Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

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

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

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

---

From: Hotez, Peter Jay (b)(6)
Sent: Wednesday, September 7, 2022 9:17 AM
To: Keusch, Gerald T (b) (6) (b) (6)
Cc: Peter Daszak < (b)(6) David Morens (b) (6) >; Rich Roberts < (b)(6) >; Aleksei Chmura (b)(6)
Subject: Re: Lancet covid commission report.

I've mostly given up on appealing to Richard Horton. Initially he wouldn't answer my emails, and finally when he agreed to a zoom and promised to redress my concerns, even stating he would do so in writing, so far nothing. He can't be bothered or at some level he agrees with Jeff?

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

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

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

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

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

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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 7, 2022, at 7:57 AM, Keusch, Gerald T (b)(6) wrote:

The Task Force paper is now in production. I won't have a real estimated date for publication until the galleys are available and then its 2-3 weeks. So probably end of the month, at best around the time of UNGA.

Now you should remind Horton about his promise to control Sachs. Its shameful how ineffective he, Horton, has been and how slovenly he is with accuracy and science.

We (the Independent Task Force) are addressing the dissemination of our report to be as forceful and as fast as possible when the paper appears.

Jerry

From: Hotez, Peter Jay (b)(6)
Sent: Wednesday, September 7, 2022 6:49 AM
To: Peter Daszak < (b)(6) >
Cc: Keusch, Gerald (b) (6) David Morens (b)(6) ; Rich Roberts < (b) (6) >; Aleksei Chmura (b)(6)
Subject: Re: Lancet covid commission report.

Yes I think it may be released as soon as next week, with press conferences I believe in NY around the time of UNGA (as originally planned). I was not invited to participate.

Two weeks ago, Richard Horton in a zoom agreed to address my concerns about Jeff's specific attacks on me, he was supposed to respond by last week. But nothing so far, so I'm not optimistic. Best Peter

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

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

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

Amazon Author Center | Daily Beast Contributor

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

Media Inquiries:
(b)(6)

iPhone

On Sep 7, 2022, at 2:00 AM, Peter Daszak (b)(6) wrote:

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

Just been sent this link to a webinar on sept 15th.
https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_2fOHd3OlRHuljvaKUPrYHg?s=09

It looks like the lancet Covid-19 commission's report will be released then. Is that right Peter?

I note that there's no specific placeholder for a report on the origins despite Jeff Sachs' recent pontification on the subject!!

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak

President
EcoHealth Alliance

520 8th Avenue, New York, NY10018-6507, USA

www.EcoHealthAlliance.org

Date: Wed, 11 Aug 2021 2:40:54 PM -0400
Subject: RE: FW: For Review by 2 PM Tomorrow (8/12): Letter to Dr. Fauci from Sens Graham and Paul
From: Peter Daszak (b)(6)
To: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b)(6) Keusch, Jerry (b) (6) ; Robert Kessler (b)(6)
Attachments: image001.gif; image002.jpg

Perfect response. Will be kept strictly confidential by us and please at some point let Tony know again that we 1) feel his pain, and 2) admire his resilience in speaking truth.

I can't believe they wheeled out the old CGG-CGG argument again. Of course, the problem is that to their base, it will be yet more 'proof' of what they all want to be true. This letter does a good job of providing real information for those who disagree with, or question, the right wing mantra.

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: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E (b)(6)
Sent: Wednesday, August 11, 2021 12:49 PM
To: dasz >> Peter Daszak (b)(6) ; Keusch, Jerry (b)(6) >; Robert Kessler < (b)(6)
Subject: Fwd: FW: For Review by 2 PM Tomorrow (8/12): Letter to Dr. Fauci from Sens Graham and Paul

strictly CONFIDENTIAL, please. I fixed a few things in this but it seems like Tony is conveying the right message here.... d

-------- Forwarded Message --------
Subject: FW: For Review by 2 PM Tomorrow (8/12): Letter to Dr. Fauci from Sens Graham and Paul
Date: Wed, 11 Aug 2021 15:28:18 +0000
From: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b)(6)
To: David Morens (b)(6)

