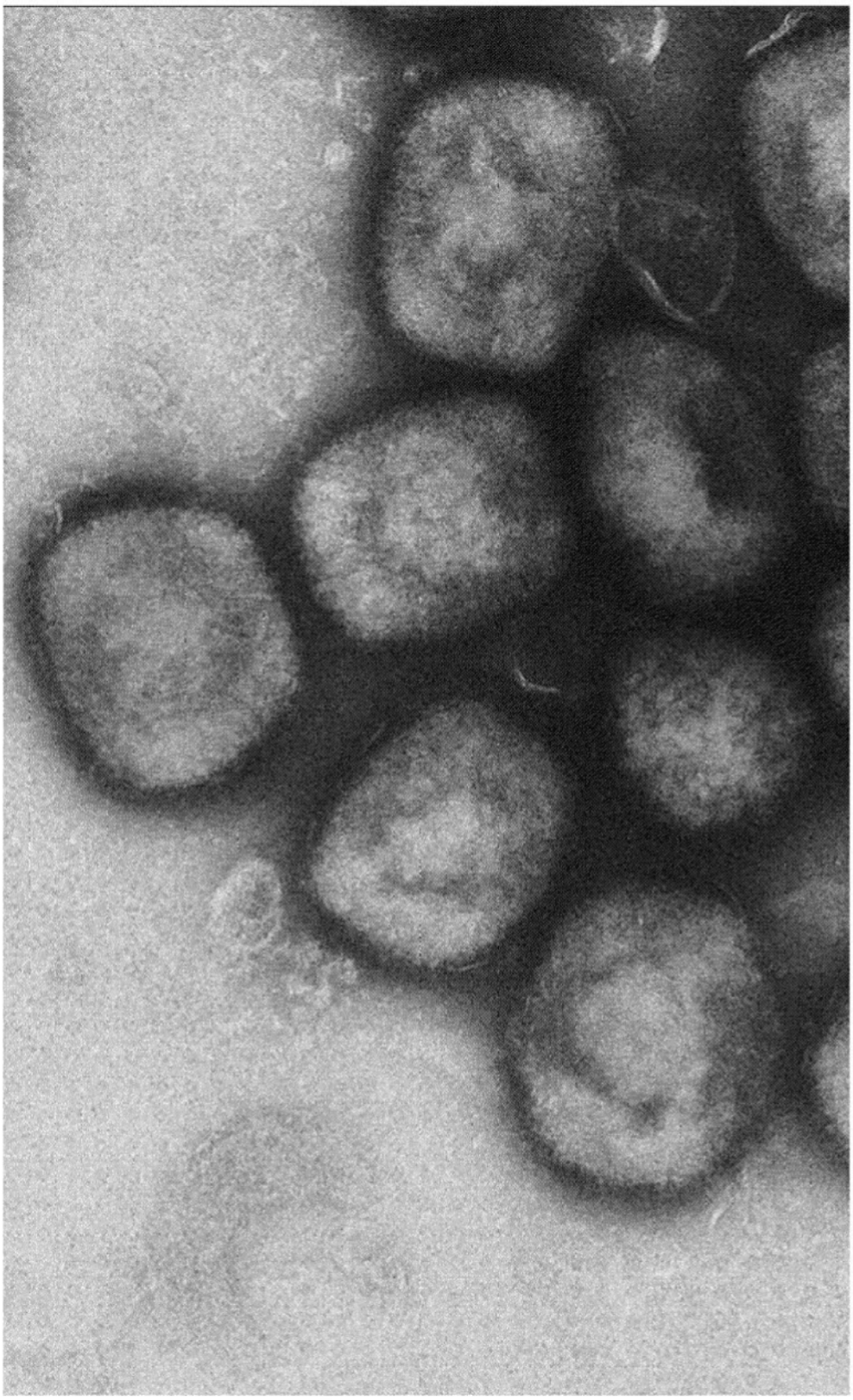

This image shows purified particles of mpox virus, formerly called monkeypox. Viruses like these can be genetically altered in the lab in ways that might make them more dangerous.

NIAID

Over 150 virologists have signed on to a commentary that says all the evidence to date indicates that the coronavirus pandemic started naturally, and it wasn't the result of some kind of lab accident

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or malicious attack.
They worry that continued speculation about a lab in China is fueling calls for more regulation of experiments with pathogens, and that this will stifle the basic research needed to prepare for future pandemics.

The virologists issued their statement just ahead of a key meeting Friday held by outside advisors to the federal government. That group is set to wrap up a recent review of the existing oversight system for experiments that are controversial because they could create new potential threats.
The advisors' draft recommendations call for expanding a special decision-making process that currently weighs the risks and benefits of experiments that might make "potential pandemic pathogens" more dangerous.
"The government really has a strong interest on behalf of all of us, in the public, in knowing when researchers want to make a virus more lethal or more transmissible, and understanding how that would be done and why that would be done, and whether the benefits are worth it," says Tom Inglesby, director of the Center for Health Security at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health.

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He thinks if the draft recommendations were adopted by the government, "it would be a very big step forward."

The origins of the pandemic

All of this comes as the lab in China, known as the Wuhan Institute of Virology, is again in the headlines. An internal government watchdog released a report this week criticizing the National Institutes of Health, saying it failed to adequately monitor grant awards given to a nonprofit that had collaborated with scientists at the Wuhan lab.
Felicia Goodrum, a virologist at the University of Arizona, says that open-minded experts have investigated the origins of the pandemic. The available evidence, she says, supports the notion that the virus emerged from nature just like other viruses such as HIV and Ebola did — by jumping from animals into people who had contact with them.
"The evidence that we have to date suggests that SARS-CoV-2 entered the human population by that route," says Goodrum. "There is no evidence to the contrary or in support of a lab leak, nothing credible."

Basic research on viruses, she says, is what led to the swift development of vaccines and drugs to fight the pandemic.

And yet virologists have watched in dismay as misinformation and conspiracy theories have placed the blame on science.

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"There's this complete disconnect between reality and what happened," says Michael Imperiale, a virologist at the University of Michigan.
He says that while debates have gone on for years about the wisdom of doing experiments that might make bad viruses even worse, this moment feels different.

"The pandemic," he says, "has really kind of heightened the urgency with which we need to address these issues, just because of all the controversy that's been out there regarding, you know, was this a lab leak or not?"

A bird flu study raises alarm

Unlike, say, nuclear physics research, biology has traditionally had a culture of openness. After the anthrax attacks in 2001, however, biologists began to grapple with the possibility that their published work might serve as recipes for evildoers who wanted to make bioweapons.

And in 2011, there was an outcry after government-funded researchers altered a bird flu virus that can be deadly in people. Their lab work made this virus more contagious in the lab animals that are stand-ins for people.

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Critics said they'd created a super flu. Proponents said that viruses sometimes have to be manipulated in the lab to see what they might be capable of; in nature, after all, mutations occur all the time and that is how pandemic strains emerge.

That episode marked the start of a long, heated debate, plus research moratoriums and ultimately the development of new regulations. In 2017, a review system was put into place to weigh the risks and benefits of studies that might make a potential pandemic pathogen even worse. So far just three proposed lines of research, with influenza viruses, have been deemed risky enough to merit that kind of extra scrutiny.

"We are really talking about a small amount of research proposals," says Lyric Jorgenson, the acting associate director for science policy and the acting director of the Office of Science Policy at the NIH.

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She says just before the pandemic started, officials asked advisors on the National Science Advisory Board for Biosecurity to consider whether the government needed to be more transparent to the public about how it was making decisions about this kind of research. Before that work was done, the pandemic hit and everything was put on hold. Last year, officials asked the group to broaden its work and to evaluate the regulations more comprehensively.

If the draft changes developed by this advisory group are eventually adopted by the government, an extra layer of oversight would apply to any study "reasonably anticipated" to enhance the transmission or virulence of any pathogen in a way that could make it a public health threat. That means more experiments on more viruses would get a closer look.

"What this new recommendation is saying, is that even if you start with a virus that had no potential to cause an epidemic or pandemic, if you are doing research that will change that virus in a way where it could now cause an uncontrollable disease, or a widely spreading disease, that has to be reviewed by this new framework," says Inglesby.

What's more, the advisory group has noted that "increased transparency in the review process is needed to engender public trust in the review and oversight processes."

What's "Reasonably Anticipated"

The American Society for Microbiology has responded positively to the draft recommendations, saying "we urge swift implementation of the recommended changes by the federal agencies engaged in this work."

But some virologists think the devil will be in the details if these recommendations turn into policy.

"They keep using this phrase 'reasonably anticipated,'" says Imperiale. "How is that going to be interpreted? Is there going to be clear guidance as to what is meant by that?"

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Researchers often don't know what will happen when they start an experiment, says Goodrum, especially when the science is cutting-edge.

"That's where the big scientific advancements come from. And so to tie our hands behind our back, to say we can only do the science that we can anticipate, then we're really restricting innovative science," she says.

Ron Fouchier, the virologist at Erasmus University Medical Center in the Netherlands, whose lab did the bird flu experiments over a decade ago, said in an email that he'd hoped the experience of going through a pandemic would simulate more research, not "unnecessarily delay or restrict it." He said it looked like many infectious disease researchers in the United States "will face substantial delays in their crucial research efforts, if they can continue that research at all."

The U.S. is unusual in that it has a lot of public discussion of these issues and a system to try to manage the risks, says Inglesby.

He thinks that oversight can be made stronger without getting in the way of science.

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"I am avidly, absolutely pro-science and pro-research, and in particular pro-infectious disease research," says Inglesby.

But he says there's a very small part of that research "where there is the potential for very high risk if things go wrong, either by accident or on purpose. And so we have to get the balance right, between the risks that could unfold and the potential benefits."

lab leak theory
coronavirus research
pathogens
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Cheers,

Peter

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Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
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EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

---

From: 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 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.

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I don't know what influence they will have, should they choose to act, but they do have access to the higher levels, and that is important.

Jerry

From: Hotez, Peter Jay < (b) (6)
Sent: Wednesday, January 25, 2023 2:38 PM
To: Keusch, Gerald T (b) (6)
Cc: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >; David Morens <
(b) (6) (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

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Media Inquiries:

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 MinerEFlux 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)

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Senior Coordinator & Executive Support: Douglas Soriano

(b) (6) | Phone: (b) (6) | Fax: 713-798-2299

Media Inquiries:

(b) (6)

iPhone

On Jan 25, 2023, at 11:35 AM, Peter Daszak <(b) (6) wrote:

Disapppointed that Hugh isn't a candidate, because short of a stellar scientist from outside (and that isn't looking good), Hugh would be a safe pair of hands for the forseeable future.

I also cannot believe for the life of me that (b) (6) would be rejected from the other position you mentioned. He's a serious scientists, a huge leader in his field, and someone who is balanced and measured in the way he deals with bureaucracy. What a stupid decision and loss to NIAID.

What we need is a leading scientist, who's got a research and public health background, with experience in dealing with difficult political issues and both sides of the political spectrum…er….Peter Hotez!

Seriously, there surely are others out there?

Cheers,

Peter

MORENS_SUBPOENA_017813
MORENS_NIH_036419
REL0000476983

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EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

---

From: David Morens (b) (6) >
Sent: Wednesday, January 25, 2023 11:38 AM
To: Peter Daszak (b) (6)
Cc: Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6) Jeffrey Sturchio <
_(b) (6) >; Aleksei Chmura (b) (6)
Gerald Keusch (b) (6) >; Rich Roberts <(b) (6)
Subject: Re: Tweet by 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 (b) (6)
Peter H, you could easily ID this person, but i do not want to do so, in part because i have limited personal experience with him/her and am merely relating opinions of colleagues i trust

This individual is in a key management position in which she/he has earned a reputation of cresting an ant-meritocracy: screwing the best scientists while supporting those who suck up. Again this is hearsay, but from people who work under him/her.

If these negative assessments are true, it is still unclear what the implications, if any, would be for EHA, but i would worry that she/he would throw good scientists under the bus to appease politicians downtown

In any case, the best scenario is an open search with many good candidates. I am not sure whether we have that.

Also, my opinion, and that of many others, is that we need someone from the outside, in part because NIAID management and leadership has become inbred, nepotistic, and uninterested in hiring top scientists to fill positions. Moreover, we totally lack vision or any idea about where the science will and should go, and no mechanism to plan for being at/staying on the cutting edge

When i came here in the 1990s, from academia, where i was a 40-something year old full tenured professor in both med and public health school departments, i was told thst because i only had about 160 publications i had no chance of getting automatic tenure or even being put on a tenure track position

That was then.

Of our two most recent hires placed into tenured positions, one had only 10 publications and the other came straight out of a post doc with few publications as well.

Both were in their early 30s and, as far as i can tell, are unlikely to ever do much

At the same time, we had the ability to hire a top scientist from the outside, my good friend the arbovirologist (b) (6) from (b)(6) - Peter H, you may know him- and we was the 100% top choice of the search committee. However leadership below Tony refused to hire him with the excuse that he was overqualified and would make the other scientists look bad

No, i am not joking. This is where we are

I have in my had a small list of about 5-10 qualified folks for NIAID director, and have spoken or written to 4 about it, one being you, Peter H, but all four have expressed no interest. Peter D, you are clearly on that list too, but obvious to all of us is the fact that HHS would never let that happen, sadly, so i never mentioned it. In a better world, you would be at the top of that list in my view

The application deadline of 1/17 has passed, so we may be stuck with a non-ideal list, although no one knows including, i believe, our acting director Hugh, who is not a candidate, or so he told me

Sent from my iPhone
David M Morens
OD, NIAID, NIH

> On Jan 25, 2023, at 10:58, Peter Daszak <
> (b)(6) > wrote:
>
> Unfortunate. At this point you should just throw your hat in the ring!
>
> Why not have a confidential chat with Peter Staley and see if they have a pool of candidates yet?
>
> Cheers,
>
> Peter
>
> **Peter Daszak**
> *President*
>
> EcoHealth Alliance
> 520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
> New York, NY 10018-6507

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USA

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Twitter: @PeterDaszak

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---

From: Hotez, Peter Jay (b)(6)
Sent: Wednesday, January 25, 2023 10:55 AM
To: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >
Cc: Jeffrey Sturchio (b)(6) ; Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) >; David Morens <(b) (6) >; Gerald Keusch <(b) (6) Rich Roberts < (b) (6)
Subject: Re: Tweet by MinerEFlux on Twitter

Unfortunately the far right made a new YouTube claiming I'm the successor to Fauci. Which is ridiculous but it has set off a new wave of aggression

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP

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Baylor College of Medicine: Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine | Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology | Health Policy Scholar

Baylor University, University Professor

Rice University, Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty

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(b) (6)

iPhone

On Jan 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

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Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

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---

From: Jeffrey Sturchio (b) (6) >

Sent: Tuesday, January 24, 2023 9:08 PM
To: Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6) >; Peter Daszak <
(b) (6) >; 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 (b)(6) Rich Roberts <
(b) (6)
Subject: Tweet by Miner Flux on Twitter



Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP

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Media Inquiries:

(b) (6)

iPhone

Date: Mon, 7 Mar 2022 11:09:36 AM -0500
Sent: Mon, 7 Mar 2022 11:06:53 AM -0500
Subject: RE: Music from (b) (6)
From: Peter Daszak < (b) (6)
To: Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6) Roberts, Rich < (b) (6)
CC: David Morens < (b) (6) Keusch, Gerald T < (b) (6) Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) >;

Re-tweeting and sharing also.

So glad you've done this Rich. These are dark times for both Ukraine and Russia – in addition to the human suffering, centuries of art, science, culture are being willfully destroyed as we speak.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

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Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

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From: Hotez, Peter Jay < (b) (6)
Sent: Monday, March 7, 2022 2:21 AM
To: Roberts, Rich < (b)(6)
Cc: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >; David Morens (b) (6) >; Keusch, Gerald T < (b)(6) >; Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) >
Subject: Re: Music from (b)

Many thanks Rich, I've shared this now on Twitter, 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

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Daily Beast Contributor https://www.thedailybeast.com/author/peter- j-hotez
Like us on Facebook https://www.facebook.com/BCMNationalSchoolOfTropicalMedicine/

Senior Coordinator / Executive Support: Douglas Soriano
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Fax: 713-798-2299

iPhone

On Mar 6, 2022, at 9:44 PM, Roberts, Rich < (b) (6) > wrote:

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Peter:

Your brother is a very talented violinist! Thanks for sharing. The current situation is heartbreaking and I think we all wish that more could be done to help.

In case you were not aware, Roald Hoffmann and I have organized a Nobel Laureates appeal for peace in Ukraine. The appeal is attached and the current list of signees (currently 181) can be found at https://nlcampaigns.org/ukraine.html Please circulate as you see fit, but especially to scientists in Russia, Ukraine and China.

Rich

Richard J. Roberts
New England Biolabs
240 County Road
Ipswich, MA 01938-2723
USA
Tel: (978) (b) (6)
Fax: (978) 412 9910
email:(b) (6)

From: Peter Daszak (b) (6) >
Sent: Sunday, March 6, 2022 9:03 PM
To: David Morens (b) (6)
Cc: Roberts, Rich (t(b) (6) Hotez, Peter Jay (t(b) (6) Keusch, Gerald T (b) (b) (6)
Aleksei Chmura (b) (6) >
Subject: Music from my (b) (6) (6)

EXTERNAL SENDER

David – I'm very glad you spoke with Betsy McKay. Your talk of the Russian classics spurred me to share the following clips with you all. My father, (b) (6)

Here is my nephew (b) (6)

Here is his sister, (b) (6)

I also wanted to share this beautiful piece of Ukrainian music. It's called "Chuyesh Brati myi" or "Listen, my brother". I first heard this when we buried (b) (6) . The song famously speaks of the cranes flying high in the sky as they return from their migration to their homeland near the Dniepr River. You can hear the choir singing the sound of the cranes "Cru, Cru, Cru!". The words say "Listen my brother to the sound of the cranes, Cru, Cru, Cru, as they return to their homeland. Myself, I shall die in this foreign land, never to see my homeland again"….
(b) (6)

Hope you enjoy these snapshots, and hope you're as moved as I always am with the last piece.

We're in touch with the rest of the family every day via Facebook and mobile phone. (b) (6)

MORENS_SUBPOENA_005714
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Cheers,

Peter

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From: David Morens <(b) (6) >
Sent: Thursday, March 3, 2022 9:10 PM
To: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >
Cc: Roberts, Rich (b) (6) >; Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6) Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6)
Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) >
Subject: Re: Story in the Intercept today

Peter, remember that the truth is on your side. Don't let anyone make you hide

I spoke to Betsy McKay of WSJ for 1 1/2 hours Tue. We totally bonded for the first half hour and after that had a good chat in which i really let it all hang out, including telling her that guys like Ebright were evil pieces of shit not to be listened to. Well, i didn't put it that way but i did spell it out to her that spenting even 1 second in Ebrightland was false equivalency

When she called i had taken the afternoon off for (b) (6) and, with a double martini, was listening to Shostokovich's 13th symphony, Babi Yar, on my stereo. I mentioned that, and she gushed that she majored in Russian culture, lived in Moscow for 10 years, loved Shostokovich, and knew all about Babi Yar and Ukranian history. We spend the next 20 minutes discussing all the stuff I read as a kid like Dostoevsky, Tolstoy, Pushkin, Lermontov, Gogol, and all the music of the "Mighty Handful", especially Rimsky and Mussorgsky. (It's on my bucket list to see all 17 Rimsky operas live or on DVD (some are not performed and not available on recordings), and i may be one of the few people in the world to have heard Mussorgsky's first opera Zhenit'ba (The Marriage), never performed live but privately recorded around 1950). I also told her of my work in Russia and experiences in Siberia.

Bottom line we hit it off, we spoke about you and EHA and especially the NIH situation. Later she sent me Russian news items about the recent Rusdian trashing of the Babi Yar memorial outside Kyiv. So.... I hope it will be a good piece she does, with my comments strictly on background.

I keep wondering how long itwill be until even the evil twits will realize that "there is no there there" and they are just embarrassing themselves. In the meantime, I say keep pushing with the knowledge and confidence that right is on your side. This too shall pass, and Dom Perignon will flow to the righteous.
david

Sent from my iPhone
David M Morens
OD, NIAID, NIH

On Mar 3, 2022, at 20:32, Peter Daszak (b) (6) > wrote:

Responding to your email below David, you're right about the best defense being offense. I end up going through a process with these attacks. First day I feel like giving up on science. Then after a while, sometimes a few days of moping around, I get my aggression back and start trying to find ways to counter. As a strategy, I'm gradually talking to a few of the nastier journalists who have been attacking us, and I'm working on approaching some of the Republicans who are trying to defund us, and will have a better chance of doing that if they win the mid-terms.

First attempt came this week when *The Intercept* told us they were planning a story and sent a list of ridiculous questions about some typos in our reports on the terminated R01 – the issues that the House E&C Republicans sent to NIH last week (attached). *The Intercept* has filed FoIAs on our NIH grants back to 2001 and is currently in court to challenge NIH about handing over information on FoIA requests. Their play is to file a story every time Republicans on the Hill rip into EcoHealth or NIH then report in a dramatic way without our side of the story, usually quoting Ebright and Larry Gostin. I spent an hour and a half answering their questions on zoom and explaining how every allegation levelled at EHA about our NIH work can be answered by understanding the process of doing normal science. They've now put a story out that is less damaging than we believe it would have been, and has them turning their ire a bit more onto NIH O/D rather than us – not great for that to happen, but better than just lots of innuendo about our motives. There's still plenty of mudslinging particularly from Ebright who believes the typos in our report represent "Serious violations". The story's here:
https://theintercept.com/2022/03/03/wuhan- coronavirus-research-nih-ecohealth/

I'm also working with Jon Cohen (Science) and Betsy McKay (WSJ) to send them every document we receive from NIH O/D and our responses. Both seem to be building up to doing a story and both recognize that this is a load of garbage being churned up for political purposes.

Amusingly, I sent Jon Cohen the Intercept story and he said it broke the ultimate rule of journalism – it was too boring to reach the end.

By the way David – I removed Holly Irving from the email chain because it's a NIAID address and can be FoIA'd

Cheers,

Peter

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From: David Morens <(b) (6)
Sent: Thursday, February 24, 2022 4:27 PM
To: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >
Cc: Roberts, Rich (b) (6) >; Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6) Keusch, Gerald T (b) (6) >; Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) >; Holly Irving [E (b)(6)
Subject: Re: open letter: United States and the investigation of COVID origin—letter from American scientists and policy specialists

Peter and colleagues, this is all really horrible, but what else is new? I once advised you to read the Arthur Miller play The Crucible (or see the great film) and now i add: read the transcript of the trial of Jeanne d'Arc..... In terms of demagoguery and evil there is nothing new under the sun, and there will always be people who take pleasure in trying to destroy people who are their betters, especially their moral betters....

It will be small consolation to hear the following but in my face to face meeting with Tony this morning, he once again brought up, as he usually does, your plight (Peter) and bemoaned all the crap he and you and others are ensnared in. He seems not to believe it is all happening and today was particularly upset about continued drum beating about lab leaks, specifically mentioning one I won't name whose father is a noted NIH virologist. I won't repeat the expletives we exchanged. I am beginning to feel more and more like a therapist lately.... He doesn't know how to stop this, nor do I.

I have said this before, and you all have disagreed, maybe you are right, probably u are, but i sometimes think the best defense is a good offense. That's what we tried to do in our COVID origin paper in spring 2020, but obviously few listened. Since the facts are on our side, and since there is zero proof of a lab leak or engineering, it's always possible to ask the assholes: prove it or shut up. That they have no proof and no evidence, they have an Achilles heel that can be struck.

If this was about a person rather than a scientific fact, these guys would be in court for slander

Just keep hanging in there. I wish there was more i can do, and, if i get cut lose from NIH, there may be

david

Sent from my iPhone
David M Morens
OD, NIAID, NIH

> On Feb 24, 2022, at 16:00, Peter Daszak (b) (6) wrote:
>
> I'm glad you'll mention this to Randy. These particular politicians are willing to cast aspersions on anyone's character for political gain.
>
> I'm also glad you're going to decline to sign the letter you attached. It

seems Richard Ebright's dream is to have me up on the stand under oath with him doing the questioning. Of course, none of this would get to the bottom of anything, and it would just serve to drive more politics in the way of doing science.

The truth of all of this is that there is no real debate over the origins. A lab leak is a possible scenario, but extremely unlikely based on the zero evidence put forward by anyone. On the other hand, we now have 11 peer-reviewed or under-review papers (and counting) that point towards the natural origins. I've listed them out in the attached doc, as well as the lab leak papers I could find (all of which are opinion pieces of non-peer-reviewed).

The real debate is purely political - Republicans using this as a way to target NIH and just regurgitating fact-free innuendo-filled conspiracies with EcoHealth's work at the center. Richard Ebright, I hear, is working with Rand Paul and others to feed them these half-baked ideas and make them sound science-y enough to convince the public.

I can hear the villagers sharpening their pitchforks....

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

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Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

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-----Original Message-----
From: Roberts, Rich <(b) (6) >
Sent: Thursday, February 24, 2022 2:17 PM
To: Peter Daszak (b) (6) >; Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6) >; Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6) >; David Morens (b) (6) >; Aleksei Chmura (b) (6) >
Subject: FW: open letter: United States and the investigation of COVID origin—letter from American scientists and policy specialists

Peter:

Sorry to hear about the latest attacks. Please don't let them get you down. Just recognize the loonies who send them for what they are.

I'll let Randy Schekman know he was included too. It is sad to see the lengths that people will go to for the sake of political points. Witness the latest nonsense in Ukraine.

I attach a document I just received from Ebright. Needless to say I won't be signing, but I hope to convince some others not to also.

Rich

Richard J. Roberts
New England Biolabs
240 County Road
Ipswich, MA 01938-2723
USA
Tel: (b)(6)
Fax: (978) 412 9910
email: (b) (6)

-----Original Message-----
From: (b) (6) <(b) (6) >
Sent: Thursday, February 24, 2022 1:15 PM
To: Bloom, Barry R. <(b) (6) >; Michael Imperiale (b) (6)

Cc: (b) (6)
Subject: open letter: United States and the investigation of COVID origin—letter from American scientists and policy specialists

EXTERNAL SENDER

All--I am writing to you as founding members of the Cambridge Working Group,

Dr. Laura Kahn of Princeton has prepared an open letter entitled "United States and the investigation of COVID origin—letter from American scientists and science policy specialists" (see attached).

If you would like to sign the letter, please reply to Dr. Kahn at (b) (6) or to me at (b) (6) with your name and current affiliation.

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REL0000476984

Thank you in advance.

RHE

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Date:	Fri, 1 Jul 2022 9:37:00 AM -0400
Sent:	Fri, 1 Jul 2022 9:33:58 AM -0400
Subject:	Sachs and Relman quoted again today
From:	Peter Daszak < (b) (6)
To:	Roberts, Rich < (b) (6) Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6)
CC:	Gerald T Keusch < (b) (6) Aleksei Chmura < (b) (6) David Morens < (b) (6) Jeffrey Sturchio < (b) (6)
Attachments:	image004.png; image008.png; image001.jpg; image002.png; image003.png

We've been fielding questions all week from a reporter at US Right to Know because they've FoIA'd another batch of emails. Here's an article today claiming that Ian Lipkin should have reported working with EHA as a 'Conflict of Interest' for his Nature Medicine paper with Kristian Andersen et al. back in Feb 2020.

Here's the link: https://usrtk.org/biohazards-blog/anti-lab-leak-virologist-ecohealth-alliance-partner/

You'll be irritated to see quotes from Jeff Sachs and David Relman. Everyone seems happy with the idea that somehow collaborating with EcoHealth Alliance means you have a conflict of interest in this world of fake COVID origin stories.

The article is also utterly disingenuous in pretending it took a FoIA lawsuit to find out that Ian Lipkin collaborated with us. All it would have taken is a 5 second Google Search.

Note also US Right to Know's motto: "Pursuing truth and transparency for public health".

US RTK

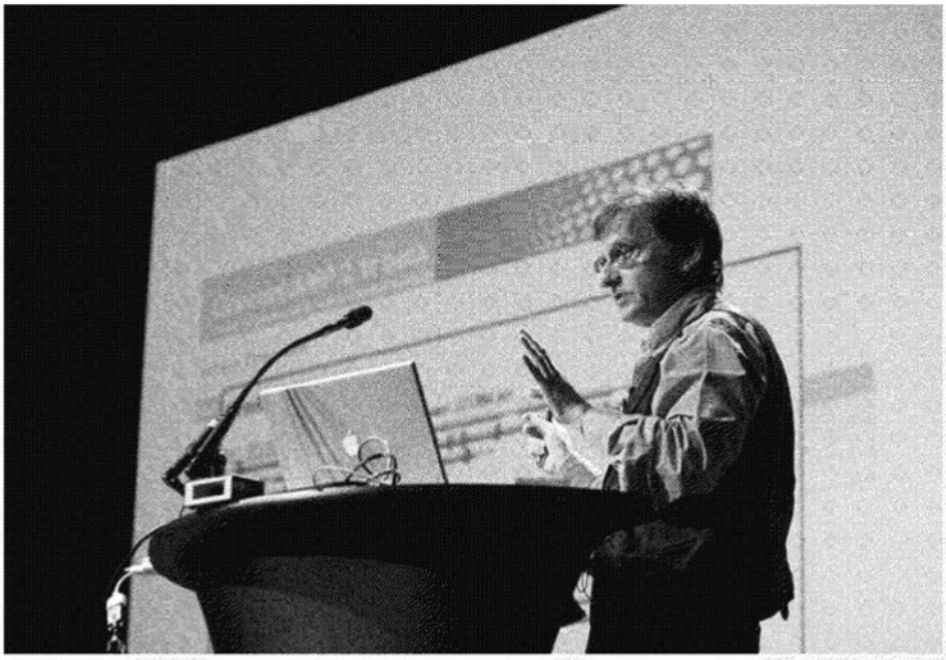
U.S. RIGHT TO KNOW

PURSUING TRUTH AND TRANSPARENCY FOR PUBLIC HEALTH

Virologist who tried to discredit the lab leak theory was once a 'partner' to EcoHealth Alliance

Print Email Share Tweet

Posted on July 1, 2022 by Emily Kopp



Columbia University virologist Ian Lipkin has coauthored several articles with EcoHealth Alliance since 2011. (Photo credit: kris krüg)

A virologist who coauthored a paper marginalizing the lab leak theory did not disclose his ties to the research group at the center of it.

Director of Columbia University's Center for Infection and Immunity Ian Lipkin has often worked with EcoHealth Alliance, a U.S.-based collaborator of the Wuhan Institute of Virology, the group confirmed in an email.

EcoHealth Alliance listed Lipkin as a "partner" from 2012 to 2014, an archived version of the group's website shows. Lipkin has coauthored at least ten scientific papers with EcoHealth researchers from 2011 to 2021, EcoHealth Alliance President Peter Daszak said in an email. These publications include a paper about novel coronaviruses EcoHealth and its partners sampled around the world.

EcoHealth Alliance hunts for novel viruses in wildlife and funds research at the Wuhan Institute of Virology.

Lipkin did not disclose his partnership with EcoHealth in "The proximal origin of SARS-CoV-2," a highly influential paper that states that COVID-19 arose from nature.

A central premise of that paper: COVID-19 is too dissimilar from viruses commonly employed in experiments to have spilled out of a lab.

"It is improbable that SARS-CoV-2 emerged through laboratory manipulation of a related SARS-CoV-like coronavirus," the paper states. "The genetic data irrefutably show that SARS-CoV-2 is not derived from any previously used virus backbone."

But Lipkin did not disclose his connection to a nonprofit that uncovers new and novel viruses. Some of those viruses were likely studied at its partnering lab in Wuhan, which housed one of the world's largest collection of bat coronaviruses.

Lipkin did not return several requests for comment.

At 5.7 million views, the *Nature Medicine* article may be one of the most widely read scientific papers in history — though the piece is formally a "correspondence."

David Relman, a Stanford University microbiologist and emerging infectious diseases expert for the National Academies, said conflicts of interest are especially troublesome when writing on high profile issues.

"For any major, controversial issue, I believe that all of us have an even greater responsibility to reveal those conflicts upfront—and let others have an opportunity to judge what effect those conflicts might have had," said Relman.

Relman also called into question the logic of the paper's premise. The Wuhan Institute of Virology may have simply been experimenting with unfamiliar viruses. The disappearance of the lab's coronavirus sequence database in 2019 and the lab's history of gain-of-function experiments also weaken the claims of Lipkin and his coauthors, Relman said.

"The Proximal Origins paper is flawed in its assumptions, logic and the soundness of its conclusions. I was very surprised that it passed review at *Nature Medicine*," he said.

Columbia University Center for Sustainable Development Director Jeffrey Sachs — chair of The Lancet COVID-19 Commission — said the citation the authors used to prop up the paper's premise deserves more scrutiny.

"The Proximal Origins paper has no credibility," Sachs wrote in an email. "The paper's central claim — that SARS-CoV-2 is not related to viruses previously reported in laboratory research — offers as proof a footnote to a 2014 paper!"

"It ludicrously claims to debunk a 2019 lab emergence using a 2014 paper," he continued. "The paper offers no real evidence whatsoever against the possible lab origin of the virus, even though it claimed to do so."

Lipkin himself has since acknowledged the possibility that the Wuhan Institute of Virology was experimenting with unknown viruses, 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

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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

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EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

---

From: Roberts, Rich <(b) (6)
Sent: Thursday, June 30, 2022 11:21 AM
To: Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6) ; Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >
Cc: Gerald T Keusch (b) (6) ; Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) David Morens <

(b) (6) >; Jeffrey Sturchio (b) (6) >
Subject: RE: Jeff Sachs' comments RE: COVID-19 Commission: Need approval of minor edits after first peer review

What a joke – he should be locked up

Richard J. Roberts
New England Biolabs
240 County Road
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Tel: (b)(6)
Fax: (978) 412 9910
email:(b) (6)

From: Hotez, Peter Jay (t(b) (6)
Sent: Thursday, June 30, 2022 10:50 AM
To: Peter Daszak (b) (6) >
Cc: Gerald T Keusch (b)(6) ; Aleksei Chmura (b) (6) >; David Morens <
(b) (6) >; Jeffrey Sturchio (b) (6) Roberts, Rich (b) (6) >
Subject: Re: Jeff Sachs' comments RE: COVID-19 Commission: Need approval of minor edits after first peer review

EXTERNAL SENDER

Looks like Joe Rogan has gone full down the rabbit hole
https://twitter.com/skmorefield/status/1542497337171496961?s=21 &t=6w48UFQHdjizswS_RXhHfQ

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Adjunct Professor, University of Texas, School of Public Health

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Daily Beast Contributor https://www.thedailybeast.com/author/peter- j-hotez
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iPhone

On Jun 28, 2022, at 10:54 AM, Peter Daszak (b) (6) > wrote:

Richard Horton already made a false statement about me to the House of Commons – saying that it took him a year to get me to fully disclose my conflicts of interests for the Lancet 'Statement of support' we wrote in Feb 2020. He referred to me as "that individual". De-humanizing and dishonest. So I doubt he'll intervene, but worth a shot.

By the way – here's today's gloating article by the "White Coat Waste" celebrating Republican congressional member Reschenthaler (PA) who has been doggedly pursuing our defunding for the last 2 years. The amendments do not actually make any iota of difference of course – No funds from DoD ever went to Wuhan either directly or through EcoHealth. But it does the job of painting us as an organization that should be attacked. Just as Sachs' Lancet Commission report will now do.

https://blog.whitecoatwaste.org/2022/06/24/progress- congress-defunds-wuhan-animal-lab-ecohealth-alliance/

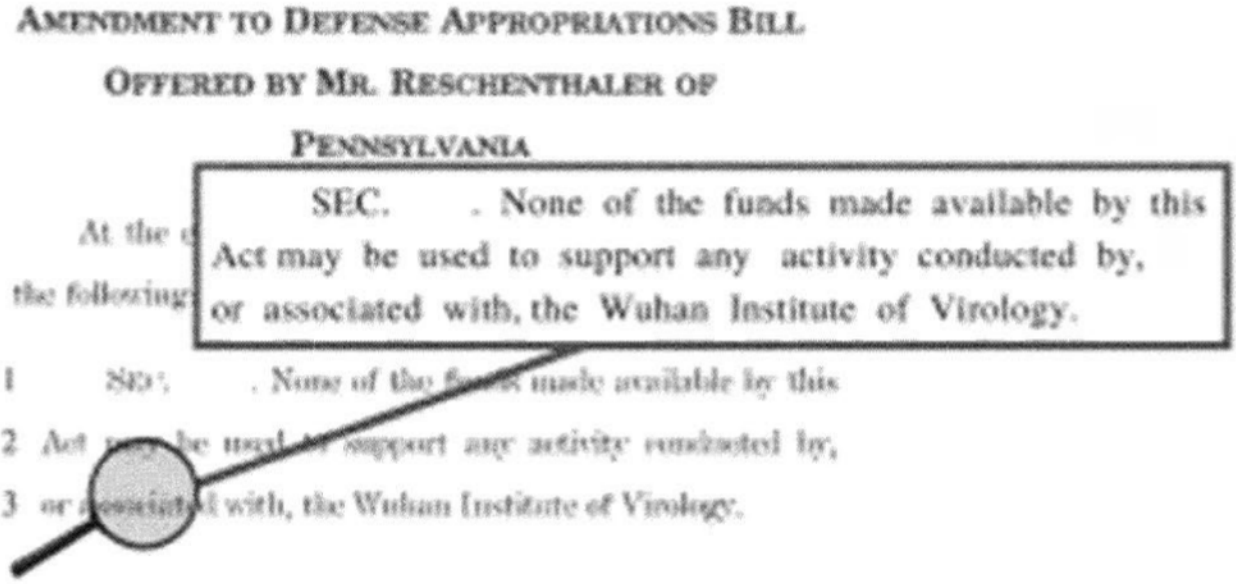
PROGRESS! CONGRESS DEFUNDS WUHAN

POSTED BY
24 JUNE 2022 |

Ever since White Coat Waste Project (WCW) **first exposed** that dangerous coronavirus experiments on animals at the Wuhan Institute of Virology (WIV) were funded by U.S. taxpayers, the idea that the coronavirus accidentally leaked from the lab and caused the COVID pandemic has gained international traction. Even the World Health Organization

(WHO) — which once dismissed the theory — now **says** that the lab leak hypothesis deserves "further investigation."

Congress recognizes the threat posed by funding risky animal experiments at the notorious Wuhan lab, too. On Wednesday, June 22, the powerful House Appropriations Committee, which sets the budget for federal agencies, approved a White Coat Waste Project-endorsed amendment from Rep. Guy Reschenthaler (R-PA), banning any Department of Defense (DOD) funds from being spent at the Wuhan Institute of Virology. The DOD, along with the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and State Department, funded dangerous animal experiments at the Wuhan lab.



AMENDMENT TO DEFENSE APPROPRIATIONS BILL

OFFERED BY MR. RESCHENTHALER OF

PENNSYLVANIA

At the e

the following

SEC. . None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to support any activity conducted by, or associated with, the Wuhan Institute of Virology.

1 SEC. . None of the funds made available by this

2 Act may be used to support any activity conducted by,

3 or associated with, the Wuhan Institute of Virology.

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The committee also approved a second WCW-backed **amendment** from Rep. Reschenthaler, barring the DOD, for the **second year** in a row, from funding any work in China performed by the white coats at shady nonprofit **EcoHealth Alliance**, which funneled tax dollars to the Wuhan lab. A majority of Americans, as well as the FBI and other experts, believe their gain-of-function experiments on animals could have caused the pandemic.

Rep. Reschenthaler, a **Waste Warrior**, has been a long-time ally of WCW, recently penning a **joint op-ed in *Newsweek*** with our founder and president Anthony Bellotti about our work together to investigate the lab leak hypothesis and hold government bureaucrats accountable.

The bill will soon head to the House for a vote, then the Senate. As it progresses, we will keep you posted; in the meantime, thank you to Rep. Reschenthaler, and other members of the Appropriations Committee, for protecting taxpayers, animals and public health!

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MORENS_NIH_017201
REL0000476985

Cheers,

Peter

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EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

---

From: Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6)
Sent: Tuesday, June 28, 2022 11:44 AM
To: Peter Daszak (b) (6)
Cc: Gerald T Keusch < (>; Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) >; David Morens < (b) (6) Jeffrey Sturchio (b) (6) Rich Roberts (b) (6)
Subject: Re: Jeff Sachs' comments RE: COVID-19 Commission: Need approval of minor edits after first peer review

It's beyond disgusting, hopefully Richard Horton intervenes

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Faculty Fellow, Hagler Institute for Advanced Study
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iPhone

On Jun 28, 2022, at 10:42 AM, Peter Daszak (b) (6) > wrote:

Just awful to see how obstinate he's become on what should be a non-issue.

I'm also pretty disgusted with his comment "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)." It's lower down in the email chain.

That's a hell of an accusation he's stating to you, knowing you're in disagreement. I shudder to think what he's saying to those who are neutral or lean towards the conspiratorial side.

There is not a single time I lied, or other taskforce members were duplicit in dishonesty or any other 'thought-crime'. It's demonstrably clear, should anyone bother to ask, and we have the back up docs to prove it.

And by the way, speaking of adolescence, people who call me by my last name in that way take me right back to life in a UK grammar school in the 1970s…it's too easy to spit out a foreign-sounding name just as his email does. You'd think he'd have some empathy, but I guess I made the cardinal mistake of disagreeing with him, and refusing to share EcoHealth privileged documents with him. I guess the punishment for that is what's happening now.

Cheers,

Peter

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MORENS_NIH_017203
REL0000476985

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EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

---

From: Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6)
Sent: Tuesday, June 28, 2022 10:27 AM
To: Gerald T Keusch <(b) (6) Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) >; David Morens <(b) (6) >; Jeffrey Sturchio <(b) (6) >; Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >; Rich Roberts <(b) (6)
Subject: Fwd: COVID-19 Commission: Need approval of minor edits after first peer review

I feel like I'm revisiting my adolescence

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Faculty Fellow, Hagler Institute for Advanced Study
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Like us on Facebook https://www.facebook.com/BCMNationalSchoolOfTropicalMedicine/

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iPhone
Begin forwarded message:

From: "Hotez, Peter Jay" (b) (6)
Date: June 28, 2022 at 9:23:55 AM CDT
To: Jeffrey Sachs (b) (6)
Subject: Re: COVID-19 Commission: Need approval of minor edits after first peer review

You mean with the guy with publicly berates virologists, including me, calling us "stooges"? Look Jeff, you're publicly supporting a fringe group and idea, and that's your right. But for a public consensus document such as a Lancet Commission report it needs to be tempered and modulated appropriately. Now that a referee has called it out as well, the scientific community is telling you to fix this. I believe my language is the most straightforward and does not ask you to retract your own strong views.

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iPhone

> On Jun 28, 2022, at 9:14 AM, Jeffrey Sachs <(b) (6) > wrote:
>
> You should have shown up to make your case. Too bad you did not. Too bad Worobey skipped. Too bad NIH has hidden all the data, non-stop.
>
> Sent from my iPhone
>
> > On Jun 28, 2022, at 3:40 PM, Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6) > wrote:
> >
> > Investigation to dot the i's and clear the falsely accused. No serious virologist looking at the data would say that this virus arose from GOF human research
> >
> > Peter Hotez, **MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP**
> > Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine
> > Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology
> > Health Policy Scholar
> > Baylor College of Medicine
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> > Texas Children's Hospital Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics

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Faculty Fellow, Hagler Institute for Advanced Study
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Adjunct Professor, University of Texas, School of Public Health

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Daily Beast Contributor https://www.thedailybeast.com/author/peter- j-hotez
Like us on Facebook
https://www.facebook.com/BCMNationalSchoolOfTropicalMedicine/

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Fax: 713-798-2299

iPhone

> On Jun 28, 2022, at 8:31 AM, Jeffrey Sachs (b) wrote:
>
> The report says only that both hypotheses are in play and should be pursued. You are free to state on your own account outside of the Commission your own conclusions at any time. Each of us can do so. There is not any hint whatsoever of "equally likely." (I personally believe,

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along with many scientists, that a lab release is the most likely origin, by the way, but the report in no way states that.)

Personally I find your position to be untenable. Because of FOIA we now know in remarkable detail just how much the NIH has hidden from view. Even Baric says that both hypotheses need investigation. The US Intelligence Community similarly concluded that both hypotheses are in play. The Commission is calling for transparency.

Sent from my iPhone

> On Jun 28, 2022, at 3:05 PM, Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6) > wrote:
>
> 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
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> Texas Children's Hospital Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics
> Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development
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MORENS_NIH_017208
REL0000476985

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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
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Adjunct Professor, University of Texas, School of Public Health

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https://www.thedailybeast.com/author/peter-j-hotez

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Senior Coordinator / Executive Support: Douglas Soriano
(b) (6)
Phone: (b) (6)
Fax: 713-798-2299

From: Juliana Bartels (b) (6)
Sent: Monday, June 27, 2022 12:55 PM
To: (b) (6)
(b) (6)

MORENS_SUBPOENA_007878
MORENS_NIH_017212
REL0000476985

(b) (6)

my ((b) (6)

Cc: (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)

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Date: Wed, 3 Apr 2024 7:28:04 PM -0400
Sent: Wed, 3 Apr 2024 7:28:01 PM -0400
Subject: RE: Wenstrup Invites Top Scientific Journals to Testify on Possible Inappropriate Relationship with Federal Government
From: Jeffrey Sturchio (b)(6)
To: David Morens (b)(6)

LOL!

From: David Morens (b)(6)
Sent: Wednesday, April 3, 2024 4:21 PM
To: Jeffrey Sturchio (b)(6)
Cc: Peter Daszak (b)(6) Keusch, Gerald T (b)(6) peter hotez (b)(6) Roberts, Rich (b)(6)
Subject: Re: Wenstrup Invites Top Scientific Journals to Testify on Possible Inappropriate Relationship with Federal Government

Let us hope so! I think/hope we are seeing the extreme desperation of the Wenstrup committee coming up so empty handed that they look like hopeless wankers even to themselves. d

From the cell phone of David Morens

On Wed, Apr 3, 2024, 15:21 Jeffrey Sturchio (b)(6) wrote:

> I predict this will go nowhere.
>
> As ever,
> Jeff
>
> Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy smartphone
>
> -------- Original message --------
> From: David Morens (b)(6)
> Date: 4/3/24 3:04 PM (GMT-05:00)
> To: Peter Daszak (b)(6) "Keusch, Gerald T (b)(6) er hotez < (b)(6) Roberts, Rich" (b)(6), Jeffrey Sturchio (b)(6)
> Subject: Fwd: Wenstrup Invites Top Scientific Journals to Testify on Possible Inappropriate Relationship with Federal Government
>
> From the cell phone of David Morens
>
> ---------- Forwarded message ---------
> From: **Folkers, Greg (NIH/NIAID) [C]** (b)(6)
> Date: Wed, Apr 3, 2024, 14:25

Subject: Wenstrup Invites Top Scientific Journals to Testify on Possible Inappropriate Relationship with Federal Government
To:

Press Release **Published:** Apr 2, 2024

Wenstrup Invites Top Scientific Journals to Testify on Possible Inappropriate Relationship with Federal Government

WASHINGTON — Today, Select Subcommittee on the Coronavirus Pandemic Chairman Brad Wenstrup (R-Ohio) invited the respective Editors-in-Chief of *Science*, *Nature*, and *The Lancet* to testify before the Select Subcommittee on Tuesday, April 16, 2024. The hearing seeks to examine any potential inappropriate influence exerted by the federal government over research publications related to COVID-19 and ensure that the federal government is not granted undue access to the scientific review process during a future health crisis.

Science, *Nature*, and *The Lancet* serve as critical information hubs for top scientific research across the world and individually publish articles that are cited millions of times each year. After the publication of the highly controversial, "The Proximal Origin of SARS-CoV-2" ("Proximal Origin") paper — which wrongly downplayed and vilified the lab leak hypothesis during the early days of the COVID-19 pandemic — concerns arose regarding the suppression of scientific discourse by federal health officials in the United States. The Select Subcommittee has obtained evidence that indicates *Science*, *Nature*, and *The Lancet* were in communication with federal government officials, including Dr. Anthony Fauci and Dr. Francis Collins.

"Millions of people worldwide relied on Science, Nature, and The Lancet to provide scientifically accurate and impartial research during the COVID-19 pandemic. However, documents show that the federal government may have censored and manipulated the sacred scientific review processes at these journals to progress their preferred narrative about the origins of COVID-19. Should these world-renowned scientific journals have done more to protect scientific discourse and ensure the peer review process was completed without outside influence? The Select Subcommittee expects the invited Editors-in-Chief to attend this hearing and address concerns that their research was inappropriately influenced by a political agenda," **said Chairman Wenstrup.**

Read the letters to Science, Nature, and The Lancet below:

- Editor-in-Chief of *Science*, Dr. Holden Thorp
- Editor-in-Chief of *Nature*, Dr. Magdelena Skipper
- Editor-in-Chief of *The Lancet*, Dr. Richard Horton

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MORENS_SUBPOENA_007443
MORENS_NIH_016665
REL0000476986

Date: Fri, 21 Jul 2023 1:27:07 PM -0400
Subject: Fwd: Study from 2007 shows SARS-infected civets on farms in Hubei
From: David Morens < (b) (6)
To: David Morens < (b) (6)

David M. Morens, MD
(b) (6)
(b) (6)

(b) (6)
(work)
(b) (6) (cell)

IMPORTANT: My gmail frequently sends incoming messages to Trash, which is apparently not correctable. If you don't hear from me in a reasonable time, please try again, call, or use my NIH email address

IMPORTANT: For US Government-related email, please also reply to my NIAID address

--------- Forwarded message --------
From: Edward Holmes <(b) (6)
Date: Mon, Sep 20, 2021 at 1:55 AM
Subject: Re: Study from 2007 shows SARS-infected civets on farms in Hubei
To: Jason Gale <(b) (6) >
Cc: Peter Daszak < (b) (6) >, (b) (6) < (b) (6) >, (b) (6) < (b) (6) >, (b) (6) <(b) (6) >, (b) (6) <(b) (6) Wang Linfa <(b) (6) (b) (6) <(b) (6) >, (b) (6) < (b) (6) >, (b) (6) < (b) (6)

Although I can't quite tell if it is sane.

PROFESSOR EDWARD C. HOLMES FAA FRS
ARC Australian Laureate Fellow

THE UNIVERSITY OF SYDNEY
Marie Bashir Institute for Infectious Diseases & Biosecurity,
School of Life & Environmental Sciences and School of Medical Sciences,
The University of Sydney | Sydney | NSW | 2006 | Australia
T + (b) (6) (b) (6)
E (b) (6)

On 20 Sep 2021, at 2:37 pm, Edward Holmes <(b) (6) > wrote:

Just found this in an obscure journal.

MORENS_SUBPOENA_003950
MORENS_NIH_010897
REL0000476995

Interesting it is Nanshan Zhong and interesting that there's a lot about the market….

PROFESSOR EDWARD C. HOLMES FAA FRS
ARC Australian Laureate Fellow

THE UNIVERSITY OF SYDNEY
Marie Bashir Institute for Infectious Diseases & Biosecurity,
School of Life & Environmental Sciences and School of Medical Sciences,
The University of Sydney | Sydney | NSW |2006 | Australia
T +(b) (6) (b) (6)
E (b) (6)

On 20 Sep 2021, at 10:52 am, Jason Gale (BLOOMBERG/ NEWSROOM:) <(b) (6) wrote:

I did this podcast episode on bats and zoonoses at the start of 2020 with the help of Hume Field, Trevor Drew, Mark Schipp and Linfa. Still seems relevant today.
https://podcasts.apple.com/nz/podcast/how- it-all-started-rebroadcast/id1440051086?i=1000504072911

From: (b) (6) At: 09/20/21 10:17:32 UTC+10:00
To: Jason Gale (BLOOMBERG/ NEWSROOM:)
Cc: (b) (6) (b) (6)
(b) (6) (b) (6) (b) (6)
(b) (6) (b) (6)
(b) (6) (b) (6)
Subject: Re: Study from 2007 shows SARS-infected civets on farms in Hubei

100% agree.

PROFESSOR EDWARD C. HOLMES FAA FRS
ARC Australian Laureate Fellow

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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) 5591
E (b) (6)

On 20 Sep 2021, at 10:16 am, Jason Gale (BLOOMBERG/ NEWSROOM:) <(b) (6) wrote:

Suspect geopolitics is the biggest impediment to finding an animal source in China, and the best remedy for this is to rebuild/strengthen r'ships with scientists in China.

From: (b) (6) At: 09/20/21 10:12:48 UTC+10:00

To: (b) (6)
Cc: Jason Gale (BLOOMBERG/ NEWSROOM:) , (b) (6)
(b) (6) (b) (6) (b) (6)
(b) (6) (b) (6) (b) (6)
(b) (6)
Subject: Re: Study from 2007 shows SARS-infected civets on farms in Hubei

Just need to keep sampling, but that sampling ought to be broader.

We need something >99% similar across the whole genome.

PROFESSOR EDWARD C. HOLMES FAA FRS
ARC Australian Laureate Fellow

THE UNIVERSITY OF SYDNEY
Marie Bashir Institute for Infectious Diseases & Biosecurity,
School of Life & Environmental Sciences and School of Medical Sciences,
The University of Sydney | Sydney | NSW | 2006 | Australia
T + (b) (6) (b) (6)
E (b) (6)

On 20 Sep 2021, at 9:59 am, Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E]
< (b) (6) > wrote:

Agree totally except your certainty that China is the ultimate source.
Admittedly much data point in that direction but how can you be sure?
d

Sent from my iPhone
David M Morens
OD, NIAID, NIH

On Sep 19, 2021, at 19:28, Edward Holmes <(b) (6) > wrote:

It's not phylogenetics.

One thing is ascertainment bias which could be huge.

Second thing is to distinguish the long-term ecology of these viruses from the short-term emergence of the virus. These Laos viruses are the former. Clearly these viruses are commonplace in SE Asia. And I don't just think that bats and pangolins will be the only animals with SC2-like viruses. Virus ecology does not work like that. But this is not the same as determining the events that happened in Wuhan. To me, China still looks like the most likely source.

Third, I'm pretty certain that groups in China are sitting on more SC2-like viruses. If you sample bats you find them. It is striking to me that CCDC have published so little on this yet have supposedly sampled so many animals. That doesn't add up. Never discount the politics.

MORENS_SUBPOENA_003952
MORENS_NIH_010899
REL0000476995

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 (b) (6)

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:)
<(b) (6) 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

On Sep 18, 2021, at 12:05, Peter Daszak < (b) (6) > wrote:

I put it all in a twitter thread while drinking coffee in my local diner (Saturday is "full English breakfast" day for me).

https://twitter.com/peterdaszak/status/1439236376776658945?s=21

No doubt ill be attacked by multiple lab leak aficionados but so be it - at least eddie,
Garry and Kristian won't see. The horrors of that…

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
(Sent from my iPhone)

President
EcoHealth Alliance

460 West 34th Street, New York, NY10001, USA

www.EcoHealthAlliance.org

On Sep 18, 2021, at 10:26 AM, Garry, Robert F < (b) (6) > wrote:

Of course, the momentum on the lab leak side will continue, with books by Sharri Markison, Alina Chan/Matt Ridley, Op Eds that criticize scientists, 70+ FoIAs by one organization alone, many other FoIAs on their way, 900 pages of FoIA'd grants and reports from EHA/NIAID showing zero evidence of lab leak.

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<Screenshot from 2021-09-19 17-04-25.png>

<healthcare-09-01132-v2.pdf>

MORENS_SUBPOENA_003956
MORENS_NIH_010903
REL0000476995

Date:	Wed, 22 May 2024 11:29:47 PM -0400
Sent:	Wed, 22 May 2024 11:25:02 PM -0400
Subject:	Fact check re. emails of ours that were cited in today's public hearing
From:	Peter Daszak < (b) (6)
To:	Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6) David Morens <(b) (6)
CC:	Aleksei Chmura < (b) (6) Jeff Sturchio < (b) (6)
Attachments:	1st email Re_ Draft response to Michael Lauer - please review.pdf; 5th email Jerry explains David cannot respond RE_ Draft response to Michael Lauer - please review.pdf; 2nd email Re_ Draft response to Michael Lauer - please review.pdf; 3rd email Jerry's edits RE_ Draft response to Michael Lauer - please review.pdf; 4th email David does not respond Re_ Draft response to Michael Lauer - please review.pdf

Jerry and David,

Today in David Morens' hearing, the SSCP asked questions about an email wherein David allegedly assisted me with the reinstatement of my R01. They refer to an email on Oct 24th 2021 in their report here: https://oversight.house.gov/release/new-covid-select-memo-details-allegations-of-wrongdoing-and-illegal-activity-by-dr-faucis-senior-scientific-advisor/

It didn't sound correct to me, so I went through my email records and have located a chain that I began on 10/24/2021, that was me drafting a response to Michael Lauer's questions about the late year 5 report for the grant. This was NOT related to reinstating the grant – at that point, the grant was suspended and we were getting repeated questions about it, and there was not the slightest hint that it would be reinstated.

As you'll see by looking at the 1st email attached above – I send an email to both of you asking for advice on how to word the response to Michael Lauer, because you both are knowledgeable on issues of virology and both have experience with the type of bureaucratic questions I was being asked by NIH Office of the Director. I didn't consider this a conflict for David, because he's not part of the official decision making on this grant – by that time all decisions since 2020 had been overseen by O/D NOT NIAID, and I was under clear instructions to communicate with NIH O/D. I don't think that even Dr. Fauci had any capacity to decide on this.

Despite what's said in the SSCP report, and in David's hearing, I remembered, and it's shown in the email chains above, that David said he would suggest some 'wordsmithing', but in fact DID NOT. The emails clearly show that you spoke with others at NIAID, and that they suggested you should not be involved in this, and in fact you did not edit the letter, or even suggest edits. It's all there in the emails above.

I don't know what value this has now, considering that the public hearing has been and gone, but I felt it was important to share these, in case any of us are asked about them – from what I see, you checked with your superiors and then diplomatically cut yourself out of the editing chain.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: + (b) (6)
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

MORENS_NIH_046790
REL0000477004

Date: Wed, 26 May 2021 9:13:58 AM -0400

Subject: FW: CNN: Pompeo-led effort to hunt down Covid lab theory shut down by Biden administration over concerns about quality of evidence

From: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] < (b) (6) >

To: Keusch, Jerry ((b) (6) < (b) (6) Peter Daszak ((b) (6) < (b) (6) >; Rich Roberts ((b) (6) < (b) (6)

Attachments: image001.jpg; image002.gif; image003.jpg

David

David M. Morens, M.D.
CAPT, United States Public Health Service
Senior Advisor to the Director
Office of the Director
National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases
National Institutes of Health
Building 31, Room 7A-03
31 Center Drive, MSC 2520
Bethesda, MD 20892-2520
(b) (6) (assistants: Kimberly Barasch; Whitney Robinson)
(b) (6)
(b) (6)

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From: Folkers, Greg (NIH/NIAID) [E] < (b) (6)
Sent: Tuesday, May 25, 2021 10:18 PM
Subject: CNN: Pompeo-led effort to hunt down Covid lab theory shut down by Biden administration over concerns about quality of evidence

Pompeo-led effort to hunt down Covid lab theory shut down by Biden administration over concerns about quality of evidence



By Kylie Atwood, CNN
Updated 7:53 PM ET, Tue May 25, 2021

*Washington (CNN)*President Joe Biden's team shut down a closely-held State Department effort launched late in the Trump administration to prove the coronavirus originated in a Chinese lab over concerns about the quality of its work, according to three sources familiar with the decision.
The existence of the State Department inquiry and its termination this spring by the Biden administration -- neither of which has been previously reported -- comes to light amid renewed interest in whether the virus could have leaked out of a Wuhan lab with links to the Chinese military. The Biden administration is also facing scrutiny of its own efforts to determine if the Chinese government was responsible for the virus.

Those involved in the previously undisclosed inquiry, which was launched last fall by allies of then-Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, say it was an honest effort to probe what many initially dismissed: that China's biological weapons program could have had a greater role in the pandemic's origin in Wuhan, according to two additional sources.
But the inquiry quickly became mired in internal discord amid concerns that it was part of a broader politicized effort by the Trump administration to blame China and cherry-pick facts to prove a theory.

Why scientists are suddenly more interested in the lab-leak theory of Covid's origin

The decision to terminate the inquiry, which was run primarily out of the State Department's arms control and verification bureau, was made after Biden officials were briefed on the team's draft findings in February and March of this year, a State Department spokesperson said. Questions were raised about the legitimacy of the findings and the project was deemed to be an ineffective use of resources, explained a source familiar with the decision.

Sources involved in the Trump-era inquiry rejected criticisms over the quality of their work and told CNN their objective had been to examine scientific research and information from the US intelligence community which backed the lab leak theory and shone more light on how it could have emerged in the lab.
Though Biden officials shut down this particular inquiry, they remain skeptical of Beijing's role in limiting investigators from accessing information that may be pertinent to the origins of the virus. US intelligence agencies continue to examine the question of whether the virus emerged naturally from human contact with infected animals or if it could have been the result of a laboratory accident.

One US intelligence report, which CNN and the Wall Street Journal recently reported on, found that several researchers at China's Wuhan Institute of Virology fell ill in November 2019 and had to be hospitalized, a new detail which has fueled the continued debate about the virus's origin. The exact nature of their symptoms remain unclear.
A State Department spokesperson confirmed work on the inquiry had stopped, saying, "Even though this discrete project has concluded, the State Department continues to work with the interagency to look into the COVID origins issue."

Origins of the inquiry

The State Department project began in late 2020, months after Pompeo and President Donald Trump first claimed that the virus could have originated from the Wuhan Institute of Virology. In May 2020, Pompeo claimed there was "enormous evidence" and a "significant amount of evidence" to support the claim -- despite the US intelligence community saying there was no definitive answer as to precisely where and how the virus began transmitting.
Pompeo did not respond to CNN's requests for comment.

MORENS_SUBPOENA_016056
MORENS_NIH_033807
REL0000477005

The inquiry also came amid a broader effort by some in the Trump administration to look for ways to blame the Chinese government for the outbreak and deflect responsibility from its own handling of the virus, which had claimed over 200,000 lives by Election Day in November.
As Trump and Pompeo regularly spoke about the "China virus," their continued suggestions that the virus originated in a lab raised concerns among some State Department and intelligence officials over what they viewed as attempts to politicize what little the US knew about the virus's origins. But those involved in the effort looked at it as more of a need to probe unanswered questions, rather than a politically motivated program.

Still, the quiet inquiry eventually became a contentious issue at the State Department during the few months it was active. Proponents of the effort, including Pompeo himself, argued that the potential connection between the Chinese military and the pandemic needed to be investigated and that the administration was justified to include the inquiry in the State Department's ongoing and legally mandated review of countries' compliance with arms control treaties, according to four sources familiar with the matter.

Officials involved in the effort relied on scientific research as well as public and classified information to probe the lab leak theory, including looking into any possible connection between the virus and the Chinese government's biological weapons program, three of the sources told CNN.
The Chinese government is party to the major international agreements regulating biological weapons which prohibit developing, producing, transferring or stockpiling of bacteriological and toxin weapons. The US government has said that it believes China maintained an offensive biological weapons program even after joining the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention in 1984. China refutes this.

Why is Anthony Fauci hedging on the origins of the coronavirus?

Dr. Anthony Fauci recently said he is not convinced that Covid-19 developed naturally but last spring he said the US strongly leaned toward the idea that the virus could not have been artificially or deliberately manipulated. Officials involved in the State Department inquiry believed Fauci's initial comments last year were "baseless."
"People in the US government were working on the question of where Covid-19 came from but there was no other effort that we knew of that took the lab leak possibility seriously enough to focus on digging into certain aspects, questions and uncertainties," said David Feith, a former senior State Department official who was briefed on the efforts.

'Suspicious as hell'

Opponents of the State Department inquiry viewed the effort as alarming because those working on it appeared to actively hide their work from skeptics, two sources said.
"The way they did their work was suspicious as hell," said one former State Department official who was familiar with the effort. "They basically conducted it in secret, cutting out the State Department's technical experts and the Intelligence Community, and then trying to brief certain senior officials in the interagency on their 'tentative conclusions' even before they'd let the department leaders they worked for know an investigation was underway at all."