MORENS_SUBPOENA_013218
MORENS_NIH_025025
REL0000481182

David

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

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From: Hastings, Andrew (NIH/NIAID) [E (b)(6)
Sent: Wednesday, August 11, 2021 8:52 AM
To: Erbelding, Emily (NIH/NIAID) [E (b)(6) ; Hauguel, Teresa (NIH/NIAID) [E]
(b)(6) ; Stemmy, Erik (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b)(6) Ford, Andrew (NIH/NIAID) [E]
Mulach, Barbara (NIH/NIAID) [E] ; Fenton, Matthew (NIH/NIAID) [E]
; Linde, Emily (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b)(6) Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E]
; NIAID DIR-OCGR <(b) (6) NIAID BUGS <(b) (6)
Cc: Harper, Jill (NIH/NIAID) [E (b)(6) Billet, Courtney (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b)(6)
Embry, Alan (NIH/NIAID) [E (b)(6) ; NIAID OCGR Leg <(b) (6)
Subject: For Review by 2 PM Tomorrow (8/12): Letter to Dr. Fauci from Sens Graham and Paul

Good morning,

Background:
Dr. Fauci received the attached Exec Sec letter on June 10th from Senators Lindsey Graham (R-SC) and Rand Paul (R-KY) regarding COVID-19 origins and, specifically, assertions raised in a *Wall Street Journal* commentary by Drs. Steven Quay and Richard Muller (the article is attached here for your reference). OCGR-Leg has used previously cleared documents to draft the attached response letter. We would appreciate your review and input.

Action:
By 2 PM Tomorrow, Thursday, August 12th, please review the attached draft response letter and provide any edits in tracked

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changes.

Please note that the audience for this letter are non-scientists and explanations of scientific concepts should be very high-level.

Let me know if you have any questions.

Thanks,
Drew

Cell #: (b)(6)

Andrew K. Hastings, Ph.D.
Public Health Analyst
Legislative Affairs and Correspondence Management Branch
Office of Communications and Government Relations
NIAID/NIH/DHHS
Bldg. 31, Room 7A17, MSC 2520
Bethesda, MD 20892-2520
(b)(6)

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MORENS_NIH_025027
REL0000481182

Date: Wed, 28 Feb 2024 7:19:34 PM -0500
Sent: Wed, 28 Feb 2024 7:16:06 PM -0500
Subject: Pathogens Project lead alleges COVID may have been started by Scientists...
From: Peter Daszak (b)(6)
To: David Morens (b)(6), Keusch, Gerald T (b)(6), peter hotez (b)(6), >; Roberts, Rich (b)(6), Jeffrey Sturchio (b)(6), Aleksei Chmura (b)(6), Keith Martin (b)(6)
Attachments: image002.jpg

Just saw your news comment David, re. the "Pathogens Project". Jeff went through their report today, which is quite balanced, but I just wanted to point out that this group includes people who've publicly denigrated EcoHealth's work without evidence (e.g. Matt Ridley, Alina Chan, David Relman, Marc Lipsitch) and others who've jumped on the bandwagon when we were kicked into the mud (e.g. Ian Lipkin, David Heymann). They're supported and sponsored by the Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists, who've run particularly egregious Op Eds on a lab leak origin of COVID (e.g. this one by Laura Kahn https://thebulletin.org/2021/11/creating- dangerous-viruses-in-the-lab-is-a-bad-way-to-guard-against-future-pandemics/#post-heading).

Just today the lead of this group, Filippa Lentzos is quoted in the Daily Telegraph (aka "Torygraph") as per below. (Note- the Torygraph regularly published Matt Ridley pieces also claiming COVID originated in via EcoHealth's work).

This whole 'pathogens project', while carefully wording their recommendations, was set up on the premise that COVID originated in the lab, i.e. the Wuhan lab, i.e. through EcoHealth's work – as per the highlighted quote from David Relman.