During the final weeks of the Trump administration, when senior officials in the department who had been shielded from the efforts learned about how far the inquiry had gone, they pushed for a panel of outside scientists to review the findings. When scientists looked at the data, during a 3-hour long meeting in early January, the evidence collected up until that point appeared inconclusive and misguided, two sources said.

"It smelled like they were just fishing to justify pre-determined conclusions and cut out experts who could critique their 'science,' " said the former official familiar with the effort. "The reason for all this became clear when real scientists finally got a chance to see their analysis, and [the inquiry's] 'statistical' case fell apart."

The briefing prompted then-Assistant Secretary Chris Ford to send a memo to a handful of department officials, including top leadership, urging caution about the group's findings.
Ford called aspects of the analysis "gravely flawed" and urged officials "against suggesting that there is anything inherently suspicious -- and suggestive of biological warfare activity -- about People's Liberation Army involvement at WIV on classified projects."

'Dissenting perspectives on purpose'

But those involved in the project -- who said they relied on the intelligence community throughout their inquiry -- defended their efforts.
"Our scientific consulting process involved dissenting perspectives on purpose," said one source involved in the project. "It was a meeting with deliberative disagreement."
"There was a total misunderstanding of the entire process. We used experts and one specific team of experts but there was no consensus in the IC," said a second former official working on the effort. "The IC was saying this is a public health issue and this

has nothing to do with biological weapons. Well, we said, how do we know that?"

Pompeo put out a statement as the Trump administration was leaving office that said the US had determined collaboration between the Wuhan lab where Covid-19 research has been conducted on bats, and secret Chinese military projects. The process behind declassifying the intelligence in that statement took weeks, and certain details were scrubbed from the final version which was put out, sources familiar with the process told CNN. The State Department's small group looking into the lab leak theory contributed to that fact sheet, but most of its information came from the US intelligence community, sources told CNN.

When the Biden administration took office, it did not see any significant doubts in the datapoints featured in the fact sheet Pompeo put out, according to one source familiar. The information was vetted by the intelligence community but it was also a select few datapoints from a mountain of data in what the Biden administration viewed as a deliberate effort to put more weight into the lab leak theory while they ignored information suggesting the virus spread naturally from animals to humans.

Biden administration critical of the WHO

National security adviser Jake Sullivan has been vocal in criticizing the World Health Organization's efforts thus far, which have been inhibited by the Chinese government restricting their access.

"Going forward, all countries, including China, should participate in a transparent and robust process for preventing and responding to health emergencies, so that the world learns as much as possible as soon as possible," Sullivan said in February.

The State Department has echoed those calls.

The Biden administration's effort to investigate the origins of the pandemic is primarily focused on rallying pressure and support for the WHO's investigation to be transparent and fulsome, explained a Biden administration official.

The WHO, too, has said the theory needs more investigation and more access is required.

Biden national security officials have also stated publicly that the US intelligence community does not have any solid details about the origin of the virus.

"It is absolutely accurate the intelligence community does not know exactly where, when or how Covid-19 virus was transmitted initially," US Director of National Intelligence Avril Haines said last month during a congressional briefing.

Despite continued calls for the need to understand what caused the Covid-19 outbreak more clearly as a way of preventing a future pandemic, the US still is far from understanding its precise origin.

"It appears we do not understand the emergence of Covid-19 any better than we did 6-9 months ago. The world needs to learn as much as possible about the earliest days of the Covid-19 pandemic to better prepare our governments, our people, and our public health institutions for the next health crisis," the State Department spokesperson said.

CNN's Natasha Bertrand contributed to this report.

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Date:	Sun, 30 Oct 2022 5:08:02 PM -0400
Sent:	Sun, 30 Oct 2022 5:07:48 PM -0400
Subject:	Re: Forbes: Is New Senate GOP Covid-19 Pandemic Origin Report More About Politics Than Science? https://bit.ly/3t1BJhb
From:	"Hotez, Peter Jay" < (b) (6)
To:	David Morens < (b) (6) >;
CC:	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

My take:

https://twitter.com/peterhotez/status/1586722053167714304?s=46 &t=4XkfQxcGoMQM6ya6lHG- mQ

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP

Texas Children's Hospital: Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics | Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development | Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

Baylor College of Medicine: Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine | Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology | Health Policy Scholar

Baylor University, University Professor
Rice University, Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty
Texas A&M University, Faculty-Senior Fellow, Hagler Inst for Advanced Study & Scowcroft Institute of Intl Affairs

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Media Inquiries:
(b) (6)

iPhone

> On Oct 30, 2022, at 10:37 AM, David Morens < (b) (6) > wrote:
>
>
> ***CAUTION:*** This email is not from a BCM Source. Only click links or open attachments you know are safe.
>
>
> Sent from my iPhone
> David M Morens
> OD, NIAID, NIH

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E]" <(b) (6) >
Date: October 30, 2022 at 08:36:03 PDT
To: David Morens < (b) (6) >
Subject: Fwd: Forbes: Is New Senate GOP Covid-19 Pandemic Origin Report More About Politics Than Science? https://bit.ly/3t1BJhb

Sent from my iPhone
David M Morens
OD, NIAID, NIH
Begin forwarded message:

From: "Folkers, Greg (NIH/NIAID) [E]" <(b) (6) >
Date: October 30, 2022 at 06:52:42 PDT
Subject: Forbes: Is New Senate GOP Covid-19 Pandemic Origin Report More About Politics Than Science? https://bit.ly/3t1BJhb

Is New Senate GOP Covid-19 Pandemic Origin Report More About Politics Than Science?

Bruce Y. Lee
Senior Contributor
I am a writer, journalist, professor, systems modeler, computational and digital health expert, avocado-eater, and entrepreneur, not always in that order.
Oct 29, 2022,10:49pm EDT



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Sen. Richard Burr (R-N.C.), seen here on August 6, 2022 in Washington, DC., and his office came out ... [+]
Getty Images

These days anytime any politician makes any claims about Covid-19, you've got to wonder whether it's more about politics than real science. After all, throughout the pandemic, politics has infiltrated Covid-19 decision-making like botox in a reality TV star. So when the office of Senator Richard Burr (R-N.C.) dropped "An Analysis of the Origins of the COVID-19 Pandemic Interim Report," just two weeks before the midterm election, you've gotta wonder whether this report was more about politics than actually determining what really happened.

After all, in the report, Burr did indicate that last Summer he and Senator Patty Murray (D-Washington) "announced a bipartisan Health, Education, Labor and Pensions (HELP) Committee oversight effort into the origins of SARS-CoV-2, the virus that caused the COVID-19 pandemic as part of our effort to address pandemic preparedness and response programs." *Dictionary.com* defines bipartisan as "representing, characterized by, or including members from two parties or factions," and not "screw it, why don't I just issue a report myself?" It's also interesting why such a interim report would be issued so quickly now before it's been properly vetted by the scientific community. Why the rush? And why wasn't there more of a heads up to everyone that this would be on its way? Was this designed to be a Halloween scare? Or maybe just maybe the midterm elections had something to do with it?

Plus, this interim report drew some pretty strong conclusions that usually would require a lot more supporting scientific evidence than the report actually provided. What's a strong conclusion? How about, "Based on the analysis of the publicly available information, it appears reasonable to conclude that the Covid-19 pandemic was, more likely than not, the result of a research-related incident." Yeah, that statement certainly has drawn headlines and attention on social media. The phrase "more likely than not" sounds fairly definitive. For example, if you were to tell your significant other that "based on analysis of publicly available information, it appears reasonable to conclude that you are more likely than not a cheater," you had better more likely than not provide enough specific concrete evidence to justify such a claim. Otherwise all of your possessions including your butt would more likely than not end up on the street. Similarly, this report seemed to be claiming that the evidence is already strong enough to conclude that a lab leak started the Covid-19 pandemic. But what evidence did the report then provide? Well, here's a hint. It rhymes with "Not a troll bot." Yes, not a whole lot.

Did any real scientists develop, vet, and support the findings of this Interim Report?

Let's take a look at what some real scientists who have real expertise in this area said on Twitter about this report. Spoiler alert: some expletives more likely than not emerged. For example, Kristian G. Andersen, PhD, a Professor of Immunology and Microbiology at Scripps Research, used the phrase "Flood the zone with bull [bleep]" when referring to what's going on with this report:

And Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, Dean of the National School of Tropical Medicine, wrote, "My view: a total load of antiscience [bleep]," in the following tweet:

To adapt the words from that song in the movie *Bring It On*, Burr, it's cold in here— with here being real scientists' reaction to the report. Bull-bleep and antiscience bleep weren't exactly words of endorsement. Hotez also provided some real scientific papers describing how the severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) may have jumped from other animals to humans and the evidence supporting such a natural jump:

Speaking of real scientists. Were any real scientists involved in developing and reviewing Burr's interim report? Well, the cover of the report bore the names Minority Oversight Staff, Senate Committee on Health Education, Labor and Pensions, which was a fancy way of saying that it was compiled by the office of Burr. The report didn't really list any other authors or contributors other than Burr. So, assuming that Burr himself didn't compile and write everything like a high schooler doing a book report, it's unclear who actually did the research and writing for this report. The report didn't really clearly delineate what process was used to assemble and review the available evidence, who determined what should and shouldn't considered, or how the report was vetted either.

What counterarguments did this Interim Report provide against evidence that the SARS-CoV-2 had jumped from other animals?

That being said did the report at least provide some strong arguments to support its conclusions? Well, the first of the four sections attempted to offer some kind of counter to the existing evidence of a natural animal original of the SARS-CoV-2 without even mentioning that evidence. That was sort of the "I'm going to

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ignore what you have said and provide only my side of the story" tactic. This section basically presented six arguments that were weak at best. The first two arguments were essentially the same: that the intermediate host animal species—meaning the intermediate between bats and humans—for SARS-CoV-2 hasn't yet been found. That argument would hold water about as well as a fish net thong.

It's been only about three years since the Covid-19 pandemic first broke. Science rarely can move that quickly, especially when Congress isn't providing nearly enough funding to support the needed studies. It can be challenging to find such a intermediate animal host species. It's not as if you can post a message on Twitter or Facebook saying, "hey all animals, come by and get tested for SARS-CoV-2 or some virus similar to it" or "hey, did you host this virus before passing it along to us humans? Come one, you can tell us." Plus, scientists around the world have been kind of busy with something called, you know, the Covid-19 pandemic. So unless Burr and his Senate colleagues want to provide much more support and funding to help find the intermediate host species, "you haven't found it yet," really isn't a very strong argument.

The third argument provided was that the "SARS-CoV-2's high binding affinity for human ACE2 receptors suggests that it is possible for it to directly infect humans without needing a period of adaptation in an intermediate host." In other words, the virus took to humans so well, it couldn't have jumped from other animals. That's a bit like saying, "hey, that velour track suit fits you so well that it was probably tailored specifically for you." Such an argument doesn't pass much muster because it wasn't clear what the virus was doing before the start of 2020. Weaker versions of the virus could have very well been spreading between other animals and humans long before late 2019 and early 2020. The world didn't have much of a surveillance system in place to really track what every possible viral threat was doing before 2020. It still doesn't have such a system.

The section's fourth argument was that Wuhan, China, seemed to be the only place where the virus may have jumped from non-humans to humans. The claim was that if the virus had jumped from other animals to humans, why didn't such jumps occur elsewhere as well. Again, all of this assumes that the world already had great global surveillance systems in place that could readily determine exactly where and how everyone had gotten infected with the SARS-CoV-2. Yeah try doing that when there's been well over 630 million Covid-19 cases around the world so far. And that's not even counting those folks who never ended up getting tested.

The fifth argument was similar to the fourth, claiming that "After the unidentified source transmitted SARS-CoV-2 to humans, it stopped transmitting SARS-CoV-2." Again, this has never been established. With so many cases emerging every day, it's difficult to say who caught the virus from where. The Covid-19 pandemic is not the same situation as the 2002-2004 SARS and the 2013 avian influenza A (H7N9) outbreaks where there were a lot fewer cases so that infections and transmission chains were a lot easier to track.

The sixth argument was that "The low genetic diversity of the earliest SARS-CoV-2 samples suggests that the COVID-19 pandemic is most likely the result of a single successful spillover of SARS-CoV-2." That's not exactly true. Plus, once again, the lack of a comprehensive surveillance system means that cases may have been missed early on in 2020 and before that time. Moreover, even if the pandemic had started with a single spillover event, how exactly would that prove that it was lab-leak rather than a natural spillover event that triggered the whole pandemic? All of these arguments didn't seem to be that scientific, which raises the question again, what specific scientists contributed to this interim report.

Did the Wuhan Institute of Virology actually have major safety concerns as the Interim Report claimed?



This aerial view shows the P4 laboratory (L) on the campus of the Wuhan Institute of Virology in ... [+]

AFP via Getty Images

The second section of the report tried to paint a picture of the Wuhan Institute of Virology (WIV) as a place with numerous safety concerns and incidents. It did include brief descriptions of events and items that you probably normally wouldn't find at your home, assuming that you don't regularly sleep and shower at a Biosafety Level (BSL) 3 or 4 laboratory. So all of these could have sounded ominous and scary to the general public or anyone else who doesn't conduct virology experiments on regular basis.

So, assuming that Burr and his staff aren't running enzyme linked immunosorbent assays in their Congressional offices, wouldn't it have been better to ask a real laboratory scientist who regularly works with viruses to put together that section?Angela Rasmussen, PhD, a virologist at the Vaccine and Infectious Disease Organization at the University of Saskatchewan in Canada, would qualify as such an expert. So

let's turn to Rasmussen's tweet thread about this section of the Burr report:
As you can see, Rasmussen's tweet stated that the report "claims to show evidence of multiple biocontainment breaches. That sounds very bad! But how reliable is this evidence?" Her tweet thread went on to review each thing listed in this section of Burr's report and explain how much of it seemed pretty normal for such a lab to her:
For example, Rasmussen explained how procuring a vaporized hydrogen peroxide system to disinfect air coming from the lab and renovating the HVAC system were not evidence of biosafety failures but instead business-as-usual:
A little later in the tweet thread, Rasmussen concluded, "No evidence of a breach or biosafety failure, but lots of evidence that they were operating a containment lab in a pretty standard way, with one exception: WIV was more innovative than many others and patented some of the bespoke systems they developed," as you can see here:
Rasmussen went on to assess what was written in the report about the working conditions, training, and management at WIV and determined that "No evidence of a biocontainment breach or a biosafety failure, other than lab leak fan fiction invented by people with no clue about how biosafety actually works reading documents that reflect the daily considerations & challenges of operating a containment lab," at the conclusion of her tweet thread:
Remember you can make anything sound scary when describing it in a certain way to people not familiar with the situation. Imagine relating the details of a high school football practice to someone who has never ever seen football. You could talk about high speed collisions, violence, things getting intercepted, jock straps, and people slapping each other on their butts in a manner that could prompt someone to say, "what the bleep is going on? Call the authorities."

Is it relevant that China developed Covid-19 vaccines faster than the U.S. did with Operation Warp Speed?

The third section presented a rather weird argument. It pointed out that teams in China were able to develop and start administering Covid-19 vaccines faster than Operation Warp Speed could in the U.S. The section tried to suggest that the only way the teams in China were able to move more quickly was if they had access to genomic sequences of the SARS-CoV-2 much earlier.
Hmm, that sounds a little like the "they beat us, therefore, they must have cheated" argument. While Operation Warp Speed did result in Covid-19 vaccines at the end of 2020, it was by no means a perfectly run operation. For example, it July 2020, Jon Cohen wrote for *Science* magazine an article entitled "Operation Warp Speed's opaque choices of Covid-19 vaccines draw Senate scrutiny." And in December 2020, I covered for *Forbes* a range of supply chain and distribution missteps made by Operation Warp Speed. In general, the word well-oiled machine didn't seem to apply the Trump Administration's response to the Covid-19 pandemic in 2020. Moreover, it's not clear what shortcuts the teams from China may have taken in order to get Covid-19 vaccines out there sooner. For example, did they do the same about of human testing as Pfizer-BioNTech and Moderna did before rolling out vaccines to the general public.
One thing's clear. The government of China wasn't as open and transparent to the rest of the world as they could have and probably should have been about the SARS-CoV-2 outbreak in late 2019 and early 2020. The first reports of this "mysterious pneumonia" emerged late in December 2019 and very early in January 2020, as I reported for *Forbes* on January 3, 2020. The government of China likely knew more about the virus and its deadly nature at the time. If that were indeed the case, then China's government chose poorly and should have been more forthcoming to get help from the international community. It is very fair to criticize China's government for withholding information and not being more cooperative. But again all of this does not necessarily mean that the Covid-19 pandemic started with a lab leak.

Did the development and release of the Interim Report follow a scientific process?

All in all, this so-called "Analysis of the Origins of the COVID-19 Pandemic Interim Report" didn't seem to follow many of the steps and criteria needed for a truly scientific report. It didn't even fulfill basic criteria such as clearly describing the methods employed or identifying the people who did the analyses and wrote the report. Whenever you don't transparently describe how you chose what evidence to consider and not consider, you've gotta wonder how much cherry-picking happened. While cherry-picking may be great when you are making a pie, selectively choosing what evidence to follow and not follow is just not appropriate scientifically.
If Congress really wants to shed more light on the actual origins of the Covid-19 pandemic, it would commission and fund a panel of real and most importantly independent scientific experts to compile the

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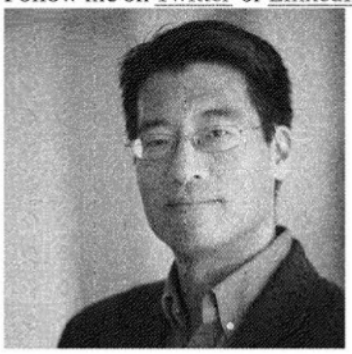
report. At the same time, Congress members would then stay clear of this panel to avoid the perception that they are applying any political pressure to see a particular outcome. The U.S. has been leading the world in Covid-19 cases and deaths throughout the pandemic in big part of its failure to consistently follow science and instead defer to politics. And in the end, while politics may cover up to a degree what the virus does, only real science will be able to work against the SARS-CoV-2 and any future viral threats.
Follow me on Twitter or LinkedIn. Check out my website.



Bruce Y. Lee

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Date: Wed, 5 Jun 2024 11:35:53 AM -0400

Subject: Fwd: LA Times: Column: House Republicans would rather demonize Anthony Fauci than help Americans survive the next pandemic

From: David Morens (b)(6)

To: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >; peter hotez (b)(6) Keusch, Gerald T (b)(6) Roberts, Rich (b)(6) Jeffrey Sturchio (b)(6) Chmura <(b) (6)

Attachments: image001.png; image001.png; image001.png; image001.png

From the cell phone of David Morens

--------- Forwarded message ---------
From: **Folkers, Greg (NIH/NIAID) [C]** (b)(6)
Date: Wed, Jun 5, 2024, 11:03
Subject: LA Times: Column: House Republicans would rather demonize Anthony Fauci than help Americans survive the next pandemic
To:

Column: House Republicans would rather demonize Anthony Fauci than help Americans survive the next pandemic

By Robin Abcarian

Columnist

June 5, 2024 3:19 AM PT

It has become as tiresome as it is predictable: When Republican Rep. Marjorie Taylor Greene of Georgia turns on her microphone during a hearing, it's time to say goodbye to decorum and hello to vulgar personal attacks.

The House's clown princess had quite the forum on Monday, when, as a member of the House Select Subcommittee on the Coronavirus Pandemic, she got to grill and insult Dr. Anthony Fauci, 83, one of the world's leading public health physicians, who headed the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases from 1984 until 2022 and steered the country through the pandemic.

Ostensibly, the grilling, which was billed simply as "A Hearing with Anthony Fauci," was the culmination of the committee's 15-month inquiry into the origins of the virus and the public health response.

In reality, it was a forum for Republicans to continue their attacks on Fauci. As the committee's ranking Democratic member, Rep. Raul Ruiz of Indio, put it in a news conference before the hearing, Republicans have used the committee to advance the "dangerous narrative that Dr. Fauci somehow funded research that started the COVID-19 pandemic, lied about it and orchestrated a campaign to cover it up."

The truth, as we know, is that then-President Trump dithered, blathered and showboated as Americans were dying. Who will ever forget the pained look on the face of Dr. Deborah Birx, Trump's coronavirus response coordinator, as she watched Trump suggest we "hit the body" with a powerful light or disinfectant to kill the virus? Or the way Fauci face-palmed when Trump went off on a tangent about the "deep State Department" during one of his inane daily briefings?

Monday's hearing was a colossal waste of time and energy. We are no closer to learning conclusively about the origin of COVID-19, nor steps the government can take to strengthen data collection, improve future testing and contact tracing, or address the racial and wealth disparities that were laid bare in that terrible time.

Instead, Republicans, desperate to tarnish Fauci, went to town. Greene took things to absurd lengths.

"You're not a doctor," she fumed. "You're *Mr.* Fauci," she said, her voice dripping with disdain.

Democratic Rep. Jamie Raskin of Maryland called for a point of order. "In terms of the rules of decorum, are

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we allowed to deny that a doctor is a doctor just because we don't want him to be a doctor?"

Without waiting for a reply from committee Chairman Brad Wenstrup (R-Ohio), Greene thundered on, "Yes, because … that man does not deserve to have a license. As a matter of fact, it should be revoked and he belongs in prison."

Greene took a kitchen-sink approach to her hectoring. Holding up a photo of two beagles lying on the ground with their heads tented in mesh, Greene sneered, "As a dog lover, I want to tell you this is disgusting and evil, what you signed off on. The type of science that you are representing, Mr. Fauci, is abhorrent and it needs to stop."

(The National Institutes of Health, which has funded research using beagles and has rigorous rules about their treatment, was not involved in the study that Greene was exercised about. The journal that initially promulgated that claim later retracted it.)

"What do dogs have to do with anything we're talking about today?" asked Fauci in frustration.

Amid the blustering, it's important to remember that during the pandemic, as President Trump and his sycophants were suggesting that Americans do dumb things like inject bleach or ingest anti-parasitics to rid themselves of COVID-19, Fauci was working to understand the novel virus and to promote social rules designed to help prevent transmission.

Did he make mistakes or contradict himself? He did. In the early stages of the pandemic, Fauci suggested that people didn't need to wear masks before reversing himself. As he testified, the six-feet-apart rule for social distancing was not based on scientific studies but seemed to make sense.

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The editor of the nonpartisan journal the New Atlantis pointed out in a 2022 New York Times essay that a little humility would have served Fauci and the country better. "There was nothing stopping Dr. Fauci in those chaotic early weeks from saying 'Masks might help, but doctors and nurses need them more now,' or even just 'We're not sure yet,' " wrote Ari Schulman. "This would have been far closer to accurately representing scientific understanding and would have done wonders in case the answer later changed, as many elements of guidance were bound to."

Most of us are willing to cut Fauci some slack for the imperfections, but his embrace of masks, social distancing and, of course, vaccines when they became available made him a figure of hatred for those Americans who do not like being told what to do, especially by scientists. "Don't Fauci my Florida" became Gov. Ron DeSantis' ludicrous motto, even as hospitalizations, new infections and deaths per capita soared in his state.

On Monday, Fauci testified that he and his family have been inundated with death threats, two of which were credible enough to have resulted in arrests. "'Credible death threats' means someone who clearly was on his way to kill me," Fauci said at one point, his voice breaking.

You have to wonder why Fauci even volunteered to appear at Monday's hearing knowing what was in store for him from committee Republicans, who had promised to blow the lid off his mismanagement of the pandemic, but came up with nothing.

"You are an American hero," said Rep. Robert Garcia, a Long Beach Democrat who lost his mother and stepfather to COVID-19, "and your team has done more to save lives than all 435 members of this body."

Amen to that.

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Date:	Mon, 31 Oct 2022 12:05:19 PM -0400
Sent:	Mon, 31 Oct 2022 12:05:09 PM -0400
Subject:	RE: Forbes: Is New Senate GOP Covid-19 Pandemic Origin Report More About Politics Than Science? https://bit.ly/3t1BJhb
From:	"Keusch, Gerald T" <(b) (6)
To:	Hotez, Peter Jay < (b) (6) David Morens < (b) (6)
CC:	Peter Daszak < (b) (6) >; Aleksei Chmura < (b) (6) >; Rich Roberts < (b) (6) Jeff Sturchio < (b) (6) >;
Attachments:	image001.jpg; image002.jpg; image003.jpg

Wonderful commentary David. And congratulations to that slim majority in Brazil that put Lula over the top. Like other autocrats Bolsonaro had not conceded, last time I looked. On this witching day I say "Begone", and so too the others like him wherever they are.

From: Hotez, Peter Jay < (b) (6)
Sent: Monday, October 31, 2022 11:35 AM
To: David Morens < (b) (6)
Cc: Keusch, Gerald T < (b) (6) Peter Daszak < (b) (6) Aleksei Chmura < (b) (6) Rich Roberts < (b) (6) Jeff Sturchio < (b) (6)
Subject: Re: Forbes: Is New Senate GOP Covid-19 Pandemic Origin Report More About Politics Than Science? https://bit.ly/3t1BJhb

That's amazing, thank you for the update!

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP

Texas Children's Hospital: Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics | Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development | Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

Baylor College of Medicine: Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine | Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology | Health Policy Scholar

Baylor University, University Professor
Rice University, Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty
Texas A&M University, Faculty-Senior Fellow, Hagler Inst for Advanced Study & Scowcroft Institute of Intl Affairs

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iPhone

On Oct 31, 2022, at 10:25 AM, David Morens (b) (6) > wrote:

Peter, sorry you are not here! It's like an emotional homecoming after 2 virtual years and, shockingly, there are as of yesterday mid day, BEFORE the opening plenary, over 4,000 in attendance plus over 600 virtual, perhaps to be an all time record.

Two of the awardees were nominated by you and they gave you a shout out and deep thanks

Bill Petri got the Walter Reed medal, truly well deserved, he is one of my favorite people. (You might remember that in 2003 his presidential address he combed the UVA archives to give an unforgettable historical talk on how Walter Reed and James Carroll and their team solved the yellow fever mystery).

There is a saying that sometimes all of life's events arrange themselves to maximize irony. The opening plenary speaker, selected months in advance was a trop med researcher from Brasil whose work had focused on the effects of poverty and social ills on disease and mortality. All day in the ACAV and other sessions people kept checking the updated voting tallies in the Brasil elections. In the morning Bolsanaro was far ahead but hour by hour Lulu da Silva started creeping up. By 530 Lulu was slightly ahead. Then at 530 came the plenary in which the speaker reviewed data from a 100 million person study of the relationship between the social reforms enacted 1985-2015, their undoing between 2015 and now, during the Bolsanaro Thugocracy, and the effects on morbidity and mortality outcomes. The data were persuasive and powerful, the impact of social justice and targeted health care made a huge difference

Anyway, as the guy was closing his talk they interrupted to inform him that Lulu had been declared the winner, which he announced to the crowd. Everyone went wild with cheers and applause!

The Trump-clone Bolansro lost, providing some hope that we, too, will eventually get over this insanity

Peter D: if it can happen in Brasil, there may also be light at the end of the tunnel here! d

Sent from my iPhone
David M Morens
OD, NIAID, NIH

On Oct 31, 2022, at 06:43, Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6) wrote:

Kidney week? Are you in a pissing contest with somebody????

From: Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6)
Sent: Sunday, October 30, 2022 6:17 PM
To: David Morens (b) (6)
Cc: Keusch, Gerald T (b) (6) >; Peter Daszak(b) (6) >; Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) >; Rich Roberts <(b) (6) Jeff Sturchio (b)(6)
Subject: Re: Forbes: Is New Senate GOP Covid-19 Pandemic Origin Report More About Politics Than Science? https://bit.ly/3t1BJhb

I'm not unfortunately, I've been invited to keynote at Kidney Week in Orlando FL of all things this week

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP

Texas Children's Hospital: Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics | Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development | Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

Baylor College of Medicine: Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine | Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology | Health Policy Scholar

Baylor University, University Professor
Rice University, Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty
Texas A&M University, Faculty-Senior Fellow, Hagler Inst for Advanced Study & Scowcroft Institute of Intl Affairs

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Media Inquiries:
(b) (6)

iPhone

On Oct 30, 2022, at 5:15 PM, David Morens <(b) (6) > wrote:

Amen, thanks! Are you here at the ASTMH meeting? d

Sent from my iPhone
David M Morens
OD, NIAID, NIH

On Oct 30, 2022, at 14:07, Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6) wrote:

My take:

https://twitter.com/peterhotez/status/1586722053167714304?s=46&t=4XkfQxcGoMQM6ya6lHG-mQ

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP

Texas Children's Hospital: Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics | Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development | Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

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MORENS_NIH_009572
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Media Inquiries:
(b) (6)
(b) (6)
(b) (6)
iPhone

On Oct 30, 2022, at 10:37 AM, David Morens <(b) (6) > wrote:

CAUTION: This email is not from a BCM Source. Only click links or open attachments you know are safe.

Sent from my iPhone
David M Morens
OD, NIAID, NIH
Begin forwarded message:

From: "Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E]" <(b) (6)
Date: October 30, 2022 at 08:36:03 PDT
To: David Morens <(b)(6)
Subject: Fwd: Forbes: Is New Senate GOP Covid-19 Pandemic Origin Report More About Politics Than Science? https://bit.ly/3t1BJhb

Sent from my iPhone
David M Morens
OD, NIAID, NIH
Begin forwarded message:

From: "Folkers, Greg (NIH/NIAID) [E]" <(b) (6) >
Date: October 30, 2022 at 06:52:42 PDT
Subject: Forbes: Is New Senate GOP Covid-19 Pandemic Origin Report More About Politics Than Science? https://bit.ly/3t1BJhb

Is New Senate GOP Covid-19 Pandemic Origin Report More About Politics Than Science?

Bruce Y. Lee
Senior Contributor
I am a writer, journalist, professor, systems modeler, computational and digital health expert, avocado-eater, and entrepreneur, not always in that order.
Oct 29, 2022,10:49pm EDT



Sen. Richard Burr (R-N.C.), seen here on August 6, 2022 in Washington, DC., and his office came out ... [+]

Getty Images

These days anytime any politician makes any claims about Covid-19, you've got to wonder whether it's more about politics than real science. After all, throughout the pandemic, politics has infiltrated Covid-19 decision-making like botox in a reality TV star. So when the office of Senator Richard Burr (R-N.C.) dropped "An Analysis of the Origins of the COVID-19 Pandemic Interim Report," just two weeks before the midterm election, you've gotta wonder whether this report was more about politics than actually determining what really happened.

After all, in the report, Burr did indicate that last Summer he and Senator Patty Murray (D-Washington) "announced a bipartisan Health, Education, Labor and Pensions (HELP) Committee oversight effort into the origins of SARS-CoV-2, the virus that caused the COVID-19 pandemic as part of our effort to address pandemic preparedness and response programs." *Dictionary.com* defines bipartisan as "representing, characterized by, or including members from two parties or factions," and not "screw it, why don't I just issue a report myself?" It's also interesting why such a interim report would be issued so quickly now before it's been properly vetted by the scientific community. Why the rush? And why wasn't there more of a heads up to everyone that this would be on its way? Was this designed to be a Halloween scare? Or maybe just maybe the midterm elections had something to do with it?

Plus, this interim report drew some pretty strong conclusions that usually would require a lot more supporting scientific evidence than the report actually provided. What's a strong conclusion? How about, "Based on the analysis of the publicly available information, it appears reasonable to conclude that the Covid-19 pandemic was, more likely than not, the result of a research-related incident." Yeah, that statement certainly has drawn headlines and attention on social media. The phrase "more likely than not" sounds fairly definitive. For example, if you were to tell your significant other that "based on analysis of publicly available information, it appears reasonable to conclude that you are more likely than not a cheater," you had better more likely than not provide enough specific concrete evidence to justify such a claim. Otherwise all of your possessions including your butt would more likely than not end up on the street. Similarly, this report seemed to be claiming that the evidence is already strong enough to conclude that a lab leak started the Covid-19 pandemic. But what evidence did the report then provide? Well, here's a hint.

It rhymes with "Not a troll bot." Yes, not a whole lot.

Did any real scientists develop, vet, and support the findings of this Interim Report?

Let's take a look at what some real scientists who have real expertise in this area said on Twitter about this report. Spoiler alert: some expletives more likely than not emerged. For example, Kristian G. Andersen, PhD, a Professor of Immunology and Microbiology at Scripps Research, used the phrase "Flood the zone with bull [bleep]" when referring to what's going on with this report: And Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, Dean of the National School of Tropical Medicine, wrote, "My view: a total load of antiscience [bleep]," in the following tweet:

To adapt the words from that song in the movie *Bring It On*, Burr, it's cold in here— with here being real scientists' reaction to the report. Bull-bleep and antiscience bleep weren't exactly words of endorsement. Hotez also provided some real scientific papers describing how the severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) may have jumped from other animals to humans and the evidence supporting such a natural jump:

Speaking of real scientists. Were any real scientists involved in developing and reviewing Burr's interim report? Well, the cover of the report bore the names Minority Oversight Staff, Senate Committee on Health Education, Labor and Pensions, which was a fancy way of saying that it was compiled by the office of Burr. The report didn't really list any other authors or contributors other than Burr. So, assuming that Burr himself didn't compile and write everything like a high schooler doing a book report, it's unclear who actually did the research and writing for this report. The report didn't really clearly delineate what process was used to assemble and review the available evidence, who determined what should and shouldn't considered, or how the report was vetted either.

What counterarguments did this Interim Report provide against evidence that the SARS-CoV-2 had jumped from other animals?

That being said did the report at least provide some strong arguments to support its conclusions? Well, the first of the four sections attempted to offer some kind of counter to the existing evidence of a natural animal original of the SARS-CoV-2 without even mentioning that evidence. That was sort of the "I'm going to ignore what you have said and provide only my side of the story" tactic. This section basically presented six arguments that were weak at best. The first two arguments were essentially the same: that the intermediate host animal species—meaning the intermediate between bats and humans—for SARS-CoV-2 hasn't yet been found. That argument would hold water about as well as a fish net thong.

It's been only about three years since the Covid-19 pandemic first broke. Science rarely can move that quickly, especially when Congress isn't providing nearly enough funding to support the needed studies. It can be challenging to find such a intermediate animal host species. It's not as if you can post a message on Twitter or Facebook saying, "hey all animals, come by and get tested for SARS-CoV-2 or some virus similar to it" or "hey, did you host this virus before passing it along to us humans? Come one, you can tell us." Plus, scientists around the world have been kind of busy with something called, you know, the Covid-19 pandemic. So unless Burr and his Senate colleagues want to provide much more support and funding to help find the intermediate host species, "you haven't found it yet," really isn't a very strong

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argument.

The third argument provided was that the "SARS-CoV-2's high binding affinity for human ACE2 receptors suggests that it is possible for it to directly infect humans without needing a period of adaptation in an intermediate host." In other words, the virus took to humans so well, it couldn't have jumped from other animals. That's a bit like saying, "hey, that velour track suit fits you so well that it was probably tailored specifically for you." Such an argument doesn't pass much muster because it wasn't clear what the virus was doing before the start of 2020. Weaker versions of the virus could have very well been spreading between other animals and humans long before late 2019 and early 2020. The world didn't have much of a surveillance system in place to really track what every possible viral threat was doing before 2020. It still doesn't have such a system.

The section's fourth argument was that Wuhan, China, seemed to be the only place where the virus may have jumped from non-humans to humans. The claim was that if the virus had jumped from other animals to humans, why didn't such jumps occur elsewhere as well. Again, all of this assumes that the world already had great global surveillance systems in place that could readily determine exactly where and how everyone had gotten infected with the SARS-CoV-2. Yeah try doing that when there's been well over 630 million Covid-19 cases around the world so far. And that's not even counting those folks who never ended up getting tested.

The fifth argument was similar to the fourth, claiming that "After the unidentified source transmitted SARS-CoV-2 to humans, it stopped transmitting SARS-CoV-2." Again, this has never been established. With so many cases emerging every day, it's difficult to say who caught the virus from where. The Covid-19 pandemic is not the same situation as the 2002-2004 SARS and the 2013 avian influenza A (H7N9) outbreaks where there were a lot fewer cases so that infections and transmission chains were a lot easier to track.

The sixth argument was that "The low genetic diversity of the earliest SARS-CoV-2 samples suggests that the COVID-19 pandemic is most likely the result of a single successful spillover of SARS-CoV-2." That's not exactly true. Plus, once again, the lack of a comprehensive surveillance system means that cases may have been missed early on in 2020 and before that time. Moreover, even if the pandemic had started with a single spillover event, how exactly would that prove that it was lab-leak rather than a natural spillover event that triggered the whole pandemic? All of these arguments didn't seem to be that scientific, which raises the question again, what specific scientists contributed to this interim report.

Did the Wuhan Institute of Virology actually have major safety concerns as the Interim Report claimed?



This aerial view shows the P4 laboratory (L) on the campus of the Wuhan Institute of Virology in ... [+]

AFP via Getty Images

The second section of the report tried to paint a picture of the Wuhan Institute of Virology (WIV) as a place with numerous safety concerns and incidents. It did include brief descriptions of events and items that you probably normally wouldn't find at your home, assuming that you don't regularly sleep and shower at a Biosafety Level (BSL) 3 or 4 laboratory. So all of these could have sounded ominous and scary to the general public or anyone else who doesn't conduct virology experiments on regular basis.

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So, assuming that Burr and his staff aren't running enzyme linked immunosorbent assays in their Congressional offices, wouldn't it have been better to ask a real laboratory scientist who regularly works with viruses to put together that section?Angela Rasmussen, PhD, a virologist at the Vaccine and Infectious Disease Organization at the University of Saskatchewan in Canada, would qualify as such an expert. So let's turn to Rasmussen's tweet thread about this section of the Burr report:

As you can see, Rasmussen's tweet stated that the report "claims to show evidence of multiple biocontainment breaches. That sounds very bad! But how reliable is this evidence?" Her tweet thread went on to review each thing listed in this section of Burr's report and explain how much of it seemed pretty normal for such a lab to her:

For example, Rasmussen explained how procuring a vaporized hydrogen peroxide system to disinfect air coming from the lab and renovating the HVAC system were not evidence of biosafety failures but instead business-as-usual:

A little later in the tweet thread, Rasmussen concluded, "No evidence of a breach or biosafety failure, but lots of evidence that they were operating a containment lab in a pretty standard way, with one exception: WIV was more innovative than many others and patented some of the bespoke systems they developed," as you can see here:

Rasmussen went on to assess what was written in the report about the working conditions, training, and management at WIV and determined that "No evidence of a biocontainment breach or a biosafety failure, other than lab leak fan fiction invented by people with no clue about how biosafety actually works reading documents that reflect the daily considerations & challenges of operating a containment lab," at the conclusion of her tweet thread:

Remember you can make anything sound scary when describing it in a certain way to people not familiar with the situation. Imagine relating the details of a high school football practice to someone who has never ever seen football. You could talk about high speed collisions, violence, things getting intercepted, jock straps, and people slapping each other on their butts in a manner that could prompt someone to say, "what the bleep is going on? Call the authorities."

Is it relevant that China developed Covid-19 vaccines faster than the U.S. did with Operation Warp Speed?

The third section presented a rather weird argument. It pointed out that teams in China were able to develop and start administering Covid-19 vaccines faster than Operation Warp Speed could in the U.S. The section tried to suggest that the only way the teams in China were able to move more quickly was if they had access to genomic sequences of the SARS-CoV-2 much earlier.

Hmm, that sounds a little like the "they beat us, therefore, they must have cheated" argument. While Operation Warp Speed did result in Covid-19 vaccines at the end of 2020, it was by no means a perfectly run operation. For example, it July 2020, Jon Cohen wrote for *Science* magazine an article entitled "Operation Warp Speed's opaque choices of Covid-19 vaccines draw Senate scrutiny." And in December 2020, I covered for *Forbes* a range of supply chain and distribution missteps made by Operation Warp Speed. In general, the word well-oiled machine didn't seem to apply the Trump Administration's response to the Covid-19 pandemic in 2020. Moreover, it's not clear what shortcuts the teams from China may have taken in order to get Covid-19 vaccines out there sooner. For example, did they do the same about of human testing as Pfizer-BioNTech and Moderna did before rolling out vaccines to the general public.

One thing's clear. The government of China wasn't as open and transparent to the rest of the world as they could have and probably should have been about the SARS-CoV-2 outbreak in late 2019 and early 2020. The first reports of this

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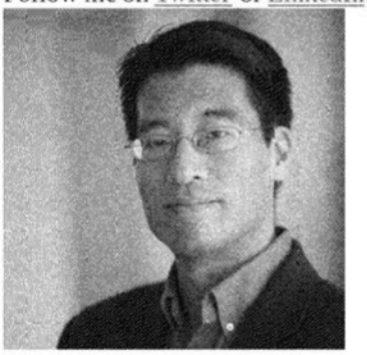
"mysterious pneumonia" emerged late in December 2019 and very early in January 2020, as I reported for *Forbes* on January 3, 2020. The government of China likely knew more about the virus and its deadly nature at the time. If that were indeed the case, then China's government chose poorly and should have been more forthcoming to get help from the international community. It is very fair to criticize China's government for withholding information and not being more cooperative. But again all of this does not necessarily mean that the Covid-19 pandemic started with a lab leak.

Did the development and release of the Interim Report follow a scientific process?

All in all, this so-called "Analysis of the Origins of the COVID-19 Pandemic Interim Report" didn't seem to follow many of the steps and criteria needed for a truly scientific report. It didn't even fulfill basic criteria such as clearly describing the methods employed or identifying the people who did the analyses and wrote the report. Whenever you don't transparently describe how you chose what evidence to consider and not consider, you've gotta wonder how much cherry-picking happened. While cherry-picking may be great when you are making a pie, selectively choosing what evidence to follow and not follow is just not appropriate scientifically.

If Congress really wants to shed more light on the actual origins of the Covid-19 pandemic, it would commission and fund a panel of real and most importantly independent scientific experts to compile the report. At the same time, Congress members would then stay clear of this panel to avoid the perception that they are applying any political pressure to see a particular outcome. The U.S. has been leading the world in Covid-19 cases and deaths throughout the pandemic in big part of its failure to consistently follow science and instead defer to politics. And in the end, while politics may cover up to a degree what the virus does, only real science will be able to work against the SARS-CoV-2 and any future viral threats.

Follow me on Twitter or LinkedIn. Check out my website.



Bruce Y. Lee

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Date: Sun, 6 Mar 2022 9:07:01 PM -0500
Sent: Sun, 6 Mar 2022 9:03:23 PM -0500
Subject: Music from (b) (6)
From: Peter Daszak < (b) (6)
To: David Morens < (b) (6)
CC: Roberts, Rich < (b) (6) Hotez, Peter Jay < (b) (6) Keusch, Gerald T < (b) (6) Aleksei Chmura < (b) (6)

David – I'm very glad you spoke with Betsy McKay. Your talk of the Russian classics spurred me to share the following clips with you all. My father, (b) (6)

Here is my nephew (b) (6)

Here is his sister, (b) (6)

I also wanted to share this beautiful piece of Ukrainian music. It's called "Chuyesh Brati myi" or "Listen, my brother". I first heard this when we buried (b) (6) . The song famously speaks of the cranes flying high in the sky as they return from their migration to their homeland near the Dniepr River. You can hear the choir singing the sound of the cranes "Cru, Cru, Cru!". The words say "Listen my brother to the sound of the cranes, Cru, Cru, Cru, as they return to their homeland. Myself, I shall die in this foreign land, never to see my homeland again"….
(b) (6)

Hope you enjoy these snapshots, and hope you're as moved as I always am with the last piece.

We're in touch with the rest of the family every day via Facebook and mobile phone. (b) (6)

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance

MORENS_SUBPOENA_005661
MORENS_NIH_013982
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520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: + (b) (6)
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

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From: David Morens (b) (6)
Sent: Thursday, March 3, 2022 9:10 PM
To: Peter Daszak <(b) (6)
Cc: Roberts, Rich <(b) (6) Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6) Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6) >; Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) >
Subject: Re: Story in the Intercept today

Peter, remember that the truth is on your side. Don't let anyone make you hide

I spoke to Betsy McKay of WSJ for 1 1/2 hours Tue. We totally bonded for the first half hour and after that had a good chat in which i really let it all hang out, including telling her that guys like Ebright were evil pieces of shit not to be listened to. Well, i didn't put it that way but i did spell it out to her that spenting even 1 second in Ebrightland was false equivalency

When she called i had taken the afternoon off for a mental heslth break and, with a double martini, was listening to Shostokovich's 13th symphony, Babi Yar, on my stereo. I mentioned that, and she gushed that she majored in Russian culture, lived in Moscow for 10 years, loved Shostokovich, and knew all about Babi Yar and Ukranian history. We spend the next 20 minutes discussing all the stuff I read as a kid like Dostoevsky, Tolstoy, Pushkin, Lermontov, Gogol, and all the music of the "Mighty Handful", especially Rimsky and Mussorgsky. (It's on my bucket list to see all 17 Rimsky operas live or on DVD (some are not performed and not available on recordings), and i may be one of the few people in the world to have heard Mussorgsky's first opera Zhenit'ba (The Marriage), never performed live but privately recorded around 1950). I also told her of my work in Russia and experiences in Siberia.

Bottom line we hit it off, we spoke about you and EHA and especially the NIH situation. Later she sent me Russian news items about the recent Rusdian trashing of the Babi Yar memorial outside Kyiv. So.... I hope it will be a good piece she does, with my comments strictly on background.

I keep wondering how long itwill be until even the evil twits will realize that "there is no there there" and they are just embarrassing themselves. In the meantime, I say keep pushing with the knowledge and confidence that right is on your side. This too shall pass, and Dom Perignon will flow to the righteous. david

Sent from my iPhone
David M Morens
OD, NIAID, NIH

> On Mar 3, 2022, at 20:32, Peter Daszak <(b) (6) > wrote:
>
> Responding to your email below David, you're right about the best defense being offense. I end up going through a process with these attacks. First day I feel like giving up on science. Then after a while, sometimes a few days of moping

around, I get my aggression back and start trying to find ways to counter. As a strategy, I'm gradually talking to a few of the nastier journalists who have been attacking us, and I'm working on approaching some of the Republicans who are trying to defund us, and will have a better chance of doing that if they win the mid-terms.

First attempt came this week when *The Intercept* told us they were planning a story and sent a list of ridiculous questions about some typos in our reports on the terminated R01 – the issues that the House E&C Republicans sent to NIH last week (attached). *The Intercept* has filed FoIAs on our NIH grants back to 2001 and is currently in court to challenge NIH about handing over information on FoIA requests. Their play is to file a story every time Republicans on the Hill rip into EcoHealth or NIH then report in a dramatic way without our side of the story, usually quoting Ebright and Larry Gostin. I spent an hour and a half answering their questions on zoom and explaining how every allegation levelled at EHA about our NIH work can be answered by understanding the process of doing normal science. They've now put a story out that is less damaging than we believe it would have been, and has them turning their ire a bit more onto NIH O/D rather than us – not great for that to happen, but better than just lots of innuendo about our motives. There's still plenty of mudslinging particularly from Ebright who believes the typos in our report represent "Serious violations". The story's here: https://theintercept.com/2022/03/03/wuhan- coronavirus-research-nih-ecohealth/

I'm also working with Jon Cohen (Science) and Betsy McKay (WSJ) to send them every document we receive from NIH O/D and our responses. Both seem to be building up to doing a story and both recognize that this is a load of garbage being churned up for political purposes.

Amusingly, I sent Jon Cohen the Intercept story and he said it broke the ultimate rule of journalism – it was too boring to reach the end.

By the way David – I removed Holly Irving from the email chain because it's a NIAID address and can be FoIA'd

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

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USA

Tel.: + (b) (6)
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

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From: David Morens <(b)(6)>
Sent: Thursday, February 24, 2022 4:27 PM
To: Peter Daszak <(b)(6)>
Cc: Roberts, Rich <(b) (6)> Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6)> Keusch, Gerald T <(b)(6)>
Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6)>; Holly Irving [E] <(b)(6)>

Subject: Re: open letter: United States and the investigation of COVID origin—letter from American scientists and policy specialists

Peter and colleagues, this is all really horrible, but what else is new? I once advised you to read the Arthur Miller play The Crucible (or see the great film) and now i add: read the transcript of the trial of Jeanne d'Arc..... In terms of demagoguery and evil there is nothing new under the sun, and there will always be people who take pleasure in trying to destroy people who are their betters, especially their moral betters....

It will be small consolation to hear the following but in my face to face meeting with Tony this morning, he once again brought up, as he usually does, your plight (Peter) and bemoaned all the crap he and you and others are ensnared in. He seems not to believe it is all happening and today was particularly upset about continued drum beating about lab leaks, specifically mentioning one I won't name whose father is a noted NIH virologist. I won't repeat the expletives we exchanged. I am beginning to feel more and more like a therapist lately.... He doesn't know how to stop this, nor do I.

I have said this before, and you all have disagreed, maybe you are right, probably u are, but i sometimes think the best defense is a good offense. That's what we tried to do in our COVID origin paper in spring 2020, but obviously few listened. Since the facts are on our side, and since there is zero proof of a lab leak or engineering, it's always possible to ask the assholes: prove it or shut up. That they have no proof and no evidence, they have an Achilles heel that can be struck.

If this was about a person rather than a scientific fact, these guys would be in court for slander

Just keep hanging in there. I wish there was more i can do, and, if i get cut lose from NIH, there may be

david

Sent from my iPhone
David M Morens
OD, NIAID, NIH

> On Feb 24, 2022, at 16:00, Peter Daszak (b) (6) > wrote:
>
> I'm glad you'll mention this to Randy. These particular politicians are willing to cast aspersions on anyone's character for political gain.
>
> I'm also glad you're going to decline to sign the letter you attached. It seems Richard Ebright's dream is to have me up on the stand under oath with him doing the questioning. Of course, none of this would get to the bottom of anything, and it would just serve to drive more politics in the way of doing science.
>
> The truth of all of this is that there is no real debate over the origins. A lab leak is a possible scenario, but extremely unlikely based on the zero evidence put forward by anyone. On the other hand, we now have 11 peer-reviewed or under-review papers (and counting) that point towards the natural origins. I've listed them out in the attached doc, as well as the lab leak papers I could find (all of which are opinion pieces of non-peer-reviewed).

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The real debate is purely political - Republicans using this as a way to target NIH and just regurgitating fact-free innuendo-filled conspiracies with EcoHealth's work at the center. Richard Ebright, I hear, is working with Rand Paul and others to feed them these half-baked ideas and make them sound science-y enough to convince the public.

I can hear the villagers sharpening their pitchforks....

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
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USA

Tel.: + (b) (6)
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Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

-----Original Message-----
From: Roberts, Rich <(b) (6) >
Sent: Thursday, February 24, 2022 2:17 PM
To: Peter Daszak (b) (6) >; Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6) >; Keusch, Gerald T < (b) (6) David Morens <(b) (6) >; Aleksei Chmura < (b) (6) >
Subject: FW: open letter: United States and the investigation of COVID origin—letter from American scientists and policy specialists

Peter:

Sorry to hear about the latest attacks. Please don't let them get you down. Just recognize the loonies who send them for what they are.

I'll let Randy Schekman know he was included too. It is sad to see the lengths that people will go to for the sake of political points. Witness the latest nonsense in Ukraine.

I attach a document I just received from Ebright. Needless to say I won't be signing, but I hope to convince some others not to also.

Rich

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MORENS_NIH_013986
REL0000477027

Richard J. Roberts
New England Biolabs
240 County Road
Ipswich, MA 01938-2723
USA
Tel: (978) (b) (6)
Fax: (978) (b) (6)
email: (b) (6)

-----Original Message-----
From: (b) (6) <(b) (6) >
Sent: Thursday, February 24, 2022 1:15 PM
To: Bloom, Barry R. <(b) (6) >; Michael Imperiale <(b) (6) >; Silja Vöneky (b)(6) mooc demic <(b) (6) >; Nick Evans (b)(6) Michael Osterholm <(b) (6) >; Lone Simonsen <(b) (6) Edward Hammond (b)(6) David N. Fisman <(b) (6) >; Arturo Casadevall (b)(6) Amir Attaran (b)(6) >; Alison Galvani (b)(6) >; Roberts, Rich <(b) (6) >; Peter Hale <(b) (6) >; Lipsitch, Marc (b)(6) David Relman (b)(6) ; (b) (6) ; Richard H. Ebright <(b) (6) >
Cc: Laura H. Kahn <(b) (6) >
Subject: open letter: United States and the investigation of COVID origin—letter from American scientists and policy specialists

EXTERNAL SENDER

All--I am writing to you as founding members of the Cambridge Working Group,

Dr. Laura Kahn of Princeton has prepared an open letter entitled "United States and the investigation of COVID origin—letter from American scientists and science policy specialists" (see attached).

If you would like to sign the letter, please reply to Dr. Kahn at (b) (6) or to me at (b) (6) with your name and current affiliation.

Thank you in advance.

RHE

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MORENS_NIH_013987
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Date: Wed, 1 Feb 2023 5:31:03 PM -0500
Sent: Wed, 1 Feb 2023 5:30:57 PM -0500
Subject: Invitation to be our guest at EcoHealth Alliance's Benefit at Guastavino's, NYC, Thursday April 27th 2023.
From: Peter Daszak < (b) (6)
To: David Morens < (b) (6)
CC: Aleksei Chmura < (b) (6) Emma Greco < (b) (6) John Feigelson < (b) (6)

Dear David,

I think I'm re-sending this because you were on my list a few weeks ago. Anyway – please read and I hope you can come up for the event. You're welcome to bring a guest also. By the way – this is the benefit I referred to on our call today. In the afternoon before the event, either at our offices or a venue near to the benefit, I'm planning an in-person meeting of a bunch of other leaders in virology, public health etc. who will be at our benefit. It's a chance to sit down with you, me, Jerry, Peter Hotez and talk about the coalition.

Here's the invite:

Every year EcoHealth Alliance holds a benefit in New York to raise funds for our field programs around the world and to highlight the science and outreach we do to understand how pandemic risk, health, and nature are connected. This year we're holding our event **at Guastavino's in New York City on the evening of Thursday April 27th 2023**. We're planning something a bit different this year, and as well as donors and supporters who buy tickets to attend, we're inviting a group of leading scientists and collaborators to attend as guests, so we can thank everyone for their work and support, and make the event more informative for all. Our theme this year is "One Planet, One Health" - how global environmental changes impact conservation and health, including through the emergence of new diseases. We have already confirmed **Dr. Peter Hotez** as our main honoree for his work on vaccine equitability, his science communication leadership around COVID-19, and his work to address anti-science attacks.

We are emailing to invite you to attend as a guest and will also be able to offer a free ticket if you'd like to bring a guest along. It would be a great honor to have you take part and I look forward to seeing you in person at the event if you can attend. I also think you'd find many of your colleagues and friends attending, and it promises to be a fun and informative evening!

Please let us know as soon as you can, and save the date in your calendar. We'll be in touch rapidly with further details.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

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USA

Tel.: + (b) (6)
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org

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MORENS_NIH_034413
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Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

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MORENS_NIH_034414
REL0000477028

Date: Thu, 29 Feb 2024 10:46:47 AM -0500
Sent: Thu, 29 Feb 2024 10:46:42 AM -0500
Subject: RE: WSJ/Nicolas Wade: Where Did Covid Come From?
From: Jeffrey Sturchio <(b) (6)
To: David Morens < (b) (6) >; Peter Daszak < (b) (6) >; Keusch, Gerald T < (b) (6) peter hotez < (b) (6) Roberts, Rich <(b) (6) Aleksei Chmura < (b) (6) >;

This is the critical fulcrum of Wade's evidence-free argument: "After Darpa turned down the DEFUSE proposal in February 2019, the researchers in Wuhan might have secured Chinese government funding and gone ahead by themselves." So – his entire argument is spun up from a speculation.

JLS

From: David Morens < (b) (6)
Sent: Thursday, February 29, 2024 10:09 AM
To: Peter Daszak < (b) (6) Keusch, Gerald T < (b) (6) peter hotez < (b) (6) Roberts, Rich < (b) (6) Jeffrey Sturchio < (b) (6) Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) >
Subject: Fwd: WSJ/Nicolas Wade: Where Did Covid Come From?

This stuff never freaking 'ends. dmm

From the cell phone of David Morensl

---------- Forwarded message --------
From: **Folkers, Greg (NIH/NIAID) [C]** <(b) (6) >
Date: Thu, Feb 29, 2024, 09:57
Subject: WSJ/Nicolas Wade: Where Did Covid Come From?
To:

Where Did Covid Come From?

New documents bolster the theory that it not only escaped from a laboratory but was developed in one.

By Nicholas Wade
Feb. 28, 2024 12:47 pm ET

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MORENS_NIH_003992
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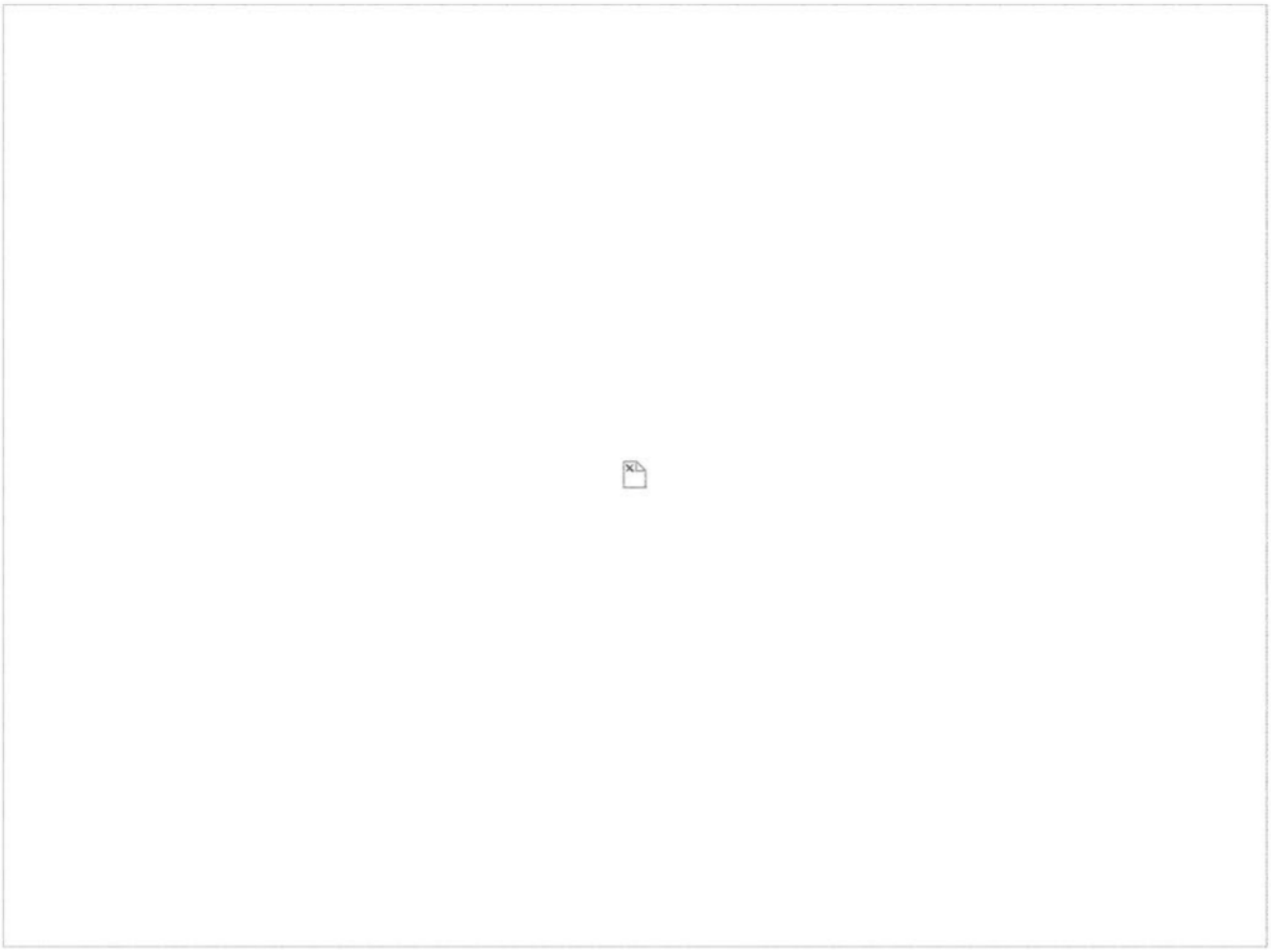

Illustration: Martin Kozlowski

In the four years since the SARS-CoV-2 virus was unleashed on the world, data have steadily accumulated supporting the hypothesis that it emerged from a laboratory. The latest information, released last month, makes a formidable case that the virus is the product of laboratory synthesis, not of nature.

This startling fact will probably take some time to sink into the national consciousness, given the mainstream media's sustained inability to report the issue objectively. Editors have failed to think beyond the extreme politicization that requires liberals to oppose the lab-leak hypothesis. Science journalists are too beholden to their sources to suspect that virologists would lie to them about the extent of their profession's responsibility for a catastrophic pandemic.

Here are some salient facts that haven't been clearly reported to readers of the mainstream press:

In March 2018 a team of American and Chinese virologists applied to the Pentagon's Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency, known as Darpa, seeking a $14 million grant to manipulate viruses related to SARS-CoV-1, the bat virus that caused a minor epidemic in 2002. Their goal was to identify bat viruses in Asia with the highest potential for jumping to people and to immunize bats so they wouldn't infect soldiers in the region.

The proposal for Project DEFUSE specified that the viruses' infectivity would be enhanced by inserting into them a genetic element known as a furin cleavage site. Depending on the starting viruses, this protocol could have produced SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes Covid-19, which has a distinctive furin cleavage site.

In 2022 three biologists, Valentin Bruttel, Alex Washburne and Antonius VanDongen, guessed that if SARS-CoV-2 had been generated in a lab by a standard method, it would have been assembled from six sections of lab-synthesized DNA with the help of a biological agent called BsmBI. On analyzing the virus's structure, they found evidence for the seams between sections and other distinctive marks of the assembly process.

Their paper was derided as "kindergarten molecular biology" by the virologists who are favorites of the

mainstream press for their opposition to the lab-leak hypothesis. But a batch of documents reveal new details about the DEFUSE proposal and confirm that the three authors were on target. Emily Kopp of U.S. Right to Know obtained the documents through a Freedom of Information Act request from the Interior Department, having noticed that a researcher at the U.S. Geological Survey was a member of the DEFUSE team.

The new documents, which are background planning papers and drafts for the DEFUSE proposal, call for assembling SARS-like viruses from six sections of DNA, and include a cost estimate for purchase of the BsmBI restriction enzyme—exactly as the three authors had inferred. This clearly strengthens, perhaps conclusively, their contention that the virus is synthetic. Richard H. Ebright, a molecular biologist at Rutgers University, says it raises "to the level of a smoking gun" the genetic evidence that the virus was manufactured.

Other strong indicators of the virus's laboratory birth include the furin cleavage site, possessed by none of the other more than 1,500 members of its viral family with which in nature it might swap genetic material. The codons—"words" used by the genetic code to specify the units of proteins—that define the cleavage site are those preferred by humans, not coronaviruses, pointing to their likely origin in a lab kit. And whereas most viruses require repeated tries to switch from an animal host to people, SARS-CoV-2 infected humans out of the box, as if it had been preadapted while growing in the humanized mice called for in the DEFUSE protocol.

The authors of the proposal were a team led by Peter Daszak of the EcoHealth Alliance of New York, Shi Zhengli of the Wuhan Institute of Virology and Ralph Baric of the University of North Carolina. Although Mr. Baric is the leading expert on the technology, Mr. Daszak intended for much or most of the work to be done in Ms. Shi's laboratory, despite giving a different impression to Darpa. He writes in the recently discovered documents that "I do want to stress the US side of this proposal so that DARPA are comfortable with our team. Once we get the funds, we can then allocate who does what exact work, and I believe that a lot of these assays can be done in Wuhan."

Ms. Shi did most of her work with SARS-type viruses in the minimal-containment condition known as BSL2, whereas Mr. Baric, who regarded the viruses as seriously dangerous, worked in a more secure lab known as BSL3. Mr. Daszak noted that the lower-security labs would save money: "The BSL-2 nature of work on SARSr-CoVs makes our system highly cost-effective relative to other bat-virus systems." Mr. Baric replied to this comment that the viruses might be grown under BSL2 safety conditions in China, but "US researchers will likely freak out."

Mr. Daszak's EcoHealth Alliance last year asserted that the DEFUSE project was never implemented: "The proposal was not funded and the work was never done, therefore it cannot have played a role in the origin of COVID-19." But science is a competitive business. After Darpa turned down the DEFUSE proposal in February 2019, the researchers in Wuhan might have secured Chinese government funding and gone ahead by themselves. Viruses made according to the DEFUSE protocol could have been available by the time Covid-19 broke out, sometime between August and November 2019. This would account for the otherwise unexplained timing of the pandemic along with its place of origin. (Mr. Daszak, Mr. Baric and Ms. Shi didn't respond to emails seeking comment. Chinese officials have demanded that the U.S. "stop defaming China" by raising the possibility of a lab leak.)

One piece is missing from the puzzle—the identity of the parent viruses from which SARS-CoV-2 was derived. The Chinese authorities have rigorously suppressed all information about the viruses being kept in the Wuhan Institute of Virology. But the documentary and scientific evidence already assembled seems sufficient to understand the genesis of the pandemic that killed millions.

Mr. Wade is a former science editor of the New York Times.

You may also like

Wonder Land: Covid-19 disrupted people's private lives. Biden addressed concerns with a $6 trillion spending spree that's had little effect on them. Images: SMG/Zuma Press/AFP/Getty Images Composite: Mark Kelly

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Date:	Sat, 4 May 2024 11:38:57 AM -0400
Sent:	Sat, 4 May 2024 11:38:43 AM -0400
Subject:	Re: Protagonist Science: Dr. Peter Daszak's hearing in US congress exposes how another critical guardrail of US democracy is failing
From:	Hotez, Peter Jay < (b) (6)
To:	David Morens <(b) (6)
CC:	Peter Daszak < (b) (6) Keusch, Gerald T < (b) (6) Roberts, Rich < (b) (6) Jeffrey Sturchio <(b) (6) Aleksei Chmura < (b) (6)
Attachments:	image001.jpg; image002.jpg; image003.jpg; image004.png; image005.png; image006.png; image007.jpg; image008.jpg; image009.jpg

Phil has been great

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP

Texas Children's Hospital: Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics | Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development | Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

Baylor College of Medicine: Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine | Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology | Health Policy Scholar

Baylor University, University Professor
Rice University, Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty
Texas A&M University, Faculty-Senior Fellow, Hagler Inst for Advanced Study & Scowcroft Institute of Intl Affairs

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Media Inquiries:
(b) (6)
(b) (6)
iPhone

On May 4, 2024, at 10:31 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.

David Morens

(b) (6) (b) (6)
(b) (6)

(b) (6) (mobile)

IMPORTANT: For US Government-related email, please use my publicly available NIAID contact information

---------- Forwarded message ---------
From: **Folkers, Greg (NIH/NIAID) [C]** (b) (6) >
Date: Fri, May 3, 2024 at 4:56 PM
Subject: Protagonist Science: Dr. Peter Daszak's hearing in US congress exposes how another critical guardrail of US democracy is failing
To:

<image001.jpg>

Protagonist Science

Dr. Peter Daszak's hearing in US congress exposes how another critical guardrail of US democracy is failing

Much like their unethical Republican colleages, Democratic representatives in the House discard an evidence-based worldview in favor of power and popular perception

<image002.jpg>

Philipp Markolin, PhD

May 02, 2024

<image003.jpg>

What happened so far

Dr. Peter Daszak, the president of the pandemic-prevention non-profit organization EcoHealth Alliance, gave his public testimony to representatives of the Select Subcommittee on the Coronavirus Pandemic. The Republican-led committee has previously scrutinized virologists and editors-in-chief of scientific magazines in their quest to find substantiation of a cover-up with respect to the origins of COVID-19; with the ultimate target being former public health advisor Dr. Anthony Fauci.

After a cascading release of selective information from Peter Daszak's closed-door testimony in November last year, the Committee used most of the leading up weeks to drum up media attention for the public event.

Reinforcing popular falsehoods created by the anti-science pressure group USRTK, the subcommittee publicy accused the Dr. Daszak of lying on multiple occasions pertaining to an unfounded grant proposal that is entirely irrelevant to the origins of SARS-CoV-2 even if the work described in it had been conducted. The insinuation is that Dr. Daszak and his collaborators somehow created SARS-CoV-2, albeit no lab anywhere in the world could have created this natural virus pre-pandemic.

<image004.png>

Two days ago, the Subcommittee would promise to hold "Dr. Daszak" accountible for facilitating dangerous gain-of-function research in China; which Republicans claim has likely created SARS-CoV-2 (absolutely contradicted by evidence).

<image005.png>

Already before the testimony started, many client propagandists, the right-wing press and other lab leak believers (I'll *not hyperlinking to any of that garbage*) had lined up their articles; hoping to use the public hearing as a springboard into virality. Some succeeded.

For all of them, EcoHealth Alliance and Peter Daszak are a soft target to further their self-serving goals. For years, conspiratorial activists, anti-science pressure groups and partisan investigations have build narratives out of decontextualized snippets of an organization that worked on emerging disease threats all around the world; and that has won a lot of grant money for its important research. Over 15 million documents have been put under the microscope to find any evidence of a cover-up or illegality. None did. An 18-months long audit by the US Department of human health and services did not find significant issues. Except for minor funding allocation errors and reporting discrepancies, no evidence of any wrongdoing has surfaced so far, and is unlikely to do so at this point. Despite this, Dr. Dasazk research collaboration with Dr. Zhengli Shi from the Wuhan Institute of Virology, his outspoken advocacy for preventing zoonotic diseases, and his public role for the WHO mission to Wuhan has tainted public perception of him; and US representatives in the House will use that to their advantage.

To call something a sham hearing is often hyperbolic, but I am not sure it is on this occasion.

Even before Dr. Daszak spoke the first words, the subcommittee announced that it will recommend

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EcoHealth to be stripped off their funding and that Dr. Daszak will be criminally investigated. So why hold the hearing? For the popcorn?

<image006.png>

Dr. Daszak was allowed to read his prepared introductory statement (*worth reading; where he shortly mentions how the political and media circus in the lead-up to this hearing caused a dangerous SWATing attempt at his home*). After that, the hearing quickly devolved into long self-serving and self-indulgent monologues from representatives; on both sides of the aisle.

The Republicans

Republican representatives would try to find ways to insinuate and link Dr. Daszak´s work to various grand conspiracies. First and foremost of course that he facilitated gain-of-function research that caused the pandemic. But there were also quite some tangents and other dog whistles. For example;

- Rep. Comer tried to paint him as a spy or CIA asset, or at least somehow in cohoots with the intelligence agency. "Does the intelligence community know what happened in the Wuhan lab? Did the intellience community believe that China was manufacturing a bioweapon?" Dr. Daszak's answer was that this is a question for the intelligence agency, then referenced the 2023 ODNI report (see below) where all intelligence agencies ruled out that SARS-CoV-2 was a bioweapon. (*Many of the MAGA republicans believe that the "deep state", including the intelligence community, was somehow involved in creating the pandemic*).

<image007.jpg>

- Rep. Cloud used his five minutes to ask whether Dr. Daszak has been engaged with social media companies and whether he agreed with their moderation policies. A dog-whistle for a different battle over mis- and disinformation research, another field of science that Republicans are attacking next to public health, medicine, climate and a general evidence-based worldview. He also questioned Dr. Daszak's allegiance, given that he works with a country that does "unrestricted warfare against the United States". (*He replied that in order to stop pandemics, we need scientists to go to the places where they emerge, and that this is in the interest of US citizens*)
- Rep. Griffith spend his five minutes in a virtual monologue, talking himself into a rage about Dr. Daszak being a supposed liar while not letting Dr. Daszak address any of his contentions. The thrust of the contention was that Dr. Daszak had previously said coronavirus spillovers are rare, but then also written that about 60.000 of those spillovers happen every year. (*The discrepancy was later resolved by Dr. Daszak very simply; CoV spillovers are rare events, but they happen a lot because the human-bat interface where they can occurr is an area inhabited by 300 million people. Even very rare events are not uncommon given these baseline numbers*)

Overall, a lot of grandstanding as expected from this side of the political spectrum that has long made up its mind about the myths they want to buy into. Their verdict and recommendations were entirely expected.

The Democrats

Representatives from the democratic party had very different goals and talking points prepared, potentially to the surprise of many who did not pay close attention. They overall goal was to paint Dr. Daszak as dishonest, self-serving and even fraudulent.

- Ranking member Rep. Ruiz spend considerable time painting Dr. Daszak as conflict-of-interest ridden given his involvement in the Lancet letter (to support Chinese scientists). Why did he at first not acknowledge he was working with the lab that was the focus of conspiracy theories? The intelligence communities say the question is still open, but "The statement you authored attempted to summarily close the question", Rep. Ruiz claimed. (*Peter Daszak explained that conspiracy theories at the time were about bioweapons, HIV inserts and snake DNA; all obvious conspiracy theories. He did not imagine, back in February 2020, that this statement condemning these circulating conspiracy theories would be a conflict of interest*). But Rep. Ruiz was not interested; rather emphasizing the point that Peter Daszak did not explizitly state that he was working with the Wuhan institute of virology (*something that was clear from a 15 year long collaboration and many co-authored paper. Nor was it relevent at all, since more than 20 other public health experts had written the same thing and still stand by the letter*). Why was Rep. Ruiz so hell-bent on an conflict-of-interest statement for an opinion letter?
- Rep. Dingell was taking up a Republican talking point about the 2018 DARPA proposal (never funded). The anti-science pressure group USRTK had claimed that earlier drafts of that proposal would expose an attempt to mislead the federal agency because of a side-note stating that some assays might be performed in China. (The submitted draft to DARPA had more specifications and do not support any assertions of misleading the agency, and if the proposal had been funded, a detailed workplan with exact allocations of where and what work would be performed would have to be submitted and agreed on by the agency; so either way, there is no substance to these assertions) Rep. Dingell again was not interested in Dr. Daszak's explanations, she just said "Well, there are appearance issues here". "We won't accuse you of creating COVID-19 […] but to the extend that you have considered misrepresenting facts, we consider this a very serious mistake", she cut him off.

Let us pause for a quick second here. So Rep. Dingell knows he did not misrepresent facts to DARPA in his proposal, but she assumes that the had "considered misrepresenting facts", and that was a serious mistake? Irrespective of whether Dr. Daszak ever thought about misrepresenting facts or not, when did Congress become the thought crime police that judges what goes on in one's mind? Bizzare.

- Rep. Ross went all in on another, completely unrelated project that the NIH had awarded Peter Daszak and Zhengli Shi to study coronaviruses in China. That multi-year grant had yearly reporting requirements, and there was a problem with the year five reporting that Dr. Daszak had not uploaded on time in 2019. The reason was a banality; a software or related error in the NIH system prevented EcoHealth from uploading the report. "The system locked us out, we contacted NIH, we received no response", Dr. Daszak explained. He had emailed his grants manager to upload everything; the committe had the emails, corroborating that EcoHealth had the intent of uploading the report. "The NIH has conducted a electronic forensic investigation into their report submission systems, and found no evidence of a lockout", she claimed. Also, why where there no email records on September 29th that the submission was not working? She asked (*Dr. Daszak said his admins had called*). Rep. Ross went on to claim that the rules need to be followed when taxpayer money is involved, and although they had done so "examplary" for four years, that it did not happen in year five invites questioning from her colleagues. But what exactly where they questioning? Again, nothing of this has anything to do with the origins of COVID-19 or the pandemic; but about a reporting mishap (or at most violation) on an unrelated grant (*The year five report was ventually re-submitted in 2021, containing nothing of relevance to the origins question, of course*).

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On and on the democrats would go about these banalities; as if EcoHealth Alliance was not an organization with dozens of people, multiple projects, collaborators worldwide and a million things going on that might sometimes have human mistakes in the mix. The 18 months audit of EcoHealth by DHHS has found some errors, but no significant violations, after all. So why are they hell-bent on painting Dr. Daszak in a very negative light?

"I wanna be clear, nothing produced for the select Subcommittee over the last 14 months, 425.000 documents, over 100 hours of close-door testimony substantiates claims that federal funding to EcoHealth alliance and the Institute in Wuhan caused the pandemic", Rep. Ruiz stated. But that would not excuse Dr. Daszak's alleged lack of transparency.

"I do think, at the end of the day, Dr.Daszak, your responses here are unsatisfactory", Rep. Ruiz would finish up. "You claim you submitted, and yet it was not submitted", "Your administrative responsibilities and lack of reporting in a timely manner is concering", "You are explaining things to your convenience to avoid consequences, and that is concerning" (*Reminder; the Subcommittes report was released an hour before the public hearing; no matter what Dr. Daszak explained, their verdict was already in*). The report recommends barring EcoHealth from receiving any federal funding, and that the justice department investigates him for lying to federal agencies. "It is important that you and your actions as grantees are held accountible".

The Republican counterparts fully agreed, congratulating each other for their bipartisan agreement. Rep. Wenstrup closed the hearing with scepticism towards scientists. "We cannot just blindly trust the scientists, because they are scientists." "There are scientists in China. A country that is an adversary to the United States of America"

"Especially when they", pointing at Dr. Daszak, "are not forthcoming and honest." "Getting money for a federal grant? That is a problem" "Hiding behind different definitions of gain-of-function research", "This is a troubing pattern behavior that we are seeing. And conduct as well" "Misleading grant application to DARPA, downplaying the Chinese part" "You did not disclose your collaboration with the WIV in the Lancet" "Here we are, and we will continue to conduct oversight and evaluate the evidence surrounding EcoHealth Alliance".

Why did the Democrats attack Dr. Daszak?

I watched the hearing with increasing discomfort, and I was not the only one. Scientists from three continents were chatting with me about their unease. "Shitshow", "The whole thing makes me sick. Political theatre at scientists expense" would be some of the sentiments expressed.

But I think something a bit more concerning was going on.

The Democrats came out attacking Dr. Daszak because he is a weak point for the coming Republican assault on the NIH, NIAID and Anthony Fauci. That these are the main targets is unquestionable, with Dr. Fauci`s public grilling already sheduled for June; and the Subcommittee report already proposing the remodeling of NIH to bring it under **political control of the national security and intelligence apparatus**.

<image008.jpg>

<image009.jpg>

Facing this threat, the Democrats decided to try to direct heat away from the NIH and other federal agencies - who awarded EcoHealth alliance with grant funding for research and was responsible for oversight - by throwing the non-profit organization and Dr. Daszak under the bus. By painting Dr. Daszak as an dishonest, conflict-of-interest hiding, deceitful actor, they will attempt to claim that even if these agencies financed risky research; or even gain-of-function research, it was without their knowledge. *It was not a failure of oversight. They could not know because they were mislead by the dishonest Chinese and their conduit, the "shady" Dr. Daszak* (they just smeared).

A small sacrifice to make to protect the institutions and Fauci from false allegations of willingly financing gain-of-function research.

A dangerous trend

I believe the actions of House Democrats signal a dangerous shift in US politics. 66% of Americans believe the virus came from a lab, many of them feverishly. In a general election year, the Democrats do not want to open avenues of attack against them, for example by having to educate citizens about something they do not want to believe. It is just too risky to be perceived as covering anything up; especially with China involved. The Biden administration has always signaled a hard stance on China; that was a good topic to show it.

Yet by making that political calculus - that it is better to play to popular sentiment, rather than risk exposure by sticking up for facts - Democrats in the House have taken up same pugilistic worldview of their opponents.

A worldview where power and public perception, not evidence, gets to shape politics and reality. If people want accountability for the pandemic and somebody to blame, politicians today have shown that they will deliver, not stick their neck out for science or scientists.

"The customer is never wrong" is however a motto for salespeople, not leaders. Scientists heard the shifting winds today louder and clearer than ever. As the journal nature just quoted from Dr. Angela Rasmussen:

Angela Rasmussen, a virologist at the University of Saskatchewan in Saskatoon, Canada, says she was disappointed that the Democrats joined the Republicans in what she says was "essentially an attack on science". "It's a very dangerous situation because most scientists who are approaching any problem — whether it's the origins of the pandemic, whether it's anything else — are going to think twice: should I actually get involved in research that is high impact but potentially politically controversial?"

Science fulfills an important role in society; it creates shared reality through shared facts. By undermining this today, Democratic politicians, like their Republican counterparts, are hastening our descend into a new dark age of myth, manipulation and magical thinking.

Consequences be damned.

Update 2nd May: The *LA Times's* Michael Hiltzig managed to point out these issues, and Democratic complicity, probably much better than I could. Give it a read too.

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MORENS_NIH_053631
REL0000477037

Date: Fri, 31 May 2024 1:46:51 PM -0400
Subject: Re: RE: Comment from Peter Staley about Tony Fauci re. our suspension and proposed debarment
From: (b) (6) : (b) (6)
To: Peter Daszak < (b) (6) Roberts, Rich < (b) (6) Hotez, Peter Jay < (b) (6)
CC: Aleksei Chmura < (b) (6) Keusch, Gerald T < (b) (6) Jeff Sturchio < (b) (6)
Attachments: image001.jpg

Thanks David – I'll read that. We're still on heightened security alert here at my house and the office, and the hate online and in emails is palpable.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: + (b) (6)
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

From: (<(b) (6)
Sent: Friday, May 31, 2024 7:05 AM
To: Peter Daszak (b) (6) >; Roberts, Rich(b) (6) Hotez, Peter Jay < (b) (6)
Cc: Aleksei Chmura (b) (6) >; Keusch, Gerald T (b) (6) (b) (6) Jeff Sturchio < (b)(6) (b) (6) (b) (6)
Subject: Re: Comment from Peter Staley about Tony Fauci re. our suspension and proposed debarment

Peter, good to know, thank you.

In the Wash Post this am there is an article you should check out, as it happened to you a couple weeks ago.

If you remember police officer
Michael Fanone, who was attacked and seriously injured on Jan 6, yesrerday his 75 year old mother was "swatted": police showed up. at her door and scared the wits out of her, as they had received a fake tip that she

MORENS_NIH_044848
REL0000477045

had been murdered in her home.

America has gone crazy. d

Sent from Proton Mail Android

-------- Original Message --------
On 5/30/24 16:09, Peter Daszak wrote:

> Just to let you all know that I heard from Peter Staley, who's one of the original Act Up! Members who protested NIH then became a close friend of Tony Fauci. I let him know what had happened to us re. the SSCP, the Democrats, HHS Secretary, NIH Director, all lining up to allow us to be suspended and proposed for debarment.
>
> He said that what's happening to EcoHealth is a 'travesty' and that he, Peter, first heard about it from Tony Fauci, who was "shocked by the development".
>
> Cheers,
>
> Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: + (b) (6)
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

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From: Roberts, Rich (b) (6)
Sent: Wednesday, May 29, 2024 10:39 AM
To: Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6)
Cc: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >; Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) >; Gerald Keusch < (b) (6) Jeffrey Sturchio (b) (6) Martin < (b) (6) David Morens < (b)(6)
Subject: RE: My meetings at Stanford this week

Peter:

Thanks. I have all of the Nobel Laureates on my contact list. It is always good to know when they are very concerned. If you see her again, please remind her that it is always appreciated when she replied to my emails.

Rich

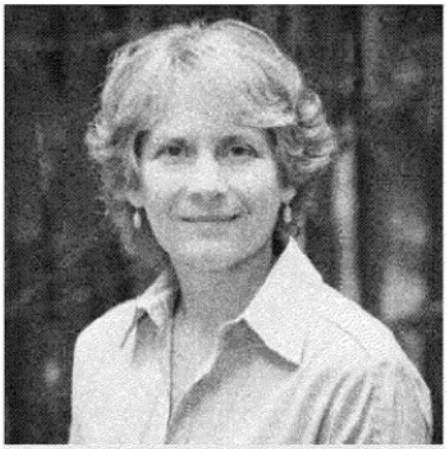
Richard J. Roberts
New England Biolabs
240 County Road
Ipswich, MA 01938-2723
USA
Tel: (b) (6)) (6)
Fax: (978) (b) (6)
email: (b) (6)

Executive Assistant: (b)((b)(6)
Tel: (b) (6) (b) (6)
Fax: (978) 412 9910
email: (b) (6)

From: Hotez, Peter Jay < (b) (6)
Sent: Wednesday, May 29, 2024 10:17 AM
To: Roberts, Rich (b) (6)
Cc: Peter Daszak (b) (6) >; Aleksei Chmura (b) (6) Gerald Keusch (b) (6) >; Jeffrey Sturchio (b) (6) >; Keith Martin (b) (6) >; Roberts, Rich < (b) (6) >; David Morens (b) (6) >
Subject: My meetings at Stanford this week

EXTERNAL SENDER

Dear Rich: I'm giving visiting lectures at Stanford and have been speaking again with Carolyn Bertozzi, last year's Nobel Laureate in Chemistry. I briefed her on the House Subcommittee hearings and she is very concerned about what's going on and i think is prepared to help in the defense of science. So as you organize the other laureates, I would encourage you to keep her in mind, In addition to Marty Chalfie, best Peter



Carolyn Bertozzi | Chemistry
chemistry.stanford.edu

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

Date: Wed, 13 Apr 2022 10:54:14 AM -0400
Sent: Wed, 13 Apr 2022 10:54:10 AM -0400
Subject: RE: The NAM are now investigating me based on some of the allegations from the Republican congressional members
From: Jeffrey Sturchio < (b) (6) >
To: Keusch, Gerald T < (b) (6) Hotez, Peter Jay < (b) (6)
CC: Roberts, Rich < (b) (6) David Morens < (b) (6) Aleksei Chmura < (b) (6) >;

Any time after 12 tomorrow or 0800 – 1030 on Friday works for me.
Best regards,
Jeff

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

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, April 12, 2022 10:40 PM
To: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >
Cc: Roberts, Rich < (b) (6) Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6) >; David Morens < (b) (6) Jeff Sturchio < (b)(6) >; Aleksei Chmura (b) (6) >
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?

Peter Hotez, **MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP**
Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine
Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology
Health Policy Scholar
Baylor College of Medicine

Texas Children's Hospital Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics
Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development

University Professor, Baylor University

Faculty Fellow, Hagler Institute for Advanced Study
Senior Fellow, Scowcroft Institute of International Affairs
Texas A&M University
Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty and Adjunct Professor of Bioengineering, Rice University
Adjunct Professor, University of Texas, School of Public Health

Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

E-mail: (b) (6)
Twitter: @peterhotez
Skype: (b) (6)
Linkedin Peter Hotez

Amazon Author Center: https://www.amazon.com/Peter- J.-Hotez/e/B001HPIC48
Daily Beast Contributor https://www.thedailybeast.com/author/peter- j-hotez
Like us on Facebook https://www.facebook.com/BCMNationalSchoolOfTropicalMedicine/

Senior Coordinator / Executive Support: Douglas Soriano
(b) (6)
Phone: (b) (6)
Fax: 713-798-2299

iPhone

On Apr 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 ever done 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

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USA

Tel.: + (b) (6)
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

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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 some of the allegations from the Republican 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
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) >; Roberts, Rich (b) (6) >; David Morens (b) (6) >;
Hotez, Peter Jay (t(b) (6)
Cc: Jeff Sturchio (b) (6) >; Aleksei Chmura (>
b
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.: + (b) (6)
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

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From: Fuentes-Afflick, Elena (b) (6)
Sent: Monday, April 11, 2022 1:58 PM
To: (b (b) (6)
Cc: Kim, Se (b) (6)
Subject: confidential

Dear Dr. Daszak,

On behalf of the National Academy of Medicine (NAM), I am notifying you that the NAM has received a complaint alleging that you have engaged in conduct(s) that may constitute violation(s) of the NAM Code of Conduct for members.

Please find attached a notification letter, supplemental documentation, and NAM bylaws and Code of Conduct. Pursuant to the NAM Policy and Procedure on Violations of the Code of Conduct, please provide a response to the allegations within 30 days of the date of this notification, and by no later than May 13, 2022.

For your awareness, copies of this notification is postage mailed by FedEx to your office address at EcoHealth Alliance, 520 Eighth Ave Suite 1200, New York, NY 10018.

Sincerely,

Elena Fuentes-Afflick, M.D., M.P.H.
Home Secretary, National Academy of Medicine

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Date: Tue, 12 May 2020 6:33:21 AM -0400
Sent: Tue, 12 May 2020 6:33:19 AM -0400
Subject: Fwd: Sydney MH: Wuhan lab phone records show 'possible shutdown' in October
From: "Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E]" < (b) (6)
To: David Morens < (b) (6) >;
Attachments: image001.jpg

Sent from my iPhone
David M Morens
OD, NIAID, NIH
Begin forwarded message:

From: "Keusch, Gerald T" < (b) (6)
Date: May 10, 2020 at 19:21:10 EDT
To: "Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E]" < (b) (6)
Cc: "Peter Daszak ((b) (6) " <(b) (6)
Subject: Re: Sydney MH: Wuhan lab phone records show 'possible shutdown' in October

Thanks David and bravo to you Peter. We are watching the 60 Minutes program and it is so compelling and you are so cool and rational and concise and absolutely on target. So bravo again.
Jerry

Sent from my iPhone

On May 10, 2020, at 6:27 PM, Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] <(b) (6) > wrote:

From: Folkers, Greg (NIH/NIAID) [E] < (b) (6)
Sent: Sunday, May 10, 2020 10:37 AM
Subject: Sydney MH: Wuhan lab phone records show 'possible shutdown' in October

Wuhan lab phone records show 'possible shutdown' in October

By Nick Allen
May 10, 2020 — 11.22am
Washington: US intelligence agencies are reportedly examining mobile phone data suggesting there could have been an emergency shutdown in October at the Wuhan Institute of Virology.
According to a report, obtained by NBC News, there was no mobile phone activity in a high-security part of the Chinese laboratory complex from October 7 to 24. Previously, there had been consistent use of mobile phones.
<image001.jpg>

The Wuhan Institute of Virology: Australian intelligence officials have no evidence suggesting it is the likely source of the virus.

The report, carried out by private experts, suggested there may have been a "hazardous event", specifically at the institute's National Biosafety Laboratory, between October 6 and 11. Analysis of mobile phone data from around the institute also suggested roadblocks were in place between October 14 and 19.
Experts urged caution, suggesting the report may be based on limited commercially available mobile phone data, and that there could be other reasons for varying levels of phone usage.
However, the document could be what Donald Trump was referring to when he recently said he had seen evidence giving him a "high degree of confidence" the pandemic began accidentally at the Wuhan laboratory.
The prevailing theory is that the virus originated in bats and crossed over to humans at a market in Wuhan.
But US intelligence agencies continue to investigate the Wuhan laboratory and Mike Pompeo, the US secretary of state, has said there is a "significant amount of evidence".
It was unclear which private organisation carried out the leaked analysis of the mobile phone location data. But the 24-page report suggested it "supports the release of COVID-19 at the Wuhan Institute of Virology" and that the pandemic began earlier than thought. The first confirmed case was on November 17.
The document was obtained by NBC News in London and has been seen by the US Senate intelligence committee.
Several days ago Marco Rubio, the Republican senator who sits on the committee, wrote on Twitter: "Would be interesting if someone analysed commercial telemetry data at & near Wuhan lab from Oct-Dec 2019. If it shows dramatic drop off in activity compared to previous 18 months it would be a strong indication of an incident at lab & of when it happened."
China has denied that the virus escaped from the Wuhan laboratory.
But a senior Chinese official said the pandemic had exposed weaknesses in the country's operations. In a rare admission. Li Bin, director of China's National Health Commission, said there were "weak links in how we address a major epidemic and the public health system".
The Telegraph, London

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Date: Thu, 19 May 2022 3:15:23 PM -0400
Sent: Thu, 19 May 2022 3:15:17 PM -0400
Subject: RE: FW: FactCheck.org: Navarro Falsely Links Fauci to Pandemic Origin https://bit.ly/3wvGKB8
From: "Keusch, Gerald T" < (b) (6)
To: David Morens < (b) (6) Peter Daszak < (b) (6) Aleksei Chmura < (b) (6)

Thanks for sharing David. FactCheck.org should also directly state EHA did nothing wrong or inappropriate in its research collaboration, and in fact had sounded the warning about CoVs years ago and should be commended for its prescience as well as its science.

Jerry

-----Original Message-----
From: David Morens < (b) (6) >
Sent: Thursday, May 19, 2022 3:01 PM
To: Peter Daszak < (b) (6) >; Keusch, Gerald T < (b) (6) Aleksei Chmura < (b) (6) >
Subject: Fwd: FW: FactCheck.org: Navarro Falsely Links Fauci to Pandemic Origin https://bit.ly/3wvGKB8

David M. Morens, MD
(b) (6)

(b) (6)
(b) (6) (work)
(b) (6) (cell)

IMPORTANT: My gmail frequently sends incoming messages to Trash, which is apparently not correctable. If you don't hear from me in a reasonable time, please try again, call, or use my NIH email address

IMPORTANT: For US Government-related email, please also reply to my NIAID address

--------- Forwarded message ---------
From: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] < (b) (6)
Date: Thu, May 19, 2022 at 3:00 PM
Subject: FW: FactCheck.org: Navarro Falsely Links Fauci to Pandemic Origin https://bit.ly/3wvGKB8
To: David Morens ((b) (6) < (b) (6) >

From: Folkers, Greg (NIH/NIAID) [E] < (b) (6) >
Sent: Thursday, May 19, 2022 1:19 PM
Subject: FactCheck.org: Navarro Falsely Links Fauci to Pandemic Origin
https://bit.ly/3wvGKB8

Skip to main content

FactCheck.org® A Project of The Annenberg Public Policy Center

Navarro Falsely Links Fauci to Pandemic Origin

By Jessica McDonald

Posted on May 19, 2022

SciCheck Digest

The U.S. indirectly funded some bat coronavirus research at a lab in Wuhan, China. But those experiments could not have led to the coronavirus that causes COVID-19, because the viruses used were very different. Yet former White House trade adviser Peter Navarro repeated a false claim that Dr. Anthony Fauci "killed a lot of people" by funding the lab.

Full Story

It's not known how SARS-CoV-2, the coronavirus that causes COVID-19, originated. But many scientists suspect the virus "spilled over" into humans from an animal. There is no evidence the virus was created in a lab, let alone as part of any U.S.-funded research.

For over a year, politicians and others have misleadingly cited certain grants awarded to a group collaborating with a lab in Wuhan to incorrectly suggest that National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases Director Dr. Anthony Fauci is responsible for the COVID-19 pandemic.

While there is a debate about whether some of the research should have been funded or performed, the experiments did not produce SARS-CoV-2, as the National Institutes of Health and others have explained.

The latest iteration of these claims comes from Peter Navarro, former President Donald Trump's trade adviser, who in a May 16 interview with the conservative outlet Newsmax blamed Fauci for the pandemic and called for his imprisonment.

Navarro began by responding to a clip of Fauci telling CNN on May 15 that he would not serve under Trump if the former president were elected in 2024.

"Tony, you're fired, dude. There's no way you're ever getting back into the Trump White House," Navarro said, adding that as soon as Republicans take back the House, Fauci would sit in Congress and "confess to creating the virus that's killed almost a million Americans now."

"We're going to fit you for an orange jumpsuit, Tony, you can count on that," he continued. "So don't be smug on CNN, dude, okay. You're fired. And if that's the only thing that happens to you, Tony, you'll be lucky because you killed a lot of people by funding this Wuhan lab.
You got in bed with the Chinese Communist Party, you lied to the American people."

Fauci, who has been head of NIAID since 1984 and is one of the most distinguished living scientists, has served under seven presidents, including three Democrats and four Republicans. At age 81, Fauci has said he is thinking of retirement, but has no immediate plans to depart and would not do so until the country is firmly out of danger from COVID-19's pandemic phase.

Later, Navarro, who has previously misled the public about hydroxychloroquine as a COVID-19 treatment and shared inaccurate information about COVID-19 vaccines, baselessly stated as fact that the pandemic began at

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REL0000477057

the Wuhan Institute of Virology.

"This is where the virus started," he said, pointing to an image of the facility. "This was funded by Tony Fauci. Gain-of-function research is what he went behind the back of Donald Trump and the White House to get going here in 2017 with the Chinese communists. And now we have a pandemic that's killed almost a million people. I don't know how this guy is still in public office, he really ought to have a jumpsuit."

Newsmax shared its interview with Navarro on Facebook, where it received more than 30,000 views in two days.

Fauci Has No Connection to Pandemic Virus

Navarro's statements are reminiscent of those from other Republicans, including Florida Rep. Matt Gaetz and Sen. Rand Paul of Kentucky, who have at times also falsely insinuated that NIH-funded research at the Wuhan Institute of Virology could have led to the creation of SARS-CoV-2.

As we have explained before, NIAID did fund some experiments at WIV as part of a multiyear $3.7 million grant that began in 2014 to the U.S.-based nonprofit EcoHealth Alliance. The research was aimed at understanding the risk of the future emergence of coronaviruses from bats, and a small portion of the money — $600,000 — went to an EcoHealth collaborator at the Wuhan Institute of Virology.

But those experiments, which mixed and matched certain elements of bat coronaviruses, couldn't have produced SARS-CoV-2 because the viruses used were very different.

"Analysis of published genomic data and other documents from the grantee demonstrate that the naturally occurring bat coronaviruses studied under the NIH grant are genetically far distant from SARS-CoV-2 and could not possibly have caused the COVID-19 pandemic,"
NIH Director Dr. Francis Collins said in an Oct. 20, 2021, statement, referring to an analysis posted to the NIAID's website. "Any claims to the contrary are demonstrably false."

As we've written, the NIH analysis shows that the WIV viruses share only about 80% of their genomes with SARS-CoV-2, which is a tremendous difference. Even much more similar viruses — those 96% identical — still differ from SARS-CoV-2 by more than 1,000 nucleotides, and could not have plausibly been the ancestral virus, David Robertson, the head of viral genomics and bioinformatics at the University of Glasgow, told us for a previous story.

There is simply no basis to claim that Fauci, via this NIAID grant, has anything to do with the origin of the coronavirus.

Moreover, there is no evidence that SARS-CoV-2 came from WIV or any lab, and many experts say the virus almost certainly was not bioengineered. Indeed, despite continued speculation, largely because of the proximity of certain research institutions to the city of Wuhan, where the first COVID-19 cases were identified, there is no credible evidence of a lab leak.

In contrast, while there is still no proof, multiple lines of evidence, including geolocation and genetic analyses, suggest the pandemic began with a natural spillover at the Huanan market, which sold a variety of live animals for human consumption.

Much of the debate about the WIV experiments has focused on whether they were so-called gain-of-function experiments and whether NIH should have funded them. Paul has an ongoing feud with Fauci over this issue, and each man has accused the other of lying.

Fauci has said the experiments do not count as gain-of-function, which the agency defines in a specific way and

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MORENS_NIH_020014
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refers to research involving "enhanced pathogens of pandemic potential," or ePPPs. Paul has insisted they do.

In February, the NIH said it had ordered a review of its ePPP policies, which have been controversial.

Regardless of whether certain potentially risky research should be funded or not, it's inaccurate for Navarro to claim Fauci had a role in starting the pandemic.

Editor's note: SciCheck's COVID-19/Vaccination Project is made possible by a grant from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. The foundation has no control over FactCheck.org's editorial decisions, and the views expressed in our articles do not necessarily reflect the views of the foundation. The goal of the project is to increase exposure to accurate information about COVID-19 and vaccines, while decreasing the impact of misinformation.

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REL0000477057

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Date: Mon, 3 Oct 2022 3:15:39 PM -0400
Sent: Mon, 3 Oct 2022 3:11:42 PM -0400
Subject: Jeff Sachs accuses US of blowing up the Nordstream pipelines last week....
From: Peter Daszak < (b) (6)
To: David Morens < (b) (6) Gerald Keusch < (b) (6) Aleksei Chmura < (b) (6) Peter Hotez < (b) (6) Rich Roberts <(b) (6) Jeff Sturchio < (b) (6)
Attachments: image001.jpg

Looks like he's deep in conspiracy land on a number of issues:

https://video.twimg.com/ext_tw_video/1576915780515553282/pu/vid/1280x720/0aRcMZC6LHGNHa7- .mp4?tag=12

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: + (b) (6)
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

From: David Morens (b) (6) >
Sent: Monday, October 3, 2022 6:43 AM
To: Gerald Keusch <(b) (6) >; Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >; Aleksei Chmura < (b) (6) >; Peter Hotez <(b) (6) Rich Roberts (b) (6) >; Jeff Sturchio < (b(b) (6)
b
Subject: Fwd: NYT book review: Scientists Knew More About Covid-19 Than We Think. And They Still Do./In "Breathless," David Quammen explores the predictable lead-up to the global Covid pandemic, and the frantic, belated attempts to stop it.

Sent from my iPhone
David M Morens
OD, NIAID, NIH
Begin forwarded message:

> **From:** "Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E]" (b) (6) >
> **Date:** October 3, 2022 at 06:42:51 EDT
> **To:** David Morens(b) (6) >
> **Subject: Fwd: NYT book review: Scientists Knew More About Covid-19 Than We Think. And They Still Do./In**

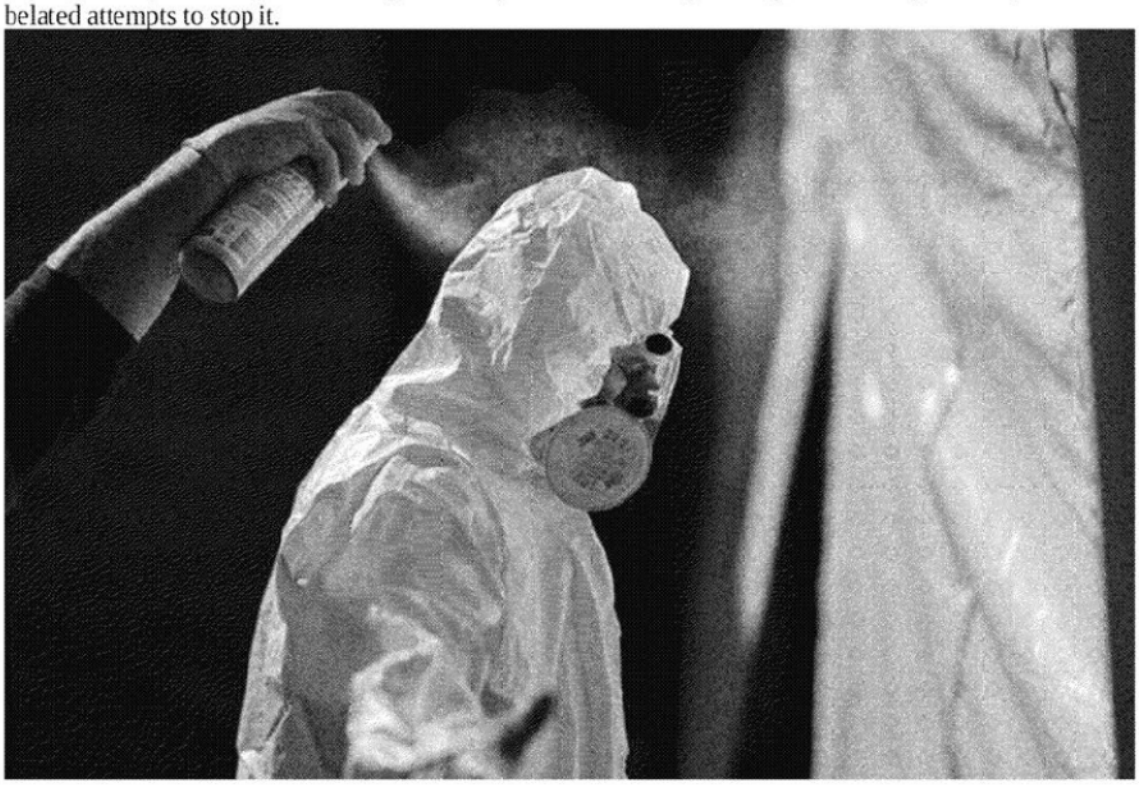
“Breathless,” David Quammen explores the predictable lead-up to the global Covid pandemic, and the frantic, belated attempts to stop it.

Sent from my iPhone
David M Morens
OD, NIAID, NIH
Begin forwarded message:

From: "Folkers, Greg (NIH/NIAID) [E]" <(b) (6) >
Date: October 2, 2022 at 22:54:29 EDT
Subject: NYT book review: Scientists Knew More About Covid-19 Than We Think. And They Still Do./In “Breathless,” David Quammen explores the predictable lead-up to the global Covid pandemic, and the frantic, belated attempts to stop it.

Scientists Knew More About Covid-19 Than We Think. And They Still Do.

In “Breathless,” David Quammen explores the predictable lead-up to the global Covid pandemic, and the frantic, belated attempts to stop it.



New Jersey first responder Robert Sabia being decontaminated after answering a call in March, 2020.Credit...Chang W. Lee/The New York Times

By Michael Sims
Oct. 1, 2022

“Nobody,” Donald Trump claimed in a March 2020 address, “had any idea.” He was talking about the Covid virus — which had, seemingly overnight, sparked a global pandemic. In his compelling and terrifying new book, “Breathless: The Scientific Race to Defeat a Deadly Virus,” the veteran science journalist David Quammen demonstrates just how much was known — and expected — by infectious disease scientists long before patrons of the Huanan Seafood Wholesale Market fell ill in December 2019 with a pneumonia-like virus.
“Soothsayer” isn’t on Quammen’s extensive résumé, but he was among those who had long predicted this kind of

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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 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

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"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

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MORENS_NIH_007868
REL0000477064

Date: Tue, 21 May 2024 9:33:01 AM -0400

Subject: Re: Disappointing tweet from Amy⅕s Maxmen re. a disappointing article in Nature.

From: (< (b) (6) >

To: Hotez, Peter Jay < (b) (6)

CC: Roberts, Rich < (b) (6) Peter Daszak < (b) (6) >; Keusch, Gerald T < (b) (6) Alison Andre < (b) (6) >; Jeff Sturchio < (b) (6) (b) (6) Aleksei Chmura < (b) (6) (b) (6) >;

I'm guessing the subcommittee will make good on their stated goal from their official Twitter "to sell popcorn". No one has an actual interest in the content of these proceedings. Once they max out on the subcommittee's propaganda content, they will move on to new faux outrages. Good luck this week!

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP

Texas Children's Hospital: Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics | Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development | Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

Baylor College of Medicine: Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine | Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology | Health Policy Scholar

Baylor University, University Professor
Rice University, Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty
Texas A&M University, Faculty-Senior Fellow, Hagler Inst for Advanced Study & Scowcroft Institute of Intl Affairs

E-mail | Twitter | LinkedIn | Skype: (b) (6)
Amazon Author Center | Daily Beast Contributor

Senior Coordinator & Executive Support: Douglas Soriano
(b) (6) | Phone: (b) (6) | Fax: 713-798-2299

Media Inquiries:
(b) (6)
(b) (6)

iPhone

On May 21, 2024, at 7:10 AM, (b) (6) < (b) (6) > wrote:

Thanks, Rich and friends. You may not realize how helpful even a few kind words can be at a time like this. I have had a 48 year career in govt. without a hint of scandal, so this is all new to me, and I don't have the skills to deal with it. Your support keeps me going. As we say in Hawaii, Mahalo Nui Loa, which translates as "a great big thanks" d

Sent from Proton Mail Android

-------- Original Message --------
On 5/21/24 06:07, Roberts, Rich wrote:

David:

Awful. Yet another example where 10,000 politicians at the bottom of the sea would be a good start. They simply have no shame and are likely totally corrupt themselves.

I do believe though that if you stick to the truth you will be OK. Let's hope the general public can see how honest the real government workers are as opposed to the politicians who are supposed to be governing, but who prefer to play political games.

Rich

Richard J. Roberts
New England Biolabs
240 County Road
Ipswich, MA 01938-2723
USA
Tel: (b) (6)(b) (6)
Fax: (978) 412 9910
email: (b) (6)

Executive Assistant: (b)((b)(6)
Tel: (b)(6)
Fax: (978) 412 9910
email: (b) (6)

From: (< (b) (6)
Sent: Monday, May 20, 2024 8:12 PM
To: Peter Daszak < (b) (6) Hotez, Peter Jay < (b) (6) Keusch, Gerald T < (b) (6) Alison Andre < (b) (6) Jeff Sturchio < (b) (6) (b) (6) Roberts, Rich < (b) (6)
Cc: (b) (6) Aleksei Chmura < (b) (6) (b) (6)
Subject: Re: RE: Disappointing tweet from Amy Maxmen re. a disappointing article in Nature.

EXTERNAL SENDER

Spent about 5 hours with my lawyer today in preparation for my Wednesday testimony. Although he expects I will be skewered with false charges and press releases that will distort the truth, he also is optimistic that what I will say mostly exonerates me, not that the committee will admit that. He says that I should be prepared to be hit with criminal charges and firing and possible jail time for using my Gmail for supposed government business. This is what the committee is pushing for and they are pushing for a Justice Department investigation already.

Please come visit me in prison and help me find a job when I get out. At least if that happens I will finally have the ability to speak out and write about what has been going in. I won't mince words.
d

Sent from Proton Mail Android

-------- Original Message --------
On 5/20/24 17:57, Peter Daszak wrote:

I'll do that – good suggestion Peter

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: + (b) (6)
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

---

From: Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6)
Sent: Monday, May 20, 2024 4:22 PM
To: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >; Keusch, Gerald <(b) (6) Alison Andre < (b) (6) >; David Morens (b) (6) >; Jeffrey Sturchio < J_(b) (6) >; Keith Martin <(b) (6) >; Rich Roberts <(b) (6)
Cc: Soriano Osejo, Douglas (b)(6) >; Aleksei Chmura < (b) (6) >; Kathy Chase-Gaudreau <(b) (6) >
Subject: Re: Disappointing tweet from Amy Maxmen re. a disappointing article in Nature.

You can write to her and cc me (b) (6)

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP

Texas Children's Hospital: Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics | Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development | **Donate** to Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development

Baylor College of Medicine: Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine | Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology | Health Policy Scholar

Baylor University, University Professor

Rice University, Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty

Texas A&M University, Faculty-Senior Fellow, Hagler Inst for Advanced Study & Scowcroft Institute of Intl Affairs

E-mail | Twitter | LinkedIn | Skype: (b) (6)

Amazon Author Center | Daily Beast Contributor

Senior Coordinator & Executive Support: Douglas Soriano

(b) (6) | Phone: (b) (6) | Fax: 713-798-2299

Media Inquiries:

(b) (6)

From: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >
Sent: Monday, May 20, 2024 3:09 PM
To: Keusch, Gerald (b) (6) >; Alison Andre(b) (6) >; Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6) David Morens (b)(6) Jeffrey Sturchio (b) (6) Keith Martin (b) (6) ; Rich Roberts <(b) (6)
Cc: Soriano Osejo, Douglas(b) (6) >; Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) >; Kathy Chase-Gaudreau <(b) (6) >
Subject: Disappointing tweet from Amy Maxmen re. a disappointing article in Nature.

CAUTION: **This email is not from a BCM Source. Only click links or open attachments you know are safe.**

Shame to see Amy Maxmen following the trend of the article in Nature that seems to just parrot what the Democrats on the SSCP said - EcoHealth did something wrong, but they didn't cause COVID-19.

Of course, we were not given a chance to respond to allegations on the day, and now that they've moved forward with a Suspension pending debarment proceedings, we have to respond to the HHS first on a legal matter, then can talk publicly.

Amy's tweet is below, and my response (trying to be as diplomatic as possible).

<image001.jpg>

Amy Maxmen, PhD
@amymaxmen
5h
EcoHealth Alliance didn't comply with NIH granting conditions, eg not sending regular updates on its research. Without repercussions, those rules are meaningless. https://nature.com/articles/d41586- 024-01460-3… The problem is when public/media interprets this to say anything about where Covid began.
<image002.jpg>

US halts funding to controversial virus-hunting group: what researchers think

From nature.com
1.2K

<image003.jpg>

Peter Daszak
@PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance has repeatedly refuted allegations that it "didn't comply" & has yet to respond to the HHS letter. Calling for "repercussions" seems premature until some level of due process has played out. Let's hear the argument against debarment before we all move on.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: + (b) (6)
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

From: Peter Daszak(b) (6)
Sent: Monday, May 20, 2024 1:36 PM
To: 'Keusch, Gerald' <(b) (6) Alison Andre (b) (6) Hotez, Peter Jay' <(b) (6) 'David Morens' <(b) (6) >; 'Jeffrey Sturchio' (b) (6) 'Keith Martin' (b) (6) >; 'Rich Roberts' <(b) (6)
Cc: 'Soriano Osejo, Douglas' (b) (6) Aleksei Chmura < (b) (6) >; 'Kathy Chase-Gaudreau' (b) (6) >
Subject: Testimony by David Morens, Ralph Baric, Peter Daszak

Here are testimonies by David, myself, and Ralph Baric. David had to go through this twice because his first interview was cut short when lawyers for NIH objected to the SSCPs line of questioning.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

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Tel.: + (b) (6)
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

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From: Keusch, Gerald <(b) (6)
Sent: Monday, May 20, 2024 11:49 AM
To: Alison Andre (b) (6) g >; Hotez, Peter Jay(b) (6) David Morens < (b) (6) >; Jeffrey Sturchio <J_(b) (6) >; Keith Martin <(b) (6) Rich Roberts <(b) (6)
Cc: Soriano Osejo, Douglas <(b) (6) >; Aleksei Chmura < (b) (6) >; Peter Daszak (b) (6) >; Kathy Chase-Gaudreau <(b) (6) >
Subject: RE: Meeting Thursday or Friday this week

Thursday before 1 pm works. Friday is iffy and probably a no for me.

Jerry

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REL0000477073

From: Alison Andre (b) (6)
Sent: Monday, May 20, 2024 11:14 AM
To: Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6) Keusch, Gerald <(b) (6) David Morens <
(b) (6) Jeffrey Sturchio (b) (6) Keith Martin <(b) (6)
Rich Roberts <(b) (6)
Cc: Soriano Osejo, Douglas (b) (6)) (6) >; Aleksei Chmura <
(b) (6) >; Peter Daszak (b) (6) >; Kathy Chase-Gaudreau
<(b) (6) >
Subject: Meeting Thursday or Friday this week

Dear All,

We'd like to schedule another meeting on Thursday May 23 or Friday May 24 this week. Could you please take a moment to indicate your availability below?

https://calendly.com/d/cp3y- mxp-j7h/small-group-meeting

Thank you,
Alison

--
Alison Andre
Executive Assistant to the President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Ave, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018

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1.212.380.4465 (fax)
www.ecohealthalliance.org

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation.

Date: Mon, 9 Nov 2020 6:08:07 PM -0500
Sent: Mon, 9 Nov 2020 6:08:06 PM -0500
Subject: RE:
From: "Keusch, Gerald T" <(b) (6)
To: David Morens ((b) (6) <(b) (6)

I'm also talking to anybody I know who is inside the Biden transition team or has connections with them to make sure the issue of firing Collins is on the agenda, and to move Lauer out of OD to some obscure position. Any suggestions?

Jerry

-----Original Message-----
From: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] < (b) (6)
Sent: Monday, November 9, 2020 5:48 PM
To: Peter Daszak < (b) (6) >; Keusch, Gerald T < (b) (6)
Subject:

On cnn just a minute ago tony waffled on a Q about whether he'd be in his same job, then with bery strange words implied he would still be head of niaid, but with tortured verbiage. He also ducked the Q of whether he had spoken to Biden. D

Sent from my iPhone
David M Morens
OD, NIAID, NIH

MORENS_NIH_013922
REL0000477075

Date: Wed, 1 May 2024 10:26:04 AM -0400
Sent: Wed, 1 May 2024 10:26:01 AM -0400
Subject: RE: Vanity Fair: Ralph Baric, Whose Virology Techniques Were Used in Wuhan, Testified That Lab Leak Was Possible
From: Roberts, Rich < (b) (6)
To: David Morens < (b) (6) >; Peter Daszak < (b) (6) >; Jeffrey Sturchio < (b) (6) >; peter hotez < (b) (6) >; Aleksei Chmura < (b) (6) >;

Wow – this is quite a devastating article that could easily cause a great deal of trouble. Baric is not much of a friend and collaborator.

Rich

Richard J. Roberts
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Fax: (978) 412 9910
email: (b)(6)

Executive Assistant: (b)((b)(6)
Tel: (978) (b) (6)
Fax: (978) 412 9910
email: (b) (6)

From: David Morens < (b) (6)
Sent: Wednesday, May 1, 2024 8:47 AM
To: Peter Daszak < (b) (6) Roberts, Rich < (b) (6) Jeffrey Sturchio < (b) (6) peter hotez < (b) (6) Aleksei Chmura < (b) (6)
Subject: Fwd: Vanity Fair: Ralph Baric, Whose Virology Techniques Were Used in Wuhan, Testified That Lab Leak Was Possible

EXTERNAL SENDER

From the cell phone of David Morens

--------- Forwarded message ---------
From: **Folkers, Greg (NIH/NIAID) [C]** (b)(6)
Date: Wed, May 1, 2024, 08:26
Subject: Vanity Fair: Ralph Baric, Whose Virology Techniques Were Used in Wuhan, Testified That Lab Leak Was Possible
To:

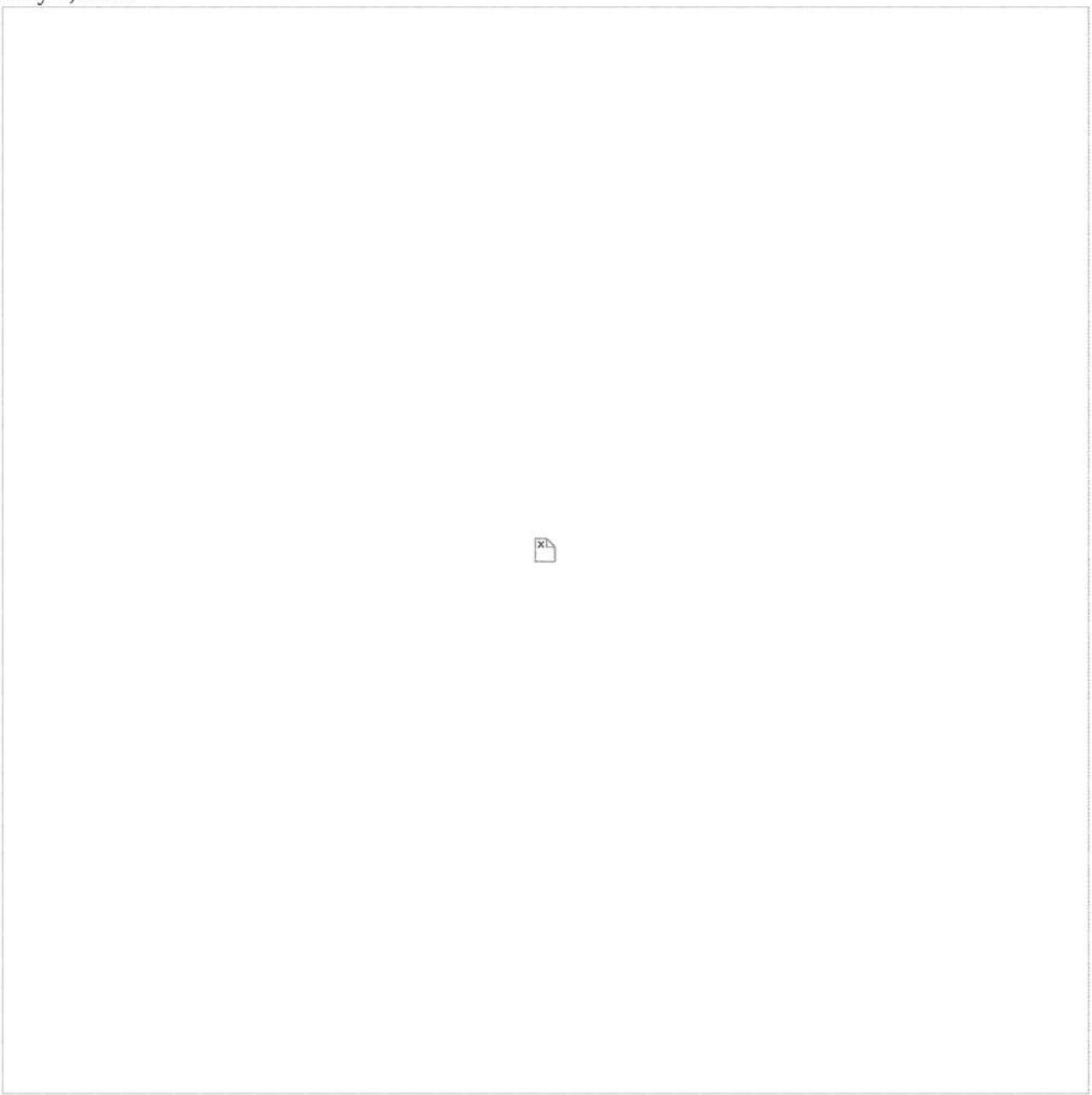
Ralph Baric, Whose Virology Techniques Were

Used in Wuhan, Testified That Lab Leak Was Possible

The UNC coronavirologist who has collaborated on gain-of-function research with the Wuhan Institute of Virology's Shi Zhengli, told congressional investigators that he has long worried about biosafety protocols inside China. Though he thinks it's far more likely COVID-19 originated in nature, he said of a possible laboratory escape, "You can't rule that out."

By Katherine Eban

May 1, 2024



Ralph Baric, researcher and lab leader at North Carolina's Gillings School of Global Public Health, sits for a photograph in Chapel Hill, North Carolina, U.S., on Friday, Feb. 14, 2020.ILLUSTRATION BY PAMELA WANG. Photo by Christopher Janaro/Bloomberg/Getty Images.

In 2015, **Ralph S. Baric,** arguably the world's most accomplished coronavirologist, published groundbreaking research with **Shi Zhengli,** the leading coronavirus researcher at the Wuhan Institute of Virology.

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They had mixed components of different coronaviruses and created an artificial virus, or chimera, that could infect human cells. The research helped crystallize the threat posed by bat coronaviruses lurking in nature. But the experiments were dangerous too. In 2014, while their research was underway, the Obama administration enacted a pause on so-called gain-of-function research that could increase the virulence or transmissibility of certain viruses. Baric and Shi even flagged the dangers of the research themselves, writing, "Scientific review panels may deem similar studies…too risky to pursue."

The experiments were done in Baric's well-secured laboratory in Chapel Hill, North Carolina. Afterward, however, Shi's team at the WIV continued to utilize Baric's cutting-edge research techniques. Their work was funded in part with a US research grant.

Baric testified that he had specifically warned Shi Zhengli that the WIV's critical coronavirus research was being conducted in labs with insufficient biosafety protections.

Amid competing theories about the origins of SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19—including whether it could have originated in a Wuhan laboratory—Baric has become a figure of intense interest. After all, he had pioneered techniques the WIV was using, including one that allows researchers to invisibly splice components of viruses together without leaving a trace.

For the last three years, as the COVID-19 origins debate has grown increasingly toxic, a small army of global sleuths and Freedom of Information petitioners have taken aim at Baric's emails and research documents, hoping to uncover information about the true genetic-engineering capabilities of the WIV scientists, the ongoing research they were pursuing, and the viral genome sequences they had in their possession prior to the pandemic.

Through it all, Baric has kept mostly silent—until now. On January 22, he gave a six-hour interview to investigators from two Republican-led House committees: the Oversight and Accountability's Select Subcommittee on the Coronavirus Pandemic, and Energy and Commerce's Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations. Though the committees have not yet made his testimony public, *Vanity Fair* has exclusively reviewed his statements. While not formally under oath, Baric was required by federal law to answer truthfully. (Through a University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill spokesperson, Baric declined to comment for this article.)

While there is little in the 212-page transcript that is likely to markedly shift the debate on how COVID-19 originated, the picture that emerges is of an American scientist who is deeply wary of his Chinese counterparts and has no way of knowing if or how they may have made use of the groundbreaking research techniques he developed.

Perhaps most notably, Baric testified that he had specifically warned Shi Zhengli that the WIV's critical coronavirus research was being conducted in labs with insufficient biosafety protections. When he urged her to move the work to a more secure biosafety level 3 (BSL-3) lab, he testified that she did not heed his recommendation. Because the WIV continued to perform coronavirus research at what he considers an inappropriately low biosafety level, Baric said of a laboratory accident, "You can't rule that out…. You just can't."

"Clearly, the market was a conduit for expansion," Baric testified. "Is that where it started? I don't think so."

In an email turned over to the Select Subcommittee as part of its investigation, Baric told **Peter Daszak,** president of the scientific nonprofit EcoHealth Alliance, that it was "a load of BS" to suggest that the WIV conducted coronavirus research in labs with sufficient biosafety protocols.

Baric told congressional investigators that he believes it's far more likely that SARS-CoV-2 spilled over naturally from animals to humans, given the sheer abundance of viruses in nature. But he also said in his testimony that he disagrees with the most widely promulgated spillover argument: that the virus leapt from infected animals to people at the Huanan Seafood Wholesale Market, where it first burst into public view in December 2019. The argument does not hold up, he said, because genomic evidence suggests that COVID-19 was already circulating in the human population by mid-to-late October. "Clearly, the market was a conduit for expansion," he testified. "Is that where it started? I don't think so."

Baric also weighed in on a controversy that has pitted Dr. **Anthony Fauci** against Senator **Rand Paul** (R-KY), who has leveraged his credentials as an eye doctor to position himself as a crusader against America's scientific and medical establishments. In contentious Senate hearings, Fauci has repeatedly denied Paul's claims that the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, which Fauci led at the time, had funded gain-of-function

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research at the WIV. However, Baric told investigators that the experiment in dispute, in which technicians created a chimeric virus that made lab mice sicker, was "absolutely" gain-of-function research: "You can't argue with that." He also said he felt that the experiment's results should have triggered regulatory review.

The federal grant money for the experiment in question, which was conducted at the WIV sometime between 2018 and 2019, was funneled through EcoHealth Alliance. It was Daszak, EcoHealth's president, who organized an open letter in the *Lancet* medical journal early in the pandemic that helped paint the lab-leak hypothesis as a baseless conspiracy theory. Today, the Select Subcommittee is expected to release a report that calls for NIH to recommend that EcoHealth Alliance, and Daszak personally, be debarred from receiving federal funds. As part of its investigation into COVID-19's origins, the Select Subcommittee is holding a series of hearings. Daszak is scheduled to testify publicly today, and Fauci is set to do so on June 3.

America's intelligence agencies remain divided over whether SARS-CoV-2 came from a natural spillover or a lab accident. US Health and Human Services Secretary **Xavier Becerra** recently said the question may "never" be answered "unless China opens up some more."

The single biggest issue to jump from the pages of Baric's testimony is his persistent concern over unsafe research practices at the WIV. Some of Shi's research papers, he said, "actually stated that they were doing the culturing work under BSL-2." BSL-3 labs typically require negative pressure air flow, HEPA air filtration systems, and full Tyvek suits for lab workers—all to protect against leaks. BSL-2 laboratories do not require specialized air filtration or full gowns.

Throughout his interview, Baric took pains to emphasize to congressional investigators that he had not simply turned over his research techniques to his colleagues at the WIV. Referring to his 2015 research with Shi, he said, "Although we published the approaches for how to build molecular clones of coronaviruses, we never had anyone from Dr. Shi's lab or any of the Wuhan Institute of Virology come to our lab and train. We never taught them."

His trust was violated on at least one occasion, he said. In order to test the ability of different viruses to infect humans, Baric had engineered mice with lungs that contained a human gene. He said he shared these mice with the WIV under a contractual agreement that they only be used there. Then, during the pandemic, he said he discovered that his mice were being offered for sale by a commercial company. The profiteering, he told investigators, was "infuriating."

As Baric recounted to congressional investigators, Shi's earlier work was "very vague about safety conditions. They said they followed Chinese regulations." But in two subsequent papers, said Baric, "They actually stated that they were doing the culturing work under BSL-2.... And then they continued that even into September of 2020, which I thought was irresponsible." (Neither Shi Zhengli nor a spokesperson for the Wuhan Institute of Virology responded to requests for comment.)

Baric told the committee that, from his earliest days working with zoonotic coronaviruses, he always understood there was a real if "rare" chance that one could prove infectious to humans. "And if that's your hypothesis, then you do it under BSL-3," he said. "So I kind of set the standard in the United States."

But the WIV, he said, operated under a looser set of biosafety protocols. "Their regulations state pretty clearly that they don't consider culturing bat viruses at BSL-2 as a biosafety concern," he said. "I also had that verbally confirmed by Zhengli Shi at a meeting in Harbin, when I was telling her she should move it all to BSL-3 and the reasons why." (Less than a year into the pandemic, the Chinese government passed legislation that tightened the nation's laboratory safety practices.)

The dispute over biosafety arose again in 2018, as Baric and Shi worked with Daszak on a grant proposal to collect SARS-like bat coronaviruses and insert a genetic component called a furin cleavage site that would enable them to more easily infect human cells. The proposal has since drawn attention because, when SARS-CoV-2 subsequently emerged in Wuhan, it possessed a furin cleavage site, making it unique among SARS-related coronaviruses. The 2018 proposal was submitted by Daszak to the Pentagon research and development agency DARPA.

Last December, a Freedom of Information research group called U.S. Right to Know released margin comments from an early draft of the grant proposal. In one, Peter Daszak tagged his collaborators and said, "Ralph. Zhengli. If we win this contract, I do not propose that all of this work will necessarily be conducted by Ralph, but I do want to stress the US side of this proposal so that DARPA are comfortable with our team. Once we get the funds, we can then allocate who does what exact work, and I believe that a lot of these assays can be done in Wuhan as well."

The early draft stipulated that the research would be done at a BSL-2 level, making it "highly cost-effective." Baric objected to this in a margin comment of his own: "IN the US, these recombinant SARS CoV are studied under BSL3, not BSL2, especially important for those that are able to bind and replicate in primary human cells. In china, might be growin these virus under bsl2. US researchers will likely freak out." In the finished proposal, BSL-2 was changed to BSL-3.

Baric told congressional investigators that he wrote the margin comment to Daszak "to make sure he pays attention." He added, "First, I'm informing him, just in case he doesn't know, that a lot of the virus discovery work and culturing work that the Chinese do with zoonotic coronaviruses is done at BSL-2…. I'm letting him know there's a difference."

After a congressional investigator observed, "It appears there may have been a willingness, not necessarily by you, to do some of this work in the BSL-2 in China," Baric responded, "There was no willingness on my part to do any of this work…. Let me make that clear." He subsequently clarified, "My role was to study a couple of the viruses that the Wuhan Institute of Virology found that they were willing to share with me."

DARPA rejected the grant, but questions have persisted over whether WIV scientists carried out the proposed research anyway. Baric told congressional investigators that he doesn't know whether the WIV continued the research or got other funding for it. He added that he does not believe SARS-CoV-2 was engineered and discounted a 2022 paper making that argument as "biostatistical BS." **Alex Washburne,** one of the paper's authors, told *Vanity Fair,* "Baric doesn't provide any scientific evidence or reasoning that would lead us to revisit our results or change our theory."

In May 2021, Baric signed an open letter in the journal *Science* affirming that the lab and natural origin hypotheses are both viable and calling for further investigation. A fellow scientist, Columbia University virologist **Ian Lipkin,** questioned him about why he signed the letter. In response, Baric told the subcommittee, "I sent him a couple of papers that the Chinese had published where they were doing virus discovery work under BSL-2 conditions, which is one of the main reasons why I felt that the potential laboratory escape hypothesis shouldn't be, in essence, put under the rug."

"You believe this was appropriate containment if you want but don't expect me to believe it," Baric wrote Daszak. "Moreover, don't insult my intelligence by trying to feed me this load of BS."

Baric's signing of that letter also precipitated a testy email exchange with Daszak over the WIV's safety standards, obtained by *Vanity Fair.* Daszak enumerated to Baric the various ways in which China's lab safety standards did not lag far behind US standards. He added, "We checked with Zhengli, who let us know that she used 'BSL-2 with negative pressure and appropriate PPE.'"

This brought a withering response from Baric. "Bsl2 with negative pressure, give me a break." He pointed out that even Shi's most recent papers never defined the safety precautions used. "Yes china has the right to set their own policy. You believe this was appropriate containment if you want but don't expect me to believe it. Moreover, don't insult my intelligence by trying to feed me this load of BS."

Reached for comment, Daszak told *Vanity Fair* that the WIV performed its animal infection experiments "at BSL-3, as per work at Dr. Baric's lab in the USA." He also stated that the research rejected by DARPA was "never done," and said that the proposal called for only work that "did not involve any infectious materials" to be done in a BSL-2 facility at the WIV. Regarding the Subcommittee's call for the NIH to recommend debarring him and EcoHealth Alliance from receiving federal funds, he said he hadn't yet seen the report and couldn't comment on it. However, he stated that EcoHealth Alliance has "cooperated fully and expeditiously with the NIH on additional oversight measures since 2020" and shared a letter from last October in which the NIH deemed the nonprofit compliant with oversight requirements.

Another signatory to the May 2021 letter was Dr. **Michael Worobey,** who has since become a leading proponent of the theory that the virus spilled over from infected animals at the Huanan Seafood Wholesale Market.

In 2022, Worobey and a team of international scientists published an influential research paper that used a geospatial analysis of early infections in Wuhan to make a case for the market spillover theory. Using data collected by Chinese scientists, Worobey's team later also published evidence in a preprint that virus-susceptible mammals, such as raccoon dogs, were present at the market.

When prominent virologists state that the preponderance of evidence points to a natural origin, they are often referring to Worobey's research. Baric, for his part, told congressional investigators that Worobey's geospatial study has a "major problem" with its timeline. He told the subcommittee, "The only thing we have really solid

data [for] is that the market was the site of amplification in late December, January. That's still two months from the origin date, based on a molecular clock, which means it was circulating somewhere before it got there. And the question is, where was it?"

Baric said the earliest cases are "almost impossible" to document because many were asymptomatic. "It's a fundamental problem with the papers that are reported to prove—they write it too strong, I think, but they're very passionate about their data. And to be fair to them, it is the best data that's out there." He went on to critique the papers' claim of two independent jumps from different infected animals at the market based on the presence of two different lineages of the virus. "It's a stretch," he said, adding that his view is shared by "a lot of virologists that look at that data and go, mmm."

Calling the evidence for a market origin "powerful," Worobey told *Vanity Fair* that he thinks the first jump from animals to humans happened in November. Baric, he said, "possesses essentially no expertise in the subjects of the papers he is commenting on…. It is irresponsible for him to share these views with anyone without also making it clear that he is in no better position than the average educated person to judge this work. "

In his testimony, Baric was equivocal on the question of whether WIV scientists could have possessed SARS-CoV-2, or a very close progenitor, prior to the pandemic. There "was evidence that they were building chimeras " and "doing some discovery work about the functions of spike genes of zoonotic strains that they discovered later on, but I don't know if they did any of the engineering or anything."

Without further disclosure from China, the answer may be unknowable. As Baric told congressional investigators, "If you had access to the laboratory notebooks, if you had access to the safety records of the Wuhan Institute of Virology, if you had access to the sequence databases, the level of assurance that you would have would be greater. No question."

"Which we didn't really have?" a congressional investigator asked.

"Which we don't really have," Baric responded. "That's very true."

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Date: Wed, 3 Aug 2022 12:21:49 PM -0400
Sent: Wed, 3 Aug 2022 12:20:52 PM -0400
Subject: Re: Jeff Sachs is at it again!
From: "Hotez, Peter Jay" < (b) (6)
To: Roberts, Rich < (b) (6)
CC: Peter Daszak < (b) (6) < (b) (6) <(b) (6) Aleksei Chmura < Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6) (b) (6) David Morens Jeff Sturchio

https://twitter.com/peterhotez/status/1554864673467547651?s=21 &t=ryyezTJZj-EcoFvx1lOavg

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Senior Fellow, Scowcroft Institute of International Affairs
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iPhone

On Aug 3, 2022, at 10:53 AM, 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:

"Inaccuracies" is a very mild word for the statements he makes.

This just gets more disturbing by the day. I wonder how the administration at Columbia view this? Are they aware of the damage he is doing?

Rich

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From: Peter Daszak < (b) (6)
Sent: Wednesday, August 3, 2022 11:05 AM
To: Keusch, Gerald T < (b) (6) Roberts, Rich < (b) (6) Hotez, Peter Jay < (b) (6)
Cc: David Morens < (b) (6) >; Aleksei Chmura < (b) (6) Jeff Sturchio < (b) (6)
Subject: Jeff Sachs is at it again!
Importance: High

EXTERNAL SENDER

I just saw this in *Current Affairs*. At least this is not a major daily broadsheet, but it's filled with inaccuracies again (some of them highlighted in the text below, in order of appearance).

- He responds to the two papers in *Science* this week by dismissing the scientists (all 20+ of them) as having already stated their opinions prior to the paper, so what they're doing is simply creating a narrative.

  He states that the work in our rejected DARPA proposal was underway and being promoted very actively – again simply not true as I've stated publicly – the grant was not funded and the work not done.

  He goes into details of our unfortunate conversations as he tried to remove me from the Lancet Commission. He implies I didn't share the details of my work in China with him prior to joining. This is not true – it's why he invited me to lead the taskforce.

  He accuses me of 'misdirection' re. the work I've done in China. Not sure how publishing it in dozens of papers and speaking about it daily at the beginning of the pandemic is somehow misdirecting.

  He follows a common theme from the lab leakers that we had 180 viral 'strains' in the lab. Not true – we had hundreds of short RdRp sequences (few hundred base pairs) PCR'd from bat samples – only 3 viral strains in culture. All of this publicly released, all of it repeatedly stated.

  He makes a demand for 'lab notebooks' again. This amplifies the aggressive FoIAs and congressional attacks against us. I already told him EHA doesn't have a lab and doesn't keep 'lab notebooks'. Good luck asking for these from China with this aggressive narrative.

  He outright accuses scientists arguing that the virus did not come from a lab as 'lying'.

  He follows another lab leak narrative of dismissing EcoHealth's work as simply being a 'marriage-maker' between US and China labs to shunt NIH money to China. I'm very proud of the fact that EHA's work over the last two decades has led to multiple papers in *Nature*, *Science*, and all other leading journals. You just don't end

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up being senior author on these papers by acting as a 'marriage maker', but dismissing our scientific status is part of the lab leak agenda to undermine science.

He accuses me of 'not telling the truth'. No details of course!

Accuses all the other Task Force members of hiding some alleged conflict of interest - that they are 'part of this thing', whatever that is

Accuses the task force of trying to avoid looking into the lab leak even though he knew full well we had interviewed people like Relman, Ebright, Quay as part of our work and had stated publicly that we would look at all hypotheses re. COVID origins.

He dodges the question on my alleged 'hiding pretty serious conflicts of interest' by saying he asked for my research proposals and I wouldn't hand them over on legal advice. What he failed to mention is the reason I gave him for this in an email – NIH had refused to make those proposals public under FoIA and had then been sued. If I then went against their direction I would run the risk of further grant terminations. That's what my lawyers advised and I have an organization to run, rather than undermine our funding base just because Jeff Sachs is inquisitive…

Damagingly, he states that our rationale for hiding the truth is because we don't want to be guilty for millions of deaths. That is exactly the comment I get when people send me death threats (more every week now that these stories are in the news). It's a pretty straightforward incitement to violence for these people.

He states that he doesn't trust scientists because we hide our work, when in fact we've published it in papers, and our proposals (even those that are not funded) are now public.

He equates this work with nuclear weapons research

He criticizes NIH for redacting 290 pages of attachments. Anyone who's bothered to look at that will see that NIH was circulating a DRAFT version of their COVID-19 research strategy that was released a few days later having been corrected and edited. It was simply an attachment to an email. There's no way that a govt agency should be circulating uncorrected versions of a strategic plan – that's just commonsense.

https://www.currentaffairs.org/2022/08/why- the-chair-of-the-lancets-covid-19-commission-thinks-the-us-government-is-preventing-a-real-investigation-into-the-pandemic

Why the Chair of the Lancet's COVID-19 Commission Thinks The US Government Is Preventing a Real Investigation Into the Pandemic

Prof. Jeffrey Sachs says he is "pretty convinced [COVID-19] came out of US lab biotechnology" and warns that there is dangerous virus research taking place without public oversight.

Current Affairs

filed 02 August 2022 in THE VIRUS

Prof. Jeffrey Sachs is the Director of the Center for Sustainable Development at Columbia University and the President of the UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network. He has also served as the chair of the COVID-19 commission for leading medical journal the *Lancet*. Through his investigations as the head of the COVID-19 commission, Prof. Sachs has come to the conclusion that there is extremely dangerous biotechnology research being kept from public view, that the United States was supporting much of this research, and that it is very possible that SARS-CoV-2, the virus responsible for COVID-19, originated through dangerous virus research gone awry.

Prof. Sachs recently co-authored a paper in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences calling for an independent inquiry into the virus's origins. He believes that there is clear proof that the National Institutes of Health and many members of the scientific community have been impeding a serious

investigation of the origins of COVID-19 and deflecting attention away from the hypothesis that risky U.S.-supported research may have led to millions of deaths. If that hypothesis is true, the implications would be earth-shaking, because it might mean that esteemed members of the scientific community bore responsibility for a global calamity. In this interview, Prof. Sachs explains how he, as the head of the COVID-19 commission for a leading medical journal, came to the conclusion that powerful actors were preventing a real investigation from taking place. He also explains why it is so important to get to the bottom of the origins of COVID: because, he says, there is extremely dangerous research taking place with little accountability, and the public has a right to know since we are the ones whose lives are being put at risk without our consent.

NATHAN ROBINSON:

I want to quote something that you said recently:

"I chaired the commission for the Lancet for two years on COVID. I'm pretty convinced it came out of U.S. lab biotechnology, not out of nature, just to mention. After two years of intensive work on this. So it's a blunder in my view of biotech, not an accident of a natural spillover. We don't know for sure, I should be absolutely clear. But there's enough evidence that it should be looked into. And it's not being investigated, not in the United States, not anywhere. And I think for real reasons that they don't want to look underneath the rug, the statement."

The statement that you made there is a controversial one. Just to read a couple of quotes from the *New York Times* in the last year:

"In a review of recent studies and comparisons to other outbreaks, a group of virologists contends that there is more evidence to support a natural spillover from animals to humans."

"Scientists released a pair of extensive studies over the weekend that point to a large food and live animal market in Wuhan, China, as the origin of the coronavirus pandemic."

So I want to start by asking you just to tell us a little bit about the investigation that you were part of and what led you to think that what I just quoted is a misleading statement of the state of the evidence.

JEFFREY SACHS:

Well, the funny thing is those scientists who are saying that said the same thing on February 4, 2020, before they had done any research at all. And they published the same statement in March 2020, before they had any facts at all. So they're creating a narrative. And they're denying the alternative hypothesis without looking closely at it. That's the basic point.

Now, what is the alternative hypothesis? The alternative hypothesis is quite straightforward. And that is that there was a lot of research underway in the United States and China on taking SARS-like viruses, manipulating them in the laboratory, and creating potentially far more dangerous viruses. And the particular virus that causes COVID-19, called SARS-Cov-2, is notable because it has a piece of its genetic makeup that makes the virus more dangerous. And that piece of the genome is called the "furin cleavage site." Now, what's interesting, and concerning if I may say so, is that the research that was underway very actively and being promoted, was to insert furin cleavage sites into SARS-like viruses to see what would happen. Oops!

Well, that is what *may* have happened. And what has been true from the start is that that very real possibility, which a lot of scientists know, has not been looked at closely, even though it's absolutely clear that it could have happened that way. They're not looking. They just keep telling us, "Look at the market, look at the market, look at the market!" But they don't address this alternative. They don't even look at the data. They don't even ask questions. And the truth is from the beginning, they haven't asked the real questions.

But not *quite* the beginning. Because at the beginning, which we could date from the first phone call of the National Institutes of Health (NIH) with a group of virologists on February 1, 2020, the virologists said "Oh my god, that is strange, that could well be a laboratory creation. What is that furin cleavage site doing in there?" Because scientists knew that was part of an active ongoing research program. And yet, by February 3, the same group is saying "No, no, it's natural, it's natural." By February 4, they start to draft the papers that are telling the public, "Don't worry, it's natural." By March, they write a paper—totally spurious, in my view—called the proximal origins paper that is the most cited bio paper in 2020. It said: it is absolutely natural. [Note: the paper's conclusion is "we do not believe that any type of laboratory-based scenario is plausible."] But they didn't have any of the data that you read about in the

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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

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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

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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

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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:

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The most interesting things that I got as chair of the *Lancet* commission came from Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) lawsuits and whistleblower leaks from inside the U.S. government. Isn't that terrible? NIH was actually asked at one point: give us your research program on SARS-like viruses. And you know what they did? They released the cover page and redacted 290 pages. They gave us a cover page and 290 blank pages! That's NIH, for heaven's sake. That's not some corporation. That is the U.S. government charged with keeping us healthy.

What I found is that we have a lot of data which we're not finding right now. And I don't want to have to rely on FOIA and leaks, though those can be incredibly informative. I want clear, independent scientific investigation and transparency. One way to do this would be a bipartisan congressional oversight investigation that had subpoena power. Give us your lab records, your notebooks, your data files of virus strains, and so forth. There are many questions that we need independent scientists to define, to tell us exactly the kinds of information. But we know right now we're operating in an environment in which the government is working to hide the data that we need to make a real assessment.

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Cheers,

Peter

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Date: Fri, 26 Apr 2024 7:28:28 AM -0400
Sent: Fri, 26 Apr 2024 7:28:21 AM -0400
Subject: Re: Details and a link to my upcoming Public Hearing
From: Roberts, Rich < (b) (6)
To: Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6) (b) (6) < (b) (6)
CC: Peter Daszak < (b) (6) Keusch, Gerald T < (b) (6) Jeff Sturchio < (b) (6) (b) (6) Aleksei Chmura < (b) (6) (b) (6)

Peter:

Good luck. I am at the NAS meeting and will be in the audience.

Rich

Get Outlook for iOS

From: Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6)
Sent: Friday, April 26, 2024 7:19:14 AM
To: (b) (6) < (b) (6)
Cc: Peter Daszak < (b) (6) Keusch, Gerald T < (b) (6) Jeff Sturchio < (b) (6) >; Roberts, Rich < (b) (6) (b) (6) <(b) (6) Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) >; (b) (6) < (b) (6) >
Subject: Re: Details and a link to my upcoming Public Hearing

EXTERNAL SENDER

Thanks, whether it stimulates any tangible action or deliverables is hard to say, but I will try! Best Peter

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP

Texas Children's Hospital: Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics | Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development | Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

Baylor College of Medicine: Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine | Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology | Health Policy Scholar

Baylor University, University Professor
Rice University, Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty
Texas A&M University, Faculty-Senior Fellow, Hagler Inst for Advanced Study & Scowcroft Institute of Intl Affairs

E-mail | Twitter | LinkedIn | Skype: (b) (6)
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Senior Coordinator & Executive Support: Douglas Soriano
(b) (6) | Phone: (b) (6) | Fax: 713-798-2299

Media Inquiries:
(b) (6)
(b) (6)

iPhone

On Apr 26, 2024, at 5:48 AM, (b) (6) < (b) (6) > wrote:

Peter, that is great. I hope you pull no punches and also get a chance to let NAS colleagues what is happening and what needs to be done to put an end to it. d

Sent from Proton Mail Android

-------- Original Message --------
On 4/26/24 01:20, Hotez, Peter Jay wrote:

Dear Peter: this Sunday I'm in DC at NAS on a panel with Tony Fauci, Michael Mann, and Akiko Iwasaki discussing the political attacks on scientists and I plan to comment on these horrific congressional hearings, best Peter

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP

Texas Children's Hospital: Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics | Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development | Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

Baylor College of Medicine: Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine | Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology | Health Policy Scholar

Baylor University, University Professor
Rice University, Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty
Texas A&M University, Faculty-Senior Fellow, Hagler Inst for Advanced Study & Scowcroft Institute of Intl Affairs

E-mail | Twitter | LinkedIn | Skype: (b) (6)
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Media Inquiries:
(b) (6) (b)(6)
(b) (6)

iPhone

On Apr 25, 2024, at 10:35 PM, Peter Daszak < (b) (6) > wrote:

*****CAUTION:*** This email is not from a BCM Source. Only click links or open attachments you know are safe.**

Dear colleagues,

Sadly we're getting close to my upcoming public hearing with the SSCP. There are some details and a link below that you can use to watch it live on the day:

https://uspolitics.einnews.com/pr_news/706672646/hearing- advisory-ecohealth-alliance-president-dr-peter-daszak-to-testify-on-may-1

Hearing Advisory: EcoHealth Alliance President Dr. Peter Daszak to Testify on May 1

WASHINGTON — On May 1, 2024 at 10:00am ET, the Select Subcommittee on the Coronavirus Pandemic will hold a hearing titled, "A Hearing with the President of EcoHealth Alliance, Dr. Peter Daszak." This hearing will examine EcoHealth Alliance's (EcoHealth) use of U.S. taxpayer dollars to fund dangerous gain-of-function research at the Wuhan Institute of Virology as well as hold Dr. Daszak publicly accountable for any and all discrepancies between his closed-door transcribed interview and available evidence. Prior to Dr. Daszak's public testimony, the Select Subcommittee will release the full transcript from Dr. Daszak's transcribed interview and publish a detailed report about EcoHealth's impact on the origins of COVID-19.

Read more about Dr. Daszak's upcoming hearing here.

WHAT: Hearing titled "A Hearing with the President of EcoHealth Alliance, Dr. Peter Daszak"

DATE: Wednesday, May 1, 2024

TIME: 10:00AM ET

LOCATION: 2154 Rayburn House Office Building

WITNESS:

Dr. Peter Daszak

President

EcoHealth Alliance, Inc.

WATCH: The hearing will be open to the public and press and will be livestreamed online at https://oversight.house.gov/hearing/a- hearing-with-the-president-of-ecohealth-alliance-dr-peter-daszak/.

RSVP: Media must be congressionally credentialed and RSVP by Tuesday, May 1 at 5:00 PM ET.

###

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak

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President

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EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

From: (b) (6) <(b) (6)
Sent: Wednesday, April 24, 2024 6:37 PM
To: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >; Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6) Jeff Sturchio <(b)(6) Roberts, Rich <(b) (6) Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6)
Cc: Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) > (b)(6)
Subject: Re: Now public that Tony Fauci will testify in front of SSCP on June 3rd

I do not l 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
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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 Jay' (b) (6) >
Cc: 'Aleksei Chmura' <(b) (6) >; 'John Feigelson' <(b) (6) >
Subject: RE: Today's news...

By the way – Allegations that me sending information to David Morens is somehow corrupt are outrageous. Tony Fauci was busy working with the White House COVID taskforce at the time, trying to halt the worse pandemic since the 1918 influenza outbreak. I would have happy emailed him directly, but pretty sure he wasn't checking each of his 50,000 emails a day!

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

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Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
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EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

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From: Peter Daszak (b) (6) >
Sent: Friday, April 19, 2024 8:10 PM
To: (b) (6) ; 'Keusch, Gerald T' <(b) (6) 'Jeff Sturchio' <
(b) 'Roberts, Rich' <(b) (6) 'Hotez, Peter Jay' (b) (6) ;
(b) (6) (b)(6) >
Cc: Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) >; John Feigelson <
(b) (6) >
Subject: Today's news...

Had a very successful EcoHealth Alliance benefit last night – sorry some of you couldn't be there.

Michael Mann was our main honoree, and he was great! We raised well above our expectation – all critical to keeping us afloat given the increased pressure we're under right now.

Speaking of which – here's the latest attempt from the SSCP to smear David Morens, EcoHealth Alliance and others as being involved in a 'cover up'

https://nypost.com/2024/04/19/us- news/ex-fauci-adviser-shared-confidential-nih-info-with-ecohealth-about-covid-biosafety-levels-docs/

Basically, they've found an email from me to David, Jerry others when the allegations that EcoHealth expts were conducted at an insufficient BSL level first came out. Tony Fauci was interviewed and said that he would look into it. I sent David M. a review I'd done of the BSL rules for Bat CoVs in various countries, which clearly show that we were operating at the correct biosafety levels.

Cheers,

Peter

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EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

From: (b) (6) >
Sent: Wednesday, April 17, 2024 7:16 AM
To: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >; Keusch, Gerald T (b) (6) >; Jeff Sturchio (b) (6) Roberts, Rich <(b) (6) Hotez, Peter Jay < (b) (6) (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
>
> <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

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Cheers,

Peter

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From: Peter Daszak (b) (6) >
Sent: Tuesday, April 16, 2024 3:22 PM
To: (>; 'Keusch, Gerald T' < (b) (6) 'Jeff Sturchio' (b) (6) (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.: + (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) (b)(6)
Cc: Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) >; (b) (6)
Subject: Re: COVID select subcommittee is now threatening to call David in for a public hearing

Guys,my lawyer called and i am to be subpoenaed to testify in public hearing on camera. They want me b4 Tony but after Peter. The Dems reached out to my lawyer and asked WTF is going on. Not sure why they don't know. d

Sent from Proton Mail Android

-------- Original Message --------
On 4/12/24 16:12, Peter Daszak wrote:

> Here's the COVID committee (SSCP) threatening to call David in for a public hearing based on the emails they claim show that we all used gmail inappropriately (based on a Washington Examiner report today)…
>
> Tweet here: https://x.com/COVIDSelect/status/1778859503796056214
>
> Washington Examiner BS article here: https://www.washingtonexaminer.com/policy/healthcare/2964227/ecohealth-alliance-email-release-confirms-fauci-aide-used-private-account-discuss-covid/
>
> Full text of tweet:
>
> **Post**
> See new posts
> **Conversation**
> Pinned
> <image003.jpg>
>
> **Select Subcommittee on the Coronavirus Pandemic**

@COVIDSelect

<image005.png>
BREAKING
<image005.png>

@EcoHealthNYC
President Dr. Peter Daszak CONFIRMS whistleblower allegations that Dr. David Morens — a top advisor to Dr. Fauci — used Gmail to hide COVID-19 information. We are beginning the process to secure Dr. Morens's public testimony.
<image004.jpg>

From washingtonexaminer.com

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

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Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

From: (b) (6)
Sent: Friday, April 12, 2024 1:37 PM
To: Peter Daszak (b) (6) >; Keusch, Gerald T < (b) (6) >; Jeff Sturchio (b) (6) ; Roberts, Rich < (b) (6) >; Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6)
Cc: Aleksei Chmura (b) (6)

(b)(6)

Subject: Re: My email to Michael Hiltzik with an EcoHealth Statement and Email release today

Again. this is excellent. We need more of these stand-up-to-bullies fusillades. d

Sent from Proton Mail Android

-------- Original Message --------
On 4/12/24 11:20, Peter Daszak wrote:

> Please read the email I just sent to Michael Hiltzik. It has links to a statement from EcoHealth and the release of the full text (slight redactions) of emails that involve David and Jerry, and were reported in the NY Post and other Right wing outlets yesterday, amplified by Republicans on the COVID Committeee…
>
> Cheers,
>
> Peter
>
> **Peter Daszak**
> *President*
>
> EcoHealth Alliance
> 520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
> New York, NY 10018-6507
> USA
>
> Tel.: + (b) (6)
> Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
> Twitter: @PeterDaszak
>
> *EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation*
>
> **From:** Peter Daszak <(b) (6)
> **Sent:** Friday, April 12, 2024 11:19 AM
> **To:** 'Michael Hiltzik' (b) (6)
> **Cc:** 'Aleksei Chmura (b) (6) <
> (b) (6)
> **Subject:** EcoHealth Statement and Email release today has relevance to NIH and Michael Lauer issues

Importance: High

Good to talk with you yesterday Michael. We got more negative press yesterday, this time related to emails that allegedly show coverups and inappropriate behavior among scientists. The Republicans released only the subject line and addresses etc. (https://oversight.house.gov/release/wenstrup-reveals-emails-from-whistleblower-alleging-additional-attempts-by-fauci-advisor-to-subvert-transparency-about-covid-19-origins/), leading to BS stories in the usual right wing press. We released the full text of the emails today:

https://www.ecohealthalliance.org/2024/04/ecohealth- alliance-releases-emails-that-are-the-subject-of-false-allegations-in-the-press

These are all from me to senior NIAID staffmember David Morens and former NIH Center Director Jerry Keusch, trying to make sense of the termination of our grant by Trump, and to find a way to get it reinstated. In the end NIH did reinstate the grant (May 2023). One of the chains shows emails that refer to the pressure from Michael Lauer, and the fact NIH instructed me not to talk with our program officer (Erik Stemmy) and direct all communications to Grants Management (Emily Linde). That was another highly unusual move from NIH and is part of the pattern that I was talking with you about.

Here is that particular set of emails: https://www.ecohealthalliance.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/04/Emails- 01.pdf

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
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EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

From: Michael Hiltzik (b) (6)
Sent: Tuesday, April 9, 2024 6:01 PM
To: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >
Subject: Re: Call tomorrow?

Absolutely. That time is good...I can call then...

MH

On Tue, Apr 9, 2024 at 2:59 PM Peter Daszak <
(b) (6) > wrote:

> Hi Michael – just following up on this – are you available tomorrow at 5:30pm my time, 2:30pm West Coast time?
>
> I can send a zoom link or call my cellphone (b) (6)
>
> Cheers,
>
> Peter
>
> **Peter Daszak**
> *President*
>
> EcoHealth Alliance
> 520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
> New York, NY 10018-6507
> USA
>
> Tel.: + (b) (6)
> Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
> Twitter: @PeterDaszak
>
> *EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation*
>
> ---
>
> **From:** Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >
> **Sent:** Sunday, April 7, 2024 9:34 AM
> **To:** 'Michael Hiltzik' (b) (6)
> **Cc:** 'Aleksei Chmura ((b) (6))' <
> (b) (6) '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

MORENS_NIH_047299
REL0000477082

Importance: High

I have good answers for you on all of those – it's ugly and political. There are also others who are well-placed who you can talk with.

I can do Wednesday at 5:30pm my time if that works for you (2:30pm West Coast). I have other times as well… cc'ing Alison who will make sure we find a time that works.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

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EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

From: Michael Hiltzik (b) (6)
Sent: Saturday, April 6, 2024 6:50 PM
To: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >
Subject: Re: Confidential - NIH still hampering EcoHealth's ability to conduct work 4 years since the termination of our grant

Peter,

Let's set up a time to talk next week (Wednesday or later best for me). On first glance, it strikes me that I'm glad I'm not in the grants-application business, because the bureaucratic behavior here seems incomprehensible, at least to a layman.

What's the overarching theme in their relations with you? Is it pressure from the lab-leak crowd, the FOIAing from Tobias, which as far as I can tell has yielded nothing of any substance? A spillover from the Trump era?

I read the Science piece, which was thorough in detailing what was done to the Chinese researchers but silent on what provoked it....what was the question I was left with--Why did NIH do all this?

MH

On Sat, Apr 6, 2024 at 12:03 PM Peter Daszak <
(b) (6)
> wrote:

> Hi Michael, I'm just contacting you off the record in case you or others are interested in reporting on what's going on at NIH with respect to EHA's grants. We were trying to deal with this privately, without it becoming public, but we found out last week that some of our recent correspondence with Emily Erbelding asking for her help is in a batch of FoIA's emails that will be released to Jimmy Tobias in the next couple of weeks. Tobias is in the habit of simply dumping these on the internet, so we wanted to get these to a bona fide reporter before that happens.
>
> As you probably know, our organization has been funded by NIAID for around 20 years, conducting successful research on emerging diseases, and working closely with communities, scientists and governments in emerging disease hotspot countries to try to reduce the risk of disease emergence. Prior to the termination of our R01 grant in April 2020 that would have had the Wuhan Institute of Virology as a subrecipient, we had never had any issues with NIH or NIAID, and had been lauded by program officers for our cutting edge research into viral emergence, and the many papers in Science, Nature, NEJM and others based on NIH funding.
>
> After the termination of our grant, the HHS OIG was called in to audit our work and NIH's oversight. They reported back after an 18 month audit with recommendations for both us, and for NIH, most of which were minor and easily addressed. We rapidly complied and NIH's DFAS group confirmed that all audit findings were resolved. However, we continued to receive further actions from the Office of the Director (Michael Lauer, who *Science* wrote about re. NIH's actions on grantees with China connections https://www.science.org/content/article/pall- suspicion-nihs-secretive-china-initiative-destroyed-scores-academic-careers), and the NIH group that manages oversight (OPERA) directly under Michael Lauer. In April 2023, Michelle Bulls from Opera and Emily Linde from NIAID placed 4 Specific Award Conditions (SACs) on our grants. At the time, Michael Lauer had contacted Tufts University who oversaw our IACUC approvals to conduct wildlife sampling because EHA doesn't have an animal facility. This led to Tufts canceling our interinstitutional agreement. The only way for us to proceed

was to request an Animal Welfare Assurance from OLAW (based at NIH), but this was denied because of these SACs. One of the SACs stated that all of our subcontracts must be reviewed and revised by NIH reviews. We worked extremely hard to rapidly respond (often within days) to every single request, despite many of them being contradictory or having no material impact on the contracts. In the original letter NIH set a deadline of September 2023 to resolve the SACs, which due to repeated delays by NIH grants management staff in responding to us, continued further requests and shifting of the goalposts means we still do not have resolution. Furthermore, grants management are now suggesting that we are beyond the period of work and our subcontractees won't be able to be reimbursed. Additionally, during the past 12 months, NIH has only reimbursed EcoHealth for around $50K of the now nearly $2 million we are expecting and have expended.

As you can imagine, this puts us in a very difficult position, with institutions like UNC and Uniformed Services University likely to be outraged that their funding is threatened, and with us unable to do our work fully – work that has been reviewed, scored well, and is critical to pandemic prevention. We've tried every possible avenue to get a fair and reasonable rapid resolution. We've informed Emily Erbelding of these issues (hence the FoIA'd email), and Program staff at NIAID remain supportive of our work, but we still have no resolution. Every time we try to seek a meeting or resolution, we get a hard response from NIH that we're out of compliance and they set further deadlines and further minor issues for us to fix. Right now I believe we're probably in greater compliance with NIH rules and just about any other institution in the US, given the level of scrutiny we've gone through. I've attached some of the many recent letters between NIH OPERA, NIAID Grants managements and EcoHealth Alliance to give you an indication of the levels of detailed work that we've gone through to try and resolve these issues.

We don't know the reasons why this is happening – all our subcontracts prior to April 2023 covered every single requirement in NIH's grants management guidance, subrecipients had to sign that they would adhere to these. The stonewalling, and shifting of goalposts by NIH is linked to emails that they send us stating that we're 'delinquent' or 'out of compliance', or that they're 'concerned' etc. and seem to us designed ready to be FoIA'd (which they are being) or to be used when NIH has to show Congressional Republicans that EcoHealth is being treated in the way they are calling for. Meanwhile, important findings can't be reported, including a novel SARS-CoV-2 related virus able to bind well to human ACE2 that we have found in one of our country sites, but are now unable to publish because our subrecipient is concerned they don't yet have an approved contract. This is hurting our ability to conduct pandemic prevention work, and the US's

ability to be informed about public health threats that could emerge and threaten our citizens.

If you want to report on this, I'm happy to talk on-the-record on some issues, and there are others who are aware of these problems that I can put you in touch with, including at NIH and senior people from outside.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

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EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

Date: Tue, 28 Jun 2022 10:27:58 AM -0400
Sent: Tue, 28 Jun 2022 10:26:57 AM -0400
Subject: Fwd: COVID-19 Commission: Need approval of minor edits after first peer review
From: "Hotez (b)(6)
To: Gerald T Keusch (b)(6) Aleksei Chmura (b) (6) >; David Morens (b)(6) >; Jeffrey Sturchio (b) (6) Peter Daszak (b)(6) g >; Rich Roberts (b)(6)
Attachments: Outlook-gr2pyf23.png

I feel like I'm revisiting my adolescence

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP
Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine
Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology
Health Policy Scholar
Baylor College of Medicine

Texas Children's Hospital Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics
Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development

University Professor, Baylor University

Faculty Fellow, Hagler Institute for Advanced Study
Senior Fellow, Scowcroft Institute of International Affairs
Texas A&M University
Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty and Adjunct Professor of Bioengineering, Rice University
Adjunct Professor, University of Texas, School of Public Health

Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

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Skype: (b)(6)
Linkedin Peter Hotez

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 9:23:55 AM CDT
To: Jeffrey Sachs (b)(6)
Subject: Re: COVID-19 Commission: Need approval of minor edits after first peer review

You mean with the guy with publicly berates virologists, including me, calling us "stooges"? Look Jeff, you're publicly supporting a fringe group and idea, and that's your right. But for a public consensus document such as a Lancet Commission report it needs to be tempered and modulated appropriately. Now that a referee has called it out as well, the scientific community is telling you to fix this. I believe my language is the most straightforward and does not ask you to retract your own strong views.

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP
Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine
Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology
Health Policy Scholar
Baylor College of Medicine

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Texas A&M University
Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty and Adjunct Professor of Bioengineering, Rice University
Adjunct Professor, University of Texas, School of Public Health

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Linkedin Peter Hotez

Amazon Author Center: https://www.amazon.com/Peter- J.-Hotez/e/B001HPIC48
Daily Beast Contributor https://www.thedailybeast.com/author/peter- j-hotez
Like us on Facebook https://www.facebook.com/BCMNationalSchoolOfTropicalMedicine/

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MORENS_SUBPOENA_007192
MORENS_NIH_016355
REL0000477083

iPhone

On Jun 28, 2022, at 9:14 AM, Jeffrey Sachs (b)(6) wrote:

You should have shown up to make your case. Too bad you did not. Too bad Worobey skipped. Too bad NIH has hidden all the data, non-stop.

Sent from my iPhone

On Jun 28, 2022, at 3:40 PM, Hotez, Peter Jay (b)(6) wrote:

Investigation to dot the i's and clear the falsely accused. No serious virologist looking at the data would say that this virus arose from GOF human research

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP
Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine
Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology
Health Policy Scholar
Baylor College of Medicine

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Adjunct Professor, University of Texas, School of Public Health

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Daily Beast Contributor https://www.thedailybeast.com/author/peter- j-hotez

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MORENS_NIH_016356
REL0000477083

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Senior Coordinator / Executive Support: Douglas Soriano
(b)(6)
Phone: (b)(6)
Fax: 713-798-2299

iPhone

On Jun 28, 2022, at 8:31 AM, Jeffrey Sachs (b)(6) wrote:

The report says only that both hypotheses are in play and should be pursued. You are free to state on your own account outside of the Commission your own conclusions at any time. Each of us can do so. There is not any hint whatsoever of "equally likely." (I personally believe, along with many scientists, that a lab release is the most likely origin, by the way, but the report in no way states that.)

Personally I find your position to be untenable. Because of FOIA we now know in remarkable detail just how much the NIH has hidden from view. Even Baric says that both hypotheses need investigation. The US Intelligence Community similarly concluded that both hypotheses are in play. The Commission is calling for transparency.

Sent from my iPhone

On Jun 28, 2022, at 3:05 PM, Hotez, Peter Jay (b)(6) wrote:

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

MORENS_SUBPOENA_007194
MORENS_NIH_016357
REL0000477083

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
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Adjunct Professor, University of Texas, School of Public Health

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Skype: (b)(6)
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Amazon Author Center: https://www.amazon.com/Peter- J.-Hotez/e/B001HPIC48
Daily Beast Contributor https://www.thedailybeast.com/author/peter- j-hotez
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 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

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Texas A&M University
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Adjunct Professor, University of Texas, School of Public Health

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Senior Coordinator / Executive Support: Douglas Soriano
(b)(6)
Phone (b)(6)
Fax: 713-798-2299

From: (b)
Sent: Monday, June 27, 2022 12:55 PM
To: (b) (6)

(b) (6)

>

Cc: (b) (6) >
Subject: COVID-19 Commission: Need approval of minor edits after first

MORENS_SUBPOENA_007198
MORENS_NIH_016361
REL0000477083

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
--

(b) (6)
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_007199
MORENS_NIH_016362
REL0000477083

Date: Fri, 21 Jul 2023 1:08:42 PM -0400
Sent: Fri, 21 Jul 2023 1:07:52 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)

(b) (6)
(b) (6) (work)
(b) (6) (cell)

IMPORTANT: My gmail frequently sends incoming messages to Trash, which is apparently not correctable. If you don't hear from me in a reasonable time, please try again, call, or use my NIH email address

IMPORTANT: For US Government-related email, please also reply to my NIAID address

---------- Forwarded message --------
From: **Hotez, Peter Jay** (b) (6) >
Date: Thu, Apr 21, 2022 at 9:23 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)

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

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Health Policy Scholar
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Adjunct Professor, University of Texas, School of Public Health

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Amazon Author Center: https://www.amazon.com/Peter- J.-Hotez/e/B001HPIC48
Daily Beast Contributor https://www.thedailybeast.com/author/peter- j-hotez
Like us on Facebook https://www.facebook.com/BCMNationalSchoolOfTropicalMedicine/

Senior Coordinator / Executive Support: Douglas Soriano
(b)(6)
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Fax: 713-798-2299

iPhone

On Apr 21, 2022, at 7:55 AM, Peter Daszak (t(b) (6) > wrote:

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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.

MORENS_SUBPOENA_010245
MORENS_NIH_020755
REL0000481084

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak

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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

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Date:	Tue, 28 Jun 2022 12:04:39 PM -0400
Sent:	Tue, 28 Jun 2022 12:01:09 PM -0400
Subject:	Re: Jeff Sachs' comments RE: COVID-19 Commission: Need approval of minor edits after first peer review
From:	"Hotez, Peter Jay" < (b) (6)
To:	Peter Daszak < (b) (6)
CC:	Gerald T Keusch < (b) (6) Aleksei Chmura < (b) (6) David Morens < (b) (6) Jeffrey Sturchio < (b) (6) Rich Roberts < (b) (6)
Attachments:	image006.png; image001.png; image007.png; image001.png; image007.png; image006.png

I need to add this to my antiscience book

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iPhone

On Jun 28, 2022, at 10:54 AM, Peter Daszak < (b) (6) > wrote:

Richard Horton already made a false statement about me to the House of Commons – saying that it took him a year to get me to fully disclose my conflicts of interests for the Lancet 'Statement of support' we wrote in Feb 2020. He referred to me as "that individual". De-humanizing and dishonest. So I doubt he'll intervene, but worth a shot.

By the way – here's today's gloating article by the "White Coat Waste" celebrating Republican congressional member Reschenthaler (PA) who has been doggedly pursuing our defunding for the last 2 years. The amendments do not actually make any iota of difference of course – No funds from DoD ever went to Wuhan either directly or through EcoHealth. But it does the job of painting us as an organization that should be attacked. Just as Sachs' Lancet Commission report will now do.

https://blog.whitecoatwaste.org/2022/06/24/progress- congress-defunds-wuhan-animal-lab-ecohealth-alliance/

PROGRESS! CONGRESS DEFUNDS WUHAN

POSTED BY
24 JUNE 2022 |

Ever since White Coat Waste Project (WCW) **first exposed** that dangerous coronavirus experiments on animals at the Wuhan Institute of Virology (WIV) were funded by U.S. taxpayers, the idea that the coronavirus accidentally leaked from the lab and caused the COVID pandemic has gained international traction. Even the World Health Organization (WHO) — which once dismissed the theory — now **says** that the lab leak hypothesis deserves "further investigation."

Congress recognizes the threat posed by funding risky animal experiments at the notorious Wuhan lab, too. On Wednesday, June 22, the powerful House Appropriations Committee, which sets the budget for federal agencies, approved a White Coat Waste Project-endorsed amendment from Rep. Guy Reschenthaler (R-PA), banning any Department of Defense (DOD) funds from being spent at the Wuhan Institute of Virology. The DOD, along with the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and State Department, funded dangerous animal experiments at the Wuhan lab.

AMENDMENT TO DEFENSE APPROPRIATIONS BILL

OFFERED BY MR. RESCHENTHALER OF

PENNSYLVANIA

At the e

the followin

SEC. . None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to support any activity conducted by, or associated with, the Wuhan Institute of Virology.

1 SEC. . None of the funds made available by this

2 Act may be used to support any activity conducted by,

3 or associated with, the Wuhan Institute of Virology.



The committee also approved a second WCW-backed **amendment** from Rep. Reschenthaler, barring the DOD, for the **second year** in a row, from funding any work in China performed by the white coats at shady nonprofit **EcoHealth Alliance**, which funneled tax dollars to the Wuhan lab. A majority of Americans, as well as the FBI and other experts, believe their gain-of-function

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experiments on animals could have caused the pandemic.

Rep. Reschenthaler, a **Waste Warrior**, has been a long-time ally of WCW, recently penning a **joint op-ed in *Newsweek*** with our founder and president Anthony Bellotti about our work together to investigate the lab leak hypothesis and hold government bureaucrats accountable.

The bill will soon head to the House for a vote, then the Senate. As it progresses, we will keep you posted; in the meantime, thank you to Rep. Reschenthaler, and other members of the Appropriations Committee, for protecting taxpayers, animals and public health!

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

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EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

---

From: Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6)
Sent: Tuesday, June 28, 2022 11:44 AM
To: Peter Daszak (b) (6) >
Cc: Gerald T Keusch <(b) (6) >; Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) >; David Morens <(b) (6) >; Jeffrey Sturchio <(b) (6) Rich Roberts <(b) (6)
Subject: Re: Jeff Sachs' comments RE: COVID-19 Commission: Need approval of minor edits after first peer review

It's beyond disgusting, hopefully Richard Horton intervenes

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP

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iPhone

On Jun 28, 2022, at 10:42 AM, Peter Daszak (b) (6) wrote:

Just awful to see how obstinate he's become on what should be a non-issue.

I'm also pretty disgusted with his comment "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)." It's lower down in the email chain.

That's a hell of an accusation he's stating to you, knowing you're in disagreement. I shudder to think what he's saying to those who are neutral or lean towards the conspiratorial side.

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There is not a single time I lied, or other taskforce members were duplicit in dishonesty or any other 'thought-crime'. It's demonstrably clear, should anyone bother to ask, and we have the back up docs to prove it.

And by the way, speaking of adolescence, people who call me by my last name in that way take me right back to life in a UK grammar school in the 1970s…it's too easy to spit out a foreign-sounding name just as his email does. You'd think he'd have some empathy, but I guess I made the cardinal mistake of disagreeing with him, and refusing to share EcoHealth privileged documents with him. I guess the punishment for that is what's happening now.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

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---

From: Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6)
Sent: Tuesday, June 28, 2022 10:27 AM
To: Gerald T Keusch (b) (6) Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) >; David Morens <(b) (6) >; Jeffrey Sturchio (b)(6) Peter Daszak <(b)(6) >; Rich Roberts <(b) (6)
Subject: Fwd: COVID-19 Commission: Need approval of minor edits after first peer review

I feel like I'm revisiting my adolescence

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iPhone
Begin forwarded message:

> **From:** "Hotez, Peter Jay" (b) (6) >
> **Date:** June 28, 2022 at 9:23:55 AM CDT
> **To:** Jeffrey Sachs <(b) (6) >
> **Subject: Re: COVID-19 Commission: Need approval of minor edits after first peer review**
>
> You mean with the guy with publicly berates virologists, including me, calling us "stooges"? Look Jeff, you're publicly supporting a fringe group and idea, and that's your right. But for a public consensus document such as a Lancet Commission report it needs to be tempered and modulated appropriately. Now that a referee has called it out as well, the scientific community is telling you to fix this. I believe my language is the most straightforward and does not ask you to retract your own strong views.
>
> Peter Hotez, **MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP**
> Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine
> Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology

Health Policy Scholar
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iPhone

On Jun 28, 2022, at 9:14 AM, Jeffrey Sachs <(b) (6) > wrote:

You should have shown up to make your case. Too bad you did not. Too bad Worobey skipped. Too bad NIH has hidden all the data, non-stop.

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MORENS_NIH_016636
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Sent from my iPhone

On Jun 28, 2022, at 3:40 PM, Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6) wrote:

Investigation to dot the i's and clear the falsely accused. No serious virologist looking at the data would say that this virus arose from GOF human research

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Adjunct Professor, University of Texas, School of Public Health

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MORENS_SUBPOENA_007428
MORENS_NIH_016637
REL0000481089

iPhone

On Jun 28, 2022, at 8:31 AM, Jeffrey Sachs (b)(6) wrote:

The report says only that both hypotheses are in play and should be pursued. You are free to state on your own account outside of the Commission your own conclusions at any time. Each of us can do so. There is not any hint whatsoever of "equally likely." (I personally believe, along with many scientists, that a lab release is the most likely origin, by the way, but the report in no way states that.)

Personally I find your position to be untenable. Because of FOIA we now know in remarkable detail just how much the NIH has hidden from view. Even Baric says that both hypotheses need investigation. The US Intelligence Community similarly concluded that both hypotheses are in play. The Commission is calling for transparency.

Sent from my iPhone

On Jun 28, 2022, at 3:05 PM, Hotez, Peter Jay (b)(6) wrote:

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

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MORENS_NIH_016639
REL0000481089

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*

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MORENS_NIH_016640
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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
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Senior Coordinator / Executive Support: Douglas Soriano
(b) (6)
Phone: (b) (6)
Fax: 713-798-2299

From: Juliana Bartels <(b) (6) >
Sent: Monday, June 27, 2022 12:55 PM
To: (b) (6)

MORENS_SUBPOENA_007433
MORENS_NIH_016642
REL0000481089

(b) (6)

((b)
(6)

Cc: (b) (6)
Subject: COVID-19 Commission: Need approval of minor edits after first peer review

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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!

MORENS_SUBPOENA_007434
MORENS_NIH_016643
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(b)
(6)

Special Assistant to the Director
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Date: Wed, 8 Jul 2020 12:31:43 PM -0400
Sent: Wed, 8 Jul 2020 12:31:42 PM -0400
Subject: RE: AJTMH commentary and editorial
From: Keusch, Gerald T < (b) (6)
To: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] < (b) (6) >; Peter Daszak ((b) (6) < (b) (6) >;
CC: Taubenberger, Jeffery (NIH/NIAID) [E] < (b) (6) >;

Yes, I'm on board. I can review the text this afternoon as well.

Jerry

From: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] < (b) (6)
Sent: Wednesday, July 8, 2020 11:55 AM
To: Peter Daszak ((b) (6) < (b) (6)
Cc: Keusch, Gerald T < (b) (6) Taubenberger, Jeffery (NIH/NIAID) [E] < (b) (6) >
Subject: AJTMH commentary and editorial

Hi Peter,

The Journal is moving quickly on this, with the commentary you already commented on, with very helpful edits, and also a much harder-hitting go-with editorial which defends your work specifically, and in the context of the parallel WHO resignation decision. Although I have helped write the editorial I won't be a co-author on that, as the Society feels, and I agree, that it makes the commentary seem less independent. Also they are worried about getting Tony in trouble, I think.

We have asked a number of luminaries to sign on to the commentary (not the editorial, the Society is handling the authorship on that, separately), and have gotten quite a few folks to join in, including at least one Nobel laureate.

PS, Jerry, we sent you an invite too, hope you will agree to sign on!

Peter, two related things. One of the images we hoped to use in the commentary is from your paper, the one with Allen as first author. Do we have your permission to use it, with proper credit? If so, do you have a high resolution image we can use?

Thanks,

David

David M. Morens, M.D.
CAPT, United States Public Health Service
Senior Advisor to the Director
Office of the Director

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National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases
National Institutes of Health
Building 31, Room 7A-03
31 Center Drive, MSC 2520
Bethesda, MD 20892-2520
- (b) (6) (assistants: Kimberly Barasch; Whitney Robinson)
- (b) (6)
- (b)(6)

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Date: Fri, 21 Jul 2023 1:35:04 PM -0400
Sent: Fri, 21 Jul 2023 1:34:17 PM -0400
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Fwd: Mother Jones: The Coming Tidal Wave of Right Wing Covid Lawsuits
From: David Morens < (b) (6)
To: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] < (b) (6)

David M. Morens, MD
(b) (6)
(b) (6)

(b) (6)
(b) (6) (work)
(b) (6) (cell)

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IMPORTANT: For US Government-related email, please also reply to my NIAID address

--------- Forwarded message --------
From: Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6)
Date: Fri, Apr 28, 2023 at 7:29 PM
Subject: RE: Mother Jones: The Coming Tidal Wave of Right Wing Covid Lawsuits
To: Hotez, Peter Jay < (b) (6) Roberts, Rich < (b) (6)
Cc: David Morens < (b) (6) >, Jeff Sturchio <(b) (6) Aleksei Chmura < (b) (6) >, Peter Daszak < (b) (6) >

And by the way, it was very good to see you as well. You made major contributions to the successful start of our quest for a suitable and effective response to all the messy nasty stuff out there. Now let it rock and roll…

Jerry

From: Keusch, Gerald T
Sent: Friday, April 28, 2023 7:28 PM
To: Hotez, Peter Jay < (b) (6) Roberts, Rich < (b) (6)
Cc: David Morens < (b) (6) Jeff Sturchio <(b) (6) Aleksei Chmura < (b) (6) >; Peter Daszak < (b) (6) >
Subject: RE: Mother Jones: The Coming Tidal Wave of Right Wing Covid Lawsuits

The GND cytokine guy from Harvard School of Public Health? No I

wasn't aware that he was there. What's he up to these days? I thought he had moved to Brazil for a while – is he now a New Yorker?

Jerry

From: Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6)
Sent: Friday, April 28, 2023 2:37 PM
To: Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6) Roberts, Rich <(b) (6)
Cc: David Morens <(b) (6) Jeff Sturchio
<(b) (6) Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) >;
Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >
Subject: Re: Mother Jones: The Coming Tidal Wave of Right Wing Covid Lawsuits

Thank you Jerry, it was so great seeing you and everyone! Did you get a chance to see John David, that was nice as well.

I thought the evening was a great show of support for Peter Daszak and the EcoHealth Alliance, especially from the Board. I think that was probably the best part of the gala, the unbridled enthusiasm for the mission, it was nice to see.

The meeting at the RF in the afternoon was impactful and meaningful. I think we have some momentum to move forward on a coalition. So let's meet next week by zoom.

Warmest regards, Peter

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP

Texas Children's Hospital: Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics | Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development | Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

Baylor College of Medicine: Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine | Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology | Health Policy Scholar

Baylor University, University Professor

Rice University, Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty

Texas A&M University, Faculty-Senior Fellow, Hagler Inst for Advanced Study & Scowcroft Institute of Intl Affairs

E-mail | Twitter | LinkedIn | Skype: (b) (6)

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Senior Coordinator & Executive Support: Douglas Soriano

(b) (6) | Phone: (b) (6) | Fax: 713-798-2299

Media Inquiries:

(b) (6)

(b) (6)

(b) (6)

From: Keusch, Gerald T < (b) (6)
Sent: Friday, April 28, 2023 12:34 PM
To: Roberts, Rich < (b) (6)
Cc: Hotez, Peter Jay < (b) (6) David Morens < (b) (6) Jeff Sturchio < (b) (6) Aleksei Chmura < (b) (6) >; Peter Daszak < (b) (6) >
Subject: Re: Mother Jones: The Coming Tidal Wave of Right Wing Covid Lawsuits

Agree. Let's find a time for a 1 pager for Mitchell and then focus on a short concept paper amd next steps to circulate among the participants and to get more folks involved. Peter H and Peter D you both did a great job at RF and at the Gala for EHA. Jerry

Sent from my iPhone

On Apr 28, 2023, at 11:35 AM, Roberts, Rich < (b) (6) wrote:

Peter:

That's good! We should look further for funding as well.

Rich

Richard J. Roberts

New England Biolabs

240 County Road

Ipswich, MA 01938-2723

USA

Tel: (978) (b) (6)

Fax: (978) 412 9910

email: (b) (6)

Executive Assistant: (b)((b)(6)

Tel: (978) (b) (6)

Fax: (978) 412 9910

email: (b) (6)

From: Hotez, Peter Jay < (b) (6)
Sent: Friday, April 28, 2023 10:43 AM
To: David Morens < (b) (6)
Cc: Gerald Keusch < (b) (6) Jeff Sturchio <(b) (6)
Aleksei Chmura < (b) (6) >; Peter Daszak

< (b) (6) >; Roberts, Rich < (b) (6) >
Subject: Re: Mother Jones: The Coming Tidal Wave of Right Wing Covid Lawsuits

EXTERNAL SENDER

It was great to see everyone yesterday, I think we had a good start yesterday. We should zoom next week to decide how we want to follow up with the Mitchell Foundation

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP

Texas Children's Hospital: Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics | Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development | Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

Baylor College of Medicine: Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine | Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology | Health Policy Scholar

Baylor University, University Professor

Rice University, Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty

Texas A&M University, Faculty-Senior Fellow, Hagler Inst for Advanced Study & Scowcroft Institute of Intl Affairs

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(b) (6)

(b) (6)

iPhone

On Apr 28, 2023, at 10:40 AM, David Morens < (b) (6) > wrote:

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Timely report related to many comments yesterday

d

Sent from my iPhone

David M Morens

OD, NIAID, NIH

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E]" < (b) (6)
Date: April 28, 2023 at 10:37:33 EDT
To: David Morens < (b) (6) >
Subject: Fwd: Mother Jones: The Coming Tidal Wave of Right Wing Covid Lawsuits

Sent from my iPhone

David M Morens

OD, NIAID, NIH

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Folkers, Greg (NIH/NIAID) [C]" < (b) (6)
Date: April 27, 2023 at 16:34:53 EDT
Subject: Mother Jones: The Coming Tidal Wave of Right Wing Covid Lawsuits

The Coming Tidal Wave of Right Wing Covid Lawsuits

Lawyers have found a way to cash in on outrage over mask mandates and vaccines.

Kiera Butler10 hours ago

In late March, I watched as some 300 lawyers, doctors, and activists assembled in the aggressively beige conference wing of the Midtown Atlanta Hilton for the inaugural Covid Litigation Conference. A promotional flier promised that the event would "provide attendees with the resources they need to begin taking on Covid cases for the first time or to expand the range of Covid claims that they currently handle." An unsuspecting lawyer could have been forgiven for expecting tips on how to help clients who had been disabled by Covid that they caught at their factory jobs, for instance, or those whose medical bills their insurance refused to pay.

But those kinds of cases were entirely absent from the agenda. Rather, the topic was a very particular kind of litigation: How best to advance the movement that organizers called "medical freedom." In other words, how to sue the people who created and enforced public health measures like vaccine and mask requirements, policies against Covid misinformation, and treatment protocols for hospitalized Covid patients.

The conference organizers wore t-shirts emblazoned with the slogan "Misinformation Superspreader." Steve Kirsch, a Silicon Valley entrepreneur, philanthropist, and a main organizer of the event, told me that the slogan was a cheeky reference to what he saw as the unfair labeling of anti-vaccine activists as peddlers of misinformation. "We said, 'Okay if that's what they're calling us," he explained, "let's kind of make fun of it." Indeed, many of the attendees seemed to see themselves as underdogs, scrapping against government and pharmaceutical behemoths.

What those underdogs didn't mention during the sessions, though, is their friends in high places: specifically, federal judges who seem to be sympathetic to their aversion to pandemic policies. Pointing to some of the victories that medical freedom lawyers have enjoyed in US District courts, Dorit Reiss, a public health lawyer and law professor at the University of California College of the Law, noted, "They're having some success in the federal system in front of Trump-appointed judges, and they're very much forum shopping right now." Adam Winkler, a constitutional law scholar at the University of California-Los Angeles, agreed. "The courts have issued a lot of what were once thought to be outlandish kinds of rulings with regard to any number of issues like abortion and affirmative action," he said. "I'd expect that encourages people to bind hope to the prospects of lawsuits that they would otherwise seem certain to lose."

When I arrived, I didn't think I'd get past the Misinformation Superspreaders and make it into the ballroom where the event was taking place. The media liaison for the conference, Trevor FitzGibbon, asked me if I was there to write about disinformation, and he seemed to balk at my affirmative answer. When I said I worked for Mother

Jones, he noticeably brightened. He had come up in the PR business working for prominent progressive candidates and groups, he explained, including Barack Obama, MoveOn, and Planned Parenthood, which I took to mean that he considered us to be politically kindred spirits. And then he let me into the ballroom.

Once inside, I watched as one indignant panelist after another enumerated their grievances. At the Hospital Negligence Panel, doctors who refused to deviate from CDC protocol to treat Covid patients with unproven drugs like the antiparasitic medication ivermectin and antimalarial hydroxychloroquine were the targets of rage. The Education Mandates session featured the mother of a California teenager who had defied her school's mask requirement, showing up at school without a mask for weeks on end in 2021, and standing outside the school for hours every day after she was kicked out. The panelists batted around ideas: Could the refusal to wear a mask be considered free speech? Could putting a kid in detention for not wearing a mask count as false imprisonment?

In his speech, Kirsch, the conference organizer, told the story of how, at the beginning of the pandemic, he had invested $1 million of his own money toward studying existing drugs as potential Covid treatments. Somewhere along the way, he became convinced that the Covid vaccines were dangerous. Last year, he founded the Vaccine Safety Research Foundation, whose goal, according to its website, is "to advance COVID-19 vaccine safety through scientific research, public education, and advocacy, and to support the vaccine injured." After his speech, Kirsch told me that he sees litigation as a way to force the federal government agencies to release data that he believes they're concealing about the dangers of the Covid vaccines. He said he is sure that "the only reason that we're not allowed to see any of the data is because it's bad."

Many of the other speakers seemed to share Kirsch's belief that the public isn't seeing the whole picture of Covid. In a constitutional law panel, Robert Barnes, an attorney who previously represented both Kenosha shooter Kyle Rittenhouse and Sandy Hook conspiracy theorist Alex Jones, said, "Pfizer makes the Mexican drug cartels look like a street corner dealer by comparison." To hold the public health crowd accountable, he implored the lawyers at the ballroom tables to "knock down the doors of every court we can."

But not just any court. Medical freedom activists have already started enjoying some successes in front of conservative judges. At the local level, several have sided with plaintiffs who've sued hospitals for refusing to give patients ivermectin. But it's been on the federal level, with Trump-appointed judges, where they've enjoyed some of their most significant successes. In 2021, Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton sued the Biden administration over a proposed policy that would have required Covid vaccinations for all Head Start employees. In March 2023, Judge James Wesley Hendrix of the Northern District of Texas, a Trump appointee, struck down the proposed policy. In January 2022, a group of government workers sued the Biden Administration over

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the president's vaccination requirements for all federal employees; in 2022, Judge Jeffrey Vincent Brown, whom Trump appointed in 2019, ruled in their favor. That ruling was briefly overturned, but in 2023, the 5th US Circuit Court of Appeals in New Orleans upheld it; the opinion was written by Trump appointee Judge Andrew Oldham.

In August 2022, a group of physicians sued the Biden Administration over its efforts to hold social media companies accountable for platforming physicians who spread misinformation about Covid. The plaintiffs, two of whom created the 2020 Great Barrington Declaration to oppose pandemic protections, accused the federal government of violating their First Amendment rights. "The US government used its vast power over social media and big tech to censor legitimate scientific and policy discussion about Covid during the pandemic," Jay Bhattacharya wrote in a statement. That case is still ongoing, but in March, Trump-appointed judge Terry Doughty, in the Western District of Louisiana, denied a motion to dismiss it.

"The US government used its vast power over social media and big tech to censor legitimate scientific and policy discussion about Covid during the pandemic."

There is more to come. Several of the conference speakers have embarked on a Covid litigation bonanza of late. Mark Meuser, a member of the Future Litigation and Censorship panels, boasts on his website that he "has been involved in 22 lawsuits brought against [California Governor Gavin] Newsom for his unconstitutional usurpation of power as a result of COVID-19." In the exhibition area, I visited the booth of Children's Health Defense, the anti-vaccine organization helmed by the new presidential hopeful Robert F. Kennedy, Jr., who announced his bid to replace Joe Biden in April. A flier that highlighted some of the dozens of lawsuits that the group had recently filed reveals its eagerness to sue the government, at both local and federal levels. It's suing California over a law that prohibits doctors from spreading misinformation; the Washington Post and other news outlets over their efforts to stop the spread of misinformation; and the CDC for access to reports of "unusual or unexpected patterns of adverse events reporting that can signal safety problems with a vaccine." Sen. Elizabeth Warren (D-Mass.) is getting sued for calling for a review of the Amazon algorithms that allegedly promoted anti-vaccine books, and Facebook parent company Meta is being sued for "collusion with the US government to censor CHD social media content." Add to the long list of defendants Rutgers University for its vaccine mandate for students and staff.

Law professor Reiss is dubious about the prospects for some of those lawsuits, especially those in which individuals sue a private company for censorship. The First Amendment, she noted, also protects "the freedom of private companies like Twitter and YouTube to kick them off." Nor was the idea of students suing universities, a winning strategy. "You don't have the right to go to a specific university," she said. "And if you don't like the university policies, universities are on pretty solid grounds denying you admission."

Yet she noted that some of the victories the medical freedom movement has racked up so far could pave the way for future legislation that would last long beyond the Covid era—and possibly transform established public health practices. In fact, that's already happening: Several panelists suggested making vaccination status a protected class like race or sex—which means that it would be illegal to discriminate against someone on the basis of whether or not they had received immunizations. In 2021, Montana became the first state to pass such a law. In February of this year, Idaho followed suit. Employers there who require vaccination against Covid can now be fined $1,000 per violation. A similar bill in Florida is currently under consideration.

Another potential opening for medical freedom advocates, Reiss said, is a broader interpretation of laws about religious exemptions to vaccine mandates, which most states allow. With the current Supreme Court's expansion of what is included within the definition of freedom of religion, she worried they may include religious objections to vaccines. "If they go there, it will make it a lot harder to prevent the abuse of religious exemption," she said. On April 18, a few weeks after I spoke to Reiss, a US district judge ruled that Mississippi must change its current policy to allow religious exemptions for vaccine mandates. (The judge, Halil Suleyman Ozerden, had been nominated by Trump in 2019 to serve on the 5th Circuit Court of Appeals, but key Republicans questioned his conservative bona fides and he was never confirmed.)

With all this coming litigation, some of the conference sponsors saw a business opportunity. While the speakers inside the ballroom railed against big pharma and the CDC, just outside, representatives from law-firm-adjacent companies handed out business cards. Zena Obebe, the CEO of Hill Redaction Services, told me, "We wanted to get in front of those litigation lawyers and say, 'Hey, you can use us for the medical records.'" She expects to see many more Covid-related cases soon, explaining, "There's a huge influx that's coming down the pipeline."

Though Covid was the official topic of the conference, many of the people I talked to made detours into other subjects. Their involvement in the medical freedom movement, they said, had caused the scales to fall from their eyes. Kirsch, the conference organizer, explained that before the pandemic, he had never been skeptical of routine childhood vaccinations, but over the past few years, he has come to believe they cause autism (a theory that has been extensively discredited but one cherished by RFK, Jr. whose campaign, Kirsch says, he looks forward to supporting). So fervent is his newfound aversion to immunizations, he told me, that he now believes "nobody should ever" even vaccinate their pets.

For FitzGibbon, the comms guy, his involvement with the medical freedom movement has led to a more thorough disenchantment with his progressive roots. In 2020, during the height of the pandemic, he had become acutely ill with Covid, but two different hospitals sent him home. Only when a doctor-client put in a good word for him did he get

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admitted to an ICU, where he received monoclonal antibodies—an effective though underutilized treatment—which he credits with saving his life.

In the months that followed, he became skeptical of what he saw as the single-minded focus on Covid vaccines and what he considered to be the suppression of treatments like the one he received, as well as more scientifically dubious drugs like ivermectin and hydroxychloroquine. "All you saw in the US media was vaccine, vaccine, vaccine," he said. "Any other mentions of these alternative treatments were blacklisted." He now believes not only that the Covid vaccines are bioweapons, but also that the Democratic party has lost its way—he saw it even before Covid in Democrats' soft stance on domestic surveillance under Obama, and now he sees it in foreign policy, too. In a pivot I frankly did not see coming, he said, "I do not recognize this administration or this party when it comes to the war in Ukraine," especially since he claims that Russia had good reason to invade the country because of its problem with Nazis (ostensibly a reference to Russian President Vladimir Putin's shaky-at-best justification for his invasion).

It's possible, though, that something unrelated to politics deepened his disenchantment with progressives: In 2015, his PR firm closed abruptly after several female former employees accused him of sexual assault and harassment; he spoke to me on the condition that I note that the US Attorney declined to file any criminal charges, and a woman who had accused him of rape publicly retracted her allegations and apologized as part of a settlement in 2019.

Both Kirsch and FitzGibbon complained that progressive groups with whom they both were previously allied would no longer return their calls—about Covid or anything else. Aggrieved, they were determined to press on in what they saw as a countercultural but righteous crusade—a sentiment echoed by many of the speakers. Their alienation and what they consider to be oppression only further energizes them and their cause. In a heartfelt speech in the ballroom, Sujata Gibson, a New York-based lawyer and activist who recently won a lawsuit that led to New York overturning its vaccine mandate for healthcare workers, compared current medical freedom activism to the Indian struggle for independence, Nelson Mandela's campaign against apartheid in South Africa, and the American civil rights movement. "Part of what we have to do as lawyers when we're in these tyrannical moments in history—and this one is quite extreme—is we have to hold the line in the courts," she said. "I've been lucky enough to see time after time how David and Goliath battles can be won."

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Date: Wed, 15 May 2024 8:06:09 PM -0400

Sent: Wed, 15 May 2024 8:03:57 PM -0400

Subject: Science article on HHS action to suspend EcoHealth Alliance

From: Peter Daszak < (b) (6) >

To: David Morens < (b) (6) >; Roberts, Rich <(b) (6)>; peter hotez <(b) (6)>; Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6)>; Jeffrey Sturchio <(b) (6)>; Aleksei Chmura < (b) (6)>

Attachments: image001.jpg

From Jocelyn Kaiser at Science: https://www.science.org/content/article/federal- officials-suspend-funding-ecohealth-alliance-nonprofit-entangled-covid-19

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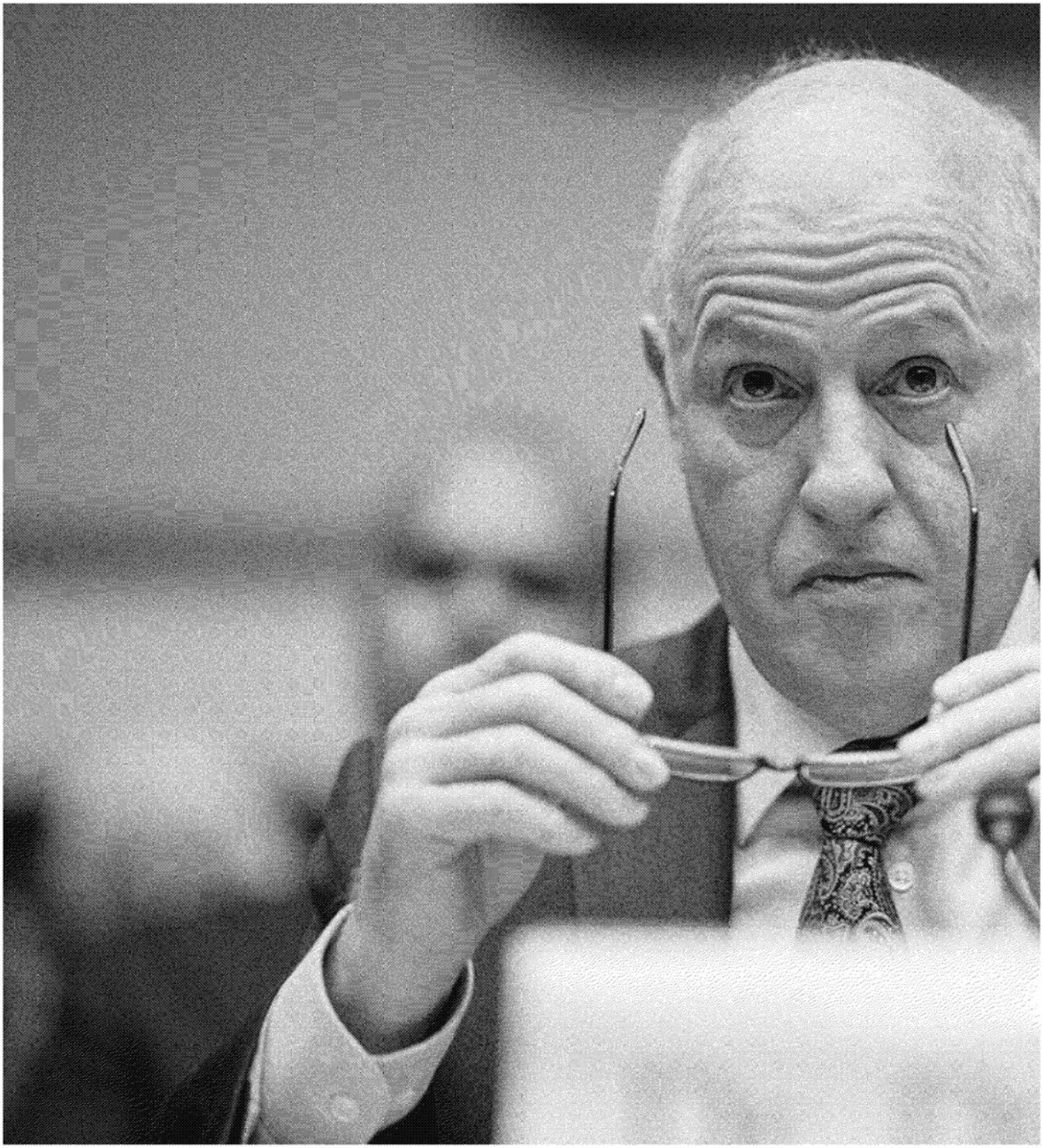

RELATED ARTICLE

'We've done nothing wrong.' EcoHealth leader fights charges that his research helped spark COVID-19

BY

JON COHEN

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NEWS

17 NOV 2021

Federal officials today suspended federal funding for the EcoHealth Alliance, possibly dealing a mortal blow to a U.S. research nonprofit that has been under fire since early in the COVID-19 pandemic. The group has been the focus of concerns that SARS-CoV-2 may have emerged from bat virus research funded by the U.S. National Institutes of Health (NIH) and conducted by EcoHealth's collaborators in Wuhan, China.

In a letter to the New York City organization, an official for the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), NIH's parent agency, informed the group it is suspended from federal funding programs and that the department is proposing to formally debar—or ban—the organization from receiving funding. Grants from NIH and other U.S agencies provide the bulk of its budget, which was about $14 million in 2022.

EcoHealth said in a statement it "is disappointed by HHS'[s] decision today and we will be contesting the proposed debarment. We disagree strongly with the decision and will present evidence to refute each of these allegations and to show that NIH's continued support of EcoHealth Alliance is in the public interest."

The move comes 2 weeks after a bipartisan House of Representatives panel grilled EcoHealth President Peter Daszak about allegations the group had violated NIH grant rules. Members of the House's Select Subcommittee on the Coronavirus Pandemic cited missteps such as the group filing a late progress report on its bat virus studies and highlighted allegations that EcoHealth misrepresented the risks of experiments conducted by its collaborators at the Wuhan Institute of Virology (WIV).

The announcement also comes 1 day before a top NIH official is scheduled to testify before the same panel. Representative Brad Wenstrup (R–OH), chair of the subcommittee, called HHS's actions "a victory for the U.S. taxpayer, but also for American national security and the safety of citizens worldwide." The panel's ranking member, Representative Raul Ruiz (D–CA), also praised HHS's action. While noting Democrats on the panel do not believe EcoHealth helped create the pandemic, he pointed to EcoHealth's "failure" to "meet the utmost standards of transparency and accountability to the American public."

The suspension involves EcoHealth's management of a grant to study bat coronaviruses with WIV, which received a small subaward. In April 2020, then-President Donald Trump pressured NIH to ax the grant after some conservative politicians and commentators alleged that SARS-CoV-2 could have leaked from WIV. That move sparked condemnation by scores of scientists who defended EcoHealth's actions and history of pandemic prevention research. HHS reinstated the grant a few months later but immediately suspended it. Last year it was restarted without WIV, which failed to respond to NIH's requests for lab notebooks related to the work.

Meanwhile, documents obtained through public records requests by *The Intercept* raised numerous questions about EcoHealth's oversight of the work. For example, they found that WIV had filed a 2019 progress report more than 2 years late. Critics also suggested experiments at the lab creating hybrid bat viruses qualified as dangerous "gain-of-function" (GOF) research that should have received high-level scrutiny from HHS. EcoHealth noted it consulted on the work with NIH, which found the experiments did not meet its definition for risky GOF studies.

At last month's hearing, both Democrats and Republicans hammered Daszak and EcoHealth for allegedly mismanaging grants and making misleading statements about the work at WIV. NIH had told the committee last fall that a forensic audit found no evidence to support EcoHealth's claims that it was unable to file the 2019 progress report because it was locked out of NIH's grants system.

In an 11-page memo, HHS suspension and debarment official Henrietta Katrina Brisbon echoes the select committee's concerns, including questions about whether EcoHealth should have reported an experiment finding unexpected growth in mice of a chimeric virus distantly related to SARS-CoV-2. "I have determined that the immediate suspension of EHA [EcoHealth Alliance] is necessary to protect the public interest and due to a cause of so serious or compelling a nature that it affects EHA's present responsibility," the memo states. It is relatively rare for HHS to debar an NIH grantee. Debarments typically last about 3 years, but agencies have the option of lengthening or shortening the penalty.

For years, EcoHealth has led research aimed at identifying viruses found in the wild that could pose a threat to humans. That work has produced hundreds of publications over the past 2 decades, including papers in high-profile journals such as *Science* and *Nature*. The group has a total of three active NIH grants totaling $2.6 million in fiscal year 2023 to study the risks that animal viruses will jump to humans in Southeast Asia and how Nipah virus moves from bats to people in Bangladesh. It also has large awards from the Department of Defense and other U.S. agencies.

Lawrence Gostin, an expert on global health law at Georgetown University, says that although EcoHealth has 30 days to contest the suspension, he expects any such effort will fail.
"All in all, this has an unpleasant political smell behind it," Gostin says, adding that he believes the move reflects "a political campaign to dissuade scientific cooperation with China."
Virologist Stuart Neil of King's College London says the alleged grant offenses are not "crimes, nor are they evidence of misuse of public money." He calls the HHS action "performative political nonsense carried through by the cowardice of the ranking Democrat members [on] the select committee."
Peter Hotez, a vaccine researcher at Baylor College of Medicine, adds that "EcoHealth Alliance is one of the few organizations we have to track the emergence of new and dangerous virus pathogens. If they disappear, our national security suffers."
But critics of EcoHealth applauded the decision. More details may come out at tomorrow's hearing, where NIH Principal Deputy Director Lawrence Tabak will answer questions about EcoHealth and NIH's grants process.
With reporting by Meredith Wadman.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

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EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

From: David Morens (b) (6)
Sent: Wednesday, May 15, 2024 6:13 PM
To: Peter Daszak (b) (6) >; peter hotez <(b) (6) Keusch, Gerald T < (b) (6)
Roberts, Rich <(b) (6) Jeffrey Sturchio (b) (6) >; Aleksei Chmura <
(b) (6)
Subject: Fwd: Testimony for tomorrow's hearing with NIH Deputy Director Lawrence Tabak

From the cell phone of David Morens

--------- Forwarded message ---------

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From: **Folkers, Greg (NIH/NIAID) [C]** (b) (6)
Date: Wed, May 15, 2024, 17:30
Subject: Testimony for tomorrow's hearing with NIH Deputy Director Lawrence Tabak
To:

Overseeing the Overseers: A Hearing with NIH Deputy Director Lawrence Tabak

Subject
Overseeing the Overseers: A Hearing with NIH Deputy Director Lawrence Tabak
Date
May 16, 2024
Time
9:00 am
Place
2154 Rayburn House Office Building
Witnesses and testimonies: Dr. Lawrence Tabak, D.D.S., Ph.D.
Principal Deputy Director
National Institutes of Health

Document

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Date:	Sun, 2 Jun 2024 8:02:34 PM -0400
Subject:	Fwd: Wpost: 'I took an oath to do no harm': The two doctors wrestling over Fauci's legacy https://bit.ly/4c3lx3f
From:	David Morens < (b) (6)
To:	Peter Daszak < (b) (6) < (b) (6) Jeffrey Sturchio < (b) (6) peter hotez < (b) (6) Roberts, Rich < (b) (6) Keusch, Gerald T Aleksei Chmura < (b) (6)
Attachments:	image001.jpg; image001.jpg

From the cell phone of David Morens

--------- Forwarded message ---------
From: **Folkers, Greg (NIH/NIAID) [C]** (b)(6)
Date: Sun, Jun 2, 2024, 17:52
Subject: Wpost: 'I took an oath to do no harm': The two doctors wrestling over Fauci's legacy
https://bit.ly/4c3lx3f
To:

'I took an oath to do no harm': The two doctors wrestling over Fauci's legacy

One is a Republican, the other a Democrat. The quest to understand the pandemic tests the bonds of friendship between two members of Congress.



By Dan Diamond

June 2, 2024 at 1:00 p.m. EDT

Brad Wenstrup was alarmed.

It was February 2020, weeks before the coronavirus pandemic shuttered America's businesses and schools. But the Ohio congressman, a former military combat surgeon, was reading email from a fellow doctor on how U.S. and Chinese researchers had been experimenting on viruses in Wuhan, China, the epicenter of the outbreak.

"Look, I'm military, a military doc. … I started thinking about biological weapons," Wenstrup recalled in a recent interview with The Washington Post.

Four years later, the Republican congressman is still thinking about China's potential links to covid, as part of his work to shape America's understanding of the pandemic. As chairman of the House Select Subcommittee on the Coronavirus Pandemic — the only panel in Congress solely devoted to probing a health crisis that left

more than 1 million Americans dead — Wenstrup has led investigations into the origins of the virus as well as hearings on school shutdowns, vaccine mandates and possible side effects from coronavirus vaccines. He recruited another doctor — California congressman Raul Ruiz, an emergency medicine specialist — to serve as the panel's top Democrat last year, promising they would be two physicians working together to get answers and accountability.

But 16 months into their investigations, Wenstrup and Ruiz have splintered on a core question: whether their work is helping prepare America for the next pandemic, or deepening divisions from the last one.

Wenstrup and his fellow Republicans have focused much of their effort on the possible lab origins of the coronavirus, suggesting federal officials worked to cover up U.S. ties to researchers in Wuhan. The issue is set to receive national attention Monday, when Anthony S. Fauci — to many Americans, the face of the nation's coronavirus response — testifies in front of the panel. Republicans are poised to grill the former National Institutes of Health official on the agency's funding of EcoHealth Alliance, a nonprofit organization that participated in risky virus research in China before the pandemic. Federal officials in May halted funding to the organization, citing irregularities uncovered by the coronavirus panel.

Ruiz and other Democrats concede there were episodes of pandemic-era wrongdoing, such as EcoHealth misleading the government on its potential work and a former Fauci adviser admitting he deliberately deleted emails. But they say the GOP-led investigations have amounted to a wild-goose chase, wasting taxpayer dollars and a crucial opportunity to prepare for the next health crisis.

"We have gone through a countless amount of pages, countless amount of interviews, countless amount of hours," Ruiz said in a recent interview, stressing that no one has linked SARS-CoV-2, the virus that sparked the outbreak, to any lab. Many scientists say it's more likely the crisis began just like other outbreaks: the virus made the leap from an animal to a human.

Despite repeated calls from politicians and editorial pages, there are no plans to establish a Sept. 11-style commission on the pandemic, with Trump and Biden officials worried about revisiting unpopular decisions or spotlighting mistakes. Congress is unlikely to continue the covid panel past this year, making Wenstrup and Ruiz's fragile partnership perhaps the last, best hope to get bipartisan answers about a still-mysterious outbreak and the government's response.

In interviews during the past year, Wenstrup and Ruiz acknowledged fractures in their relationship, as they wrestled over how to use the powers of Congress. Ruiz said he has thought about the Hippocratic oath that physicians must take, pledging to do no harm.

Is the covid committee playing with fire, by elevating the lab-leak theory, raising questions about vaccines and spotlighting accusations against public health experts like Fauci? Or is the panel — finally — giving voice to points of view suppressed during the pandemic?

"Look, I'm a doctor, and I took an oath to do no harm," Ruiz said as he helped kick off a May 2023 hearing on coronavirus vaccine mandates, warning about "the disinformation and the misinformation" that he said had damaged confidence in public health. "We cannot get to a place where we are explicitly or implicitly sowing distrust in covid vaccines," Ruiz said later.

"An opinion is far different from misinformation," Wenstrup quickly countered. "And if we're not allowed to have opinions in the medical community, we are doomed. We are absolutely doomed."

A covid panel is born

Since the earliest days of the pandemic, lawmakers and public health officials have said that "do no harm" was never really an option. "Do less harm," perhaps.

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Fauci and other leaders have conceded that telling Americans to keep apart from family, or encouraging them to attend school remotely, caused harm — even as they continue to believe it was less harmful than contracting a novel virus that had no existing treatments and ended up as the nation's third-leading cause of death in 2020.

House Democrats feared some of the harm was coming from President Donald Trump touting unproven treatments, and in April 2020 they created a panel to oversee trillions of dollars in coronavirus spending and to serve as a check on the White House.

Leading up to the election, the committee delivered high-profile reports about Trump's mismanagement of the pandemic response — over GOP accusations that the Democrat-led panel was playing politics.

Then came a new year and a new administration. And with President Biden in office, the committee steered away from criticizing the White House. There were no hearings about vaccine mandates. No threats of subpoenas to Biden officials.

No talk — at least from the Democrats — about the possibility that the virus began in a laboratory.

Then Republicans won back the House.

A shift in focus

It was January 2023, Kevin McCarthy was on the phone, and Wenstrup weighed the new House speaker's offer: become the next leader of the covid committee.

Finally, Republicans would hold the gavel. They could ask about school shutdowns, and whether teachers' unions had too much sway in shaping social-distancing policies. They could review the safety and necessity of vaccines. They could train their lens on whether scientists tried to hide a lab leak.

The panel could do a true after-action review, just like in the Army, Wenstrup thought.

Growing up in Cincinnati, Wenstrup dreamed of being a doctor — inspired by a 1970s TV show, "Medical Center," and its fictional hero, Dr. Joe Gannon — and he'd wanted to serve in the military, too.

He got the chance to do both in Iraq, as a major in the Army Reserve and chief of surgery at Abu Ghraib prison hospital in 2005 and 2006. Wenstrup ended up operating on Ali Hassan al-Majid — the infamous cousin of former Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein who was nicknamed "Chemical Ali" after ordering poison gas attacks.

Six years later and back in Ohio, Wenstrup began a long-shot campaign for Congress, winning support from the tea party movement for his conservative politics and getting favorable coverage from local media; one reporter compared the podiatric surgeon to Cincinnati-area native George Clooney. After unseating the incumbent Republican, Wenstrup joined dozens of new lawmakers in January 2013, a freshman class that included Ruiz. The two doctors found common ground, partnering on health bills, but their tendency toward bipartisan deals didn't help either stand out in a Congress that rewards firebrands.

Then came the 2017 shooting at a congressional baseball practice, where Republicans were attacked by a gunman. It was like being back in Iraq, Wenstrup thought. His military training took over as he rushed to save Rep. Steve Scalise (R-La.) from bleeding to death near the outfield grass.

Other brushes with the spotlight would come, as the pandemic hit and the GOP doctor emerged as one of his party's go-to voices. Wenstrup cut a pro-vaccine ad with other Republican doctors. He administered hundreds of shots around Ohio. He even met with skeptical GOP voters over Zoom, suggesting the new vaccine could spare them longer-term problems.

The pitch fell flat. "I've had covid," said one skeptic who gave his name as Patrick. "I had a cold for three days,

and I was fine after that … the vaccine, I just don't see any rush to do it."

To Wenstrup, it was a vivid illustration: Americans didn't want to be told what to do on public health, especially by bureaucrats. They needed to be educated, not indoctrinated.

What better way to inform than by leading the covid committee? Yes, Wenstrup said in January 2023, I'll do it.

With Wenstrup's encouragement, the panel ended up packed with GOP physicians: Texas Rep. Ronny Jackson, who had been Trump's White House doctor; Iowa Rep. Mariannette Miller-Meeks, who had led that state's public health department; Rep. Richard McCormick, a newly elected Georgia emergency-medicine doctor who had treated covid patients; and Rep. John Joyce, a Pennsylvania physician with experience in intensive care.

McCarthy also picked Georgia Rep. Marjorie Taylor Greene, who had been banned from Twitter for amplifying questions about the covid vaccine.

There was one other doctor Wenstrup wanted on the panel. He called Ruiz right away.

"I said, try to get on this subcommittee," Wenstrup recalled, following up with a quick text message. "Try to be ranking member."

'We've even seen flat-out lying'

Raul Ruiz felt caught in quicksand again.

He'd taken Wenstrup's encouragement and won a spot as the covid panel's top Democrat. He'd come prepared to focus on improving public health; one pet project involved equipment and ventilation that could keep schools open in the next pandemic. He'd been excited to work with Wenstrup, a friend and occasional dinner companion.

Now it was July 2023, and Ruiz told his staff he was stuck, unable to move forward on pandemic preparations because he was busy defending science.

And on this day, sitting in one of Congress's most famed oversight rooms, Ruiz was again listening to Republicans accuse scientists of a coverup, suggesting that Fauci and longtime NIH Director Francis S. Collins had conspired with prominent virologists to write a paper dismissing the possibility of a lab leak. (The scientists repeatedly denied the accusation.) He heard Greene wrongly claim that "most of the intelligence community" had concluded that the coronavirus came from a lab.

It was a parade of dishonesty, Ruiz thought — "baseless allegation after baseless allegation and unsubstantiated claim after unsubstantiated claim," he spat out, nearly three hours into the hearing.

"We've even seen flat-out lying today — lying," Ruiz added, walking through examples he said were dishonest and gesturing in Wenstrup's direction. For instance, just two agencies favor the lab-leak theory, compared with the four agencies and the National Intelligence Council that think the virus emerged naturally.

"Four is more than two. Four is more than two," Ruiz repeated, holding up four fingers on his right hand and two on his left for emphasis, mocking the GOP's math.

It was a characteristically passionate appeal from the energetic, cerebral Ruiz. It bombed with Wenstrup, sitting a few feet to Ruiz's left.

"We're working on behalf of the lives lost or severely damaged," the committee chairman snapped back, his normally flat tone a little ruffled, as he rebutted his counterpart in what became a 17-minute riff. (He would also argue with Ruiz behind closed doors later, angry to be labeled a liar, a dispute that briefly strained their

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friendship.)

"You may call it going down a rabbit hole and trying to find vendettas — or somebody here might — but I do have a vendetta against dishonesty, and as a doctor I'm against politically motivated science," Wenstrup added.

Ruiz's worries had been building for months.

He was worried by news releases that accused scientists of wrongdoing. He was alarmed by behavior from his GOP counterparts that seemed cruel and designed to provoke, such as Greene's personal battles with witnesses.

And he knew that, as the top Democrat on a GOP-led committee, there was only so much he could do to shape the panel's work.

Ruiz understood life as an underdog.

He grew up in Coachella, Calif. — an area made famous by its annual music festival, but one marked by widespread poverty, which he experienced as the son of farmworkers.

By age 4, Ruiz decided to be a doctor; at 18, he raised tuition money by pledging to businesses that he would return home to care for the community. He earned his medical degree at Harvard — one of three graduate degrees he earned from the school, where he became a protégé of legendary public health physician Paul Farmer.

Now in Congress, Ruiz approached new challenges with the framework he had learned in medical school: Find the root causes of a problem, diagnose what wasn't working, prescribe a solution. But he wasn't sure how to solve the problems he saw with the covid committee.

Take vaccine safety. Democrats knew rare side effects could happen — Michigan Rep. Debbie Dingell, one of the panel's members, once suffered a serious side effect from a flu shot. But Ruiz didn't understand why some Republicans were raising debunked theories, such as the connection between autism and vaccines.

His most persistent frustration: how Republicans and their handpicked witnesses kept talking about the virus's origin.

"It's a no-brainer it came from the lab," Marty Makary, a Johns Hopkins University transplant surgeon and Fox News analyst, said at the panel's first roundtable in February 2023. The public has tended to agree; polls show that about two-thirds of Americans, including about half of Democrats, believe the virus originated in a laboratory.

Ruiz said he's more open to the lab-leak theory than when he joined the panel. But the congressman said he's surprised by how little he has learned from the GOP's relentless investigations.

"What I can tell you so far, of the data and the investigations and countless hours of research, there is no evidence to show that Dr. Fauci and EcoHealth have created this virus," Ruiz said.

The return of Fauci

Rain pelted the Capitol on Jan. 9 as Tony Fauci strode through its depths, escorted by Capitol police, his own security detail, a pair of government lawyers, two personal lawyers, even a couple of junior legal aides, navigating underground corridors hidden from visitors.

It was a walk Fauci and his entourage had already made a dozen times by that evening, shuttling between a room of congressional investigators and his holding room every hour.

The 83-year-old doctor had been summoned to the nearly empty Capitol to privately testify about the pandemic

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for 14 hours across two days. On Monday, he will face lawmakers' questions in public for the first time since leaving government in 2022.

Fauci has repeatedly denied accusations of a coverup into the virus's origins, telling friends he feels caught in a Kafkaesque nightmare where personal emails and comments have been distorted by conservatives in Congress and on television. In his private testimony, he spoke of the "constant threats" he and his family have received, particularly when lawmakers allege he played a role in creating the virus. Fauci declined to comment for this article.

For months, Democrats have protested Republicans' focus on Fauci, Collins and other public health officials, worried about undermining Americans' already-declining confidence in public health agencies and their leaders.

But Democrats have begun to agree with Republicans about evidence of *some* wrongdoing. First came a May 1 hearing with Peter Daszak, president of EcoHealth, during which Wenstrup and Ruiz said the federal government should consider blocking the nonprofit's funding for failing to monitor and report on its risky virus research in China. EcoHealth has protested the resulting funding crackdown, and Daszak maintains the organization is being scapegoated.

Then, the panel battered David Morens, a former Fauci deputy and close friend of Daszak, over his attempts to evade federal records requirements when corresponding with Daszak and others about sensitive coronavirus topics. Democrats joined that effort but took pains to distinguish between their anger at Morens for deleting emails vs. the lack of evidence for a broader conspiracy to hide the origins of the virus.

"It is not anti-science to hold you accountable for defying the public's trust and misusing official resources," Ruiz said. Morens told Congress he had made mistakes, but said there was no coverup of secret virus experiments.

Later this year, the panel will need to write a final report, summarizing its investigations and offering recommendations. It will probably be one of Wenstrup's final acts in Congress; the 65-year-old is retiring.

The Republican chairman said he views the panel as helping correct the record for history, and that fully exploring controversial topics will safeguard the world against another crisis.

"Science involves looking at everything," Wenstrup said in a May interview, adding that people who raised questions about the virus possibly originating in a lab and other issues were written off as conspiracy theorists. "Serious harm was done to science [by] canceling people who had different opinions."

Ruiz, sitting in his office later that day, countered that Republicans have harmed the public by focusing too much on trying to validate the lab-leak theory. Even the panel's success stories, like catching Morens deleting emails, are small victories, he added.

"When we have the next emerging virus that's a pandemic and is killing thousands of people daily, do you think that they're going to look back and say, 'Oh, thank goodness, we caught that misconduct,'" Ruiz said. "Do you think identifying this misbehavior is somehow going to lead to better protective equipment, better protective protocols so that we can respond to the [next] pandemic and save lives? … I personally don't think so."

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Date: Mon, 22 Aug 2022 12:05:31 PM -0400
Sent: Mon, 22 Aug 2022 12:01:59 PM -0400
Subject: RE: A new 'low' for Jeff Sachs
From: Peter Daszak < (b) (6)
To: Hotez, Peter Jay < (b) (6)
CC: Roberts, Rich < (b) (6) David Morens < (b) (6) Gerald T Keusch < (b) (6) Jeff Sturchio < (b) (6) Aleksei Chmura < (b) (6) >;
Attachments: image002.jpg; image003.jpg; image004.jpg

Wow – what a shambles. Richard Horton has not acted honorably throughout this, and purposefully misled a UK Govt subcommittee about his interactions with me, saying it took over a year to 'correct' my conflict of interest statement for the lancet letter we wrote.

I've lost faith in a lot of what I thought were distinguished institutions during this debacle – WHO, The Lancet, The National Academy of Medicine, many of our academic societies. It's really disappointing how people like to hide and cover when the going gets tough instead of standing up and fighting.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: + (b) (6)
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

From: Hotez, Peter Jay < (b) (6)
Sent: Monday, August 22, 2022 11:39 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: Re: A new 'low' for Jeff Sachs

Richard Horton stopped replying to my emails months ago, maybe Andy Haines or Slim can get to him, etc

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP

Texas Children's Hospital: Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics | Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital

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Center for Vaccine Development | Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

Baylor College of Medicine: Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine | Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology | Health Policy Scholar

Baylor University, University Professor
Rice University, Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty
Texas A&M University, Faculty-Senior Fellow, Hagler Inst for Advanced Study & Scowcroft Institute of Intl Affairs

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(b) (6) | Phone: (b) (6) | Fax: 713-798-2299

Media Inquiries:
(b) (6)

iPhone

On Aug 22, 2022, at 8:34 AM, Peter Daszak (b) (6) wrote:

Peter, I read the twitter thread from Angela Rasmussen (below). I believe she's correct in saying (as others are now also saying) that this should disqualify a person from leading a Lancet Commission into COVID-19, since part of its stated goals (in letters published in the Lancet) are to counter the anti-science and anti-vaccine narratives, promote equitable distribution and uptake of vaccines etc.

Obviously, I can't take any part in this, but I would hope that some of the Commissioners would think about writing to Richard Horton to at least inform him that the leader of his COVID Commission is now co-promoting with a blatant anti-vaccine advocate…

Thread

See new Tweets

Conversation



Dr. Angela Rasmussen

@angie_rasmussen

2h

Quoth Sachs: "There was a recipe. There was a desire. There was a large scientific program. There was a technical capability. And one day, there was a FCS that has never been seen before in a sarbecovirus…And everything from NIH is don't look over there, look at the market."

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Dr. Angela Rasmussen

@angie_rasmussen

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2h

What is motivating Fauci to be the puppet master pulling the strings on this global furin cleavage site cloning-based conspiracy? Sachs asserts it's because he is in charge of "biodefense." Then REK adds that the CIA makes offensive bioweapons in violation of the 1972 BWC.

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Dr. Angela Rasmussen

@angie_rasmussen

1

2h

So let's get this straight: Fauci is the GoF-father ordering NIAID grantees to cook up SARSr-CoV bioweapons in violation of international law using insertional mutagenesis to sprinkle in his favorite bioweapon ingredient: suboptimal polybasic cleavage sites at the S1/S2 junction.

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Dr. Angela Rasmussen

@angie_rasmussen

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2h

Fauci is doing this for the CIA in collaboration with the Chinese government so Big Pharma can achieve world

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domination through vaccines for the bespoke FCS-bearing bioweapons being released by a cabal of evil governments & funding agencies.

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Dr. Angela Rasmussen

@angie_rasmussen

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2h

And all virologists are lying, sociopathic nihilists well-versed in "deceit and deception", so devoted to our pathogenic god-playing that we are only too eager to serve as scientific rodeo clowns, distracting the public from the furin cleavage sites we will attack them with.

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5

46



Dr. Angela Rasmussen

@angie_rasmussen

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2h

It ends with a pitch for RFK Jr's latest book, an execrable piece of noxious trash that is currently Amazon's "#1 Best Seller in Immunology". This book uses baseless conspiracy theories to discourage vaccination. This book can literally kill people who take it seriously.

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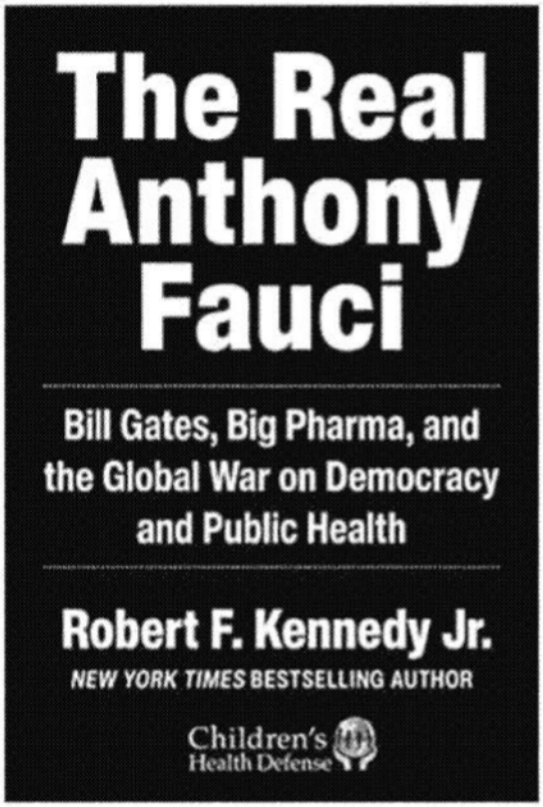
Robert F. Kennedy Jr.

The Real Anthony Fauci: Bill Gates, Big Pharma, and the Global War on Democracy and Public Health

(17,652)

#1 Best Seller in Immunology

Part of: Children's Health Defense (25 books)



3

5

57



Dr. Angela Rasmussen

@angie_rasmussen

2h

If this sounds fucking crazy, it's because it IS absolutely, totally, spectacularly fucking crazy. Now normally I try to ignore RFK Jr, who is an objectively horrible person. He's likely done more damage to public health than any other anti-vaxxer & profited handsomely from it.

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79



Dr. Angela Rasmussen

@angie_rasmussen

2h

But Jeff Sachs is in charge of a commission tasked with investigating & analyzing all aspects of the pandemic, from origins to vaccines. Though the Lancet Commission has no policy making power, it's still very influential.

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8
56



Dr. Angela Rasmussen

@angie_rasmussen

2h

And if spreading lies and conspiracy theories about the pandemic's origin wasn't already disqualifying for Sachs to lead it, attempting to wield influence via the platform of an anti-vaxxer whose entire career is devoted to harming public health absolutely should be.

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Dr. Angela Rasmussen

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MORENS_NIH_022001
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@angie_rasmussen

2h

These aren't just Sachs' opinions. These conspiracy theories are insidious propaganda that will enrich people like REK at the expense of public health. This is profoundly harmful. It will cost lives. Jeffrey Sachs needs to be removed as Lancet Commission Chair.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

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Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

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From: Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6)
Sent: Sunday, August 21, 2022 10:35 PM
To: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >
Cc: Roberts, Rich (b) (6) ; David Morens (b) (6) >; Gerald T Keusch (b) (6)
Jeff Sturchio (b) (6) Aleksei Chmura (b) (6) ,>
Subject: Re: A new 'low' for Jeff Sachs

I couldn't bring myself to listen but Angie R did, apparently Jeff said disgraceful and untrue things about me, about us, beyond awful

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP

Texas Children's Hospital: Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics | Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development | Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

Baylor College of Medicine: Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine | Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology | Health Policy Scholar

Baylor University, University Professor
Rice University, Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty
Texas A&M University, Faculty-Senior Fellow, Hagler Inst for Advanced Study & Scowcroft Institute of Intl Affairs

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MORENS_NIH_022002
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iPhone

On Aug 21, 2022, at 4:47 PM, Peter Daszak (b) (6) wrote:

I'm very surprised to see that Jeff Sachs has been interviewed by the well-known anti-vaxxer and conspiracist Robert F. Kennedy Jr. There's a podcast you can listen to here: https://pca.st/f4qhwghp but you have to download an app, then use your email and create a password – I didn't.

RFK Jr's anti-vaccine activities are widely known, and just 2 days ago he was removed from social media platforms for spreading conspiracies. Here's an NY Times story on that:
https://www.nytimes.com/2022/08/18/technology/facebook- instagram-robert-kennedy-jr-misinformation.html

According to lab leak proponents who are reviewing Jeff Sachs' interview, he goes through all the stuff in his PNAS article including the nasty comments about my role in the Lancet Commission. He calls the "Proximal origins" paper in Nature Medicine "ludicrous"; "almost unbelievable what it says"; "frankly, it is garbage"; "there is a narrative: a willful misdirection"; "joke"; "it is absurd".

I guess he's all-in at this point!

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

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Tel.: + (b) (6)
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

---

From: 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 (b) (6) >; Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6)
Cc: Aleksei Chmura (b) (6) >
Subject: RE: Continued NIH action - already leaked to the press

EXTERNAL SENDER

I love that idea Rich.

Truth is, our lawyers told us early on that the actions NIH took are likely illegal. They've looked at all prior cases of NIH terminated grants, suspending grants and appeals against them. There are precedents for winning these cases, e.g. Planned Parenthood and others. The only catch is that suing NIH would mean litigation that drags on for a few years, discovery actions that would demand all sorts of private correspondence, and ultimately a jury that might by now be contaminated with the lab leak narrative. They advised us that the best option is to push privately for the grant to be renegotiated, which I suppose is where we are now.

All of this is of course exacerbated by the other actions and attacks that add to a general narrative that EcoHealth must have been up to no good – this includes the NAM investigation that we're still waiting to hear about, and the OIG audit. There's also a lawsuit against us that we've tried not to talk publicly about, but it's real and we have to defend against it. A lawyer in Long Island who's sued EHA, myself and even my wife for a huge sum for causing COVID-19 that then infected him etc.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

MORENS_SUBPOENA_011223
MORENS_NIH_022004
REL0000481113

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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) u>
Cc: Aleksei Chmura (b) (6) >
Subject: RE: Continued NIH action - already leaked to the press
Importance: High

EXTERNAL SENDER

Thanks Rich - I've got to look at the positives in all of this and just carry on fighting, if only for my own health reasons. It's been a really horrible couple of years and I've found that the constant harassment can really get you down – it's been shocking to me how much of struggle this is with many days spent despairing over my own personal future and the future of EcoHealth. It's been tough on my family as well, and the other staff at EHA.

I'm determined not to give up though and will be going through all the options carefully. The other glimmer of hope is that any 'renegotiation' will be with NIAID staff, so I'll reach out to them ASAP. I think that if most of the funding is planned for the US, with just one subcontract to China, for a group that works on epidemiology, that might work. The other strategy would be to see if a shift to another country would work. I'm mindful that NIH (Lauer et al.) would be delighted if we just handed in the towel, and will probably be looking for excuses to consider our alternative plans out of scope.

On this issue of who is 'the pits' and who isn't at NIH, I think the list begins with Francis Collins, who committed the original sin of terminating our grant when he could have simply resisted. Second is his lackey Lauer who took it

to another level of bumbling errors, illegal actions, and aggressive brinksmanship, but there are others also. Lawrence Tabak (now acting Director NIH) publicly stated that we were out of compliance and really threw us under the bus, and there are a group of legal advisors and Congressional staffers at the Office of the Director who have actively worked to publicly undermine us, sometimes with clear glee and delight.

For example, in one of the FoIA'd emails that Peter Aldhous at Buzzfeed unearthed, he spotted Michael Lauer sending details of our animal experiment oversight, which they then used to tighten the screw on us very publicly and unfairly. Lauer used the subject Header "A Gift" when he sent this to his legal and Congressional relations colleagues at NIH. That sort of gloating is pretty disgusting, and won't be forgotten by me. Peter Aldhous also dug up clear evidence that NIH requested an OIG audit as part of their efforts to tighten the screws on us, and get them off the hook. We're just negotiating the final results of that audit – a huge timesink that's been going on over a year now, has looked at grants to EHA over the last 8 years, and has only found $77,000 of mis-coded financial errors (including a $19 overpayment to a contractor, with $7 indirect costs; and a single $5 alcoholic beverage at a hotel mistakenly coded to our grant). Great use of taxpayer money and time and the total of these mis-coded finances is less than 1% of the grants they reviewed, and less than 0.01% of our budget over that period. Of course, when the report goes public in a few weeks, it'll be used by Republicans to demand we're de-funded and closed down (again).

Ironically, in the emails (below), Michael Lauer cc's Michelle Bulls, who's listed in his correspondence yesterday as the person we have to write to if we want to appeal their decision. Pretty sure she's not an objective overseer at this point.

Here's the article: https://www.buzzfeednews.com/article/peteraldhous/white- coat-waste-anthony-fauci-nih-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."

MORENS_SUBPOENA_011225
MORENS_NIH_022006
REL0000481113

Cheers,

Peter

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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 < j_(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.

MORENS_SUBPOENA_011226
MORENS_NIH_022007
REL0000481113

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

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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' < ('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

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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."

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FBI INVESTIGATED NIH AWARD TO ECOHEALTH AND WUHAN LAB

The Office of the Director of National Intelligence released an assessment in 2021 stating that one U.S. intelligence agency assessed with "moderate confidence" that COVID-19 most likely emerged from the Chinese government lab in Wuhan, while four U.S. spy agencies and the National Intelligence Council believe with "low confidence" COVID-19 most likely has a natural origin.

The NIH's Lauer also said Friday that the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, which has been led by Dr. Anthony Fauci for decades, "will begin to engage with EHA to renegotiate the specific aims and objectives of the R01 grant without the involvement of WIV … in light of the cooperation from EHA and the substantial subsequent improvements in administrative processes that EHA demonstrated."

Rep. James Comer (R-KY), the ranking member on House Oversight, hammered the NIH over this. "Terminating EcoHealth Alliance's partnership with the Wuhan Lab is the bare minimum," Comer said Friday. "It's unacceptable that the NIH continues to allow EcoHealth Alliance to receive taxpayer dollars even though it is confirmed EcoHealth violated the terms of its grant contract. EcoHealth conducted gain of function research on bat coronaviruses in Wuhan, knew about the Chinese Communist Party's coverup, and failed to inform the U.S. government."

Comer added: "EcoHealth's dangerous experiments in Wuhan and possible efforts to cover up any evidence may have started the pandemic. EcoHealth should not receive a penny of American taxpayer dollars for their gross mismanagement of Americans' hard-earned money."

The NIH had awarded EcoHealth with a grant dubbed "R01AI110964" years ago, and EcoHealth then doled out three research subawards, including one to the Wuhan lab.

"The research approved under this grant sought to understand how bat coronaviruses evolve naturally in the environment to become more transmissible to the human population," the NIH said Friday in defending the award. "This type of research is a critical part of pandemic preparedness."

The grant to EcoHealth was suspended by the NIH in June 2020 due to "grant administrative non-compliance concerns." EcoHealth was reprimanded by the NIH in October when the agency found that the organization delayed revealing that a U.S.-funded experiment conducted with the Wuhan lab determined that mice with implanted human cells became sicker with an engineered version of bat coronavirus. The NIH found more EcoHealth violations in January.

Republicans say the findings showed EcoHealth was funding risky gain-of-function research in China.

EcoHealth leader Peter Daszak was a longtime collaborator with the Wuhan lab who steered hundreds of thousands of dollars in NIH funding to the Chinese lab and was also a key World Health Organization-China joint study team member in early 2021.

Daszak dismissed the lab leak hypothesis in March 2021 when he admitted he took Wuhan lab workers at their word. Meeting minutes from discussions between lab scientists in Wuhan and the WHO-China COVID-19 origins joint study team reveal lab leak concerns were referred to as "myths" and "conspiracy theories."

An advisory group assembled by the WHO said in June that the lab leak hypothesis needed further study.

The NIH said Friday that the prior problems it had identified with EcoHealth's handling of its coronavirus grant included "inadequate oversight in monitoring the activities of its subawardees, failure to report subawards to the General Services Administration's Federal Subaward Reporting System, and errors in indirect rate charges."

But Lauer nevertheless said EcoHealth might again soon start receiving U.S. tax funding for its bat coronavirus experiments — just without the Wuhan lab's continued involvement.

The NIH had been run until recently by Dr. Francis Collins, while Fauci still leads NIAID. Scientists consulting with the U.S. government early in the pandemic believed COVID-19 originating from a lab in Wuhan was possible or even likely, but emails show Fauci and Collins worked behind the scenes to shut the hypothesis down.

MORENS_SUBPOENA_011229
MORENS_NIH_022010
REL0000481113

Cheers,

Peter

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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 <j_(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

MORENS_SUBPOENA_011230
MORENS_NIH_022011
REL0000481113

about this.

Cheers,

Peter

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President

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EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

---

From: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >
Sent: Tuesday, August 9, 2022 12:54 AM
To: 'Roberts, Rich' <(b) (6) 'Hotez, Peter Jay' (b) (6) >; Aleksei Chmura < (b) (6) >; 'David Morens' (b) (6) m >; 'Gerald T Keusch' < (b) (6) >; Jeff Sturchio (b) (6) >
Subject: RE: Reporter request for comment

Bizarre indeed, but this is how they do it – tangential links from you to your former postdoc to Zhengli to me, followed by accusations that you're linked to research which they (wrongly) claim is GoF, all used to try to undermine your appropriate pushback against all these other attacks.

It's exactly what the Union of Concerned Scientists called the 'disinformation playbook' that was used by big tobacco and anti-climate change activists (successfully I might add).
https://www.ucsusa.org/resources/disinformation- playbook

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

MORENS_SUBPOENA_011231
MORENS_NIH_022012
REL0000481113

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EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

---

From: Roberts, Rich <(b) (6)
Sent: Monday, August 8, 2022 4:16 PM
To: Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6) >; Peter Daszak (b) (6) Aleksei Chmura (b) (6) >; David Morens (b) (6) >; David Morens < (b) (6) >; Gerald T Keusch (b) (6) >
Subject: RE: Reporter request for comment

Peter:

Maybe you should suggest she talk to your lawyer (at her expense).

Rich

Richard J. Roberts
New England Biolabs
240 County Road
Ipswich, MA 01938-2723
USA
Tel: (b)(6)
Fax: (978) 412 9910
email: (b) (6)

From: Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6)
Sent: Monday, August 8, 2022 4:02 PM
To: Peter Daszak ((b)(6) ; Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) >; David Morens < (b) (6) David Morens <(b) (6) >; Gerald T Keusch < (b) (6) >; Roberts, Rich (b) (6))
Subject: Fwd: Reporter request for comment

EXTERNAL SENDER

This is crazy. How would I even do that? I don't work in those areas?

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP
Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine
Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology
Health Policy Scholar
Baylor College of Medicine

Texas Children's Hospital Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics
Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development

University Professor, Baylor University

Faculty Fellow, Hagler Institute for Advanced Study
Senior Fellow, Scowcroft Institute of International Affairs
Texas A&M University
Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty and Adjunct Professor of Bioengineering, Rice University
Adjunct Professor, University of Texas, School of Public Health

Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

E-mail: (b) (6)
Twitter: @peterhotez
Skype: (b) (6)
Linkedin Peter Hotez

Amazon Author Center: https://www.amazon.com/Peter- J.-Hotez/e/B001HPIC48
Daily Beast Contributor https://www.thedailybeast.com/author/peter- j-hotez
Like us on Facebook https://www.facebook.com/BCMNationalSchoolOfTropicalMedicine/

Senior Coordinator / Executive Support: Douglas Soriano
(b) (6)
Phone: (b) (6)
Fax: 713-798-2299

iPhone
Begin forwarded message:

From: Emily Kopp <(b) (6)
Date: August 8, 2022 at 2:51:45 PM CDT
To: "Hotez, Peter Jay" <(b) (6)
Subject: Re: Reporter request for comment

*****CAUTION:*** This email is not from a BCM Source. Only click links or open attachments you know are safe.**

I'll also report that the paper you cofunded with EcoHealth Alliance dealt with rWIV1-SHC014S, a chimeric virus shown to be very dangerous to mice with human airway cells, which biosafety experts consider to be gain of function, and which is already under GOP congressional investigators' microscope. Were you aware of this? Should you have disclosed this to your followers on Twitter and The Lancet Commission?

Please clarify if this is incorrect.

Thank you,
Emily

MORENS_SUBPOENA_011233
MORENS_NIH_022014
REL0000481113

On Mon, Aug 8, 2022 at 12:31 PM Emily Kopp (b) (6) > wrote:

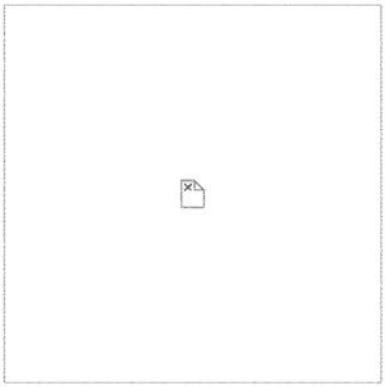
> Putting this back at the top of your inbox. Since you've been tweeting about this issue, do you plan on replying?
>
> On Sun, Aug 7, 2022 at 2:32 PM Emily Kopp (b) (6) > wrote:
>
> > Dr. Hotez,
> >
> > I received an anonymous tip regarding an apparent conflict of interest relevant to your criticism of the GOP investigation into the possibility that a lab accident sparked the pandemic.
> >
> > The tipster pointed out that your grant to develop a SARS vaccine was in part motivated by the possibility that a lab accident or bioterrorist attack could result in a SARS outbreak.
> >
> > Questions:
> >
> > 1. Could you please clarify why you believe the lab origin theory of SARS-CoV-2 is ridiculous pseudoscience, even though you did research under the presumption that a SARS-like virus escaping from a laboratory was possible? Taxpayers devoted $1.6 million in funding toward that project - was it under pseudoscientific pretenses?
> >
> > 2. Could you clarify your involvement in this research project underwritten by both your grant and EcoHealth Alliance's controversial "understanding the risk of bat coronavirus emergence" grant? Do you have a personal or professional relationship with Shi Zhengli? What about Peter Daszak? Have you ever funded or co-funded research at the Wuhan Institute of Virology?
> >
> > Thank you,
> >
> > --
> > Emily Kopp
> > Reporter
> > U.S. Right to Know
> > Signal: (b) (b) (6)



MORENS_SUBPOENA_011234
MORENS_NIH_022015
REL0000481113

Date: Mon, 3 Jun 2024 2:19:04 PM -0400
Sent: Mon, 3 Jun 2024 2:18:39 PM -0400
Subject: Emergency Appeal
From: EcoHealth Alliance (b)(6)
To: (b)(6)

View this email in your browser



Dear Friend,

This is not the first time I have personally reached out to supporters like you. **Unfortunately, without exaggeration, I can say that if we don't act quickly, it may be the last. EcoHealth Alliance is threatened with extinction, due to political forces at work.**

Just this morning, Dr. Anthony Fauci, instead of being lauded for his leadership, was put through a hearing in front of a Congressional subcommittee, bent on blaming the National Institutes of Health—and EcoHealth Alliance—for the origins of the COVID-19 pandemic.

A phrase we have heard all too often lately is that these are unprecedented times. Unfortunately, that is simply not true: pandemics have been documented across human history, often with profound, societal-shifting consequences. Political asperity is more common than not.

And so, too, is the scapegoating of science and its truths. Often when presented with harsh realities, the impulse is to deny the rationale behind them, or worse, to attack the people who brought them to light.

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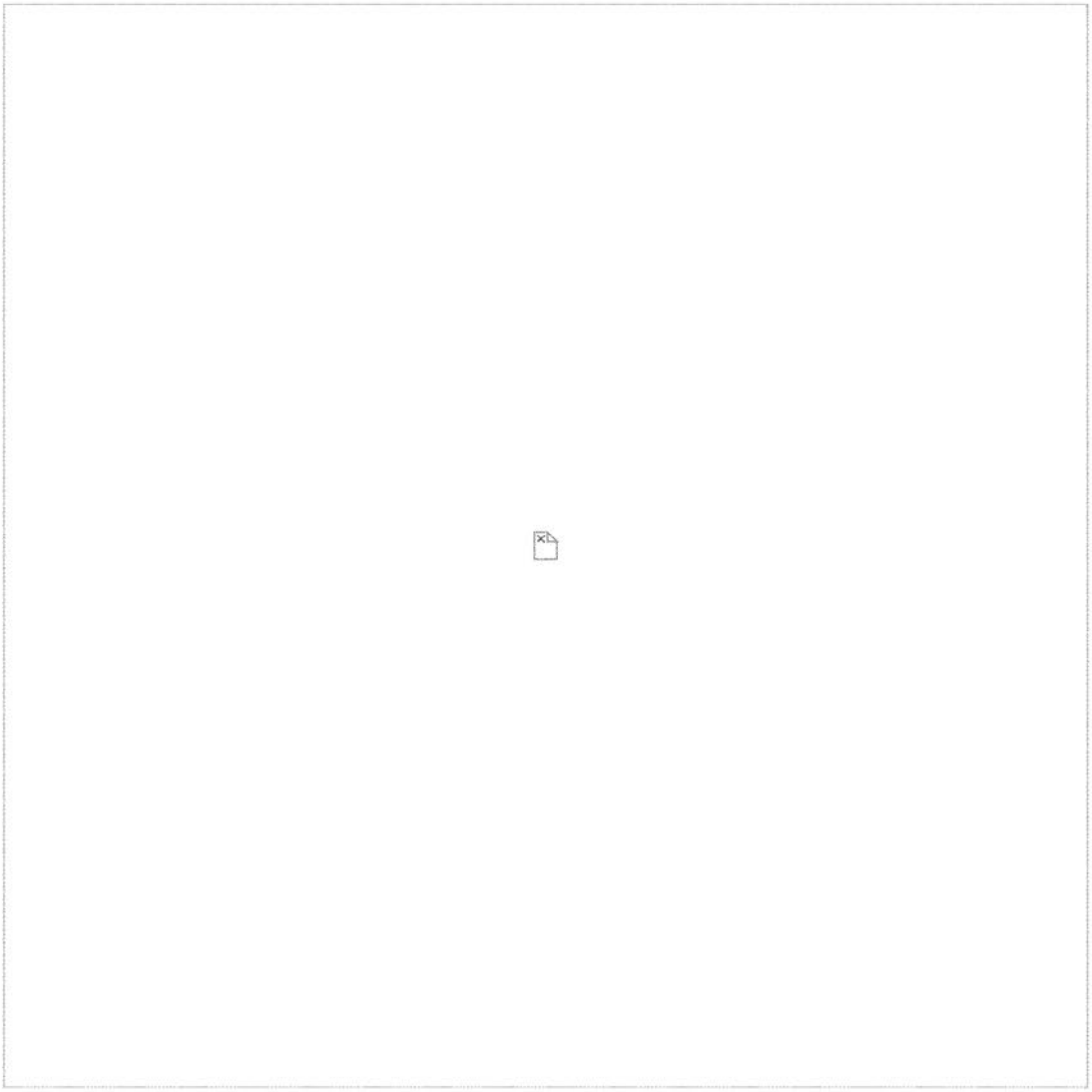
As a result, instead of working to prevent the next zoonotic disease spillover, we find ourselves attending Congressional hearings and rebuffing allegations that EcoHealth Alliance had any role in creating SARS-2-CoV—all while a highly pathogenic avian flu circulates throughout the world, rampant deforestation contributes to increased wildfires and fire-related illnesses, and climate change expands the ranges of disease-spreading insects.



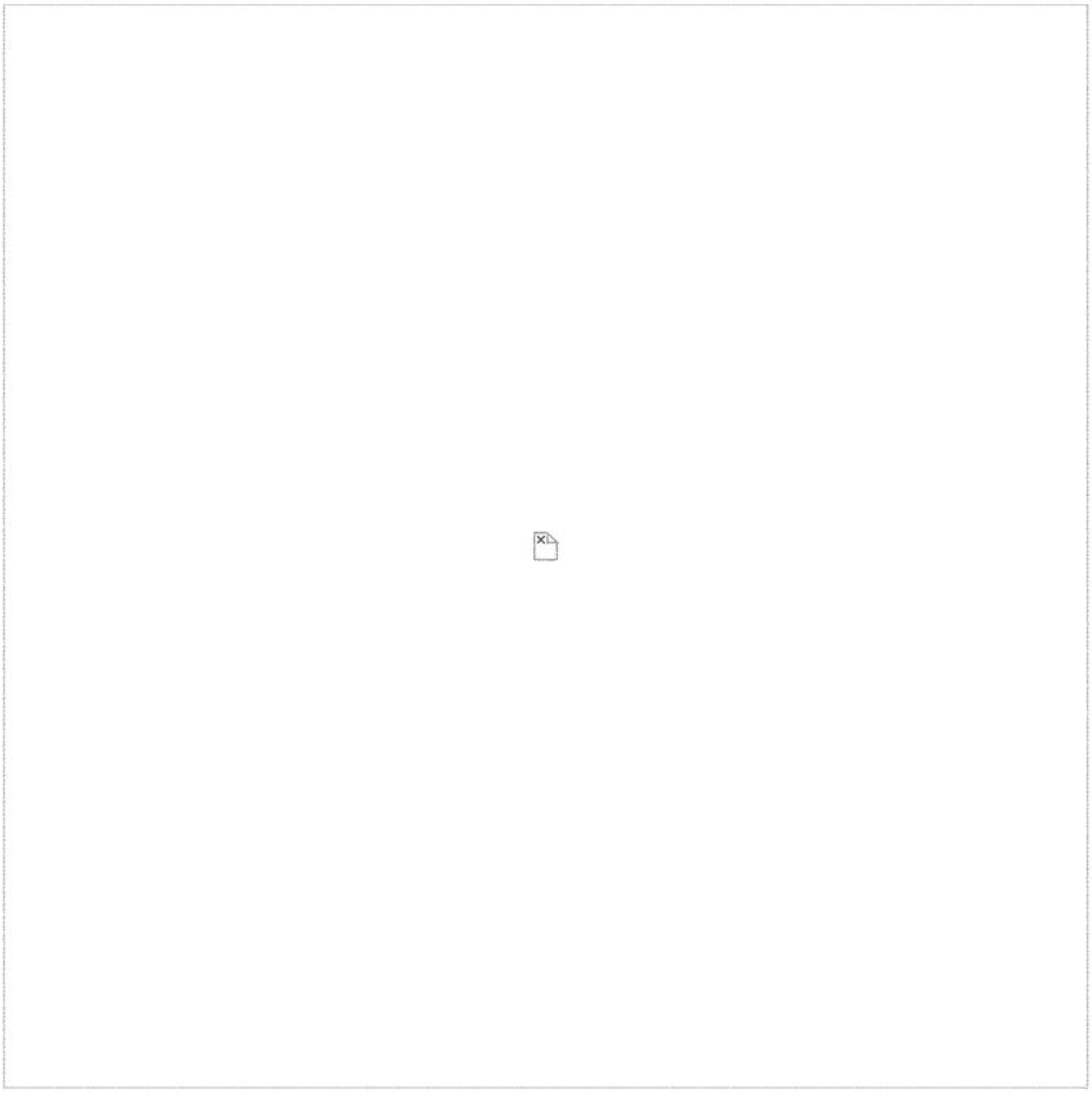
Despite the pressure, our dedicated staff continue our critical work, undeterred. From the upper Guinean forests of Liberia to the ancient cave systems of Oman, our scientists are trying to understand how the many factors at the human-animal interface either contribute—or provide solutions—to the threat of future zoonotic diseases that could cause the next pandemic. Here's what we've been working on:

- Our **field veterinary team** compiled the first-ever field safety manual providing guidance for safe wildlife and livestock handling, no matter the

MORENS_NIH_055051
REL0000481114

species or locale.

- Our **conservation and health team** is studying reforestation in Brazil, in order to highlight its positive impacts on public health.
- Our **vector ecologists** are developing forecasting tools to help South African livestock owners know which animals to vaccinate against disease, and when.
- Our **behavioral risk specialists** are working to inform both local customs and national interventions around wildlife trade in Southeast Asia.
- Our **program managers** are creating sustainable conservation jobs for Liberian nationals supporting their country's wildlife and preventing disease emergence.



Although the current moment is discouraging, we take to heart the stories of Dr. Peter Hotez and Dr. Michael Mann, whom EcoHealth Alliance honored at our latest benefits as part of our longterm commitment to commending prominent

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American scientists who lead national effort to counter rising attacks on science. Both have been attacked and their work denigrated, and both continue their tireless work to combat misinformation on COVID-19, and on climate change respectively. Indeed, Dr. Michael Mann has been attacked for years before winning a defamation case against his detractors.

EcoHealth Alliance was established in 1971 by beloved naturalist Gerald Durrell, and our cutting-edge research precedes the current political climate by decades. Nevertheless, the scapegoating of EcoHealth Alliance has disrupted our daily operations, imperiled our federal funding, and compromised our budget. Our staff, scientists, and partners around the world are in a state of uncertainty about the future of their projects.

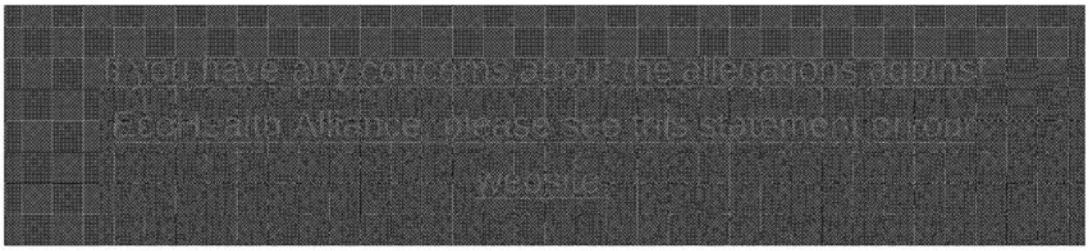
You have generously supported our mission before, and I am calling upon you to do so once again**. Your contribution now is more important than ever at this uncertain time.**

The heart of EcoHealth Alliance is science, not politics, and your donation of unrestricted funds allows us independence from the vicissitudes of political scapegoating. It will enable the science that saves lives all over the globe, regardless of affiliation, or even species. I hope you will once again stand by us and make another donation; we'd like nothing more than to get back to work.

Sincerely,



Peter Daszak, PhD
President



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Date: Fri, 21 Jul 2023 1:44:37 PM -0400
Sent: Fri, 21 Jul 2023 1:43:50 PM -0400
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Fwd: Zoom with Bill Novelli
From: David Morens (b)(6)
To: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b) (6)

David M. Morens, MD
(b)(6)
(b)(6) (work)
(b)(6) (cell)

IMPORTANT: My gmail frequently sends incoming messages to Trash, which is apparently not correctable. If you don't hear from me in a reasonable time, please try again, call, or use my NIH email address

IMPORTANT: For US Government-related email, please also reply to my NIAID address

--------- Forwarded message ---------
From: Hotez, Peter Jay (b)(6)
Date: Sun, Jun 4, 2023 at 10:05 AM
Subject: Re: Zoom with Bill Novelli
To: Roberts, Rich (b) (6) >
Cc: Peter Daszak (b)(6) Keusch, Gerald T (b)(6) David Morens (b)(6) (b)(6) Jeffrey Sturchio (b)(6) (b)(6) Soriano Osejo, Douglas (b)(6) (b) (6)

Yes, and told him about our group that aspires to help in organizing something. The problem is, his effort to bring all these societies together doesn't come with a plan to actually operationalize it or execute it. It requires that piece which perhaps we can provide. Same for the National Academies, all high level stuff and rhetoric that makes everyone feel good. But no real teeth and plans. That's what is missing currently I feel, 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 Jun 4, 2023, at 6:31 AM, Roberts, Rich <(b) (6) wrote:

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Peter:

Did you discuss our joining with him in a larger effort to defend 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)

Executive Assistant: (b)((b)(6)

Tel: (b)(6)

Fax: (978) 412 9910

email: (b)(6)

From: Hotez, Peter Jay (b)(6)
Sent: Saturday, June 3, 2023 7:53 PM
To: Roberts, Rich (b)(6)
Cc: Peter Daszak (b)(6) ; Keusch, Gerald T (b)(6) ; David Moren (b)(6) (b)(6) Jeffrey Sturchio (b)(6) >; Soriano Osejo, Douglas (b)(6)
Subject: Re: Zoom with Bill Novelli

EXTERNAL SENDER

I've spoken to him but happy to talk to him again

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP

Texas Children's Hospital: Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics |
Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development
| Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

Baylor College of Medicine: Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine | Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology &□ Microbiology | Health Policy Scholar

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Senior Coordinator & Executive Support: Douglas Soriano

(b)(6) | Phone: (b)(6) | Fax: 713-798-2299

Media Inquiries:

(b)(6)

iPhone

On Jun 3, 2023, at 3:47 PM, Roberts, Rich (b)(6) wrote:

Hi:

Bill Novelli has set up a zoom call for June 20th at 10:30 am. If any of you would like to join please let me know.

Rich

Richard J. Roberts
New England Biolabs
240 County Road
Ipswich, MA 01938-2723
USA

Tel: (b)(6)
Fax: (978) 412 9910
email: (b) (6)

Executive Assistant: (b)((b)(6)
Tel: (b)(6)
Fax: (978) 412 9910
email: (b)(6)
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Date:	Mon, 14 Mar 2022 11:44:43 AM -0400
Sent:	Mon, 14 Mar 2022 11:43:32 AM -0400
Subject:	Interview in the press
From:	Peter Daszak < (b) (6)
To:	Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] < (b) (6) Roberts, Rich < (b) (6) Hotez, Peter Jay < (b) (6) Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6) Dennis Carroll < (b) (6)
CC:	Aleksei Chmura < (b) (6)
Attachments:	image001.jpg; image002.jpg; image003.jpg; image004.jpg; image005.jpg; image006.jpg; image007.jpg

Dear all (cc'ing Dennis Carroll who I spoke with at the weekend),

Not sure if you've already seen this, but after multiple harassing, innuendo-filled articles in this journal *The Intercept*, we decided to respond to them and try to explain that all of the minutiae they have been reporting on for the last few months are not evidence of corrupt science that led to a pandemic, but just the opposite – they're part of the normal process of doing science to help prevent pandemics.

The result is an interview they published last week that is a bit combative, but at least helps explain to those who are bothered, that all of the allegations these guys have been pushing can be easily addressed, albeit that the answers are 1) boring, and 2) not the narrative that they want.

David – you'll be interested in the bit where I explain that the NIH Office of the Director has been cruelly holding us over a barrel to deflect from their political and erroneous decision to defund us.

Here's the link: https://theintercept.com/2022/03/11/covid- nih-ecohealth-peter-daszak-interview/

And here's the story pasted in the email:

PETER DASZAK ANSWERS CRITICS AND DEFENDS CORONAVIRUS RESEARCH

"Scientists disagree over an issue where there's no definitive proof," said the EcoHealth Alliance president on the origins of the Covid-19 pandemic.



Sharon Lerner, Mara Hvistendahl
March 11 2022, 9:50 a.m.

SINCE THE EARLY days of the Covid-19 pandemic, Peter Daszak has been at the center of a heated, and at times vicious, debate over the origins of the SARS-CoV-2 virus. The parasitologist helms the New York-based nonprofit EcoHealth Alliance, a

wildlife conservation organization that aims to understand and prevent infectious diseases; the organization has received more than $118 million in grants and contracts from U.S. agencies, much of which Daszak distributes to labs around the world. Starting in 2005, he worked closely with Shi Zhengli of the Wuhan Institute of Virology, who was a key partner on a 2014 National Institutes of Health grant to research bat coronaviruses in China. The Intercept has published over 2,500 pages of documents and communications from the grant following a Freedom of Information lawsuit — information that has transformed public understanding of the research conducted under the grant.

Those documents have shown that in its efforts to head off and prepare for a pandemic, EcoHealth Alliance oversaw an experiment in which researchers intentionally made coronaviruses more pathogenic and transmissible. One grant report contained evidence that the research group also did an experiment with infectious clones of MERS, another deadly virus. While none of the experiments described in the grant materials released so far could have sparked the current pandemic, the documents raise serious questions about biosafety and oversight at NIH. Early in the grant, research on certain coronaviruses was subject to a U.S. government ban, but notes on communications between NIH staffers and EcoHealth Alliance obtained by The Intercept showed that the federal agency allowed Daszak to take the lead in shaping a plan to evade that moratorium.

Meanwhile, a grant proposal published by the internet research group DRASTIC last September showed that in 2018 EcoHealth Alliance applied for funding from the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency, or DARPA, to look for novel furin cleavage sites in bat coronaviruses. According to the proposal, which was not funded, EcoHealth planned to insert furin cleavage sites into the spikes of SARS-related viruses — an idea that drew attention because scientists had already noted that such a site is unique in the subclass of viruses to which SARS-CoV-2 belongs.

The Intercept repeatedly sought comment from EcoHealth Alliance on these revelations. EcoHealth initially responded. In September 2021, a spokesperson denied that the organization had conducted the research on the deadly MERS virus that was described in the NIH proposal. After documents obtained via FOIA later showed that such research had in fact been done, Daszak stated that the spokesperson had been misinformed. EcoHealth Alliance then stopped responding to The Intercept's questions. In late February, Daszak replied to email inquiries and offered to talk. He spoke with us on March 1. In a wide-ranging interview conducted over Zoom, he addressed questions that have swirled around EcoHealth Alliance for the past two years, defended his organization against what he characterized as unjust accusations, and railed against the questioning he has faced from congressional Republicans, the NIH, and news organizations, including The Intercept.

This interview has been edited for length and clarity.

Responding to the Outbreak

We're curious when you first heard about the outbreak in Wuhan.

If you look at my Twitter account, you'll see a tweet on New Year's Eve of 2019 —

But before the tweet, what was the moment when you first learned about it?

It was a couple of days before that. We heard from our contacts in China that something was going on, that there were cases of a disease in Wuhan. I think it was December 30. We looked on Chinese social media and found the rumors about it there. But we heard from many scientists in China.

Many of the virologists and other scientists we speak to say that we don't have enough information to determine whether Covid-19 emerged from natural spillover or as a result of research. Do you agree with that?

Do I agree that it's possible that Covid-19 emerged through a lab leak? Of course. It's been widely reported that we shut down discussion on that. But in the WHO report, which I was part of — and in fact I led the animal environmental side for the WHO side — we state that it's extremely unlikely. We don't state that it's impossible it came from the lab. Of course it's possible.

One of the many reasons that the origin of Covid-19 became such a sensitive and divisive issue was the sense, based on your communications about the Lancet letter, that you orchestrated a response among scientists and then made an effort to distance yourself from that effort. Do you want to say anything about that episode?

You said, "One of the reasons why this has become so divisive is because of the Lancet thing." You could say that about many things. It's because we didn't release the DARPA proposal. It's because we didn't release our emails. It's because, early on, we said very strongly that this came from nature, and that this lab leak stuff is preposterous. The real reason this has become so divisive is because it's being used politically. That's it.

Scientists disagree over an issue where there's no definitive proof. And for this issue, there's no definitive proof. And there may never be. But what we do know is the weight of evidence points strongly to emergence from farmed wildlife in China.

Since the WHO report even, there are something like 12 scientific papers that have been published or put up online from good scientists pointing towards that origin. And I've looked at every single document that's come out of the folks who are trying to show it

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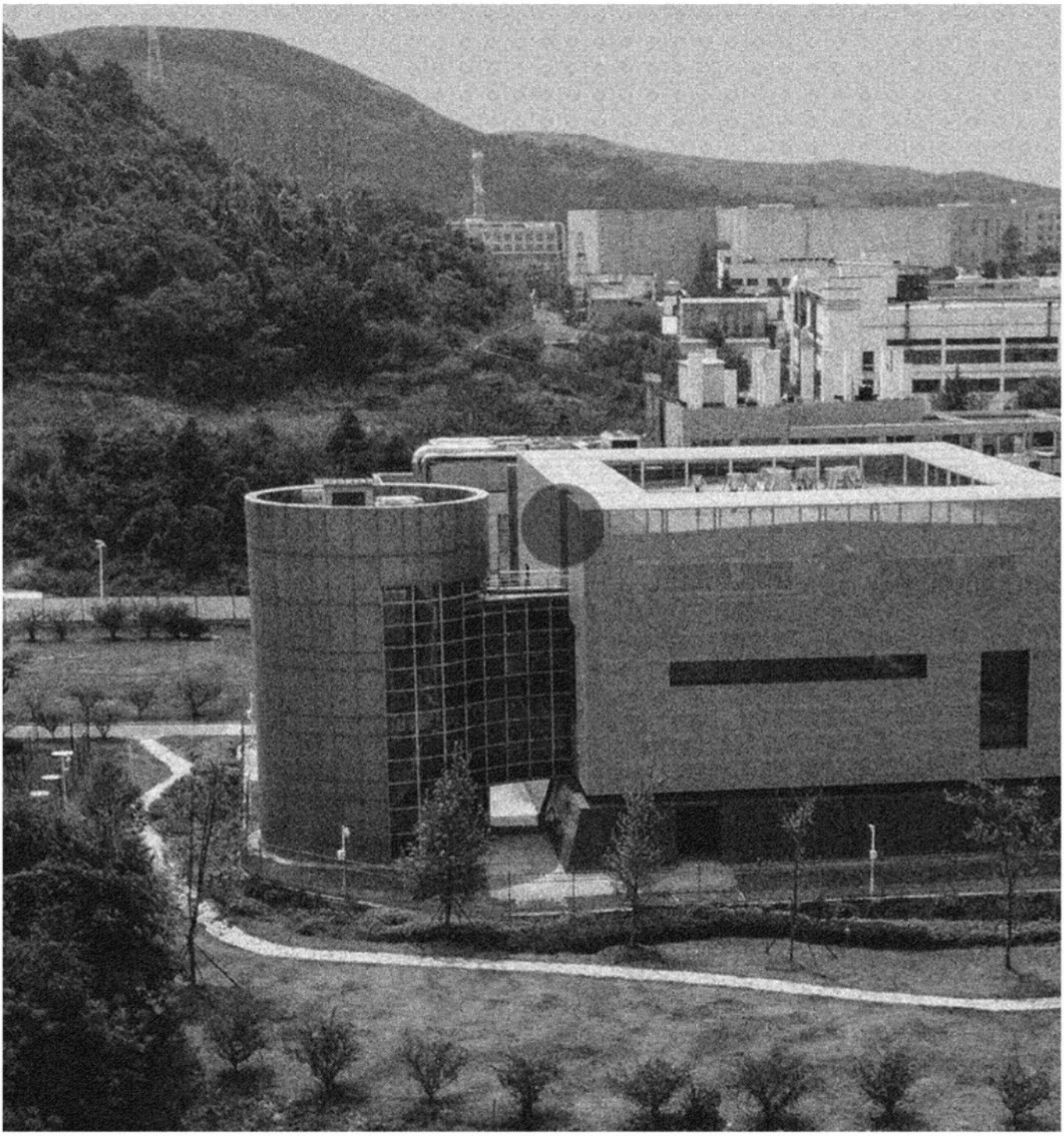
came out of the lab, and there is no evidence yet for that. It's all about implied motives, databases that were taken offline, people that aren't on a website, or innuendo around something. Any one of those things can be explained by the normal process of doing science.



An aerial view of the P4 laboratory at the Wuhan Institute of Virology in China's central Hubei province on April 17, 2020.

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Photo illustration: Soohee Cho for The Intercept; Getty Images

Controversial Research

Did EcoHealth Alliance or the Wuhan Institute of Virology, through its partnership with EcoHealth Alliance, ever insert a furin cleavage site into a bat coronavirus genetic sequence?

Of course we did not do that. I really don't understand how that could be a question at this point — it's beyond the pale. That's not in our plans and it's not any of our reports, so of course we didn't do that.

But isn't it the case that you submitted a grant proposal to DARPA to do so?

We did submit a proposal to DARPA. I've not checked through the one that's online that it's the correct document. What I do know is it was widely reported that DARPA rejected that because there were concerns about safety issues. That is absolutely untrue. The document that allegedly is DARPA's response, their review of our proposal, I've never seen that before. It was never sent to us. I don't know if it's real.

DARPA had a process by which people who didn't get funded could do an interview with them to find out why they didn't get funded. So I did that. Never once did they mention any concerns or issues around safety; never once did they mention gain-of-function. The reason they told us it was rejected was because the amount we asked for was too much for them. They couldn't afford it. They actually encouraged us to resubmit in different ways. We then had protracted conversations with them about funding specific parts of it. They liked the proposal.

Was any of the work described in that proposal completed prior to its submission? We were told by multiple sources that when you submit a grant, that at least some of the work would have been done.

When you write a grant proposal and propose to do a new line of research, which is what we did, we would not be doing that research before we submit the proposal. That's not how it works.

When we asked if you had ever inserted a furin cleavage site to a coronavirus, you responded with outrage. But that is what was described in the DARPA proposal.

No. What you said is, did we insert a furin cleavage site? And what I said was, of course not! If we had done that work with the Wuhan Institute of Virology, it would have been published by now. It would have been made public in our reports to the NIH. The DARPA proposal was not funded. Therefore, the work was not done. Simple.

But you acknowledge that you proposed to DARPA to insert a furin cleavage site?

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I refute that that was the goal of the DARPA proposal. The idea was not to insert a furin cleavage site in a virus to see what happens. That's not what was proposed. The proposal was to look for those polybasic cleavage sites in nature because we knew that that was the potential to make a virus more able to infect people and move from person to person. If we found mutations around that polybasic cleavage site that looked like it could be evolvable, the idea was then that Ralph Baric's lab at UNC would do some work to see how evolvable that site was. So that work never happened. The proposal was not funded.

Did you find any of these cleavage sites in naturally occurring viruses that you collected?

The proposal was not funded so we didn't do that work. We've not found polybasic cleavage sites. However, they are in many coronaviruses from bats. Papers from Europe show mutations around that cleavage site that suggest strongly that that furin cleavage site could evolve very easily in nature. I'm sure there are viruses out there with it. I'm convinced that it could have easily evolved during the first stages of the pandemic, as the virus got from bats, perhaps into an intermediate host in a wildlife farm, or into people.

Did you resubmit the proposal?

We had conversations with them over many months about bits they would like to fund or they wanted to fund. We did not get funded. We did not do the work.

So you didn't think the DARPA proposal was relevant to the investigation into the origin of the pandemic?

A proposal that was not funded and work that was never done is not relevant to the origins of Covid. Of course not!

When asked if you had done this work with the furin cleavage site, you said no.

For the furin cleavage site, you should really ask Ralph Baric. He wrote that section of the DARPA grant.

So you're saying that that would be a good question for Ralph Baric, whether he has done any of these insertions?

I don't know what Ralph Baric has done. But I doubt that he would go ahead and do that work without the funding.

Some virologists were dismayed to see the insertion of furin cleavage sites in this proposal.

I don't know why anyone would be dismayed at that because furin cleavage sites were first researched in influenza viruses. And it's well known that that's something you

should look for if you're interested in virulence factors. Second, there's actually a published paper from way before our proposal was submitted, way before the pandemic, where a group actually inserted a furin cleavage site into SARS-CoV-1. So we were right to look for that. And I think the proposal stands as a valid and actually quite predictive effort to understand the risk of viruses. You've got to look at the big picture of why we do this research. We're not doing it as a sort of academic interest, "what would happen if you put a cleavage site there?" No. This work is done to say: What viruses are there out there in the wild that have the potential to emerge in people? And can we do something to stop them? Develop vaccines, develop therapies, stop people making contact with those animals.

Your grant, "Understanding the Risk of Bat Coronavirus Emergence," included an experiment using humanized mice. Were other humanized mouse experiments conducted by you and/or WIV?

Not by us, no.

What about by WIV?

Well, you need to talk to WIV about what else they were doing. We were doing one line of work with them.

Were you aware of any?

No, of course. I'd tell you if I was aware.

Were there viruses from elsewhere in Southeast Asia that were sent to the WIV?

No. This is a commonly put about story that's simply not true. WIV did not receive viruses from all around the world.

How many actual viruses do they have?

WIV does not have the biggest collection of viruses from bats in the world. There's 20,000 bat samples, something like that, tiny fecal pellets from bats.

Right now I don't know exactly how many bat coronaviruses are in culture and freezers at the WIV. But from our work, I know that out of the SARS-related coronavirus, they were only ever able to culture a handful. I think three cultures. It's not easy to do.

In November 2019, you tweeted that you had identified over 50 novel SARS-related coronaviruses, including some that cause SARS-like signs in mice and didn't respond to monoclonal antibodies.

Yes.

What are these 50 viruses? And are they public?

This is a complex thing that's been widely misinterpreted. It's actually quite simple. What we had were hundreds of genetic sequences of coronaviruses from bats. We published them in that paper. They're not all new viruses. As we went through the sequence data and analyzed it, we refined what you might call a new virus versus a known virus. That's all. It's scientists refining and analyzing.

One ongoing point of contention between you and NIH is about lab notebooks and the communications around experiments.

NIH has made a bunch of requests that are completely reasonable, that we've dealt with very quickly and sent them the information that they required. And in many cases, NIH had the information already. What's happening here is you've got an office of the director that's dealing directly with us and completely cutting out the program staff who've got all the data they need. NIH has also asked us for a number of things which to any balanced and independent reviewer are impossible for us to supply.

Clearly in coming up with Year 4 and 5 progress reports, EcoHealth Alliance had information and draft reports on these humanized mouse experiments. Did you share those with NIH?

Of course not. You don't share draft reports. You share the final report.

Here's what happens, it's a very standard procedure: We are subcontracting to a lab in China to do some work. Every year we have to file a report to NIH to tell them what we've done for the year, how we've spent the money, and whether we've achieved the goals of the grant. So, we contact our subcontractees and we say, "Send us the information. Let us know what successes you've had this year and whether you've had problems and issues. Put it all in a report and send it to us." And then we use that to produce a report for NIH. That's why there are some editing issues around that. We move them around a bit, and we send a final report. A draft report is just a worse written version of the final report. There's no special information that's got intelligence value or anything.

Then why not share them?

We've not been asked for a draft report by anybody.

You've been colleagues with Shi Zhengli, the Chinese bat coronavirus expert who directs the Center for Emerging Infectious Diseases at the Wuhan Institute of Virology, since 2005?

Yes.

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So is it the kind of relationship where you would be generally aware of all the work that she was involved in? Can you say a little bit about what your level of awareness of other stuff she was doing?

We were aware of most of the stuff she was doing. Of course. These people weren't hiding anything from us. They are scientists.

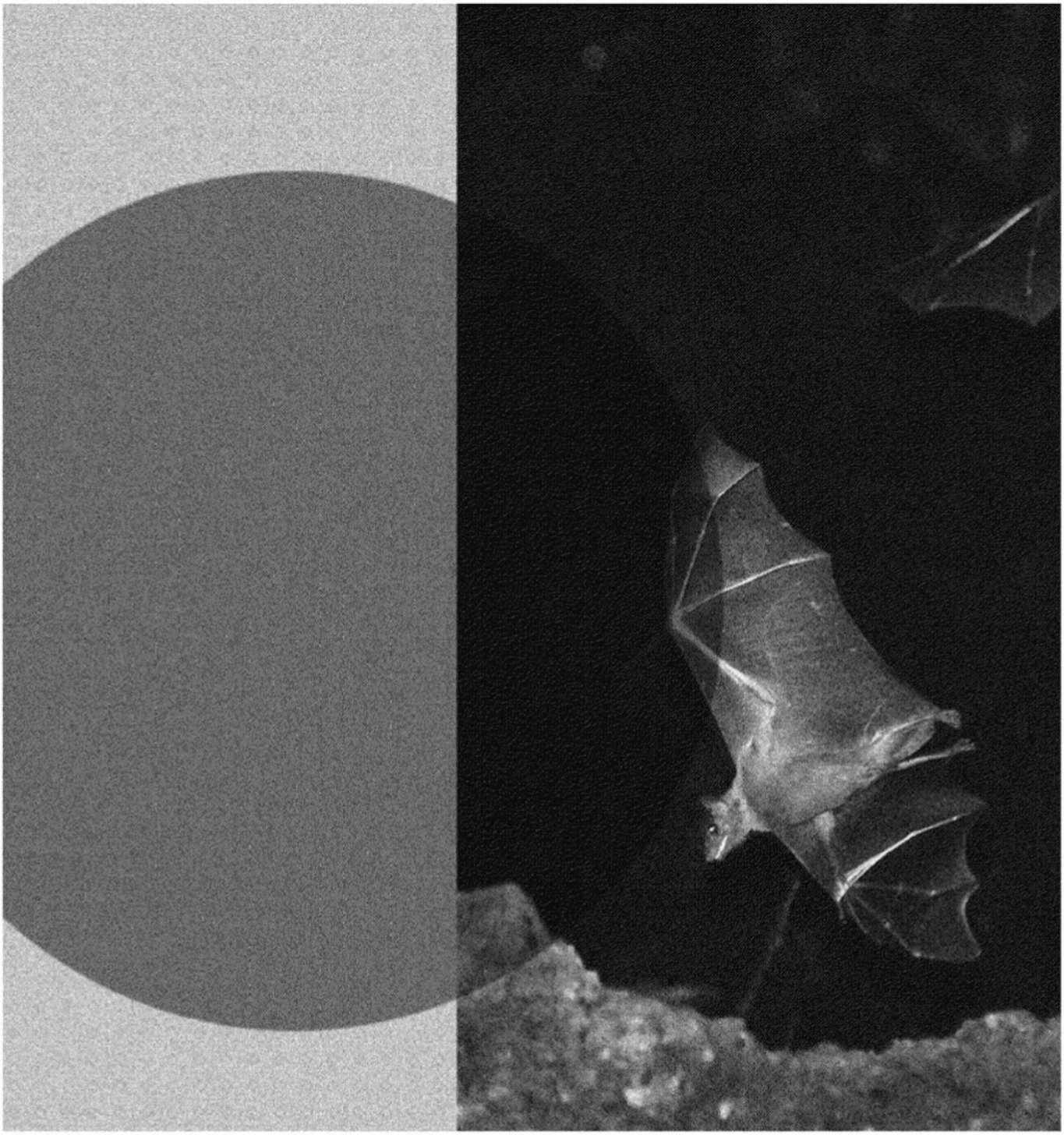
I've sat through dozens of meetings with people from Wuhan Institute of Virology, where they talk openly about unpublished work. And, by the way, RaTG13 was one of the sequences in a paper published — in I think 2015. So they weren't hiding anything from us.

Early on, after she learned about the outbreak, Shi said she was worried that somehow a virus might have leaked from her lab. A lot of people we speak to — virologists who do this kind of work — are the ones who seem most in touch with that possibility, that this stuff happens.

Very specifically, it happens when you have cultures of viruses in flasks, and you're then doing experiments with high concentrations of virus. It rarely happens if ever from an animal sample, especially a saliva sample from a bat. What Shi Zhengli was saying at that time was, "Oh, no, it's a coronavirus. I need to go back and check on those viruses that we've got and see: Is it one of them?" And she did, and it wasn't. That's what any reasonable person would do.

You implied in early 2020 that RaTG13 was not fully sequenced by WIV until late 2019 or later. And then afterwards, Shi revealed that it had actually been fully sequenced in 2018. When and how did you first learn about the true date that this virus was sequenced?

I don't actually know the true date of when this virus was sequenced. I didn't see an interview with Zhengli where she said, "We sequenced it in 2018." I don't know when and I don't think they ever got the full genome. There are parts of that virus that aren't correctly sequenced. Bear in mind, RaTG13 was not from a sample collected under the NIH grant. So we didn't have any oversight on that or any knowledge of it.



A colony of bats in a cave in the Maramagambo forest of Queen Elizabeth National Park, Uganda.

Photo illustration: Soohee Cho for The Intercept; Getty Images

Missing Data

Did you have access to the Wuhan Institute of Virology's database of viral samples and sequences that went offline in September 2019?

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I've never actually seen the database. I've seen pages of it from the internet, Twitter, chats. But I've never looked at the database.

Did your staff have access to it?

No. We didn't need to! We had all the data we needed. Some folks find this missing database indicative of a cover-up or something. When we were in Wuhan [with the WHO mission] in the Institute of Virology, I said, "Why did you take the database offline?" And their response was, "We took it offline before the outbreak. We were then getting hacking attempts, hundreds, thousands of hacking attempts. So we decided it wouldn't be wise to put it back up." Now, you may not believe them. But it is a perfectly reasonable explanation. And I think people should try and go for the most likely reasonable explanation for these things.

So why did they take it offline in September 2019?

They told us — and it's in the WHO report — that they were trying to update it to make it modern. WIV was trying to present itself like a globally significant virology institute, and it is. But when you look at Chinese websites, they can be really old and stuffy and clunky. What they were trying to do, they told us, was to make it interactive so that you can click on something and a map would show. They were trying to make it fit in with the national databases.

I find it quite ironic that the focus on the database of WIV is so intense, whereas what actually happened was we took the data and, with China, put the data into the NIH's own database to make it public. That's a great win for the U.S.

In April 2020, you wrote in an email, "It's extremely important that we don't have these sequences as part of our PREDICT release to Genbank at this point. As you may have heard, these were part of a grant just terminated by NIH. … Having them as part of PREDICT will being [sic] very unwelcome attention to UC Davis, PREDICT and USAID." Why did you think that publishing these sequences would bring unwelcome attention?

Because we just had our grant terminated by NIH.

So you didn't think it would be important to release this data, given that there was a pandemic?

Those sequences were released publicly by publishing them in a scientific paper, which is what scientists do. The email that you're reading out is not about whether sequences should be made public; it's about whether sequences should be made public via a USAID mechanism or via publishing through the NIH mechanism. And what I was saying to the UC Davis team that ran PREDICT was that these are NIH-funded

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sequences and should be reported through the NIH system. It's really that simple.

And which paper were they reported in?

Latinne et al, published in Nature Communications. We were struggling to get that paper out. It was very, very difficult, once the pandemic started, to keep communication with Chinese scientists. The utmost priority as a scientist is to get the data published, not to upload it into some database that's going to take months to go through. And by the way, that database is somewhere on the USAID government system. It's very difficult to find. The paper had already been submitted for publication, and the sequences were uploaded into GenBank, the NIH system. And then once the papers were accepted, they became public. And that's exactly what we did.

Are there sequences that have not been made public?

To my mind, there are no sequences of SARS-related coronaviruses that have not been made public. Some people think there are still viruses that are SARS-related that haven't been put in GenBank. That's not true. We've uploaded all of the SARS-related coronavirus sequences, or we've reported them to NIH, or we've published them in scientific papers. And in fact, for most of them, we've done all the above. We had them all uploaded before the pandemic. Most of them anyway.

You were on the WHO mission to investigate the origins of SARS-CoV-2. When the NIH grant documents were released, it was a surprise to many people that animal experiments were being done at Wuhan University. If you knew this information, did you share it?

It wasn't a surprise to NIH because the NIH knew about them.

Right. But did you share that information with the WHO committee or with others who were investigating the origins?

The Wuhan University BSL-3 facility is what we're talking about. They do humanized mouse work. That was not looked at by the WHO origins group. It's a BSL-3 lab that had humanized mice under BSL-3 conditions. It's highly unlikely to be the source of the Covid-19 outbreak.

Did you mention it to the committee?

I mentioned all my work to the committee, of course. We talked about it, for sure.

The Challenges of Public

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Scrutiny

Dr. Michael Lauer at the NIH has repeatedly asked you for biosafety records from the WIV and said that he has been unable to get some of them.

He says that, but it's not true. We've supplied everything we could possibly supply on the issues that they've asked for.

In one of his letters to you, Lauer asked about the biosafety oversight of the work at WIV. In your response to him, you wrote that it consisted of semiannual meetings with the lead investigator and assessments of compliance with all conditions of the award. Biosafety experts have said that this falls short of the level of oversight one would want for this kind of work. You mentioned in an exchange with Lauer that you were offering to pay from EcoHealth's own coffers for additional biosafety measures. Why did you offer to do this? Did you feel that the biosafety oversight was adequate?

We're talking about a world-class virology lab run by the Chinese government that is probably the best virology lab in China, and China is very good at virology. It's very efficiently run, and the biosafety conditions are very good. Just because people think that Covid-19 might have come from WIV doesn't mean that therefore our oversight of biosafety wasn't sufficient. We did everything normal in oversight of that lab.

Then why did you suggest these additional measures, if the others were already adequate?

Because I was worried that they were going to terminate our other grants. This is the key driving force for every action we've taken since April 24, 2020. I don't know why people don't realize that.

Once NIH shows you that it's willing to terminate your funding and kick people out of a job and put your whole organization under pressure simply because a single politician tells them to, then you start worrying about every other grant and contract that NIH controls. We live in fear that they're going to do similar abrupt terminations with no cause and no rationale and no logic.

What I was doing then was saying to Michael Lauer, please be reasonable. We're trying to do everything we can, within the normal bounds of what organizations do. We probably have the best biosafety and field teams in the world.

We're overcompliant and yet still being accused of lack of compliance.

On February 24, House Energy and Commerce Committee Republicans sent a

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letter to NIH alleging that it is "highly suspicious" that EcoHealth reported the humanized mouse experiment results over two years, and suggesting that more work may have been done that was not reported. How would you respond to that?

This is a simple issue of Chinese nationals writing a report and then us drafting our report to NIH. So there's a word in there where they say we continued the studies. That doesn't mean they continued infecting mice with new viruses. No. What it means is they continued doing the research on the one experiment that they've done. And that continuation is a lot of work. So they did all the pathology, which means at the end of the experiment, you take all the mice, and you look at every organ in the body. You do detailed microscopical analysis. It takes months. So that's why it dragged on because you've got months of after-the-experiment analysis. And we included the mortality data as part of the pathology data. That's completely normal.

The House Energy and Commerce Republicans don't write to us, they write to NIH. Sometimes we hear about it, sometimes we don't. NIH doesn't copy us on their responses. Then eventually we get a letter from NIH asking questions, which we always respond to, always within the timeframe and always refuting any allegations with evidence. So that's what we've done.

The latest letter from the House Energy and Commerce Republicans accused us of being overfunded, effectively having two grants to do the same thing. It's simply not true. The USAID PREDICT grant has completely different goals to the NIH coronavirus grant. For instance, PREDICT looks for between seven and 18 different viral families within samples, not just coronaviruses. NIH is focused solely on coronaviruses. So the goals are different.

The agencies do, as a standard procedure, a review of a grantee's other proposals to see if there's overlap between them, because they don't want to fund the same thing twice. This is absolutely refutable with documentary evidence.

What's your understanding of the Republicans' motivation?

Any bipartisan requests for information from the House or the Senate, we've responded to. We've been working with the U.S. government since the pandemic began to get information to them about every single aspect of this pandemic, including unpublished data. The politicians who are attacking us probably don't realize or know or care, in some cases. When there's a request from one side of the political spectrum, we try not to respond to that. We've had hundreds of questions sent to us by letter, including requests for thousands of pages of documents. We don't have the staff to do that. And bear in mind our grant has been terminated and now suspended. We don't have access to funding. We don't have the staff to do this work. It's a horrible, cruel irony that, on the one hand, your funding is cut; and on the other hand, there are now outrageously huge

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number of demands for us to do work to show data from that funding that's been cut.

Don't you have ongoing funding for two other NIH projects?

Yes. Well, you can't use that money.

What have you been asked to get by NIH that you feel you can't get?

There are a whole series of things that we've been unable to get. A vial of virus. Information on a person that was removed from the website (I did ask them that, and they gave us an explanation, which is perfectly reasonable). NIH asked us for an inspection of the WIV. Every right-minded person on the planet realizes that the World Health Organization asked for an inspection of that lab, and we did go into the lab and ask questions and go around the facilities. For NIH to say that I should organize a U.S.-only, NIH-based or National Academy-based inspection of the lab facilities is a request that is way beyond what's possible. You know, you can't go into CDC as a foreigner and do an inspection of the lab.

NIH writing to us saying, "We demand that you do this," puts us in jeopardy and it's a security risk. If I was to take that letter from NIH and go to the Beijing airport and say, "I'm here to do this," I would be arrested and put in jail and probably put on trial, in the same way that scientists from China have come to the U.S. and tried to take vials of virus back to China and been arrested and convicted. NIH doing this is clearly a way for them to try to get the public behind a decision they made that was political about terminating our grant. Ever since that decision, we've been put under similar pressure over and over again. The Republicans write to NIH with some fairly outrageous accusations. NIH responds and says, "Don't worry, we will go and make EcoHealth do this, this, this, and this."



Origins of Covid

Read Our Complete Coverage

I don't think that those questions are posed to truly get to the bottom of the origins of Covid. While the House Republicans are putting pressure on NIH for tiny bits of administrative information, scientists are going out and finding that actually things are

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really pointing towards a natural origin. And meanwhile, we're left refuting each one of those allegations. They're all false. There's no substance to them at all.

A good proportion of the public have been pushed by misinformation to believe a narrative — and this narrative is repeated daily — that gain-of-function work was funded by Tony Fauci as a back channel to China, and EcoHealth funneled funds to China. Those stories are very beguiling, they sort of make you feel, "Ah! I knew it." But actually, there's not a grain of truth to them. Every single action that EcoHealth Alliance has taken has been things that scientists do in the normal course of doing their work.

Closing down that line of research means we lose eyes and ears on the ground in China. And it doesn't benefit us from a public health point of view or a national security point of view. It's a huge mistake.

CONTACT THE AUTHOR:



Sharon Lernersharon.lerner@theintercept.com@fastlerner



Mara Hvistendahl|mara.hvistendahl@theintercept.com@MaraHvistendahl

ADDITIONAL CREDITS:
ADDITIONAL CREDITS:

Research: W. Paul Smith.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

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Date: Tue, 20 Dec 2022 2:54:57 PM -0500
Sent: Tue, 20 Dec 2022 2:51:58 PM -0500
Subject: Re: Names of Committee members disclosed
From: "Hotez, Peter Jay" < (b) (6)
To: Peter Daszak < (b) (6)
CC: Roberts, Rich < (b) (6) >; Aleksei Chmura < David Morens <(b) (6) Jeff Sturchio < Gerald Keusch < (b) (6)

I'm so sorry Peter, wishing you the best this holiday season. Awful what's going around out there, best Peter

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP

Texas Children's Hospital: Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics | Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development | Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

Baylor College of Medicine: Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine | Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology | Health Policy Scholar

Baylor University, University Professor
Rice University, Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty
Texas A&M University, Faculty-Senior Fellow, Hagler Inst for Advanced Study & Scowcroft Institute of Intl Affairs

E-mail | Twitter | LinkedIn | Skype: (b) (6)
Amazon Author Center | Daily Beast Contributor

Senior Coordinator & Executive Support: Douglas Soriano
(b) (6) | Phone: (b) (6) | Fax: 713-798-2299

Media Inquiries:
(b) (6) (b)(6)
(b) (6)
(b)(6)

iPhone

On Dec 20, 2022, at 1:45 PM, Peter Daszak < (b) (6) > wrote:

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Just returned from 3 weeks in Western Thailand near the Myanmar border organizing fieldwork in bat caves. It was hard work, made even harder by the ongoing level of harassment in the US. During that short trip we had to deal with the following attacks:

- A new lawsuit (our 3rd) claiming our work caused COVID and led to the death of a rock musician in a Midwest state in the USA
- A book from a former EHA employee that is so factually-incorrect, even the title is demonstrably wrong. The author, who sadly has some mental health issues (self-acknowledged and publicly stated) has been lauded by the usual Right wing hacks and did the rounds on Fox last week. He's getting his 15 mins of fame, but I'm a bit worried that a former Iraq/Afghanistan veteran with a grudge is drumming up hate against me and our organization.
- A series of harassing articles about me and EcoHealth in the Daily Mail, NY Post, Fox News, all based on a single tweet of some of our staff in Tyvek suits in a bat cave in Thailand, doing their job as scientists, and as laid

out in our NIH grant.

- Quotes from Senator Joni Ernst & Roger Marshall bragging about how I'm not going to be able to do my work next year because I'll be spending so much time in front of Congress: 'Instead of playing in a bat cave, next year Daszak will find himself in front of Congress answering questions about his batty studies and what was really going on inside the Wuhan Institute,' added the Iowa Republican. https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article- 11530565/GOP-senators-slam-Peter-Daszak-playing-bat-cave-Thailand.html
- Finally the letter from the Republicans on the House Oversight Committee demanding the usual trove of documents and emails, and on-the-record interviews with me and 5 of our staff. Amusingly that includes our collaborator in Australia Hume Field, who's a member of the Independent (former Lancet) Taskforce, and not a paid employee of EcoHealth. I'm not sure what jurisdiction Congress has over Australians who live in outback Queensland, but I can imagine his fruity answer if they asked him to testify…

I now know some very remote camps in the Myanmar-Thailand border region that are beginning to look like nice places to spend the next few months rather than sitting through the constant garbage these folks are generating…...

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

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Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

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---

From: Roberts, Rich (b) (6) >
Sent: Thursday, December 15, 2022 8:56 AM
To: David Morens (b) (6) >; Gerald Keusch (b) (6) Peter Daszak < (b) (6) >; Aleksei Chmura (b) (6) g >; Peter Hotez (b) (6) Jeff Sturchio <j_(b) (6) >
Subject: RE: Names of Committee members disclosed

Ridiculous. But wait until the Republicans take control of the House. Then all hell will break loose. New Zealand is looking more attractive all the time.

Rich

Richard J. Roberts
New England Biolabs
240 County Road
Ipswich, MA 01938-2723
USA
Tel: (b) (6) (b) (6)
Fax: (978) 412 9910

MORENS_SUBPOENA_014221
MORENS_NIH_026873
REL0000481141

email: (b)(6)

Executive Assistant: (b)((b)(6)
Tel: (b)(6)
Fax: (978) 412 9910
email: (b)) (6)
)

From: David Morens <(b) (6)
Sent: Thursday, December 15, 2022 8:39 AM
To: Gerald Keusch < (b) (6) Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >; Aleksei Chmura <
(b) (6) Peter Hotez (b) (6) >; Roberts, Rich <(b) (6) Jeff Sturchio <
(_(b) (6)
Subject: Fwd: Names of Committee members disclosed

EXTERNAL SENDER

Now they are going after the line scientists. d

Sent from my iPhone
David M Morens
OD, NIAID, NIH
Begin forwarded message:

> **From:** "Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E]" < (b)(6)
> **Date:** December 15, 2022 at 08:36:45 EST
> **To:** David Morens <(b) (6) >
> **Subject: Fwd: Names of Committee members disclosed**
>
> Sent from my iPhone
> David M Morens
> OD, NIAID, NIH
> Begin forwarded message:
>
> > **From:** "Taubenberger, Jeffery (NIH/NIAID) [E]" < (b) (6)
> > **Date:** December 15, 2022 at 08:31:56 EST
> > **To:** "Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E]" (b) (6)
> > **Subject: FW: Names of Committee members disclosed**
> >
> > **From:** "Hassell, David (Chris) (OS/ASPR/IO)" (b) (6) >
> > **Date:** Wednesday, December 14, 2022 at 4:04 PM
> > **To:** "Hassell, David (Chris) (OS/ASPR/IO)" <(b) (6) >
> > **Subject:** Names of Committee members disclosed
> >
> > Dear colleagues—
> >
> > Congress has sent the attached letter to Secretary Becerra, and I wanted you to be aware since your names are specifically mentioned. The letter signatories have made this letter available to the media, and appeared on Fox today to discuss. This included a gross mischaracterization of the roles of the Committee members.
> >
> > https://www.foxnews.com/video/6317195563112
> >
> > I am very sorry that this has happened, esp. in such a way that so irresponsibly and incorrectly skews the actual facts and events. Please let me know if you experience any negative consequences as a result of this disclosure. I will let you know as we receive guidance on how to proceed.

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Thank you for all you have done. As you well know, the work that we did together was thorough and responsible, and in no way related to the issue in question. I am proud of the work we did, and honored to be associated with each of you.

Chris
(b) (6)

MORENS_SUBPOENA_014223
MORENS_NIH_026875
REL0000481141

Date: Wed, 25 Jan 2023 4:01:08 PM -0500
Sent: Wed, 25 Jan 2023 3:58:14 PM -0500
Subject: RE: Daily Mail speaks out about the OIG report
From: Peter Daszak < (b) (6)
To: Roberts, Rich < (b) (6) David Morens < (b) (6) Hotez, Peter Jay < (b) (6)
CC: Jeffrey Sturchio < (b) (6) Aleksei Chmura < (b) (6) Gerald Keusch < (b) (6)

Don't worry, I read it with the pinch of salt it's written with….

Cheers,

Peter

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Twitter: @PeterDaszak

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From: Roberts, Rich <(b) (6)
Sent: Wednesday, January 25, 2023 3:53 PM
To: Peter Daszak (b) (6) >; David Morens (b) (6) Hotez, Peter Jay < (b) (6)
Cc: Jeffrey Sturchio (b)(6) Aleksei Chmura (b) (6) Gerald Keusch < (b) (6)
Subject: RE: Daily Mail speaks out about the OIG report

Peter:

Incredible. You should stop reading this crap.

Rich

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MORENS_SUBPOENA_015493
MORENS_NIH_032388
REL0000481146

email: (b) (6)

Executive Assistant: (b)((b)(6)
Tel: (b)(6)
Fax: (978) 412 9910
email: (b)(6)

From: Peter Daszak (b) (6) >
Sent: Wednesday, January 25, 2023 3:47 PM
To: David Morens (b) (6) >; Hotez, Peter Jay (t(b) (6)
Cc: Jeffrey Sturchio (b) (6) >; Aleksei Chmura (b) (6) >; Gerald Keusch <
(b) (6) >; Roberts, Rich (b) (6) >
Subject: Daily Mail speaks out about the OIG report

EXTERNAL SENDER

According to the Daily Mail, it's a 'bombshell' report about the 'now-notorious' EcoHealth Alliance….

https://www.dailymail.co.uk/health/article- 11676679/Covid-lab-leak-fears-Federal-report-says-NIH-failed-tabs-Wuhan-lab.html?ito=social-twitter_dailymailUK

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
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From: David Morens <(b) (6)
Sent: Wednesday, January 25, 2023 12:08 PM
To: Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6) >
Cc: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) Jeffrey Sturchio < (b)(6) >; Aleksei Chmura <
(b) (6) >; Gerald Keusch (b) (6) >; Rich Roberts <(b) (6)
Subject: Re: Tweet by MinerFlux on Twitter

You are right

I will point out that the problems in NIH OD, and the problems in NIAID are very different. In the past, the 27 Institutes/Centers

have always functioned independently, and some, including some small ones, have done pretty well when not being interfered with

Our problems in niaid are unique to us, and will take years of steady vision to fix.....

d

Sent from my iPhone
David M Morens
OD, NIAID, NIH

On Jan 25, 2023, at 12:01, Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6) wrote:

I think it's also a problem doing this search without an NIH Director installed. NIAID is one of the biggest NIH Institutes. A real gap in White House leadership not filling the NIH post 14 months after Francis left. So dysfunctional things as described below start to happen. There is no adult supervision at NIH

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP

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Baylor College of Medicine: Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine | Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology | Health Policy Scholar

Baylor University, University Professor
Rice University, Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty
Texas A&M University, Faculty-Senior Fellow, Hagler Inst for Advanced Study & Scowcroft Institute of Intl Affairs

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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 Jan 25, 2023, at 10:38 AM, David Morens <(b) (6) > wrote:

Guys, although the director search seems to be proceeding with total secrecy, I learned yesterday that our worst fear has come true: a highly undesirable internal candidate has applied. This person is a middle to upper level physician scientist who is widely disliked as a self-serving narcissist, back stabber, and manipulator. Tthis opinion comes not from me, but from colleagues with much more knowledge of him/her than me. Of course, being an A-hole doesn't necessarily predict a bad leader, but there is widespread worry.

I won't name the candidate but Peter S would know because her/his research at NIAID is in the area of clinical

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MORENS_NIH_032390
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management of (b) (6) . Peter H, you could easily ID this person, but i do not want to do so, in part because i have limited personal experience with him/her and am merely relating opinions of colleagues i trust

This individual is in a key management position in which she/he has earned a reputation of cresting an ant-meritocracy: screwing the best scientists while supporting those who suck up. Again this is hearsay, but from people who work under him/her.

If these negative assessments are true, it is still unclear what the implications, if any, would be for EHA, but i would worry that she/he would throw good scientists under the bus to appease politicians downtown

In any case, the best scenario is an open search with many good candidates. I am not sure whether we have that.

Also, my opinion, and that of many others, is that we need someone from the outside, in part because NIAID management and leadership has become inbred, nepotistic, and uninterested in hiring top scientists to fill positions. Moreover, we totally lack vision or any idea about where the science will and should go, and no mechanism to plan for being at/staying on the cutting edge

When i came here in the 1990s, from academia, where i was a 40-something year old full tenured professor in both med and public health school departments, i was told thst because i only had about 160 publications i had no chance of getting automatic tenure or even being put on a tenure track position
That was then.

Of our two most recent hires placed into tenured positions, one had only 10 publications and the other came straight out of a post doc with few publications as well.

Both were in their early 30s and, as far as i can tell, are unlikely to ever do much

At the same time, we had the ability to hire a top scientist from the outside, my good friend the arbovirologist (b) (6) from (b)(6) - Peter H, you may know him- and we was the 100% top choice of the search committee. However leadership below Tony refused to hire him with the excuse that he was overqualified and would make the other scientists look bad

No, i am not joking. This is where we are

I have in my had a small list of about 5-10 qualified folks for NIAID director, and have spoken or written to 4 about it, one being you, Peter H, but all four have expressed no interest. Peter D, you are clearly on that list too, but obvious to all of us is the fact that HHS would never let that happen, sadly, so i never mentioned it. In a better world, you would be at the top of that list in my view

The application deadline of 1/17 has passed, so we may be stuck with a non-ideal list, although no one knows including, i believe, our acting director Hugh, who is not a candidate, or so he told me

Sent from my iPhone
David M Morens
OD, NIAID, NIH

> On Jan 25, 2023, at 10:58, Peter Daszak <(b) (6) > wrote:
>
> Unfortunate. At this point you should just throw your hat in the ring!
>
> Why not have a confidential chat with Peter Staley and see if they have a pool of candidates yet?

MORENS_SUBPOENA_015496
MORENS_NIH_032391
REL0000481146

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
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From: Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6) >
Sent: Wednesday, January 25, 2023 10:55 AM
To: Peter Daszak (b) (6) >
Cc: Jeffrey Sturchio (b) (6) >; Aleksei Chmura (b) (6) >; David Morens < (b) (6) Gerald Keusch (t(b) (6) Rich Roberts (t(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

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Senior Coordinator & Executive Support: Douglas Soriano
(b)(6) Phone: (b) (6) | Fax: 713-798-2299

Media Inquiries:
(b) (6)

(b) (6)

iPhone

On Jan 25, 2023, at 9:47 AM, Peter Daszak (b) (6) > wrote:

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Disgusting. Reported to Twitter safety. They've been surprisingly good over the last few months. When there's a clear violation they've tended to lock the account.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

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Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

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---

From: Jeffrey Sturchio <J_(b) (6)
Sent: Tuesday, January 24, 2023 9:08 PM
To: Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6) ; Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >; Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) >; David Morens(b) (6) >; Gerald Keusch <(b) (6) >; Rich Roberts <(b) (6) >
Subject: RE: Tweet by MinerFlux on Twitter

Peter: What an idiot this guy is. You should be heartened by the immediate response he got to this asinine tweet!

As ever,
Jeff

From: Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6)
Sent: Tuesday, January 24, 2023 8:09 PM

To: Peter Daszak (b)(6) >; Aleksei Chmura < (b) (6) >; David Morens < (b)(6) Gerald Keusch < (b)(6) >; Jeffrey Sturchio (b)(6) >; Rich Roberts (b)(6)
Subject: Tweet by Miner Flux on Twitter

Miner Flux
@randy_hoebee

#Hotez pic.twitter.com/eOPpHym0Rw

1/24/23, 4:04 PM

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP

Texas Children's Hospital: Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics | Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development | Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

Baylor College of Medicine: Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine | Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology | Health Policy Scholar

Baylor University, University Professor
Rice University, Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty
Texas A&M University, Faculty-Senior Fellow, Hagler Inst for Advanced Study & Scowcroft Institute of Intl Affairs

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Senior Coordinator & Executive Support: Douglas Soriano
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Media Inquiries:
(b)(6)

iPhone

Date: Sat, 8 May 2021 3:45:12 PM -0400
Sent: Sat, 8 May 2021 3:45:07 PM -0400
Subject: RE: Letter for you to circulate to other Nobel Lureates
From: "Roberts, Rich" (b)(6)
To: Peter Daszak (b)(6) Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E (b)(6) m>; Keusch, Gerald T (b)(6)
CC: Aleksei Chmura (b)(6) Robert Kessle (b)(6) Taubenberger, Jeffery (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b) (6)

Peter:

Thanks. I will send both documents to the NLs who signed on. The rebuttal is quite well done (I corrected a couple of typos).

I'll send you all a copy of what I send around.

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 8, 2021 2:18 PM
To: Roberts, Rich (b) (6) Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b)(6) >; Keusch, Gerald T (b)(6)
Cc: Aleksei Chmura (b)(6) >; Robert Kessler (b) (6) >; Taubenberger, Jeffery (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b) (6) >
Subject: Letter for you to circulate to other Nobel Lureates
Importance: High

EXTERNAL SENDER

Rich,

I tried to write just one page, but it's hard to do that, given a year of conspiracies. I've attached a letter that you can circulate to the Nobel laureates if you would. I've also re-attached the word doc of NIH-EHA interactions, political actions, and (at the end) a list with references of the 5+ therapeutics or vaccines now in clinical trials or development that have specifically been tested against the bat viruses we discovered with our NIH funding.

I hope this helps. I follow the chatter on the conspiracists' Twitter accounts and they're actively pushing scientists from our Lancet Letter to retract their authorship. The minute anyone caves to this pressure, it will be widely promoted as strong support for a lab origin. I hope you're able to convince the other laureates that they were (and continue to be) right to stand up for science in this terrible political climate.

Cheers,

Peter

MORENS_SUBPOENA_014615
MORENS_NIH_029183
REL0000481157

Peter Daszak
President

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Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

---

From: Roberts, Rich (b)(6)
Sent: Saturday, May 8, 2021 1:20 PM
To: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b)(6); Peter Daszak (b)(6) Keusch, Gerald T (b)(6)
Cc: Aleksei Chmura (b)(6); Robert Kessler (b)(6) >; Taubenberger, Jeffery (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b)(6)
Subject: RE: Another letter - almost amusing - from House E&C Committee Republicans re. Zhengli's "Blah Blah" comment

David:

I share your opinion of the Wade article.

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: Saturday, May 8, 2021 1:16 PM
To: Peter Dasza (b)(6); Roberts, Rich (b)(6) Keusch, Gerald T (b)(6)
Cc: Aleksei Chmura (b)(6); Robert Kessle (b)(6) Taubenberger, Jeffery (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b)(6)
Subject: Re: Another letter - almost amusing - from House E&C Committee Republicans re. Zhengli's "Blah Blah" comment

EXTERNAL SENDER

Peter, I agree, and I think we should try to not use the term GOF, notly because it suggests something nefarious, but also, at least as I would define it, it doesnt apply to your work, as you just said. In my mind it doesn;'t apply to Ralph's work either.

Secondly, I re-read the Wade article carefully, and did NOT conclude that just about everything he said was wrong. I think it is the best researched, and most literate and thorough media article on the subject. BUT. I think it is biased and uses cherry-picked facts. Moreover, it tries to pretend non-bias in a disingenuous way.

In short, high order sophistry.

I am also troubled by David Baltimore's opinion that finding a furn-cleavage site indicates human

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MORENS_NIH_029184
REL0000481157

manipulation. I suspect that may not be true, since these viruses hyper-circulate in bats and spillover into mammals and people frequently, and also frequently recombine in spike protein sequences. But I am not knowledgeable about such things. In this context, the idea of David Robertson, cited in the Wade article, is of particular interest: the idea that the precursor virus had become a "generalist" by long evolving through bats and mammals including humans. Something analogous happens with arboviruses, e.g., dengue, which serially pass through humans and mosquitos every couple weeks, and have to be well adapted to two very different alternating hosts.... d

On 5/8/2021 1:51 AM, Peter Daszak wrote:

> I also think it's important to let the journalist know that nothing in the work we were doing in China could be reasonably called "Gain of function". The only recombinant viruses were bat-CoVs, with spike proteins of other bat-CoVs. None had enhanced transmissibility or cell infectivity. None are known to be infectious to people.
>
> I believe the whole 'gain of function' phrasing used to describe the Wuhan CoV research is just a ruse to scare a gullible public – journalists today have been using phrases like "making viruses more dangerous in the lab in Wuhan" etc. None of this is true.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
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Tel.: (b)(6)
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

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From: Roberts, Rich (b)(6)
Sent: Friday, May 7, 2021 11:09 PM
To: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E (b)(6) ; Peter Daszak (b)(6)
Keusch, Gerald T (b)(6)
Cc: Aleksei Chmura (b)(6) Robert Kessler (b)(6)
Taubenberger, Jeffery (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b)(6)
Subject: RE: Another letter - almost amusing - from House E&C Committee Republicans re. Zhengli's "Blah Blah" comment

David:

MORENS_SUBPOENA_014617
MORENS_NIH_029185
REL0000481157

Probably not too helpful to describe every growth of a virus in a lab is a GOF experiment.

Rich

Richard J. Roberts
New England Biolabs
240 County Road
Ipswich, MA 01938-2723
USA
Tel: (b)(6)
Fax: (978) 412 3910
email: (b)(6)

From: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b)(6)
Sent: Friday, May 7, 2021 6:44 PM
To: Peter Daszak (b)(6); Keusch, Gerald T (b)(6)
Cc: Roberts, Rich (b)(6); Aleksei Chmura (b)(6); Robert Kessler < (b)(6); Taubenberger, Jeffery (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b)(6)
Subject: Re: Another letter - almost amusing - from House E&C Committee Republicans re. Zhengli's "Blah Blah" comment

EXTERNAL SENDER

Peter, I just tsalked to Ms. Eban for an hour, and connected her with Jim LeDuc and Jeff T. I also sent her a paper I and others wrote with David Baltimore 10 years ago about the BENEFITS of GOF research vis a vis the 1918 flu virus. To wit, the growing up of the virus and studying it in primate challenges, and in vitro, yielding hugely important info on flu pathogenesis.

Rich, this relates to my own feeling that GOF is a double-edged sword, so to speak, that while we must work to prevent dangerous use of virologic techniques, totally agree on that point, we must also consider that every infection of a cell, in tissue culture, organ culture, experimental animals, humans, whatever, is in essence a GOF experiment (and also a loss of fuinction experiment, since host adaptation usually results in ftness penalties), without which we would have no viral vaccines except vaccinia, and arguably not even that.

Her interest in David B results from his comments in the Wade article about the SARS-CoV-2 furin cleavage site, about which I am a tiny bit skeptical, not fully understanding the complexities of cleavage site evolutions in RNA viruses. I asked Jeff and his folks to comment. He and I had a discussion about David's comments yesterday, but I will let him follow up on that, since he has been thinking about RNA virus cleavge sites with respect to flu A and other viruses for over 20 years. It seems to be more complicated than one might think..

The Wade article also cites some ideas by a guy named David Robertson. Do you know him? I do not. But he posits that the SARS-CoV-2 precursor may have become a "generalist" by circulating between bats and mammals, maybe even humans. No eviodence for this, but the idea makes alot of sense to me. Plausible in my mind, what do u think?

David

On 5/7/2021 6:20 PM, Peter Daszak wrote:

> 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.

MORENS_SUBPOENA_014618
MORENS_NIH_029186
REL0000481157

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
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Twitter: @PeterDaszak

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---

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

MORENS_SUBPOENA_014619
MORENS_NIH_029187
REL0000481157

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, Ric (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 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

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USA

Tel.: (b)(6)
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

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From: Peter Daszak (b)(6)
Sent: Thursday, May 6, 2021 11:06 PM
To: 'David Morens (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

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Twitter: @PeterDaszak

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Date: Thu, 15 Dec 2022 8:55:54 AM -0500
Sent: Thu, 15 Dec 2022 8:55:47 AM -0500
Subject: RE: Names of Committee members disclosed
From: "Roberts, Rich" (b)(6)
To: David Morens (b)(6) Gerald Keusch (b)(6) Peter Daszak (b)(6) Aleksei Chmura (b)(6) Peter Hotez (b)(6) Jeff Sturchio (b)(6)

Ridiculous. But wait until the Republicans take control of the House. Then all hell will break loose. New Zealand is looking more attractive all the time.

Rich

Richard J. Roberts
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240 County Road
Ipswich, MA 01938-2723
USA
Tel (b)(6)
Fax: (978) 412 9910
email (b)(6)

Executive Assistant: (b)((b)(6)
Tel: (b)(6)
Fax: ((b) (6)
email: (b)(6)

From: David Morens (b)(6)
Sent: Thursday, December 15, 2022 8:39 AM
To: Gerald Keusch (b)(6) Peter Daszak (b)(6) Aleksei Chmura (b)(6) Peter Hotez (b)(6) Roberts, Rich (b)(6) >; Jeff Sturchio
Subject: Fwd: Names of Committee members disclosed

EXTERNAL SENDER

Now they are going after the line scientists. d

Sent from my iPhone
David M Morens
OD, NIAID, NIH
Begin forwarded message:

> **From:** "Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E]" (b)(6)
> **Date:** December 15, 2022 at 08:36:45 EST
> **To:** David Morens (b)(6)
> **Subject: Fwd: Names of Committee members disclosed**
>
> Sent from my iPhone
> David M Morens
> OD, NIAID, NIH
> Begin forwarded message:
>
> > **From:** "Taubenberger, Jeffery (NIH/NIAID) [E]" (b)(6)
> > **Date:** December 15, 2022 at 08:31:56 EST
> > **To:** "Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E]" (b)(6)

Subject: FW: Names of Committee members disclosed

From: "Hassell, David (Chris) (OS/ASPR/IO)" (b)(6)
Date: Wednesday, December 14, 2022 at 4:04 PM
To: "Hassell, David (Chris) (OS/ASPR/IO)" (b)(6)
Subject: Names of Committee members disclosed

Dear colleagues—

Congress has sent the attached letter to Secretary Becerra, and I wanted you to be aware since your names are specifically mentioned. The letter signatories have made this letter available to the media, and appeared on Fox today to discuss. This included a gross mischaracterization of the roles of the Committee members.

https://www.foxnews.com/video/6317195563112

I am very sorry that this has happened, esp. in such a way that so irresponsibly and incorrectly skews the actual facts and events. Please let me know if you experience any negative consequences as a result of this disclosure. I will let you know as we receive guidance on how to proceed.

Thank you for all you have done. As you well know, the work that we did together was thorough and responsible, and in no way related to the issue in question. I am proud of the work we did, and honored to be associated with each of you.

Chris
(b)(6)

MORENS_NIH_010747
REL0000481159

Date: Fri, 21 Jul 2023 1:23:07 PM -0400
Sent: Fri, 21 Jul 2023 1:22:24 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) (work)
(b)(6) (cell)

IMPORTANT: My gmail frequently sends incoming messages to Trash, which is apparently not correctable. If you don't hear from me in a reasonable time, please try again, call, or use my NIH email address

IMPORTANT: For US Government-related email, please also reply to my NIAID address

--------- Forwarded message ---------
From: Jeffrey Sturchio (b)(6)
Date: Thu, Sep 15, 2022 at 1:48 PM
Subject: RE: Publication of Angie Rasmussen article
To: Keusch, Gerald T (b)(6), Hotez, Peter Jay (b)(6)
Cc: Roberts, Rich (b)(6) Peter Daszak (b)(6), David Morens (b)(6), Aleksei (b)(6)

All: It's a shame that he's able to hold forth unchallenged in these venues. It would be interesting to have him interviewed by a journalist who actually knows something about virology – but he seems to gravitate toward general journalists (or partisan journalists) who are intimidated by his Ivy League credentials and accept whatever he says at face value. That's way the Rasmussen/Worobey commentary is so valuable – they show clearly and persuasively why no one should pay any attention to his views on SARS-COV-2 origins.

As ever,

Jeff

From: Keusch, Gerald T (b)(6)
Sent: Thursday, September 15, 2022 1:31 PM

To: Jeffrey Sturchio [redacted]>; Hotez, Peter Jay [redacted]
Cc: Roberts, Rich [redacted]>; Peter Daszak
[redacted]>; David Morens [redacted]>;
Aleksei Chmura [redacted]
Subject: RE: Publication of Angie Rasmussen article

Sachs dissed the Worobey papers during his remarks at the Lancet Commission launch. Shameful!

From: Jeffrey Sturchio [redacted]>
Sent: Thursday, September 15, 2022 1:30 PM
To: Hotez, Peter Jay [redacted]; Keusch, Gerald T [redacted]
Cc: Roberts, Rich [redacted]; Peter Daszak
[redacted]; David Morens [redacted]
Aleksei Chmura [redacted]
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" [redacted]

Date: 9/15/22 12:49 PM (GMT-05:00)

To: "Keusch, Gerald T" [redacted]

MORENS_SUBPOENA_002586
MORENS_NIH_009102
REL0000481160

Cc: "Roberts, Rich" [redacted], Peter Daszak [redacted], David Morens [redacted], Aleksei Chmura [redacted]

Subject: Publication of Angie Rasmussen article

https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fforeignpolicy.com%2F2022%2F09%2F15%2Fcovid-origin-theories-covid-19-commission%2F&data=05%7C01%7Cdmorens%40niaid.nih.gov%7C29191a389a2e44a1612d08db8a0f2513%7C14b77578977342d585&sdata=K%2BfCaJTfFgdYPzyqbZ5kWDWxMZ%2BqqRFYmFn2eNiqKmQ%3D&reserved=0

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP

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Baylor College of Medicine: Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine | Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology | Health Policy Scholar

Baylor University, University Professor

Rice University, Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty

Texas A&M University, Faculty-Senior Fellow, Hagler Inst for Advanced Study & Scowcroft Institute of Intl Affairs

E-mail | Twitter | LinkedIn | Skype: [redacted]

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Senior Coordinator & Executive Support: Douglas Soriano

[redacted] | Phone: [redacted] Fax: 713-798-2299

Media Inquiries:

(b)(6)

iPhone

On Sep 15, 2022, at 11:49 AM, Keusch, Gerald T (b)(6) wrote:

FYI, Srinath Reddy in discussing the epidemiology of the pandemic did not get into the Sachs framework and stayed pretty much at a higher level as a public health professional.

From: Keusch, Gerald T
Sent: Thursday, September 15, 2022 11:31 AM
To: Hotez, Peter Jay (b)(6)
Cc: Roberts, Rich (b)(6) Jeffrey Sturchio (b)(6) Peter Daszak (b)(6)
David Morens (b) (6) >; Aleksei Chmura (b)(6)
Subject: RE: Another attack from Republican Senators

He repeated every inappropriate and unbalanced view he has repeatedly pushed everywhere else. Totally inappropriate, and he more than implied that these were the conclusions of the Commission.

Jerry

From: Hotez, Peter Jay (b)(6)
Sent: Thursday, September 15, 2022 11:27 AM
To: Keusch, Gerald T (b)(6)
Cc: Roberts, Rich (b)(6) Jeffrey Sturchio (b)(6) >; Peter Daszak (b)(6)
David Morens (b)(6) >; Aleksei Chmura (b)(6)
Subject: Re: Another attack from Republican Senators

I can't bring myself to watch

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP

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Baylor College of Medicine: Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine | Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology | Health Policy Scholar

Baylor University, University Professor

Rice University, Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty

Texas A&M University, Faculty-Senior Fellow, Hagler Inst for Advanced Study & Scowcroft Institute of Intl Affairs

E-mail | Twitter | LinkedIn | Skype: (b)(6)

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Senior Coordinator & Executive Support: Douglas Soriano

(b)(6) | Phone: (b)(6) | Fax: 713-798-2299

Media Inquiries:

(b)(6)

iPhone

On 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

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Senior Coordinator & Executive Support: Douglas Soriano

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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) Kousch, Gerald T (b)(6) David Morens (b)(6) >; Roberts, Rich (b)(6) >; Aleksei Chmura (b)(6)

MORENS_SUBPOENA_002591
MORENS_NIH_009107
REL0000481160

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)

iPhone

On Sep 14, 2022, at 10:56 PM, Jeffrey Sturchio (b) (6) wrote:

Peter: The Washington Post report was pretty balanced – and I'm glad that Dan Diamond gave you and Angela Rasmussen the space to clarify some of the more dubious elemenets of the Lancet Commission report. Your quotation was excellent – strong, succinct, clear, and true. Angela's was also terrific.

As ever,
jeff

From: Hotez, Peter Jay (b)(6)
Sent: Wednesday, September 14, 2022 10:05 PM
To: Peter Daszak (b)(6)
Cc: Keusch, Gerald T (b)(6) David Morens
(b)(6) Rich Roberts (b) (6) >; Aleksei Chmura
(b)(6) >; Jeff Sturchio (b)(6)
Subject: Re: Another attack from Republican Senators

It's awful, here are my quotes in the Washington Post tonight

https://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%7C29191a389a2e44a1612d08db8a0f2513%7C14b77578997342d585
&sdata=iSnSLJpS6ECBMTMrwNO3vE0OOTAOIcOc3pYF2QJNDNw%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, 10 Sep 2021 1:23:27 AM -0400
Sent: Fri, 10 Sep 2021 1:20:45 AM -0400
Subject: RE: Intercept piece is now out.
From: Peter Daszak < (b) (6)
To: Kristian G. Andersen < (b) (6) David Morens < (b) (6)
CC: Rasmussen, Angie < (b) (6) Garry, Robert F < (b) (6) Edward Holmes < (b) (6) >; Jason Gale < (b) (6) Robert Kessler < (b) (6) Stephen Goldstein < (b) (6)
Attachments: image006.jpg; image007.jpg; image008.jpg; image009.jpg; image010.jpg; image011.png

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.

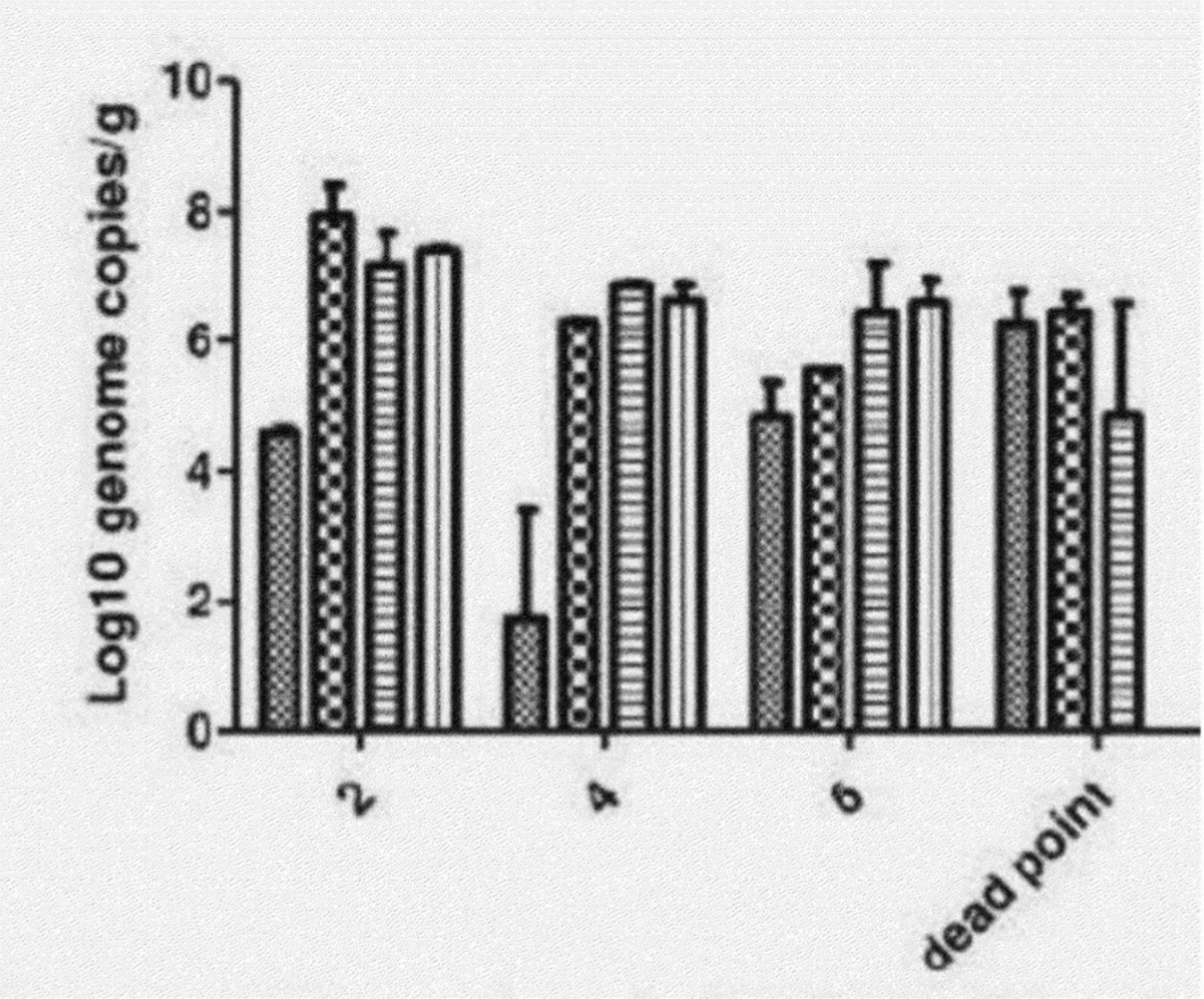
In a 2005 paper, Daszak's team showed that the first SARS virus originated in bats. Middle East respiratory syndrome, or MERS, is caused by a coronavirus that emerged in 2012 and also believed to come from bats, which are now a prime target for virologists trying to understand and combat emerging diseases. 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.



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

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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 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.: (b) (6)
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

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From: Peter Daszak (b) (6) >
Sent: Friday, September 10, 2021 1:09 AM
To: 'Kristian G. Andersen' (b) (6) 'David Morens' (b) (6) >
Cc: 'Rasmussen, Angie' (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: 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.

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.



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

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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 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

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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.

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

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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 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

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USA

Tel.: + (b) (6)
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

From: Kristian G. Andersen (b) (6)) (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) u>; Edward Holmes (b) (6) >; Jason Gale <(b) (6) Robert Kessler (b) (6) >; Stephen Goldstein <(b) (6) >
Subject: Re: here's the latest line of attack today...

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MORENS_NIH_043374
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"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 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 <a(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) (b) (6)
> > She/her
> > www.vido.org

VIDO

On Sep 9, 2021, at 3:07 PM, Peter Daszak(b) (6) wrote:

CAUTION: External to USask. Verify sender and use caution with links and attachments. Forward suspicious emails to phishing@usask.ca

Here's a report in the Daily Caller that goes after the GoF argument that the chimeric bat viruses yielded more virus in humanized mice than the parental bat virus strain. https://dailycaller.com/2021/09/09/ecohealth-alliance-gain-of-function-higher-viral-load-anthony-fauci/

There's a good response from NIH: 'An NIH spokesperson told the DCNF the agency "never approved any research that would make a coronavirus more dangerous to humans." "The research we supported in China, where coronaviruses are prevalent, sought to understand the behavior of coronaviruses circulating in bats that have the potential to cause widespread disease," the spokesperson said. "The body of science produced by this research demonstrates that the bat coronavirus sequences published from that work NIH supported were not SARS-CoV-2. More importantly, because of similar research to understand coronaviruses, we were able to move swiftly to develop vaccines against SARS-CoV-2 and save lives."'

This story is particularly irritating because if you look at the P3CO rules, it's clear they are meant for pathogens that occur in humans and might be made more dangerous. These were bat viruses that have never been shown to occur in humans. 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>

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-

ANDREW KERRINVESTIGATIVE REPORTER

September 09, 20213:25 PM ET

- **U.S. and Chinese researchers funded by the National Institutes of Allergy and Infectious Diseases created viruses in a Wuhan lab that exhibited over 10,000 times higher viral load in humanized mice, records released by the agency show.**
- **Rutgers University professor Richard Ebright said the data was a "bona fide bombshell" that proves the NIAID, under Dr. Anthony Fauci's leadership, violated federal policies, endangered the public and lied to the public.**
- **Fauci testified before the Senate in June that his agency never funded gain-of-function research at**

the Wuhan Institute of Virology.

U.S. and Chinese researchers funded by Dr. Anthony Fauci's National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID) created viruses in a Wuhan lab that exhibited over 10,000 times higher viral load in humanized mice than the natural virus they were based on, according to an infectious disease professor citing documents recently released by the agency.

The U.S. nonprofit group EcoHealth Alliance notified the NIAID in two reports that between June 2017 and May 2018 it had created three lab-generated chimeric SARS-related coronaviruses in China that exhibited "significantly higher" viral loads, documents first reported by The Intercept show, but the agency continued to fund the project with taxpayer dollars without flagging it for review by an independent federal committee created in late 2017 to oversee gain-of-function research.

Rutgers University professor Richard Ebright, a vocal opponent of gain-of-function research, said the data was a "bona fide bombshell" that proves the NIAID, under Fauci's leadership, violated federal policies, endangered the public and lied to the public.

"Three EcoHealth/[Wuhan Institute of Virology] lab-generated viruses exhibited >10x to >10,000x higher viral load than the starting bat virus in humanized mice," Ebright tweeted. "One EcoHealth/WIV lab-generated virus exhibited higher pathogenicity than the starting bat virus in infection studies with humanized mice."

"The results demonstrate–unequivocally–a gain in function," he said.

In comparison, the viral load for people infected with the delta variant is roughly 1,000 times higher than those infected with the original strain of the virus, according to Nature science journal.

Ebright added on Twitter that the gain-of-function research activity that NIAID allowed EcoHealth Alliance to conduct in China could have yielded the virus that causes COVID-19 or a progenitor of that virus.

EcoHealth Alliance first notified the NIAID it created the three lab-generated SARS-related coronaviruses in a progress report detailing its research activities between June 2017 and May 2018.

"Using the reverse genetic methods we previously developed, infectious clones with the WIV1 backbone and the spike protein of SHC014, WIV16 and Rs4231, respectively, were constructed and recombinant viruses were successfully rescued," the group said in its progress report. "2 and 4 days post infection, the viral load in lung tissues of mice challenged with rWIV1-SHC014S, rWIV1-WIV16S and rWIV1-Rs4231S … were significantly higher than that in rWIV1-infected mice."

"These results demonstrate varying pathogenicity of SARSr-CoVs with different spike proteins in humanized mice," the report added.

EcoHealth Alliance included a chart visualizing the increased viral load of their lab-created viruses. The chart is presented in a Log scale, meaning each tick of the chart represents a 100-fold increase in viral load in mice with humanized cells, Ebright explained to the Daily Caller News Foundation.

<image005.jpg>

Charts submitted by EcoHealth Alliance to the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases showing loss of body weight (right) and viral load (left) of mice with humanized cells infected with the natural WIV1 viral strain and three EcoHealth lab-created virus strains. The viral load chart is presented in Log scale, meaning each tick of the graph represents a 100-fold increase in viral load, Rutgers University professor Richard Ebright explained to the DCNF. (Screenshot)

"Each tick in the chart on the right represents an increment of 100x," Ebright told the DCNF. "The day 4 data show greater-than-10,000x higher viral loads for the lab-generated viruses."

The viral load for humanized mice infected with the natural virus caught up with the lab-created strains by the end of the experiment, the chart shows, but Ebright said that viral loads in the early stages of an infection are important figures to consider when assessing a pathogen's transmissibility.

"In terms of assessing potential for transmissibility, the viral load at all time points, particularly at early time points, is relevant. (See Delta variant)," Ebright told the DCNF.

EcoHealth Alliance provided another chart in its progress report showing that humanized mice infected with EcoHealth's lab-created viruses lost more bodyweight than humanized mice infected with the natural WIV1 strain.

EcoHealth Alliance included the same two charts in a 2018 request to the NIAID requesting additional funding for its research in China, the document trove released by The Intercept shows.

Federal funding for gain-of-function experiments that increase the transmissibility or pathogenicity of potential pandemic pathogens was temporarily suspended in 2014 due to widespread scientific concerns it risked leaking

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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."

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Cheers,

Peter

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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) 6) 'Kristian G. Andersen' <(b) (6)
Cc: 'David Morens' <(b) (6) >; 'Edward Holmes' (>; 'Jason Gale' <(b) (6) (b) 'Rasmussen, Angie' (b) (6) Robert Kessler <(b) (6) 'Stephen Goldstein' <(b) (6)
Subject: RE: The Intercept report on coronavirus research at Chinese labs

That's interesting about Jesse Bloom – I wasn't aware of that work and hadn't really heard of him before this year to be honest. I suspect that like many people his view of his own research is that it's highly professionally managed and carefully controlled re. biosafety. He clearly has a different view of the work at WIV & by other leading Chinese scientists and seems suspicious of their motives in many of his public comments. This can't be based on their published work – it's often excellent. It just seems like a difficulty people have teasing apart their viewpoint about the Chinese Govt from their opinion about individual scientists. Anyone who's been on the ground in China rapidly realizes that the two are not the same.

Cheers,

Peter

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EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

---

From: Garry, Robert F <(b) (6)
Sent: Wednesday, September 8, 2021 4:12 PM

To: Peter Daszak (b) (6) >; Kristian G. Andersen <(b) (6) >
Cc: David Morens <(b) (6) >; Edward Holmes <(b) (6) >; Jason Gale <(b) (6) >; Rasmussen, Angie (b) (6) Robert Kessler < (b)(6) >; Stephen Goldstein <(b) (6) >
Subject: Re: The Intercept report on coronavirus research at Chinese labs

Sorry this is happening. The anti-science attacks are just getting more and more extreme.

Unfortunately, there exists a small vocal group of scientists that see virtually every experiment done by virologists as risky and potentially GoF. Many of those ppl are quoted in the Intercept article.

WRT Jesse Bloom it is rather ironic I must say. One need not look too hard at his influenza virus publications to identify quite a number that could be considered "risky" at least by a Relman/Ebright definition. Selecting drug resistant influenza virus mutants, and creating influenza virus SARS-CoV-2 recombinants to name two. Just saying…

From: Peter Daszak (b) (6) >
Date: Wednesday, September 8, 2021 at 2:49 PM
To: Kristian Andersen <(b) (6) >
Cc: David Morens (b) (6) >, Robert Garry <(b) (6) Edward Holmes <(b) (6) >, Jason Gale <(b) (6) >, "Rasmussen, Angie" (>, Robert Kessler <(b) (6) >, Stephen Goldstein <(b) (6) >
Subject: RE: The Intercept report on coronavirus research at Chinese labs

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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,

MORENS_SUBPOENA_022472
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Peter

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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) a>; 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.

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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.
> 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.

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MORENS_NIH_043382
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Cheers,

Peter

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---

From: David Morens < (b)
Sent: Tuesday, September 7, 2021 9:07 PM
To: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >
Cc: Garry, Robert F <(b) (6) Kristian G. Andersen <(b) (6) Edward Holmes <(b) (6) >; Jason Gale <j.gale@bloomberg.net>; (b) (6) ; Robert Kessler (b) (6) (b)(6)
Subject: Re: The Intercept report on coronavirus research at Chinese labs

Do not rule out suing these assholes for slander. d

Sent from my iPhone
David M Morens
OD, NIAID, NIH

> On Sep 7, 2021, at 20:39, Peter Daszak <(b) (6) > wrote:
>
> To be honest, this whole process is beyond a joke. We're spending a huge amount of staff time dealing with the BS from these FoIA requests even though the grant's been terminated, suspended and funds are still unavailable.
>
> The lab leakers are already stirring up bullshit lines of attack that will bring more negative publicity our way – which is what this is about – a way to line up the GoF attack on Fauci, or the 'risky research' attack on all of us.
>
> Jesse Bloom's now trying to claim we weren't following our proposed rules for data release (not true – all SARSr-CoV RdRp sequences on Genbank in summer 2020, despite the grant being terminated) – he's tagging Alina Chan and 'The Seeker' on Twitter. Ebright's trying to claim we were working on MERS as a 'shadow' line of work. There'll be more to come – just a free-for-all effort to find a few sentences that they can take out of context.

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MORENS_NIH_043383
REL0000481163

Cheers,

Peter

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---

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: (b)(6)
(b) (6) ; (b) (6) (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: (b)(6)

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>; (b) (6) (b) (6)
(b) (6) >; (b) (6) (b) (6) >; Garry,
Robert F (b) (6) (b) (6) <(b) (6) >
Subject: Re: The Intercept report on coronavirus research at Chinese labs

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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/

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Date: Fri, 27 Aug 2021 2:25:13 PM -0400
Sent: Fri, 27 Aug 2021 2:23:52 PM -0400
Subject: RE: WaPo : A science in the shadows: Safeguards loosened on research with dangerous pathogens, despite fears of lab leaks
From: Peter (b)(6)
To: Keusch, Gerald T (b)(6) David Morens (b) (6)

Yes, I saw that piece – nasty bit of disingenuous reporting. It's really damaging and I'm just thankful that our work in China was so clearly not GoF, and that the NIH went through their process on our proposal in the correct way. There's no way, given the that we were working on bat-CoVs that are not known human pathogens, that when push comes to shove, NIAID or EHA was in breach of the GoF rules – everyone, even Ebright, knows that – they just don't agree that this should be the rule.

I believe all of this is just them trying to push to re-litigate the GoF rules. I think they'll win, and that we'll go through all that crap again, the rules will be tightened, and then the world will continue…

You should know (and please pass on the message to Tony, David) that I was interviewed by Sanjay Gupta for a special he's doing on origins to coincide with the Intel report – so it'll probably be out next week. In it I categorically stated that Tony was correct when he testified before Congress that NIH has not funded GoF work at the Wuhan lab, and that our work is absolutely not GoF.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

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Tel.: (b)(6)
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

From: Keusch, Gerald T (b)(6)
Sent: Friday, August 27, 2021 1:03 PM
To: Peter Daszak (b)(6) Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b)(6)
Subject: WaPo : A science in the shadows: Safeguards loosened on research with dangerous pathogens, despite fears of lab leaks

I'm sure you both saw this yesterday. It seems to me the tone and implicit conclusion of the story was clearly in mind when they began writing this. Even the photos of researchers in the labs and the photo of the guard in front of WIV with the foggy background seem chosen because they appear to be ominous. I'm curious about your take.

As far as I know since the review policy went into effect in 2017 research grants potentially conducting experiments loosely construed to be GOF being submitted to the NIH require a review by the submitting institutions Institutional Review Board and flagging of any proposals that could be included in the category of GOF. NIH conducts its own review – but I'm not sure if this

means the process looks at proposals that have been flagged or all research on molecular pathogenesis of zoonotic viral diseases. I am also aware that the biggest loop hole is that private institutions and individuals can fund and support any research they want without any oversight by NIH and HHS. Is that really true? Are there even potential criminal procedures for conducting such research privately, without NIH funding or review?

It seems to me this is another deliberately framed expose by WaPo that muddies rather than clarifies the issues for the general public.

A science in the shadows: Safeguards loosened on research with dangerous pathogens, despite fears of lab leaks
Key policy revisions have loosened oversight of NIH-funded "gain of function" research despite some experts' fears it could inadvertently cause a pandemic.

https://apple.news/A59V5CsSIQViYC9QV23VqHg

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Date: Tue, 21 May 2024 8:16:49 AM -0400
Sent: Tue, 21 May 2024 8:16:26 AM -0400
Subject: Re: Disappointing tweet from Amy⅕ Maxmen re. a disappointing article in Nature.
From: Hotez, Peter Jay (b)(6)
To: (b)(6)
CC: Roberts, Rich (b)(6) >; Peter Daszak (b)(6) ; Keusch, Gerald T (b)(6) Alison Andre (b)(6) ; Jeff Sturchio (b)(6) Soriano Osejo, Douglas (b)(6) Aleksei Chmura (b)(6)
Attachments: image001.jpg; image002.jpg; image003.jpg

I'm guessing the subcommittee will make good on their stated goal from their official Twitter "to sell popcorn". No one has an actual interest in the content of these proceedings. Once they max out on the subcommittee's propaganda content, they will move on to new faux outrages. Good luck this week!

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP

Texas Children's Hospital: Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics | Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development | Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

Baylor College of Medicine: Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine | Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology | Health Policy Scholar

Baylor University, University Professor
Rice University, Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty
Texas A&M University, Faculty-Senior Fellow, Hagler Inst for Advanced Study & Scowcroft Institute of Intl Affairs

E-mail | Twitter | LinkedIn | Skype: (b)(6)
Amazon Author Center | Daily Beast Contributor

Senior Coordinator & Executive Support: Douglas Soriano
(b)(6) Phone: (b)(6) | Fax: 713-798-2299

Media Inquiries:
(b) (6)
(b)(6)
iPhone

On May 21, 2024, at 7:10 AM, (b)(6) (b)(6) wrote:

Thanks, Rich and friends. You may not realize how helpful even a few kind words can be at a time like this. I have had a 48 year career in govt. without a hint of scandal, so this is all new to me, and I don't have the skills to deal with it. Your support keeps me going. As we say in Hawaii, Mahalo Nui Loa, which translates as "a great big thanks" d

Sent from Proton Mail Android

-------- Original Message --------
On 5/21/24 06:07, Roberts, Rich wrote:

David:

Awful. Yet another example where 10,000 politicians at the bottom of the sea would be a good start. They simply have no shame and are likely totally corrupt themselves.

I do believe though that if you stick to the truth you will be OK. Let's hope the general public can see how honest the real government workers are as opposed to the politicians who are supposed to be governing, but who prefer to play political games.

Rich

Richard J. Roberts
New England Biolabs
240 County Road
Ipswich, MA 01938-2723
USA
Tel: (b)(6)
Fax: (978) 412 9910
email (b)(6)

Executive Assistant: (b)(6)
Tel (b)(6)
Fax: (978) 412 9910
email (b)(6)

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Monday, May 20, 2024 8:12 PM
To: Peter Daszak (b)(6); Hotez, Peter Jay (b)(6) Keusch, Gerald T (b)(6) Alison Andre (b)(6) oberts, Rich (b)(6) Jeff Sturchio (b)(6);
Cc: (b)(6) Aleksei Chmura (b)(6) (b)(6)
Subject: Re: RE: Disappointing tweet from Amy Maxmen re. a disappointing article in Nature.

EXTERNAL SENDER

Spent about 5 hours with my lawyer today in preparation for my Wednesday testimony. Although he expects I will be skewered with false charges and press releases that will distort the truth, he also is optimistic that what I will say mostly exonerates me, not that the committee will admit that. He says that I should be prepared to be hit with criminal charges and firing and possible jail time for using my Gmail for supposed government business. This is what the committee is pushing for and they are pushing for a Justice Department investigation already.

Please come visit me in prison and help me find a job when I get out. At least if that happens I will finally have the ability to speak out and write about what has been going in. I won't mince words.
d

Sent from Proton Mail Android

-------- Original Message --------
On 5/20/24 17:57, Peter Daszak wrote:

I'll do that – good suggestion Peter

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
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Tel.: (b)(6)
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

From: Hotez, Peter Jay (b)(6)
Sent: Monday, May 20, 2024 4:22 PM
To: Peter Daszak (b)(6); Keusch, Gerald (b)(6) Alison Andre < (b)(6) David Morens (b)(6); Jeffrey Sturchio < (b)(6) Keith Martin (b)(6) Rich Roberts (b)(6)
Cc: Soriano Osejo, Douglas (b)(6) >; Aleksei Chmura < (b)(6); Kathy Chase-Gaudreau (b)(6) >
Subject: Re: Disappointing tweet from Amy Maxmen re. a disappointing article in Nature.

You can write to her and cc me (b)(6)

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP

Texas Children's Hospital: Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics | Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development | **Donate** to Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development

Baylor College of Medicine: Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine | Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology | Health Policy Scholar

Baylor University, University Professor

Rice University, Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty

Texas A&M University, Faculty-Senior Fellow, Hagler Inst for Advanced Study & Scowcroft Institute of Intl Affairs

E-mail | Twitter | LinkedIn | Skype: (b)(6)

Amazon Author Center | Daily Beast Contributor

Senior Coordinator & Executive Support: Douglas Soriano

(b)(6) | Phone (b)(6) ax: 713-798-2299

Media Inquiries:

(b)(6)

From: Peter Daszak (b)(6)
Sent: Monday, May 20, 2024 3:09 PM
To: Keusch, Gerald (b)(6) ; Alison Andre (b) (6) Hotez, Peter Jay < (b)(6) David Moren (b)(6) Jeffrey Sturchio (b)(6) Keith Martin (b)(6) Rich Roberts (b)(6)
Cc: Soriano Osejo, Douglas (b)(6) ; Aleksei Chmura < (b)(6) Kathy Chase-Gaudrea (b)(6)
Subject: Disappointing tweet from Amy Maxmen re. a disappointing article in Nature.

*****CAUTION:*** This email is not from a BCM Source. Only click links or open attachments you know are safe.**

Shame to see Amy Maxmen following the trend of the article in Nature that seems to just parrot what the Democrats on the SSCP said - EcoHealth did something wrong, but they didn't cause COVID-19.

Of course, we were not given a chance to respond to allegations on the day, and now that they've moved forward with a Suspension pending debarment proceedings, we have to respond to the HHS first on a legal matter, then can talk publicly.

Amy's tweet is below, and my response (trying to be as diplomatic as possible).

<image001.jpg>

Amy Maxmen, PhD
@amymaxmen
5h
EcoHealth Alliance didn't comply with NIH granting conditions, eg not sending regular updates on its research. Without repercussions, those rules are meaningless. https://nature.com/articles/d41586- 024-01460-3… The problem is when public/media interprets this to say anything about where Covid began.
<image002.jpg>

US halts funding to controversial virus-hunting group: what researchers think

From nature.com
1.2K

<image003.jpg>

Peter Daszak
@PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance has repeatedly refuted allegations that it "didn't comply" & has yet to respond to the HHS letter. Calling for "repercussions" seems premature until some level of due process has played out. Let's hear the argument against debarment before we all move on.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

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USA

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Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

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From: Peter Daszak (b)(6)
Sent: Monday, May 20, 2024 1:36 PM
To: 'Keusch, Gerald' (b)(6) ; Alison Andre (b)(6) 'Hotez, Peter Jay' (b)(6) avid Morens (b) (6) (b)(6) (b) (6) 'Jeffrey Sturchio (b)(6) 'Keith Martin (b)(6) ; 'Rich Roberts' (b)(6)
Cc: 'Soriano Osejo, Douglas (b)(6) Aleksei Chmura < (b)(6) >; 'Kathy Chase-Gaudreau (b)(6)
Subject: Testimony by David Morens, Ralph Baric, Peter Daszak

Here are testimonies by David, myself, and Ralph Baric. David had to go through this twice because his first interview was cut short when lawyers for NIH objected to the SSCPs line of questioning.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

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EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

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From: Keusch, Gerald (b)(6)
Sent: Monday, May 20, 2024 11:49 AM
To: Alison An(b)(6) ; Hotez, Peter Jay (b)(6) vid Morens < (b)(6) ; Jeffrey Sturchi (b)(6) ; Keith Martin (b) (6) Rich Roberts (b)(6)
Cc: Soriano Osejo, Douglas (b)(6) >; Aleksei Chmura < (b)(6) ; Peter Daszak (b)(6) ; Kathy Chase-Gaudreau

MORENS_NIH_046765
REL0000481171

(b)(6)

Subject: RE: Meeting Thursday or Friday this week

Thursday before 1 pm works. Friday is iffy and probably a no for me.

Jerry

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Monday, May 20, 2024 11:14 AM
To: Hotez, Peter Jay (b)(6); Keusch, Gerald (b)(6) David Morens < (b)(6); Jeffrey Sturchio (b)(6) Keith Martin (b)(6) Rich Roberts (b)(6)
Cc: Soriano Osejo, Douglas (b)(6); Aleksei Chmura < (b)(6) eter Daszak (b)(6) Kathy Chase-Gaudreau >
Subject: Meeting Thursday or Friday this week

Dear All,

We'd like to schedule another meeting on Thursday May 23 or Friday May 24 this week. Could you please take a moment to indicate your availability below?

https://calendly.com/d/cp3y- mxp-j7h/small-group-meeting

Thank you,

(b)(6)

Executive Assistant to the President

EcoHealth Alliance
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New York, NY 10018

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[redacted] (fax)
www.ecohealthalliance.org

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation.

Date: Thu, 3 Jun 2021 12:13:03 PM -0400
Subject: RE: Vanity Fair: The Lab-Leak Theory: Inside the Fight to Uncover COVID-19's Origins
From: Peter Daszak < (b) (6)
To: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] < (b) (6) Keusch, Jerry < (b) (6) Rich Roberts < (b) (6)
CC: Robert Kessler < (b) (6)
Attachments: image001.gif; image002.jpg; image003.jpg; image004.jpg; image005.jpg

Saw that piece. This apparently is a good investigative journalist and I spoke with her off the record to explain why another piece on the lab leak is not likely to be on the right side of history down the line.

She assured me it would be balanced and that she's going to look objectively at all possibilities. I smelled a rat and refused repeated attempts to get me on the record responding to what were (very obviously) Richard Ebright's obnoxious comments.

In the end, she wrote another biased piece that hits all the popular conspiracy mantras, and passively-aggressively trashes our organization by calling it a "Cut-out" – something Richard Ebright's been saying for a while.

I doubt my comments would have helped, of course, and me saying that we're a 45 yr old non-profit, that our work is published regularly in Science & Nature, and that we have worked in some of these countries, under some of the toughest conditions, for 20 or more years, would have just sounded like "well of course…they would say that wouldn't they!".

It's like the very worst of British journalism – the inneundos and unsaid hints, wrapped up in fine writing.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

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EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

From: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] <(b) (6)
Sent: Thursday, June 3, 2021 12:06 PM
To: Peter Daszak ((b) (6)) <(b) (6) >; Keusch, Jerry (b) (6) < (b) (6) ; Rich Roberts (b) (6)
Subject: FW: Vanity Fair: The Lab-Leak Theory: Inside the Fight to Uncover COVID-19's Origins

David

David M. Morens, M.D.
CAPT, United States Public Health Service
Senior Advisor to the Director
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National Institutes of Health
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From: Folkers, Greg (NIH/NIAID) [E] < (b) (6)
Sent: Thursday, June 3, 2021 8:33 AM
Subject: Vanity Fair: The Lab-Leak Theory: Inside the Fight to Uncover COVID-19's Origins

VIRAL INFLECTION

The Lab-Leak Theory: Inside the Fight to Uncover COVID-19's Origins

Throughout 2020, the notion that the novel coronavirus leaked from a lab was off-limits. Those who dared to push for transparency say toxic politics and hidden agendas kept us in the dark.

By Katherine Eban
June 3, 2021

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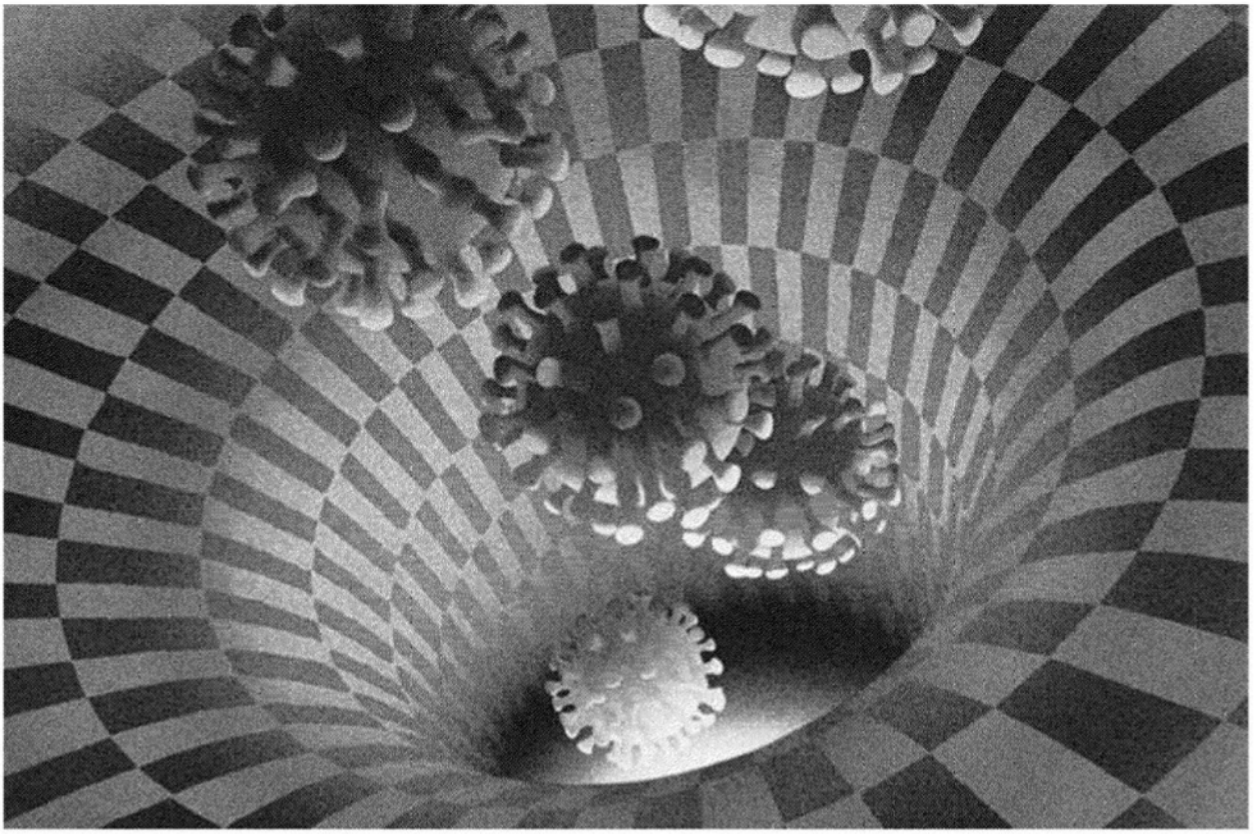

Illustration by Max Löffler.

I. A Group Called DRASTIC

Gilles Demaneuf is a data scientist with the Bank of New Zealand in Auckland. He was diagnosed with Asperger's Syndrome ten years ago, and believes it gives him a professional advantage. "I'm very good at finding patterns in data, when other people see nothing," he says.

Early last spring, as cities worldwide were shutting down to halt the spread of COVID-19, Demaneuf, 52, began reading up on the origins of SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes the disease. The prevailing theory was that it had jumped from bats to some other species before making the leap to humans at a market in China, where some of the earliest cases appeared in late 2019. The Huanan wholesale market, in the city of Wuhan, is a complex of markets selling seafood, meat, fruit, and vegetables. A handful of vendors sold live wild animals—a possible source of the virus.

That wasn't the only theory, though. Wuhan is also home to China's foremost coronavirus research laboratory, housing one of the world's largest collections of bat samples and bat-virus strains. The Wuhan Institute of Virology's lead coronavirus researcher, Shi Zhengli, was among the first to identify horseshoe bats as the natural reservoirs for SARS-CoV, the virus that sparked an outbreak in 2002, killing 774 people and sickening more than 8,000 globally. After SARS, bats became a major subject of study for virologists around the world, and Shi became known in China as "Bat Woman" for her fearless exploration of their caves to collect samples. More recently, Shi and her colleagues at the WIV have performed high-profile experiments that made pathogens more infectious. Such research, known as "gain-of-function," has generated heated controversy among virologists.

To some people, it seemed natural to ask whether the virus causing the global pandemic had somehow leaked from one of the WIV's labs—a possibility Shi has strenuously denied.

On February 19, 2020, *The Lancet*, among the most respected and influential medical journals in the world, published a statement that roundly rejected the lab-leak hypothesis, effectively casting it as a xenophobic cousin to climate change denialism and anti-vaxxism. Signed by 27 scientists, the statement expressed "solidarity with all scientists and health professionals in China" and asserted: "We stand together to strongly condemn conspiracy theories suggesting that COVID-19 does not have a natural origin."

The *Lancet* statement effectively ended the debate over COVID-19's origins before it began. To Gilles Demaneuf, following along from the sidelines, it was as if it had been "nailed to the church doors," establishing the natural origin theory as orthodoxy. "Everyone had to follow it. Everyone was intimidated. That set the tone."

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The statement struck Demaneuf as "totally nonscientific." To him, it seemed to contain no evidence or information. And so he decided to begin his own inquiry in a "proper" way, with no idea of what he would find.



Shi Zhengli, the Wuhan Institute of Virology's lead coronavirus researcher, is frequently pictured in a full-body positive-pressure suit, though not all the labs there require one.By JOHANNES EISELE/AFP/Getty Images.

Demaneuf began searching for patterns in the available data, and it wasn't long before he spotted one. China's laboratories were said to be airtight, with safety practices equivalent to those in the U.S. and other developed countries. But Demaneuf soon discovered that there had been four incidents of SARS-related lab breaches since 2004, two occuring at a top laboratory in Beijing. Due to overcrowding there, a live SARS virus that had been improperly deactivated, had been moved to a refrigerator in a corridor. A graduate student then examined it in the electron microscope room and sparked an outbreak.

Demaneuf published his findings in a Medium post, titled "The Good, the Bad and the Ugly: a review of SARS Lab Escapes." By then, he had begun working with another armchair investigator, Rodolphe de Maistre. A laboratory project director based in Paris who had previously studied and worked in China, de Maistre was busy debunking the notion that the Wuhan Institute of Virology was a "laboratory" at all. In fact, the WIV housed numerous laboratories that worked on coronaviruses. Only one of them has the highest biosafety protocol: BSL-4, in which researchers must wear full-body pressurized suits with independent oxygen. Others are designated BSL-3 and even BSL-2, roughly as secure as an American dentist's office.

Having connected online, Demaneuf and de Maistre began assembling a comprehensive list of research laboratories in China. As they posted their findings on Twitter, they were soon joined by others around the world. Some were cutting-edge scientists at prestigious research institutes. Others were unemployed science enthusiasts. Together, they formed a group called DRASTIC, short for Decentralized Radical Autonomous Search Team Investigating COVID-19. Their stated objective was to solve the riddle of COVID-19's origin.

State Department investigators say they were repeatedly advised not to open a "Pandora's box."

At times, it seemed the only other people entertaining the lab-leak theory were crackpots or political hacks hoping to wield COVID-19 as a cudgel against China. President Donald Trump's former political adviser Steve Bannon, for instance, joined forces with an exiled Chinese billionaire named Guo Wengui to fuel claims that China had developed the disease as a bioweapon and purposefully unleashed it on the world. As proof, they paraded a Hong Kong scientist around right-wing media outlets until her manifest lack of expertise doomed the charade.

With disreputable wing nuts on one side of them and scornful experts on the other, the DRASTIC researchers often felt as if they were on their own in the wilderness, working on the world's most urgent mystery. They weren't alone. But investigators inside the U.S. government asking similar questions were operating in an environment that was as politicized and hostile to open inquiry as any Twitter echo chamber. When Trump himself floated the lab-leak hypothesis last April, his divisiveness and lack of credibility made things more, not less, challenging for those seeking the truth.

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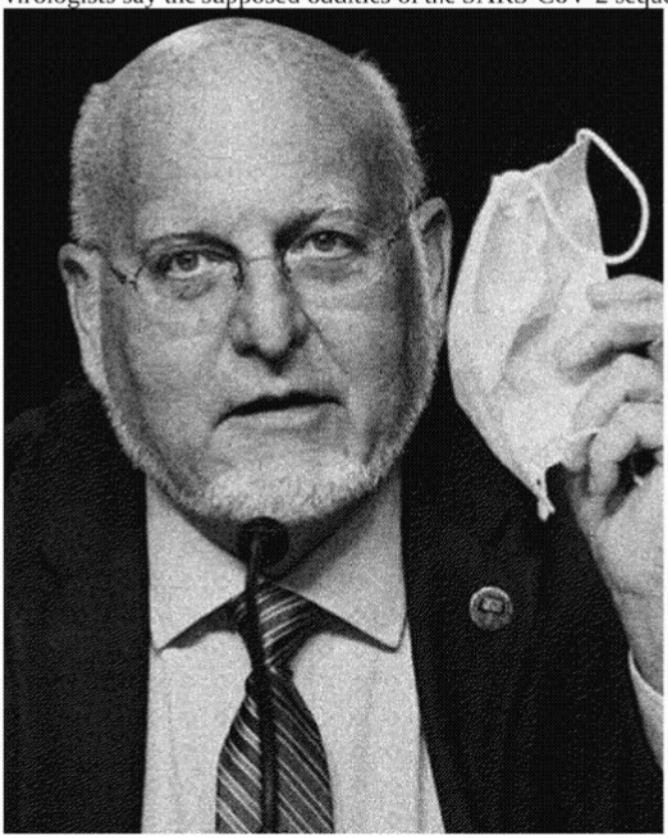
"The DRASTIC people are doing better research than the U.S. government," says David Asher, a former senior investigator under contract to the State Department.
The question is: Why?

II. "A Can of Worms"

Since December 1, 2019, the SARS-CoV-2 virus that causes COVID-19 has infected more than 170 million people around the world and killed more than 3.5 million. To this day, we don't know how or why this novel coronavirus suddenly appeared in the human population. Answering that question is more than an academic pursuit: Without knowing where it came from, we can't be sure we're taking the right steps to prevent a recurrence.
And yet, in the wake of the *Lancet* statement and under the cloud of Donald Trump's toxic racism, which contributed to an alarming wave of anti-Asian violence in the U.S., one possible answer to this all-important question remained largely off-limits until the spring of 2021.
Behind closed doors, however, national security and public health experts and officials across a range of departments in the executive branch were locked in high-stakes battles over what could and couldn't be investigated and made public.
A months long *Vanity Fair* investigation, interviews with more than 40 people, and a review of hundreds of pages of U.S. government documents, including internal memos, meeting minutes, and email correspondence, found that conflicts of interest, stemming in part from large government grants supporting controversial virology research, hampered the U.S. investigation into COVID-19's origin at every step. In one State Department meeting, officials seeking to demand transparency from the Chinese government say they were explicitly told by colleagues not to explore the Wuhan Institute of Virology's gain-of-function research, because it would bring unwelcome attention to U.S. government funding of it.
In an internal memo obtained by *Vanity Fair*, Thomas DiNanno, former acting assistant secretary of the State Department's Bureau of Arms Control, Verification, and Compliance, wrote that staff from two bureaus, his own and the Bureau of International Security and Nonproliferation, "warned" leaders within his bureau "not to pursue an investigation into the origin of COVID-19" because it would "'open a can of worms' if it continued."
There are reasons to doubt the lab-leak hypothesis. There is a long, well-documented history of natural spillovers leading to outbreaks, even when the initial and intermediate host animals have remained a mystery for months and years, and some expert virologists say the supposed oddities of the SARS-CoV-2 sequence have been found in nature.



Dr. Robert Redfield, former director of the CDC, said he received death threats from fellow scientists after telling CNN he thought the virus likely escaped from a lab. "I expected it from politicians. I didn't expect it from science," he said.By Andrew Harnik/Getty Images.
But for most of the past year, the lab-leak scenario was treated not simply as unlikely or even inaccurate but as morally out-of-bounds. In late March, former Centers for Disease Control director Robert Redfield received death threats from fellow scientists

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after telling CNN that he believed COVID-19 had originated in a lab. "I was threatened and ostracized because I proposed another hypothesis," Redfield told *Vanity Fair*. "I expected it from politicians. I didn't expect it from science."

With President Trump out of office, it should be possible to reject his xenophobic agenda and still ask why, in all places in the world, did the outbreak begin in the city with a laboratory housing one of the world's most extensive collection of bat viruses, doing some of the most aggressive research?

Dr. Richard Ebright, board of governors professor of chemistry and chemical biology at Rutgers University, said that from the very first reports of a novel bat-related coronavirus outbreak in Wuhan, it took him "a nanosecond or a picosecond" to consider a link to the Wuhan Institute of Virology. Only two other labs in the world, in Galveston, Texas, and Chapel Hill, North Carolina, were doing similar research. "It's not a dozen cities," he said. "It's three places."

Then came the revelation that the *Lancet* statement was not only signed but organized by a zoologist named Peter Daszak, who has repackaged U.S. government grants and allocated them to facilities conducting gain-of-function research—among them the WIV itself. David Asher, now a senior fellow at the Hudson Institute, ran the State Department's day-to-day COVID-19 origins inquiry. He said it soon became clear that "there is a huge gain-of-function bureaucracy" inside the federal government.

As months go by without a host animal that proves the natural theory, the questions from credible doubters have gained in urgency. To one former federal health official, the situation boiled down to this: An institute "funded by American dollars is trying to teach a bat virus to infect human cells, then there is a virus" in the same city as that lab. It is "not being intellectually honest not to consider the hypothesis" of a lab escape.

And given how aggressively China blocked efforts at a transparent investigation, and in light of its government's own history of lying, obfuscating, and crushing dissent, it's fair to ask if Shi Zhengli, the Wuhan Institute's lead coronavirus researcher, would be at liberty to report a leak from her lab even if she'd wanted to.

On May 26, the steady crescendo of questions led President Joe Biden to release a statement acknowledging that the intelligence community had "coalesced around two likely scenarios," and announce that he had asked for a more definitive conclusion within 90 days. His statement noted, "The failure to get our inspectors on the ground in those early months will always hamper any investigation into the origin of COVID-19." But that wasn't the only failure.

In the words of David Feith, former deputy assistant secretary of state in the East Asia bureau, "The story of why parts of the U.S. government were not as curious as many of us think they should have been is a hugely important one."

III. "Smelled Like a Cover-Up"

On December 9, 2020, roughly a dozen State Department employees from four different bureaus gathered in a conference room in Foggy Bottom to discuss an upcoming fact-finding mission to Wuhan organized in part by the World Health Organization. The group agreed on the need to press China to allow a thorough, credible, and transparent investigation, with unfettered access to markets, hospitals, and government laboratories. The conversation then turned to the more sensitive question: What should the U.S. government say publicly about the Wuhan Institute of Virology?

A small group within the State Department's Arms Control, Verification, and Compliance bureau had been studying the Institute for months. The group had recently acquired classified intelligence suggesting that three WIV researchers conducting gain-of-function experiments on coronavirus samples had fallen ill in the autumn of 2019, before the COVID-19 outbreak was known to have started.

As officials at the meeting discussed what they could share with the public, they were advised by Christopher Park, the director of the State Department's Biological Policy Staff in the Bureau of International Security and Nonproliferation, not to say anything that would point to the U.S. government's own role in gain-of-function research, according to documentation of the meeting obtained by *Vanity Fair*.

Only two other labs in the world, in Texas and North Carolina, were doing similar research. "It's not a dozen cities," Dr. Richard Ebright said. "It's three places."

Some of the attendees were "absolutely floored," said an official familiar with the proceedings. That someone in the U.S. government could "make an argument that is so nakedly against transparency, in light of the unfolding catastrophe, was…shocking and disturbing."

Park, who in 2017 had been involved in lifting a U.S. government moratorium on funding for gain-of-function research, was not the only official to warn the State Department investigators against digging in sensitive places. As the group probed the lab-leak scenario, among other possibilities, its members were repeatedly advised not to open a "Pandora's box," said four former State Department officials interviewed by *Vanity Fair*. The admonitions "smelled like a cover-up," said Thomas DiNanno, "and I wasn't going to be part of it."

Reached for comment, Chris Park told *Vanity Fair*, "I am skeptical that people genuinely felt they were being discouraged from presenting facts." He added that he was simply arguing that it "is making an enormous and unjustifiable leap…to suggest that research of that kind [meant] that something untoward is going on."

IV. An "Antibody Response"

There were two main teams inside the U.S. government working to uncover the origins of COVID-19: one in the State Department and another under the direction of the National Security Council. No one at the State Department had much interest in Wuhan's laboratories at the start of the pandemic, but they were gravely concerned with China's apparent cover-up of the outbreak's severity. The government had shut down the Huanan market, ordered laboratory samples destroyed, claimed the right

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to review any scientific research about COVID-19 ahead of publication, and expelled a team of *Wall Street Journal* reporters.
In January 2020, a Wuhan ophthalmologist named Li Wenliang, who'd tried to warn his colleagues that the pneumonia could be a form of SARS was arrested, accused of disrupting the social order, and forced to write a self-criticism. He died of COVID-19 in February, lionized by the Chinese public as a hero and whistleblower.
"You had Chinese [government] coercion and suppression," said David Feith of the State Department's East Asia bureau. "We were very concerned that they were covering it up and whether the information coming to the World Health Organization was reliable."
As questions swirled, Miles Yu, the State Department's principal China strategist, noted that the WIV had remained largely silent. Yu, who is fluent in Mandarin, began mirroring its website and compiling a dossier of questions about its research. In April, he gave his dossier to Secretary of State Pompeo, who in turn publicly demanded access to the laboratories there.
It is not clear whether Yu's dossier made its way to President Trump. But on April 30, 2020, the Office of the Director of National Intelligence put out an ambiguous statement whose apparent goal was to suppress a growing furor around the lab-leak theory. It said that the intelligence community "concurs with the wide scientific consensus that the COVID-19 virus was not manmade or genetically modified" but would continue to assess "whether the outbreak began through contact with infected animals or if it was the result of an accident at a laboratory in Wuhan."
State Department official Thomas DiNanno wrote a memo charging that staff from his bureau were "warned…not to pursue an investigation into the origin of COVID-19" because it would "'open a can of worms' if it continued."Source: U.S. Department of State
"It was pure panic," said former deputy national security adviser Matthew Pottinger. "They were getting flooded with queries. Someone made the unfortunate decision to say, 'We basically know nothing, so let's put out the statement.'"
Then, the bomb-thrower-in-chief weighed in. At a press briefing just hours later, Trump contradicted his own intelligence officials and claimed that he had seen classified information indicating that the virus had come from the Wuhan Institute of Virology. Asked what the evidence was, he said, "I can't tell you that. I'm not allowed to tell you that."
Trump's premature statement poisoned the waters for anyone seeking an honest answer to the question of where COVID-19 came from. According to Pottinger, there was an "antibody response" within the government, in which any discussion of a possible lab origin was linked to destructive nativist posturing.
The revulsion extended to the international science community, whose "maddening silence" frustrated Miles Yu. He recalled, "Anyone who dares speak out would be ostracized."

V. "Too Risky to Pursue"

The idea of a lab leak first came to NSC officials not from hawkish Trumpists but from Chinese social media users, who began sharing their suspicions as early as January 2020. Then, in February, a research paper coauthored by two Chinese scientists, based at separate Wuhan universities, appeared online as a preprint. It tackled a fundamental question: How did a novel bat coronavirus get to a major metropolis of 11 million people in central China, in the dead of winter when most bats were hibernating, and turn a market where bats weren't sold into the epicenter of an outbreak?
The paper offered an answer: "We screened the area around the seafood market and identified two laboratories conducting research on bat coronavirus." The first was the Wuhan Center for Disease Control and Prevention, which sat just 280 meters from the Huanan market and had been known to collect hundreds of bat samples. The second, the researchers wrote, was the Wuhan Institute of Virology.
The paper came to a staggeringly blunt conclusion about COVID-19: "the killer coronavirus probably originated from a laboratory in Wuhan.... Regulations may be taken to relocate these laboratories far away from city center and other densely populated places." Almost as soon as the paper appeared on the internet, it disappeared, but not before U.S. government officials took note.
By then, Matthew Pottinger had approved a COVID-19 origins team, run by the NSC directorate that oversaw issues related to weapons of mass destruction. A longtime Asia expert and former journalist, Pottinger purposefully kept the team small, because there were so many people within the government "wholly discounting the possibility of a lab leak, who were predisposed that it was impossible," said Pottinger. In addition, many leading experts had either received or approved funding for gain-of-function research. Their "conflicted" status, said Pottinger, "played a profound role in muddying the waters and contaminating the shot at having an impartial inquiry."
Peter Daszak, who repackaged U.S. government grants and allocated the funds to research institutes including the WIV, arrives there on February 3, 2021, during a fact-finding mission organized in part by the World Health Organization.By Hector RETAMAL/AFP/Getty Images.
As they combed open sources as well as classified information, the team's members soon stumbled on a 2015 research paper by Shi Zhengli and the University of North Carolina epidemiologist Ralph Baric proving that the spike protein of a novel coronavirus could infect human cells. Using mice as subjects, they inserted the protein from a Chinese rufous horseshoe bat into the molecular structure of the SARS virus from 2002, creating a new, infectious pathogen.
This gain-of-function experiment was so fraught that the authors flagged the danger themselves, writing, "scientific review panels may deem similar studies…too risky to pursue." In fact, the study was intended to raise an alarm and warn the world of "a potential risk of SARS-CoV re-emergence from viruses currently circulating in bat populations." The paper's acknowledgments cited funding from the U.S. National Institutes of Health and from a nonprofit called EcoHealth Alliance, which had parceled out

grant money from the U.S. Agency for International Development. EcoHealth Alliance is run by Peter Daszak, the zoologist who helped organize the *Lancet* statement.

That a genetically engineered virus might have escaped from the WIV was one alarming scenario. But it was also possible that a research trip to collect bat samples could have led to infection in the field, or back at the lab.

The NSC investigators found ready evidence that China's labs were not as safe as advertised. Shi Zhengli herself had publicly acknowledged that, until the pandemic, all of her team's coronavirus research—some involving live SARS-like viruses—had been conducted in less secure BSL-3 and even BSL-2 laboratories.

In 2018, a delegation of American diplomats visited the WIV for the opening of its BSL-4 laboratory, a major event. In an unclassified cable, as a *Washington Post* columnist reported, they wrote that a shortage of highly trained technicians and clear protocols threatened the facility's safe operations. The issues had not stopped the WIV's leadership from declaring the lab "ready for research on class-four pathogens (P4), among which are the most virulent viruses that pose a high risk of aerosolized person-to-person transmission."

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On February 14, 2020, to the surprise of NSC officials, President Xi Jinping of China announced a plan to fast-track a new biosecurity law to tighten safety procedures throughout the country's laboratories. Was this a response to confidential information? "In the early weeks of the pandemic, it didn't seem crazy to wonder if this thing came out of a lab," Pottinger reflected.

Apparently, it didn't seem crazy to Shi Zhengli either. A *Scientific American* article first published in March 2020, for which she was interviewed, described how her lab had been the first to sequence the virus in those terrible first weeks. It also recounted how:

[S]he frantically went through her own lab's records from the past few years to check for any mishandling of experimental materials, especially during disposal. Shi breathed a sigh of relief when the results came back: none of the sequences matched those of the viruses her team had sampled from bat caves. "That really took a load off my mind," she says. "I had not slept a wink for days."

As the NSC tracked these disparate clues, U.S. government virologists advising them flagged one study first submitted in April 2020. Eleven of its 23 coauthors worked for the Academy of Military Medical Sciences, the Chinese army's medical research institute. Using the gene-editing technology known as CRISPR, the researchers had engineered mice with humanized lungs, then studied their susceptibility to SARS-CoV-2. As the NSC officials worked backward from the date of publication to establish a timeline for the study, it became clear that the mice had been engineered sometime in the summer of 2019, before the pandemic even started. The NSC officials were left wondering: Had the Chinese military been running viruses through humanized mouse models, to see which might be infectious to humans?

Believing they had uncovered important evidence in favor of the lab-leak hypothesis, the NSC investigators began reaching out to other agencies. That's when the hammer came down. "We were dismissed," said Anthony Ruggiero, the NSC's senior director for counterproliferation and biodefense. "The response was very negative."

VI. Sticklers for Accuracy

By the summer of 2020, Gilles Demaneuf was spending up to four hours a day researching the origins of COVID-19, joining Zoom meetings before dawn with European collaborators and not sleeping much. He began to receive anonymous calls and notice strange activity on his computer, which he attributed to Chinese government surveillance. "We are being monitored for sure," he says. He moved his work to the encrypted platforms Signal and ProtonMail.

As they posted their findings, the DRASTIC researchers attracted new allies. Among the most prominent was Jamie Metzl, who launched a blog on April 16 that became a go-to site for government researchers and journalists examining the lab-leak hypothesis. A former executive vice president of the Asia Society, Metzl sits on the World Health Organization's advisory committee on human genome editing and served in the Clinton administration as the NSC's director for multilateral affairs. In his first post on the subject, he made clear that he had no definitive proof and believed that Chinese researchers at the WIV had the "best intentions." Metzl also noted, "In no way do I seek to support or align myself with any activities that may be considered unfair, dishonest, nationalistic, racist, bigoted, or biased in any way."

On December 11, 2020, Demaneuf—a stickler for accuracy—reached out to Metzl to alert him to a mistake on his blog. The 2004 SARS lab escape in Beijing, Demaneuf pointed out, had led to 11 infections, not four. Demaneuf was "impressed" by Metzl's immediate willingness to correct the information. "From that time, we started working together."

"If the pandemic started as part of a lab leak, it had the potential to do to virology what Three Mile Island and Chernobyl did to nuclear science."

Metzl, in turn, was in touch with the Paris Group, a collective of more than 30 skeptical scientific experts who met by Zoom once a month for hours-long meetings to hash out emerging clues. Before joining the Paris Group, Dr. Filippa Lentzos, a biosecurity expert at King's College London, had pushed back online against wild conspiracies. *No, COVID-19 was not a bioweapon used by the Chinese to infect American athletes at the Military World Games in Wuhan in October 2019.* But the more she researched, the more concerned she became that not every possibility was being explored. On May 1, 2020, she published a careful assessment in the *Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists* describing just how a pathogen could have escaped the Wuhan Institute of Virology. She noted that a September 2019 paper in an academic journal by the director of the WIV's BSL-4 laboratory, Yuan Zhiming, had outlined safety deficiencies in China's labs. "Maintenance cost is generally neglected," he had

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written. "Some BSL-3 laboratories run on extremely minimal operational costs or in some cases none at all."
Alina Chan, a young molecular biologist and postdoctoral fellow at the Broad Institute of MIT and Harvard University, found that early sequences of the virus showed very little evidence of mutation. Had the virus jumped from animals to humans, one would expect to see numerous adaptations, as was true in the 2002 SARS outbreak. To Chan, it appeared that SARS-CoV-2 was already "pre-adapted to human transmission," she wrote in a preprint paper in May 2020.
But perhaps the most startling find was made by an anonymous DRASTIC researcher, known on Twitter as @TheSeeker268. The Seeker, as it turns out, is a young, unemployed science teacher from Eastern India. He had begun plugging keywords into the China National Knowledge Infrastructure, a website that houses papers from 2,000 Chinese journals, and running the results through Google Translate.
One day last May, he fished up a thesis from 2013 written by a master's student in Kunming, China. The thesis opened an extraordinary window into a bat-filled mine shaft in Yunnan province and raised sharp questions about what Shi Zhengli had failed to mention in the course of making her denials.

VII. The Mojiang Miners

In 2012, six miners in the lush mountains of Mojiang county in southern Yunnan province were assigned an unenviable task: to shovel out a thick carpet of bat feces from the floor of a mine shaft. After weeks of dredging up bat guano, the miners became gravely ill and were sent to the First Affiliated Hospital at the Kunming Medical University in Yunnan's capital. Their symptoms of cough, fever, and labored breathing rang alarm bells in a country that had suffered through a viral SARS outbreak a decade earlier.
The hospital called in a pulmonologist, Zhong Nanshan, who had played a prominent role in treating SARS patients and would go on to lead an expert panel for China's National Health Commission on COVID-19. Zhong, according to the 2013 master's thesis, immediately suspected a viral infection. He recommended a throat culture and an antibody test, but he also asked what kind of bat had produced the guano. The answer: the rufous horseshoe bat, the same species implicated in the first SARS outbreak.
Within months, three of the six miners were dead. The eldest, who was 63, died first. "The disease was acute and fierce," the thesis noted. It concluded: "the bat that caused the six patients to fall ill was the Chinese rufous horseshoe bat." Blood samples were sent to the Wuhan Institute of Virology, which found that they were positive for SARS antibodies, a later Chinese dissertation documented.
A memorial for Dr. Li Wenliang, who was celebrated as a whistleblower in China after sounding the alarm about COVID-19 in January 2020. He later died of the disease.By Mark RALSTON/AFP/Getty Images.
But there was a mystery at the heart of the diagnosis. Bat coronaviruses were not known to harm humans. What was so different about the strains from inside the cave? To find out, teams of researchers from across China and beyond traveled to the abandoned mine shaft to collect viral samples from bats, musk shrews, and rats.
In an October 2013 *Nature* study, Shi Zhengli reported a key discovery: that certain bat viruses could potentially infect humans without first jumping to an intermediate animal. By isolating a live SARS-like bat coronavirus for the first time, her team had found that it could enter human cells through a protein called the ACE2 receptor.
In subsequent studies in 2014 and 2016, Shi and her colleagues continued studying samples of bat viruses collected from the mine shaft, hoping to figure out which one had infected the miners. The bats were bristling with multiple coronaviruses. But there was only one whose genome closely resembled SARS. The researchers named it RaBtCoV/4991.
On February 3, 2020, with the COVID-19 outbreak already spreading beyond China, Shi Zhengli and several colleagues published a paper noting that the SARS-CoV-2 virus's genetic code was almost 80% identical to that of SARS-CoV, which caused the 2002 outbreak. But they also reported that it was 96.2% identical to a coronavirus sequence in their possession called RaTG13, which was previously detected in "Yunnan province." They concluded that RaTG13 was the closest known relative to SARS-CoV-2.
In the following months, as researchers around the world hunted for any known bat virus that might be a progenitor of SARS-CoV-2, Shi Zhengli offered shifting and sometimes contradictory accounts of where RaTG13 had come from and when it was fully sequenced. Searching a publicly available library of genetic sequences, several teams, including a group of DRASTIC researchers, soon realized that RaTG13 appeared identical to RaBtCoV/4991—the virus that had sickened the miners in 2012 with what looked like COVID-19.
In July, as questions mounted, Shi Zhengli told *Science* magazine that her lab had renamed the sample for clarity. But to skeptics, the renaming exercise looked like an effort to hide the sample's connection to the Mojiang mine.
Their questions multiplied the following month when Shi, Daszak, and their colleagues published an account of 630 novel coronaviruses they had sampled between 2010 and 2015. Combing through the supplementary data, DRASTIC researchers were stunned to find eight more viruses from the Mojiang mine that were closely related to RaTG13 but had not been flagged in the account. Alina Chan of the Broad Institute said it was "mind-boggling" that these crucial puzzle pieces had been buried without comment.
In October 2020, as questions about the Mojiang mine shaft intensified, a team of journalists from the BBC tried to access the mine itself. They were tailed by plainclothes police officers and found the road conveniently blocked by a broken-down truck. Shi, by now facing growing scrutiny from the international press corps, told the BBC: "I've just downloaded the Kunming Hospital University's student's master's thesis and read it…. The conclusion is neither based on evidence nor logic. But it's used

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by conspiracy theorists to doubt me. If you were me, what would you do?"

VIII. The Gain-of-Function Debate

On January 3, 2020, Dr. Robert Redfield, director of the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, got a phone call from his counterpart Dr. George Fu Gao, head of the Chinese Center for Disease Control and Prevention. Gao described the appearance of a mysterious new pneumonia, apparently limited to people exposed at a market in Wuhan. Redfield immediately offered to send a team of specialists to help investigate.

But when Redfield saw the breakdown of early cases, some of which were family clusters, the market explanation made less sense. Had multiple family members gotten sick via contact with the same animal? Gao assured him there was no human-to-human transmission, says Redfield, who nevertheless urged him to test more widely in the community. That effort prompted a tearful return call. Many cases had nothing to do with the market, Gao admitted. The virus appeared to be jumping from person to person, a far scarier scenario.

Former deputy national security adviser Matthew Pottinger said the "conflicted" status of leading experts who had either approved or received funding for gain-of-function research "played a profound role in muddying the waters and contaminating the shot at having an impartial inquiry."By Jabin Botsford/The Washington Post/Getty Images.

Redfield immediately thought of the Wuhan Institute of Virology. A team could rule it out as a source of the outbreak in just a few weeks, by testing researchers there for antibodies. Redfield formally reiterated his offer to send specialists, but Chinese officials didn't respond to his overture.

Redfield, a virologist by training, was suspicious of the WIV in part because he'd been steeped in the yearslong battle over gain-of-function research. The debate engulfed the virology community in 2011, after Ron Fouchier, a researcher at the Erasmus Medical Center in Rotterdam, announced that he had genetically altered the H5N1 avian influenza strain to make it transmissible among ferrets, who are genetically closer to humans than mice. Fouchier calmly declared that he'd produced "probably one of the most dangerous viruses you could make."

In the ensuing uproar, scientists battled over the risks and benefits of such research. Those in favor claimed it could help prevent pandemics, by highlighting potential risks and accelerating vaccine development. Critics argued that creating pathogens that didn't exist in nature ran the risk of unleashing them.

In October 2014, the Obama administration imposed a moratorium on new funding for gain-of-function research projects that could make influenza, MERS, or SARS viruses more virulent or transmissible. But a footnote to the statement announcing the moratorium carved out an exception for cases deemed "urgently necessary to protect the public health or national security."

In the first year of the Trump administration, the moratorium was lifted and replaced with a review system called the HHS P3CO Framework (for Potential Pandemic Pathogen Care and Oversight). It put the onus for ensuring the safety of any such research on the federal department or agency funding it. This left the review process shrouded in secrecy. "The names of reviewers are not released, and the details of the experiments to be considered are largely secret," said the Harvard epidemiologist Dr. Marc Lipsitch, whose advocacy against gain-of-function research helped prompt the moratorium. (An NIH spokesperson told *Vanity Fair* that "information about individual unfunded applications is not public to preserve confidentiality and protect sensitive information, preliminary data, and intellectual property.")

Inside the NIH, which funded such research, the P3CO framework was largely met with shrugs and eye rolls, said a longtime agency official: "If you ban gain-of-function research, you ban all of virology." He added, "Ever since the moratorium, everyone's gone wink-wink and just done gain-of-function research anyway."

British-born Peter Daszak, 55, is the president of EcoHealth Alliance, a New York City–based nonprofit with the laudable goal of preventing the outbreak of emerging diseases by safeguarding ecosystems. In May 2014, five months before the moratorium on gain-of-function research was announced, EcoHealth secured a NIAID grant of roughly $3.7 million, which it allocated in part to various entities engaged in collecting bat samples, building models, and performing gain-of-function experiments to see which animal viruses were able to jump to humans. The grant was not halted under the moratorium or the P3CO framework.

By 2018, EcoHealth Alliance was pulling in up to $15 million a year in grant money from an array of federal agencies, including the Defense Department, the Department of Homeland Security, and the U.S. Agency for International Development, according to 990 tax exemption forms it filed with the New York State Attorney General's Charities Bureau. Shi Zhengli herself listed U.S. government grant support of more than $1.2 million on her curriculum vitae: $665,000 from the NIH between 2014 and 2019; and $559,500 over the same period from USAID. At least some of those funds were routed through EcoHealth Alliance.

EcoHealth Alliance's practice of divvying up large government grants into smaller sub-grants for individual labs and institutions gave it enormous sway within the field of virology. The sums at stake allow it to "purchase a lot of omertà" from the labs it supports, said Richard Ebright of Rutgers. (In response to detailed questions, an EcoHealth Alliance spokesperson said on behalf of the organization and Daszak, "We have no comment.")

As the pandemic raged, the collaboration between EcoHealth Alliance and the WIV wound up in the crosshairs of the Trump administration. At a White House COVID-19 press briefing on April 17, 2020, a reporter from the conspiratorial right-wing media outlet Newsmax asked Trump a factually inaccurate question about a $3.7 million NIH grant to a level-four lab in China. "Why would the U.S. give a grant like that to China?" the reporter asked.

Trump responded, "We will end that grant very quickly," adding, "Who was president then, I wonder."

A week later, an NIH official notified Daszak in writing that his grant had been terminated. The order had come from the White House, Dr. Anthony Fauci later testified before a congressional committee. The decision fueled a firestorm: 81 Nobel Laureates

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in science denounced the decision in an open letter to Trump health officials, and *60 Minutes* ran a segment focused on the Trump administration's shortsighted politicization of science.

Daszak appeared to be the victim of a political hit job, orchestrated to blame China, Dr. Fauci, and scientists in general for the pandemic, while distracting from the Trump administration's bungled response. "He's basically a wonderful, decent human being" and an "old-fashioned altruist," said the NIH official. "To see this happening to him, it really kills me."

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Lauer, Michael (NIH/OD) [E]

In July, the NIH attempted to backtrack. It reinstated the grant but suspended its research activities until EcoHealth Alliance fulfilled seven conditions, some of which went beyond the nonprofit's purview and seemed to stray into tinfoil-hat territory. They included: providing information on the "apparent disappearance" of a Wuhan Institute of Virology researcher, who was rumored on social media to be patient zero, and explaining diminished cell phone traffic and roadblocks around the WIV in October 2019.

But conspiracy-minded conservatives weren't the only ones looking askance at Daszak. Ebright likened Daszak's model of research—bringing samples from a remote area to an urban one, then sequencing and growing viruses and attempting to genetically modify them to make them more virulent—to "looking for a gas leak with a lighted match." Moreover, Ebright believed that Daszak's research had failed in its stated purpose of predicting and preventing pandemics through its global collaborations.

It soon emerged, based on emails obtained by a Freedom of Information group called U.S. Right to Know, that Daszak had not only signed but organized the influential *Lancet* statement, with the intention of concealing his role and creating the impression of scientific unanimity.

Under the subject line, "No need for you to sign the "Statement" Ralph!!," he wrote to two scientists, including UNC's Dr. Ralph Baric, who had collaborated with Shi Zhengli on the gain-of-function study that created a coronavirus capable of infecting human cells: "you, me and him should not sign this statement, so it has some distance from us and therefore doesn't work in a counterproductive way." Daszak added, "We'll then put it out in a way that doesn't link it back to our collaboration so we maximize an independent voice."

Baric agreed, writing back, "Otherwise it looks self-serving and we lose impact."

Baric did not sign the statement. In the end, Daszak did. At least six other signers had either worked at, or had been funded by, EcoHealth Alliance. The statement ended with a declaration of objectivity: "We declare no competing interests."

Daszak mobilized so quickly for a reason, said Jamie Metzl: "If zoonosis was the origin, it was a validation…of his life work…. But if the pandemic started as part of a lab leak, it had the potential to do to virology what Three Mile Island and Chernobyl did to nuclear science." It could mire the field indefinitely in moratoriums and funding restrictions.

IX. Dueling Memos

By the summer of 2020, the State Department's COVID-19 origins investigation had gone cold. Officials in the Bureau of Arms Control, Verification, and Compliance went back to their normal work: surveilling the world for biological threats. "We weren't looking for Wuhan," said Thomas DiNanno. That fall, the State Department team got a tip from a foreign source: Key information was likely sitting in the U.S. intelligence community's own files, unanalyzed. In November, that lead turned up classified information that was "absolutely arresting and shocking," said a former State Department official. Three researchers at the Wuhan Institute of Virology, all connected with gain-of-function research on coronaviruses, had fallen ill in November 2019 and appeared to have visited the hospital with symptoms similar to COVID-19, three government officials told *Vanity Fair*. While it is not clear what had sickened them, "these were not the janitors," said the former State Department official. "They were active researchers. The dates were among the absolute most arresting part of the picture, because they are smack where they would be if this was the origin." The reaction inside the State Department was, "Holy shit," one former senior official recalled. "We should probably tell our bosses." The investigation roared back to life.

An intelligence analyst working with David Asher sifted through classified channels and turned up a report that outlined why the lab-leak hypothesis was plausible. It had been written in May by researchers at the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, which performs national security research for the Department of Energy. But it appeared to have been buried within the classified collections system.

Jamie Metzl's blog became a go-to site for government researchers and journalists examining the lab-leak hypothesis. In his first post on the subject, he wrote, "In no way do I seek to support or align myself with any activities that may be considered unfair, dishonest, nationalistic, racist, bigoted, or biased in any way."By Alex Wong/Getty Images.

Now the officials were beginning to suspect that someone was actually hiding materials supportive of a lab-leak explanation. "Why did my contractor have to pore through documents?" DiNanno wondered. Their suspicion intensified when Department of Energy officials overseeing the Lawrence Livermore lab unsuccessfully tried to block the State Department investigators from talking to the report's authors.

Their frustration crested in December, when they finally briefed Chris Ford, acting undersecretary for Arms Control and International Security. He seemed so hostile to their probe that they viewed him as a blinkered functionary bent on whitewashing China's malfeasance. But Ford, who had years of experience in nuclear nonproliferation, had long been a China hawk. Ford told *Vanity Fair* that he saw his job as protecting the integrity of any inquiry into COVID-19's origins that fell under his purview. Going with "stuff that makes us look like the crackpot brigade" would backfire, he believed.

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There was another reason for his hostility. He'd already heard about the investigation from interagency colleagues, rather than from the team itself, and the secrecy left him with a "spidey sense" that the process was a form of "creepy freelancing." He wondered: Had someone launched an unaccountable investigation with the goal of achieving a desired result?

He was not the only one with concerns. As one senior government official with knowledge of the State Department's investigation said, "They were writing this for certain customers in the Trump administration. We asked for the reporting behind the statements that were made. It took forever. Then you'd read the report, it would have this reference to a tweet and a date. It was not something you could go back and find."

After listening to the investigators' findings, a technical expert in one of the State Department's bioweapons offices "thought they were bonkers," Ford recalled.

The State Department team, for its part, believed that Ford was the one trying to impose a preconceived conclusion: that COVID-19 had a natural origin. A week later, one of them attended the meeting where Christopher Park, who worked under Ford, advised those present not to draw attention to U.S. funding of gain-of-function research.

With deep distrust simmering, the State Department team convened a panel of experts to confidentially "red team" the lab-leak hypothesis. The idea was to pummel the theory and see if it still stood. The panel took place on the evening of January 7, one day after the insurrection at the Capitol. By then, Ford had announced his plan to resign.

Twenty-nine people logged on to a secure State Department video call that lasted three hours, according to meeting minutes obtained by *Vanity Fair*. The scientific experts included Ralph Baric, Alina Chan, and the Stanford microbiologist David Relman.

Asher invited Dr. Steven Quay, a breast cancer specialist who'd founded a biopharmaceutical company, to present a statistical analysis weighing the probability of a lab origin versus a natural one. Scissoring Quay's analysis, Baric noted that its calculations failed to account for the millions of bat sequences that exist in nature but remain unknown. When a State Department adviser asked Quay whether he'd ever done a similar analysis, he replied there's "a first time for everything," according to the meeting minutes.

Though they questioned Quay's findings, the scientists saw other reasons to suspect a lab origin. Part of the WIV's mission was to sample the natural world and provide early warnings of "human capable viruses," said Relman. The 2012 infections of six miners was "worthy of banner headlines at the time." Yet those cases had never been reported to the WHO.

Baric added that, if SARS-CoV-2 had come from a "strong animal reservoir," one might have expected to see "multiple introduction events," rather than a single outbreak, though he cautioned that it didn't prove "[this] was an escape from a laboratory." That prompted Asher to ask, "Could this not have been partially bioengineered?"

Ford was so troubled by what he viewed as the panel's weak evidence, and the secretive inquiry that preceded it, that he stayed up all night summarizing his concerns in a four-page memo. After saving it as a PDF so it couldn't be altered, he emailed the memo to multiple State Department officials the next morning.

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In the memo, Ford criticized the panel's "lack of data" and added, "I would also caution you against suggesting that there is anything inherently suspicious—and suggestive of biological warfare activity—about People's Liberation Army (PLA) involvement at WIV on classified projects. [I]t would be difficult to say that military involvement in classified virus research is intrinsically problematic, since the U.S. Army has been deeply involved in virus research in the United States for many years."

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Thomas DiNanno sent back a five-page rebuttal to Ford's memo the next day, January 9 (though it was mistakenly dated "12/9/21"). He accused Ford of misrepresenting the panel's efforts and enumerated the obstacles his team had faced: "apprehension and contempt" from the technical staff; warnings not to investigate the origins of COVID-19 for fear of opening a "can of worms"; and a "complete lack of responses to briefings and presentations." He added that Quay had been invited only after the National Intelligence Council failed to provide statistical help.

A year's worth of mutual suspicions had finally spilled out into dueling memos.

The State Department investigators pushed on, determined to go public with their concerns. They continued a weeks-long effort to declassify information that had been vetted by the intelligence community. On January 15, five days before President Joe Biden's swearing in, the State Department released a fact sheet about activity at the Wuhan Institute of Virology, disclosing key information: that several researchers there had fallen ill with COVID-19-like symptoms in autumn 2019, before the first identified outbreak case; and that researchers there had collaborated on secret projects with China's military and "engaged in classified research, including laboratory animal experiments, on behalf of the Chinese military since at least 2017."

The statement withstood "aggressive suspicion," as one former State Department official said, and the Biden administration has not walked it back. "I was very pleased to see Pompeo's statement come through," said Chris Ford. "I was so relieved that they were using real reporting that had been vetted and cleared."

X. A Fact-Finding Mission to Wuhan

In early July, the World Health Organization invited the U.S. government to recommend experts for a fact-finding mission to Wuhan, a sign of progress in the long-delayed probe of COVID-19's origins. Questions about the WHO's independence from China, the country's secrecy, and the raging pandemic had turned the anticipated mission into a minefield of international grudges and suspicion.

Within weeks, the U.S. government submitted three names to the WHO: an FDA veterinarian, a CDC epidemiologist, and an

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NIAID virologist. None were chosen. Instead, only one representative from the U.S. made the cut: Peter Daszak.

It had been evident from the start that China would control who could come and what they could see. In July, when the WHO sent member countries a draft of the terms governing the mission, the PDF document was titled, "CHN and WHO agreed final version," suggesting that China had preapproved its contents.

Part of the fault lay with the Trump administration, which had failed to counter China's control over the scope of the mission when it was being hammered out two months earlier. The resolution, forged at the World Health Assembly, called not for a full inquiry into the origins of the pandemic but instead for a mission "to identify the zoonotic source of the virus." The natural-origin hypothesis was baked into the enterprise. "It was a huge difference that only the Chinese understood," said Jamie Metzl. "While the [Trump] administration was huffing and puffing, some really important things were happening around the WHO, and the U.S. didn't have a voice."

In 2012, the prominent pulmonologist Zhong Nanshan consulted on a case of miners who fell ill after digging bat feces out of a cave in Mojiang county. Their symptoms of cough, fever, and labored breathing recalled the 2002 SARS outbreak but also foreshadowed the COVID-19 pandemic.From TPG/Getty Images.

On January 14, 2021, Daszak and 12 other international experts arrived in Wuhan to join 17 Chinese experts and an entourage of government minders. They spent two weeks of the monthlong mission quarantined in their hotel rooms. The remaining two-week inquiry was more propaganda than probe, complete with a visit to an exhibit extolling President Xi's leadership. The team saw almost no raw data, only the Chinese government analysis of it.

They paid one visit to the Wuhan Institute of Virology, where they met with Shi Zhengli, as recounted in an annex to the mission report. One obvious demand would have been access to the WIV's database of some 22,000 virus samples and sequences, which had been taken offline. At an event convened by a London organization on March 10, Daszak was asked whether the group had made such a request. He said there was no need: Shi Zhengli had stated that the WIV took down the database due to hacking attempts during the pandemic. "Absolutely reasonable," Daszak said. "And we did not ask to see the data…. As you know, a lot of this work has been conducted with EcoHealth Alliance…. We do basically know what's in those databases. There is no evidence of viruses closer to SARS-CoV-2 than RaTG13 in those databases, simple as that."

In fact, the database had been taken offline on September 12, 2019, three months before the official start of the pandemic, a detail uncovered by Gilles Demaneuf and two of his DRASTIC colleagues.

After two weeks of fact finding, the Chinese and international experts concluded their mission by voting with a show of hands on which origin scenario seemed most probable. Direct transmission from bat to human: *possible to likely.* Transmission through an intermediate animal: *likely to very likely.* Transmission through frozen food: *possible.* Transmission through a laboratory incident: *extremely unlikely.*

On March 30, 2021, media outlets around the world reported on the release of the mission's 120-page report. Discussion of a lab leak took up less than two pages. Calling the report "fatally flawed," Jamie Metzl tweeted: "They set out to prove one hypothesis, not fairly examine all of them."

The report also recounted how Shi rebutted conspiracy theories and told the visiting team of experts that "there had been no reports of unusual diseases, none diagnosed, and all staff tested negative for SARS-CoV-2 antibodies." Her statement directly contradicted the findings summarized in the January 15 State Department fact sheet. "That was a willful lie by people who know it's not true," said a former national security official.

Click to see the full document

An internal U.S. government analysis of the mission's report, obtained by *Vanity Fair,* found it to be inaccurate and even contradictory, with some sections undermining conclusions made elsewhere and others relying on reference papers that had been withdrawn. Regarding the four possible origins, the analysis stated, the report "does not include a description of how these hypotheses were generated, would be tested, or how a decision would be made between them to decide that one is more likely than another." It added that a possible laboratory incident received only a "cursory" look, and the "evidence presented seems insufficient to deem the hypothesis 'extremely unlikely.'"

The report's most surprising critic was the WHO's director himself, Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus of Ethiopia. With the credibility of the World Health Organization on the line, he appeared to acknowledge the report's shortcomings at a press event the day of its release. "As far as WHO is concerned all hypotheses remain on the table," he said. "We have not yet found the source of the virus, and we must continue to follow the science and leave no stone unturned as we do."

His statement reflected "monumental courage," said Metzl. "Tedros risked his entire career to defend the integrity of the WHO." (The WHO declined to make Tedros available for an interview.)

By then, an international coalition of roughly two dozen scientists, among them DRASTIC researcher Gilles Demaneuf and EcoHealth critic Richard Ebright at Rutgers, had found a way around what Metzl described as a "wall of rejections" by scientific journals. With Metzl's guidance, they began publishing open letters in early March. Their second letter, issued on April 7, condemned the mission report and called for a full investigation into the origin of COVID-19. It was picked up widely by national newspapers.

A growing number of people were demanding to know what exactly had gone on inside the Wuhan Institute of Virology. Were the claims in the State Department's fact sheet—of sick researchers and secret military research—accurate?

Metzl had managed to question Shi directly a week before the release of the mission report. At a March 23 online lecture by Shi, hosted by Rutgers Medical School, Metzl asked if she had full knowledge of all the research being done at the WIV and all the

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viruses held there, and if the U.S. government was correct that classified military research had taken place. She responded: We—our work, our research is open, and we have a lot of international collaboration. And from my knowledge, all our research work is open, is transparency. So, at the beginning of COVID-19, we heard the rumors that it's claimed in our laboratory we have some project, blah blah, with army, blah blah, these kinds of rumors. But this is not correct because I am the lab's director and responsible for research activity. I don't know any kind of research work performed in this lab. This is incorrect information.

A major argument against the lab-leak theory hinged on the presumption that Shi was telling the truth when she said the WIV was not hiding any virus samples that are closer cousins to SARS-CoV-2. In Metzl's view, if she was lying about the military's involvement, or anything else, then all bets were off.

XI. Inside the Wuhan Institute of Virology

In January 2019, the Wuhan Institute of Virology issued a press release hailing Shi Zhengli's "distinguished and pioneering achievement in discovery and characterization of important bat-borne viruses." The occasion was her election as a fellow of the prestigious American Academy of Microbiology—just the latest milestone in a glittering scientific career. In China, the celebrated "Bat Woman" was easily recognizable from photos showing her in a full-body positive-pressure suit inside the WIV's BSL-4 lab.

Shi was a fixture at international virology conferences, thanks to her "state-of-the-art" work, said James LeDuc, the longtime director of the BSL-4 Galveston National Laboratory in Texas. At the international meetings he organized, Shi was a regular, along with Ralph Baric from UNC. "She's a charming person, completely fluent in English and French," said LeDuc. Sounding almost wistful, he added, "This is how science works. You get everyone together, they share their data, go out and have a beer."

Shi's journey to the top of the virology field had begun with treks to remote bat caves in southernmost China. In 2006, she trained at the BSL-4 Jean Merieux-Inserm Laboratory in Lyon, France. She was named director of the WIV's Center for Emerging Infectious Diseases in 2011, and its BSL-3 lab director in 2013.

It's hard to think of anyone, anywhere, who was better prepared to meet the challenge of COVID-19. On December 30, 2019, at around 7 p.m., Shi received a call from her boss, the director of the Wuhan Institute of Virology, according to an account she gave to *Scientific American*. He wanted her to investigate several cases of patients hospitalized with a mysterious pneumonia: "Drop whatever you are doing and deal with it now."

The next day, by analyzing seven patient samples, her team became one of the first to sequence and identify the ailment as a novel SARS-related coronavirus. By January 21, she had been appointed to lead the Hubei Province COVID-19 Emergency Scientific Research Expert Group. At a terrifying moment, in a country that exalted its scientists, she had reached a pinnacle.

But her ascent came at a cost. There is reason to believe she was hardly free to speak her mind or follow a scientific path that didn't conform to China's party line. Though Shi had planned to share isolated samples of the virus with her friend James LeDuc in Galveston, Beijing officials blocked her. And by mid-January, a team of military scientists led by China's top virologist and biochemical expert, Major General Chen Wei, had set up operations inside the WIV.

Under scrutiny from governments including her own, with bizarre conspiracy theories and legitimate doubts swirling around her, she began lashing out at critics. "The 2019 novel coronavirus is a punishment from nature for humanity's uncivilized habits," she wrote in a February 2 post on WeChat, a popular social media app in China. "I, Shi Zhengli, guarantee on my life that it has nothing to do with our lab. May I offer some advice to those people who believe and spread bad media rumors: shut your dirty mouths."

Though Shi has portrayed the WIV as a transparent hub of international research beset by false allegations, the State Department's January fact sheet painted a different picture: of a facility conducting classified military research, and hiding it, which Shi adamantly denies. But a former national security official who reviewed U.S. classified materials told *Vanity Fair* that inside the WIV, military and civilian researchers are "doing animal research in the same fricking space."

While that, in and of itself, does not prove a lab leak, Shi's alleged lies about it are "absolutely material," said a former State Department official. "It speaks to the honesty and credibility of the WIV that they kept this secret…. You have a web of lies, coercion, and disinformation that is killing people."

Vanity Fair sent Shi Zhengli and the director of the Wuhan Institute of Virology detailed questions. Neither responded to multiple requests for comment by email and phone.

As officials at the NSC tracked collaborations between the WIV and military scientists—which stretch back 20 years, with 51 coauthored papers—they also took note of a book flagged by a college student in Hong Kong. Written by a team of 18 authors and editors, 11 of whom worked at China's Air Force Medical University, the book, *Unnatural Origin of SARS and New Species of Man-Made Viruses as Genetic Bioweapons*, explores issues surrounding the development of bioweapons capabilities. Claiming that terrorists using gene editing had created SARS-CoV-1 as a bioweapon, the book contained some alarming practical trade craft: "Bioweapon aerosol attacks are best conducted during dawn, dusk, night or cloudy weather because ultraviolet rays can damage the pathogens." And it cited collateral benefits, noting that a sudden surge of hospitalizations could cause a healthcare system to collapse. One of the book's editors has collaborated on 12 scientific papers with researchers at the WIV.

University of North Carolina virologist Ralph Baric collaborated with Shi Zhengli on a gain-of-function coronavirus experiment in 2015. In February 2020, he privately expressed support for Peter Daszak's *Lancet* statement dismissing the lab-leak theory. More recently, he signed a letter calling for a transparent investigation of all hypotheses.By Christopher Janaro/Bloomberg/Getty Images.

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The book's dramatic rhetoric could have been hype by Chinese military researchers trying to sell books, or a pitch to the People's Liberation Army for funding to launch a biowarfare program. When a reporter with the Rupert Murdoch–owned newspaper *The Australian* published details from the book under the headline "Chinese Held Talks on Bioweapons Benefits," the *Global Times*, a Chinese state-owned media outlet, ridiculed the article, noting that the supposedly "leaked" book was for sale on Amazon.

The inflammatory idea of SARS-CoV-2-as-bioweapon has gained traction as an alt-right conspiracy theory, but civilian research under Shi's supervision that has yet to be made public raises more realistic concerns. Shi's own comments to a science journal, and grant information available on a Chinese government database, suggest that in the past three years her team has tested two novel but undisclosed bat coronaviruses on humanized mice, to gauge their infectiousness.

In April 2021, in an editorial in the journal *Infectious Diseases & Immunity*, Shi resorted to a familiar tactic to contain the cloud of suspicion enveloping her: She invoked scientific consensus, just as the *Lancet* statement had. "The scientific community strongly dismisses these unproven and misleading speculations and generally accepts that SARS-CoV-2 has a natural origin and was selected either in an animal host before zoonotic transfer, or in humans following zoonotic transfer," she wrote.

But Shi's editorial had no muzzling effect. On May 14, in a statement published in *Science Magazine*, 18 prominent scientists called for a "transparent, objective" investigation into COVID-19's origins, noting, "We must take hypotheses about both natural and laboratory spillovers seriously until we have sufficient data."

Among the signers was Ralph Baric. Fifteen months earlier, he had worked behind the scenes to help Peter Daszak stage-manage the *Lancet* statement. The scientific consensus had been smashed to smithereens.

XII. Out of the Shadows

By spring of 2021, the debate over COVID-19's origins had become so noxious that death threats were flying in both directions. In a CNN interview on March 26, Dr. Redfield, the former CDC director under Trump, made a candid admission: "I am of the point of view that I still think the most likely etiology of this pathogen in Wuhan was from a laboratory, you know, escaped." Redfield added that he believed the release was an accident, not an intentional act. In his view, nothing that happened since his first calls with Dr. Gao changed a simple fact: The WIV needed to be ruled out as a source, and it hadn't been.

After the interview aired, death threats flooded his inbox. The vitriol came not just from strangers who thought he was being racially insensitive but also from prominent scientists, some of whom used to be his friends. One said he should just "wither and die."

Peter Daszak was getting death threats too, some from QAnon conspirators.

Inside the U.S. government, meanwhile, the lab-leak hypothesis had survived the transition from Trump to Biden. On April 15, Director of National Intelligence Avril Haines told the House Intelligence Committee that two "plausible theories" were being weighed: a lab accident or natural emergence.

Even so, lab-leak talk was mostly confined to right-wing news outlets through April, gleefully flogged by Tucker Carlson and studiously avoided by most of the mainstream media. In Congress, the Energy and Commerce Committee's Republican minority had launched its own inquiry, but there was little buy-in from Democrats and the NIH didn't provide responses to its lengthy list of demands for information.

The ground began to shift on May 2, when Nicholas Wade, a former *New York Times* science writer known in part for writing a controversial book about how genes shape the social behavior of different races, published a lengthy essay on Medium. In it, he analyzed the scientific clues both for and against a lab leak, and excoriated the media for its failure to report on the dueling hypotheses. Wade devoted a full section to the "furin cleavage site," a distinctive segment of SARS-CoV-2's genetic code that makes the virus more infectious by allowing it to efficiently enter human cells.

Within the scientific community, one thing leapt off the page. Wade quoted one of the world's most famous microbiologists, Dr. David Baltimore, saying that he believed the furin cleavage site "was the smoking gun for the origin of the virus." Baltimore, a Nobel Laureate and pioneer in molecular biology, was about as far from Steve Bannon and the conspiracy theorists as it was possible to get. His judgment, that the furin cleavage site raised the prospect of gene manipulation, had to be taken seriously.

With questions growing, NIH director Dr. Francis Collins released a statement on May 19 asserting that "neither NIH nor NIAID have ever approved any grant that would have supported 'gain-of-function' research on coronaviruses that would have increased their transmissibility or lethality for humans."

On May 24, the WHO's decision-making body, the World Health Assembly, kicked off a virtual edition of its annual conference. In the weeks leading up to it, a parade of high-profile stories broke, including two front-page reports in *The Wall Street Journal* and a long Medium post from a second former *New York Times* science reporter. Not surprisingly, China's government fired back during the conference, saying that it would not participate in further inquiries within its borders.

On May 28, two days after President Biden announced his 90-day intelligence review, the U.S. Senate passed a unanimous resolution, which Jamie Metzl had helped shape, calling on the World Health Organization to launch a comprehensive investigation into the origins of the virus.

Will we ever know the truth? Dr. David Relman of Stanford University School of Medicine has been advocating for an investigation like the 9/11 Commission to examine COVID-19's origins. But 9/11 took place in one day, he said, whereas "this has so many different manifestations, consequences, responses across nations. All of that makes it a hundred-dimensional problem."

The bigger problem is that so much time has gone by. "With every passing day and week, the kinds of information that might prove helpful will have a tendency to dissipate and disappear," he said. "The world ages and things get moved, and biological

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signals degrade."

China obviously bears responsibility for stonewalling investigators. Whether it did so out of sheer authoritarian habit or because it had a lab leak to hide is, and may always be, unknown.

The United States deserves a healthy share of blame as well. Thanks to their unprecedented track record of mendacity and race-baiting, Trump and his allies had less than zero credibility. And the practice of funding risky research via cutouts like EcoHealth Alliance enmeshed leading virologists in conflicts of interest at the exact moment their expertise was most desperately needed.

Now, at least, there appears to be the prospect of a level inquiry—the kind Gilles Demaneuf and Jamie Metzl had wanted from the start. "We needed to create a space where all of the hypotheses could be considered," Metzl said.

If the lab-leak explanation proves accurate, history may credit Demaneuf and his fellow doubters for breaking the dam—not that they have any intention of stopping. They are now knee-deep in examining the WIV's construction orders, sewage output, and cell phone traffic. The thought driving Paris Group cofounder Virginie Courtier forward is simple: "There are unanswered questions," she says, "and a few human beings know the answers."

Additional reporting by Lili Pike, with research assistance from Stan Friedman.

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Date: Sun, 27 Jun 2021 3:16:23 PM -0400
Sent: Sun, 27 Jun 2021 3:15:49 PM -0400
Subject: RE: News from Eddie Holmes. Re: Confidential - Re. Jeff Sachs' article on the NIH-funded work, and the Lancet COVID Commission
From: Peter Daszak (b)(6)
To: David Morens
CC: peter hotez (b)(6) Keusch, Gerald T (b)(6) Rich Roberts (b)(6)

I'd be happy to help fact check, supply references to bolster the arguments etc. even though it would not include me.

By the way – just received a request to review another paper publishing a new CoV from bats in Yunnan that's close to SARS-CoV-2 – 90.7% similar.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

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520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
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USA

Tel.: (b)(6)
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

From: Peter Daszak (b)(6)
Sent: Sunday, June 27, 2021 3:12 PM
To: 'David Morens' (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

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

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EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

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From: David Morens (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

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Cheers,

Peter

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EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

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From: David Morens (b)(6)
Sent: Saturday, June 26, 2021 4:06 PM
To: Peter Daszak (b)(6)
Cc: peter hotez (b)(6) Keusch, Gerald T. (b)(6); Rich Roberts (b)(6)
Subject: Re: Confidential - Re. Jeff Sachs' article on the NIH-funded work, and the Lancet COVID Commission

peter, i seem unable to access the entire article. d

Sent from my iPhone
David M Morens
OD, NIAID, NIH

> On Jun 26, 2021, at 15:02, Peter Daszak (b)(6) wrote:
>
> Dear all,
>
> 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

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REL0000481173

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Date: Sat, 5 Jun 2021 12:56:33 PM -0400

Sent: Sat, 5 Jun 2021 12:55:55 PM -0400

Subject: Re: Daily Mail: Now one of the original lab leak deniers calls for a 'thorough investigation' into Covid's origin as he admits 'a lot of disturbing information' has surfaced since he signed Lancet letter denouncing theory

From: Breman, Joel (NIH/FIC) [V] < (b) (6) >

To: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] < (b) (6)

Rosenthal, Philip (Infectious Diseases) < (b) (6) >; Keusch, Gerald T < (b) (6) Karen Goraleski <(b) (6) >; Jacobson, Julie (b) (6) <(b) (6) >; Stephen Popper < (b) (6) >; (b) (6) christine- (b)(6) (b) (6) Dan Bausch ((b) (6) < (b) (6) >; Taubenberger, Jeffery (NIH/NIAID) [E] < (b) (6) >; Peter Daszak ((b) (6) < (b) (6) >; Rich Roberts ((b) (6) < (b) (6)

CC:

Attachments: image001.gif; image002.jpg; image003.jpg

Thanks, David.
I support review and importance of last topic-continuing research essential. Define what has been accomplished, key issues for future, and touch conditions in which field and lab work should be done.

Joel

Sent from my iPhone

On Jun 5, 2021, at 12:43 PM, Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] <(b) (6) wrote:

Phil here are my thoughts…..

I feel that "we" need to arrive at a consensus of what to do. We could do something, as many have suggested, or nothing at this time, as several have urged.

That Charlie Calisher (who coauthored our article last year) has had second thoughts, suggests that ASTMH members don't have consensus on at least some issues. To me that suggests it would be difficult to write something/things that take an ASTMH position, although views of individual scientists within ASTMH should be fine.

Of several related things that might be written about singly or together are:

Man-made virus origin

Lab leak origin

Grant termination issues

Gain of function issues

Importance of continuing collaborative international research on sarbeco- and merbeco-virus

Last year's two papers covered the first 3 of the items above, and my sense is that we may not have unanimity on the first two of those. If we did a one year update we might have to do some finessing.

The third issue, grant termination, is something I would personally have difficulty doing since my boss, Tony, might take the heat, and I can't throw him under the bus, especially as he is working hard behind the scenes to undo the damage.

Gain of function is something that could be written about, but it is a bit tangential and in any case related to the man-made virus issue.

The issue of the importance of continuing sarbeco research is the easiest life, and if the focus was on that it would perhaps be possible to slip in a side dish of the unlikelihood of the first 2 issues, and perhaps the others as well.

I think that if we do tackle the first two subjects it will be a problem representing the Society. In my view, it would ideally be a paper by scientists themselves, not the Society as a whole.

The one year follow up, which I and several others have raised, would have to be such a paper, but several of us on this email have advised against doing even that.

So, where are we?

I look to the leadership, you Phil, Presidents past present and future, Karen, and other leaders to help steer this forward.

<image001.gif>

David M. Morens, M.D.
CAPT, United States Public Health Service
Senior Advisor to the Director
Office of the Director
National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases
National Institutes of Health
Building 31, Room 7A-03
31 Center Drive, MSC 2520
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(b) (6) (assistant: Whitney Robinson)
(b) (6)
(b) (6)

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<image002.jpg>

From: Rosenthal, Philip (Infectious Diseases) < (b) (6)
Sent: Saturday, June 5, 2021 10:19 AM

To: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] < (b) (6) Keusch, Gerald T < (b) (6)
Cc: Breman, Joel (NIH/FIC) [V] <(b) (6) >; Karen Goraleski < (b) (6) Jacobson, Julie (b) (6) < (b) (6) >; Stephen Popper < (b) (6) (b) (6) (b) (6) (b) (6) Dan Bausch ((b) (6) < (b) (6) >; Taubenberger, Jeffery (NIH/NIAID) [E] < (b) (6) Peter Daszak ((b) (6) <(b) (6) >; Rich Roberts ((b) (6) < (b) (6)
Subject: RE: Daily Mail: Now one of the original lab leak deniers calls for a 'thorough investigation' into Covid's origin as he admits 'a lot of disturbing information' has surfaced since he signed Lancet letter denouncing theory

David, Jerry, et al,

I'm fully supportive of a follow-up article in the AJTMH on COVID origins. The sooner the better. I suggest working, despite the craziness, on a fully reasoned and rational discussion, admitting uncertainty, but not implying that uncertainty supports a possibility with no scientific support. After the long, thoughtful piece last year, we might go with a short editorial format (~1000 words) this year, but alternatively this piece could again be a longer Perspective if this seems appropriate. I'm happy to help with writing if desired, but of course I'm not an expert in this area, and we have many experts involved.

Regards,
Phil

From: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b) (6) >
Sent: Friday, June 4, 2021 2:14 PM
To: Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6)
Cc: Breman, Joel (NIH/FIC) [V] (b) (6) >; Karen Goraleski (b) (6) , Philip (Infectious Diseases) (b) (6) >; Jacobson, Julie ((b) (6)) < (b) (6) >; Stephen Popper < (b) (6) (b) (6) ; (b) (6) (b) (6) Bausch ((b) (6)) (b) (6) Taubenberger, Jeffery (NIH/NIAID) [E] < (b) (6) >; Peter Daszak (b) (6) >; Rich Roberts ((b) (6) (b) (6)
Subject: Re: Daily Mail: Now one of the original lab leak deniers calls for a 'thorough investigation' into Covid's origin as he admits 'a lot of disturbing information' has surfaced since he signed Lancet letter denouncing theory

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This message came from outside your organization.

Jerry, i think that's a good idea. I floated the thought of something similar a few days ago

Let's hear again from Karen, Phil, Julie, Joel, Dan Christine and the others. This is doable altho the details are to be determined. d

Sent from my iPhone
David M Morens
OD, NIAID, NIH

On Jun 4, 2021, at 17:08, Keusch, Gerald T (b) (6) wrote:

I was thinking along the same lines. At least today two Washington Post journalists said some rational things about the spillover of CoV-2 to the human population.

It seems to me there should be a one year reassessment of the article published last year, with all of us continuing to support the most likely evidence supported pathways rather

than the evidence free lab leak scenario, and why the heat of the debate as currently being framed (it is essentially free of any light) will prevent any non-political international science based approach to move forward.

Jerry

From: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] <(b) (6)
Sent: Friday, June 4, 2021 4:35 PM
To: Breman, Joel (NIH/FIC) [V] <(b) (6) >; Karen Goraleski <(b) (6) >; Rosenthal, Philip (Infectious Diseases) <(b) (6) >; Jacobson, Julie ((b) (6) <(b) (6) >; Stephen Popper < (b) (6) > (b) (6) Breman, Joel (NIH/FIC) [V] < (b) (6) (b) (6) (b) (6) Dan Bausch ((b) (6)
Cc: Taubenberger, Jeffery (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b) (6) >; Peter Daszak ((b) (6) < (b) (6) g>; Rich Roberts(b) (6) (b) (6) Keusch, Gerald T (b)(6)
Subject: FW: Daily Mail: Now one of the original lab leak deniers calls for a 'thorough investigation' into Covid's origin as he admits 'a lot of disturbing information' has surfaced since he signed Lancet letter denouncing theory

Dear ASTMH colleagues,

As of today, shockingly, our own Charlie Calisher, who has been involved in so-called GOF research, and who coauthored last year's ASTMH paper, and who has been an esteemed colleague of mine for 45+ years, told the press in two separate interviews that he now thinks the lab leak theory is possible. Peter Palese, an esteemed researcher who has done and been accused of GOF research today said the same. I am very depressed by this, as I know these men and their scientific creds and their integrity.

What is going on?

Possibility no. 1: I am totally crazy and the whole world is a conspiracy that I am blind to.

Possibility no. 2: this is a McCarthy-era witch hunt story and good people are being drawn into it from fear, moral confusion, or a weak inability to evaluate scientific evidence I (I rather hope it's not the latter)….

Before deciding on which of these two, I would recommend seeing the play, or more conveniently and quickly the movie made from it, of Arthur Miller's McCarthy-era classic "The Crucible". I went through all of this as a kid. This whole thing is to me déjà vu all over again.

I don't know what, if anything, ASTMH can or should do, but let us at least agree that this is one of the most dangerous attacks on science in memory.

Surely we should have a voice in some sphere.

<image001.gif>

David M. Morens, M.D.
CAPT, United States Public Health Service
Senior Advisor to the Director
Office of the Director
National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases
National Institutes of Health

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REL0000481174

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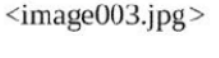
Now one of the original lab leak deniers calls for a 'thorough investigation' into Covid's origin as he admits 'a lot of disturbing information' has surfaced since he signed Lancet letter denouncing theory

- **EXCLUSIVE: Peter Palese has U-turned after claiming virus was natural in origin**
- **New York microbiologist signed letter in Lancet denouncing all other theories**
- **'Bullying' letter has been described as ostracizing dissenting voices in science**

By Joe Davies For Mailonline
Published: 12:11 EDT, 4 June 2021 | Updated: 13:46 EDT, 4 June 2021



Dr Peter Palese, a professor of microbiology at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai in New York, has U-turned after previously supporting a letter denying that COVID-19 could've leaked from a Wuhan lab

One of the 27 Covid lab leak deniers who signed a letter denouncing the theory that the virus escaped from a lab in Wuhan has now called for a 'thorough investigation' into Covid's origins, MailOnline can reveal.

Dr Peter Palese, a microbiologist at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai in New York, signed the letter in the Lancet in February last year claiming the virus could only have been natural in origin and to suggest otherwise would create 'fear, rumors, and prejudice'.

The 'bullying' letter was criticized by experts for ostracizing anyone offering different opinions on the virus' origins, dismissing them as conspiracy theorists.

It is only now, nearly 16 months after that letter was published in the world-renowned medical journal, that the theory Covid was accidentally leaked from a lab in Wuhan is being looked at seriously.

US President **Joe Biden** last week ordered intelligence agencies to launch a probe into whether Covid was man-made after all. But **China** immediately hit back and called the suggestion a 'conspiracy'.

And now Professor Palese, 77, has made a significant U-turn, admitting all theories on how Covid came about now need proper investigating.

He told MailOnline: 'I believe a thorough investigation about the origin of the Covid-19 virus is needed.

'A lot of disturbing information has surfaced since the Lancet letter I signed, so I want to see answers covering all questions.'

Asked how he was originally approached to sign the letter and what new information had come to light specifically, Professor Palese declined to comment.

Palese spoke out as America's leading pandemic expert Dr. Anthony Fauci continues to face fevered calls to resign after emails revealed that leading virus experts warned Covid could be man-made even as he downplayed the possibility.

The emails also showed he communicated with Dr. Peter Daszak, the head of a non-profit that funneled U.S. taxpayer dollars to the Wuhan Institute of Virology.

Biden through his support behind the embattled expert on Friday, saying: 'Yes I'm very confident in Dr. Fauci.'

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Dr. Daszak - a key architect of the Lancet letter - runs the New York-based, tax payer-funded non-profit EcoHealth Alliance, which has funneled hundreds of thousands of dollars to the Wuhan Institute of Virology.

Guardian forced to amend article it published by Peter Daszack to reveal his ties to Wuhan lab as Lancet editor voices support for lab leak theory denouncement

The Guardian was forced to amend an article it published by Dr Peter Daszack to include a reference to his work with the Wuhan Institute of Virology.

The article, published in June last year, was amended three days after its publication.

In the article titled 'Ignore the conspiracy theories: scientists know Covid-19 wasn't created in a lab', Dr Daszack said the lab-leak theory was a 'chapter in a tale of blame, misinformation and finger-pointing'.

He characterised lab-leak theorists as 'conspiracy theorists' believing in 'frankenviruses'.

The Guardian was forced to amend the original article to highlight Dr Daszack's ties to the Wuhan lab from where some suggest Covid was accidentally leaked.

The paper said: 'This article was amended on 11 June 2020 to make clear the writer's past work with researchers at the Wuhan Institute of Virology.'

Editor of the Lancet Richard Horton — who published the letter dismissing theories Covid may not have originated naturally in his prestigious scientific journal — Tweeted support for the piece.

He wrote: 'Peter Daszak rejects conspiracy theories about the origins of Covid-19 and he knows more than most of us about coronaviruses.'

Mr Horton has regularly criticised lab-leak theories during the pandemic.

He told the Hong Kong-based South China Morning Post it was it is 'not helpful' and 'unfair' to blame China for being the source of the pandemic last year.

He worked with the lab's so-called 'bat woman' Shi Zhengli as they investigated and modified coronaviruses.

Shi, 57, proved that horseshoe bats were behind a SARS virus that killed nearly 800 people in 2002 and has collected thousands of samples from bat caves.

Dr Daszak was one four Brits to sign the letter, including SAGE advisor Sir Jeremy Farrar and two other experts working for the Welcome Trust at the time. The letters' signatories included four others who worked for EcoHealth.

Jamie Metzl, who sits on the World Health Organization's advisory committee on human genome editing and is a form Bill Clinton administration staffer, said Dr Daszak's letter was a 'form of thuggery'.

He said: 'The Lancet letter was scientific propaganda and a form of thuggery and intimidation.

'By labeling anyone with different views a conspiracy theorist, the Lancet letter was the worst form of bullying in full contravention of the scientific method.'

MailOnline has approached the letters' other signatories for comment.

A Freedom of Information Act request revealed Dr Daszak told his fellow signatories in an email that the letter would not be sent under the EcoHealth logo 'and will not be identifiable as coming from any one organization of person'.

The emails show he even considered not signing the letter himself, although in the end he did.

The idea, he said was for it to be coming from 'a community supporting our colleagues'.

The letter — titled 'Statement in support of the scientists, public health professionals, and medical professionals of China combatting Covid-19' — praised the Chinese 'who continue to save lives and protect global health during the challenge of the Covid-19 outbreak'.

It went on to add: 'We stand together to strongly condemn conspiracy theories suggesting that Covid-19 does not have a natural origin.

'Conspiracy theories do nothing but create fear, rumors and prejudices that jeopardize our global collaboration in the fight against the virus.'

It ended with the words: 'We declare no competing interests.'

The letter proved so influential that it virtually ended debate on the origin of Covid for more than a year.

Anyone who suggested it could have been man-made was shot down amid accusations of anti-Chinese xenophobia.

Robert Redfield, the former director of the Centers for Disease Control told Vanity Fair he received death threats after floating the theory that the virus could have been man-made.

He said: 'I was threatened and ostracized because I proposed another hypothesis. I expected it from politicians. I didn't expect it from science.'

Dr Peter Daszak, 55, from Manchester, orchestrated a behind-the-scenes 'bullying' campaign to ensure blame for Covid was directed away from a Chinese lab with which he had worked closely.

Dr Daszack worked with the lab's so-called 'bat woman' Shi Zhengli (pictured left) as they investigated and modified coronaviruses. Shi, 57, proved that horseshoe bats were behind a SARS virus that killed nearly 800 people in 2002 and has collected thousands of samples from bat caves

The theory the virus escaped from the Wuhan Institute of Virology was originally dismissed by left-leaning media

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outlets last year as a conspiracy theory after it was mentioned by then-President Donald Trump.
But they have now changed course with the launch of the US investigation.
Liberal US outlets, who slammed Mr Trump when he said a year ago said he had 'a high degree of confidence' that the virus escaped from a lab, have finally conceded that he may have been right — after a year ridiculing the suggestion.

Who signed the letter in The Lancet?

- Peter Daszak, EcoHealth Alliance, New York
- Charles Calisher, Colorado State University
- Dennis Carroll, Scowcroft Institute of International Affairs, Texas
- Rita Colwell, University of Maryland
- Ronald Corley, NEIDL Institute, Boston
- Christian Drosten, Charité – Universitatsmedizin Berlin, Germany
- Luis Enjuanes, National Center of Biotechnology, Madrid
- Jeremy Farrar, The Wellcome Trust, London
- Hume Field, EcoHealth Alliance, New York
- Josie Golding, The Wellcome Trust, London
- Alexander Gorbalenya, Leiden University Medical Center, Leiden, Netherlands
- Bart Haagmans, Erasmus Medical Center, Rotterdam, Netherlands
- James Hughes, Emory University, Atlanta
- William Karesh, EcoHealth Alliance, New York
- Gerald Keusch, Boston University
- Sai Kit Lam, University of Malaya, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
- Juan Lubroth, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, Rome, Italy
- John Mackenzie, Curtin University, Perth, Australia
- Larry Madoff, Massachusetts Medical School
- Jonna Mazet, University of California at Davis
- Peter Palese, Icahn School of Medicine, New York
- Stanley Perlman, University of Iowa
- Leo Poon, The University of Hong Kong
- Bernard Roizman, University of Chicago
- Linda Saif, The Ohio State University
- Kanta Subbarao, The University of Melbourne, Australia
- Mike Turner, The Wellcome Trust, London

The lab-leak theory was bolstered last week after it was revealed three workers at the Wuhan lab were hospitalized in November, 2019, months before Covid was first discovered in China.
China claims the virus was transmitted to humans from an animal host, with bats and pangolins both named as potential sources. Many scientists agree that is the most likely theory.
Professor of clinical microbiology at the University of Cambridge Ravi Gupta, a member of Nervtag, said the theory has not yet been investigated with 'scientific rigor'.
He told **The Telegraph**: 'The possibility was not adequately explored due to lack of access to primary records by the WHO group. Lab leak has not been scientifically rejected as a cause using [the] scientific rigor that one would expect.'
A soon to be published report by a team of British and Norwegian experts suggests it is possible to trace the creation of the virus to research in China that began in 2008.
Professor David Relman, a microbiologist at Stanford University, said the theory needs to be investigated by an international consortium of scientists in collaboration with the UN.
He said: 'Ideally, an investigation would rely on an international consortium of scientists under the auspices of many national academies of science working in partnership, in collaboration with an international governance entity, the UN Secretary General's Office, or something of that sort.'
And Harvard epidemiologist Professor Marc Lipsitch said a lab escape scenario 'remains plausible enough that it should be looked into rigorously'.
He told the paper: 'This is not a fringe position, given that multiple European governments and Dr Tedros have said the same.'
He said that while scientists are not saying a lab origin is more likely than a natural one, a thorough investigation is needed to reveal the cause of the pandemic.
As Dr Daszak's links to the Wuhan lab become clearer, more questions are being asked about his influence over the WHO team that went to China in January and stayed for four weeks searching for answers.
The team was met with resistance in China. Authorities there made them quarantine for two weeks in Wuhan and

barred two members completely after they tested positive for coronavirus antibodies.
But critics say the WHO researchers were too cozy with Chinese authorities, who are desperate not to shoulder the blame for a worldwide death toll now approaching 3.6 million.
They claim its members may have been influenced by a tour they took round a 'propaganda museum' which described Wuhan's fight against the virus and the leading role taken by President Xi Jinping.
While China has tried to insist the virus originated elsewhere, academics, politicians and the media have begun to contemplate the possibility it escaped from the WIV - raising suspicions that Chinese officials simply hid evidence of the early spread
The Wuhan Institute of Virology is about 20 miles from the Huanan Seafood Market where the first coronavirus cases are reported to have occurred
In recent weeks, the lab-escape theory has gained ground. Already British intelligence officials, who are helping the US search for the cause of the pandemic that has cost nearly 600,000 American lives, are said to be leaning towards the man-made scenario.
Last week MailOnline revealed two leading scientists had found 'unique fingerprints' in Covid samples that could only have come from lab manipulation.
British Professor Angus Dalgleish and Norwegian scientist Birger Sørensen, wrote that they have had 'prima facie evidence of retro-engineering in China' for a year — but were ignored by academics and major journals.

Did Covid originate in Chinese lab?

The Wuhan Institute of Virology has been collecting numerous coronaviruses from bats ever since the SARS outbreak in 2002.
They have also published papers describing how these bat viruses have interacted with human cells.
US Embassy staff visited the lab in 2018 and 'had grave safety concerns' over the protocols which were being observed at the facility.
The lab is just eight miles from the Huanan wet market which is where the first cluster of infections erupted in Wuhan.
The market is just a few hundred yards from another lab called the Wuhan Centers for Disease Prevention and Control (WHCDC).
The WHCDC kept disease-ridden animals in its labs, including some 605 bats.
Those who support the theory argue that Covid-19 could have leaked from either or both of these facilities and spread to the wet market.
Most argue that this would have been a virus they were studying rather than one which was engineered.
Last year a bombshell paper from the Beijing-sponsored South China University of Technology recounted how bats once attacked a researcher at the WHCDC and 'blood of bat was on his skin.'
The report says: 'Genome sequences from patients were 96% or 89% identical to the Bat CoV ZC45 coronavirus originally found in Rhinolophus affinis (intermediate horseshoe bat).'
It describes how the only native bats are found around 600 miles away from the Wuhan seafood market and that the probability of bats flying from Yunnan and Zhejiang provinces was minimal.
In addition there is little to suggest the local populace eat the bats as evidenced by testimonies of 31 residents and 28 visitors.
Instead the authors point to research being carried out within 300 yards at the WHCDC.
One of the researchers at the WHCDC described quarantining himself for two weeks after a bat's blood got on his skin, according to the report. That same man also quarantined himself after a bat urinated on him.
And he also mentions discovering a live tick from a bat - parasites known for their ability to pass infections through a host animal's blood.
'The WHCDC was also adjacent to the Union Hospital (Figure 1, bottom) where the first group of doctors were infected during this epidemic.' The report says.
'It is plausible that the virus leaked around and some of them contaminated the initial patients in this epidemic, though solid proofs are needed in future study.'
Professor Dalgleish, 71, a vaccine researcher and professor of oncology at St George's Hospital, last year struggled to find a publisher for his paper suggesting the virus's spike protein contains artificially inserted sequences.
He said the research was shunned by the scientific community, who did not want to threaten China or be seen to be agreeing with President Donald Trump — who was a big advocate for the theory the virus was leaked from a lab at the time.
The oncologist said: 'The changes required to infect humans are extremely unlikely to have occurred naturally.'
Professor Dalgleish — who ran for Parliament as a UKIP candidate in 2015 — said the President's use of the terms 'Wuhan flu' and 'China virus' damaged scientific debate on the subject.
He told The Times: 'I was basically ostracized. I was fearful — really frightened by the way I was being treated. I was told I was not an expert on coronaviruses and I should just shut up.
'We couldn't believe people with whom we'd collaborated and published papers with in the past would shun us — I

was warned I was out of my depth and I shouldn't get into this and I'd make a fool of myself.'
And just last week President Joe Biden ordered another look at the theory as part of a wide-ranging intelligence investigation into the pandemic's origins. He felt it so urgent that he put a 90-day deadline for a conclusion.
Emails from Dr Anthony Fauci, Mr Biden's chief medical advisor, show that leading virus experts warned Covid could be man-made even as he downplayed the possibility.
Fauci says those emails, obtained by Buzzfeed, have been taken out of context.
But he did U-turn about where the virus may have originated this week, saying 'you never know'.
One of them was from Dr Daszak, who thanked Dr Fauci for pushing back on the man-made theory.
In April, Dr Drazak wrote: 'I just wanted to say a personal thank you on behalf of our staff and collaborators, for publicly standing up and stating that the scientific evidence supports a natural origin for Covid-19 from a bat-to-human spillover, not a lab release from the Wuhan Institute of Virology.'
Even WHO's Ethiopian director-general Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said the report was not extensive enough and more work needed to be done to discover the cause of Covid.
'As far as WHO is concerned, all hypotheses remain on the table,' he said.
'This report is a very important beginning, but it is not the end.'
America is looking at the theory seriously, leading to China hitting out at the 'dark history' of the US intelligence community after President Biden's probe was announced.
Lijian Zhao, foreign ministry spokesman who has been Beijing's point-man in trying to pin blame for the pandemic outside the country's borders, accused the US of trying to shift blame away from its own high Covid case and death counts - and suggested security services may be involved in a cover-up.
Meanwhile Hu Xijin, editor of the state mouthpiece Global Times newspaper, accused Biden of trying to discredit a WHO investigation which concluded that a lab leak is 'unlikely' — although critics have previously blasted that report as a China-centric whitewash.
China's American embassy also hit out, accusing Biden and his security services of being 'fixated on political manipulation and (the) blame game' in a statement on its website.
No10 officials have called for investigators to probe all theories as to how the Covid pandemic began.
Dominic Cummings this week revealed the PM held meetings when the crisis first began to discuss whether it had 'escaped' from a laboratory and whether the disease had been 'engineered'.

The Lancet letter in full: 'Statement in support of the scientists, public health professionals, and medical professionals of China combatting COVID-19'

We are public health scientists who have closely followed the emergence of 2019 novel coronavirus disease (Covid-19) and are deeply concerned about its impact on global health and wellbeing.
We have watched as the scientists, public health professionals, and medical professionals of China, in particular, have worked diligently and effectively to rapidly identify the pathogen behind this outbreak, put in place significant measures to reduce its impact, and share their results transparently with the global health community. This effort has been remarkable.
We sign this statement in solidarity with all scientists and health professionals in China who continue to save lives and protect global health during the challenge of the Covid-19 outbreak.
We are all in this together, with our Chinese counterparts in the forefront, against this new viral threat.
The rapid, open, and transparent sharing of data on this outbreak is now being threatened by rumours and misinformation around its origins.
We stand together to strongly condemn conspiracy theories suggesting that Covid-19 does not have a natural origin.
Scientists from multiple countries have published and analysed genomes of the causative agent, severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2), and they overwhelmingly conclude that this coronavirus originated in wildlife, as have so many other emerging pathogens.
This is further supported by a letter from the presidents of the US National Academies of Science, Engineering, and Medicine and by the scientific communities they represent.
Conspiracy theories do nothing but create fear, rumours, and prejudice that jeopardise our global collaboration in the fight against this virus.
We support the call from the Director-General of WHO to promote scientific evidence and unity over misinformation and conjecture.
We want you, the science and health professionals of China, to know that we stand with you in your fight against this virus.
We invite others to join us in supporting the scientists, public health professionals, and medical professionals of Wuhan and across China. Stand with our colleagues on the frontline!
We speak in one voice. To add your support for this statement, sign our letter online. LM is editor of ProMED-mail. We declare no competing interests.
Sen. Rand Paul says Fauci's emails paint a 'disturbing picture' about what he knew about work inside the Wuhan

lab

Sen. Rand Paul continued his blitz on Dr. Anthony Fauci in the wake of Fauci's email dump, telling Fox that Fauci knew the US was funding gain-of-function research in Wuhan even though he continues to deny it.

The Republican from Kentucky told Fox Thursday night that Fauci's emails 'tell me early on that he was very worried' before the pandemic even started.

'There's a disturbing picture. He gets an email or he gets notification of what's going on in Wuhan and immediately sends something to his assistant saying, "We must meet immediately." And in the subject line it says gain of function research in Wuhan.'

While Paul and other Republicans have come after Fauci, Biden reaffirmed his confidence in Fauci in a Friday morning press conference.

The president had actually left the room where he gave the speech when DailyMail.com shouted a question to him about the director of the U.S. National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases.

President Biden stuck his head back in to answer.

'Yes I'm very confident in Dr. Fauci,' he said.

Paul's Thursday night interview on Fox - and weeks of public comments that - makes it clear that senator doesn't share have the same faith in Fauci, and he alluded to a February 1, 2020 email exchange between Fauci and Principal NIAID Director Dr. Hugh Auchincloss.

Auchincloss wrote to Fauci to discuss a paper Fauci sent him appearing to question if National Institute of Health (NIH) grants funded gain-of-function research relating to coronaviruses.

In the email to Fauci, Auchincloss said, 'The paper you sent me says the experiments were performed before the gain of function pause but have since been reviewed and approved by NIH.'

He also noted that a colleague would 'try to determine if we have any distant ties to this work abroad.'

This was one of the 3,200-plus emails obtained and published by Buzzfeed News on Tuesday.

The NIH awarded a $3.7 million grant to EcoHealth Alliance, which is based in the United States, to study the risk of coronaviruses emerging from bats in 2014. EcoHealth Alliance in turn distributed nearly $600,000 of that funding to its collaborator, the Wuhan Institute of Virology.

The senator also took a shot Thursday at the embattled chief medical advisor on Twitter after Amazon and Barnes & Noble pulled his book from their sites because it wasn't supposed to be released until November: 'Oh, I don't know. I think they should publish it. I love science fiction.'

Paul's interview came after Fauci dismissed the recent revelations that he was warned that COVID-19 may have been 'engineered' and said that the emails are easily misunderstood.

During a Wednesday interview on the Donlon Report, Fauci said of the emails, 'The only trouble is they are really ripe to be taken out of context where someone can snip out a sentence in an email without showing the other emails, and say "based on an email from Dr. Fauci, he said such and such" where you don't really have the full context.'

Fauci added that the Wuhan lab 'is a very large lab to the tune of hundreds of millions, if not billions of dollars.'

'The grant that we're talking about was $600,000 over five years for an average of about $125,000 to $140,000 a year,' he said.

Fauci also said on Donlon that he 'can't guarantee everything that is going on in the Wuhan lab.'

Paul has been on Fox twice since a trove of Fauci's emails - dating from January to June 2020 - were obtained and published by Buzzfeed on Tuesday.

Within hours of publication, Paul tweeted '#firefauci' and other Republicans, like Majorie Greene Taylor, followed suit.

Until recently, the Wuhan lab leak was at best a fringe theory, and it has been mostly laughed off by many scientists. The general consensus on COVID-19's origin was that it jumped from a bat to a human in the Wuhan market.

Despite the recent scrutiny, Fauci continues to say that's what he believes happened.

During Senate committee hearings in early May, Paul sparred with Fauci over the two origin theories and said the lab leak is a real possibility that's not being acknowledged.

Instead of investigating the cause of COVID-19 'government authorities - self-interested in continuing gain of function research - say there's nothing to see here,' Paul said during the May 11 hearing.

'To arrive at the truth, the U.S. government should admit that the Wuhan Virology Institute was experimenting to enhance the coronavirus' ability to infect humans,' he said.

The lab leak theory is now one that President Joe Biden wants investigated.

Last week, Biden ordered a 90-day review to investigate the possibility and several high-profile public health experts have come out in recent months saying they believe that's how COVID-19 started.

British intelligence also reportedly assessed the theory recently and upgraded its likeliness from 'remote' to 'feasible'.

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Date: Wed, 14 Sep 2022 10:05:17 PM -0400
Sent: Wed, 14 Sep 2022 10:05:05 PM -0400
Subject: Re: Another attack from Republican Senators
From: "Hotez, Peter Jay (b)(6)
To: Peter Daszak (b)(6)
CC: Keusch, Gerald T (b)(6) David Moren (b)(6) Rich Roberts (b)(6) Aleksei Chmur (b)(6) >, Jeff Sturchio (b)(6)
Attachments: Sen Marshall USAID-Letter-re-EHA-suspension-9.14.2022.pdf

It's awful, here are my quotes in the Washington Post tonight

https://www.washingtonpost.com/health/2022/09/14/lancet- covid-commission-report-who/

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP

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Baylor College of Medicine: Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine | Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology | Health Policy Scholar

Baylor University, University Professor
Rice University, Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty
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iPhone

On 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.