Note also that this article implies that WIV being banned from HHS funding is evidence of its complicity in covid origins – I believe that's why the Republican MAGA arm is so intent on de-funding EcoHealth – they can then use it as further 'evidence' we are guilty of something…

Finally, the comment about bat field sampling not involving PPE is outrageous, and clearly here being used in an attempt to shut down research like the work we do.

Please remember all this when you hear their dulcet tones…

Covid pandemic may have been started by scientists, says UN professor

Dr Filippa Lentzos calls for better regulation after saying coronavirus may be from 'research-related incident'
Sarah Knapton, SCIENCE EDITOR 28 February 2024 • 9:45pm

Covid could have been created by a "research-related incident", the UN has heard at the launch of a report calling for better regulation of experiments that could spark pandemics.
Dr Filippa Lentzos, an associate professor of science and international security at King's College London, said it was important to acknowledge the pandemic may have been started by scientists.
The comments were made at the launch of a report by the Independent Task Force on Research with Pandemic Risks, which is calling for better regulations on science that puts large numbers of people in danger.

Speaking at the UN in New York, Dr Lentzos, a member of the task force, said: "We have to acknowledge the fact that the pandemic could have started from some research-related incident.

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"Are we going to find that out? In my view, I think it's very unlikely that we will. We need to do better in

future. We are going to see more ambiguous events.

"There will be an outbreak and we won't know if it's natural, deliberate or accidental and as an international community we need to find ways in which we can investigate that.
"For our purposes what is important we need to acknowledge that it could have been, and so what should your responses be."

Covid appeared eight miles from lab

Coronavirus emerged just eight miles from the Wuhan Institute of Virology (WIV) in Wuhan, China, which had a history of working on gain-of-function experiments – work that increases the potency of viruses – and was known for lax security.

The Chinese authorities have refused to allow a proper investigation and have blocked attempts to access laboratories, research notebooks or sample databases.

WIV has since been stripped of its funding by the US after the Department of Human Health and Services (HHS) ruled it had been conducting dangerous experiments that increased the potency of coronaviruses before the pandemic.

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In its new report, the task force authors argue that modern virology research has "increased the ability of scientists to create and work with viruses that could accidentally or intentionally cause harm in some cases with potentially devastating global consequences".

"If a virus has true pandemic potential, the entire world can be affected by an accident," the authors warn.

Author David Relman, a professor of microbiology and immunology at Stanford University, said although the task force did not "explicitly address" the origins of Covid, the question "does underlie the premises, assumptions and purpose of this work".

The report says that research with the potential to spark a pandemic has a high probability of near-term benefit to the public globally and should have international scrutiny, which goes beyond normal health and safety. And it should only be carried out when no other alternative is available.

The team also called for new protocols for sample collection and laboratory work. It is feared that the virus might have spread from Wuhan after scientists collected infected bats from remote caves, often not wearing adequate personal protective equipment.

Ravi Gupta, a professor of clinical microbiology at the University of Cambridge and the task force co-chairman, told the UN that it was important to 'regulate activities with tissues from, for example, bats.'

The task force was convened by the Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists and has taken a year to produce its recommendations. The team said it would work with the UN World Health Organisation to implement the changes.

Related Topics

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

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USA

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Twitter: @PeterDaszak

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

From: David Morens (b)(6)
Sent: Wednesday, February 28, 2024 12:35 PM
To: Peter Daszak (b)(6) Keusch, Gerald T < (b)(6) peter hotez (b)(6)
Roberts, Rich (b)(6) Jeffrey Sturchio <T (b) (6) >; Aleksei Chmura <
(b)(6)
Subject: Fwd: Science: International panel calls for tighter oversight of risky pathogen studies

David Morens
(b)(6)
(b)(6) (mobile)

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---------- Forwarded message --------
From: **Folkers, Greg (NIH/NIAID) [C]** (b)(6)
Date: Wed, Feb 28, 2024 at 11:54 AM
Subject: Science: International panel calls for tighter oversight of risky pathogen studies
To:

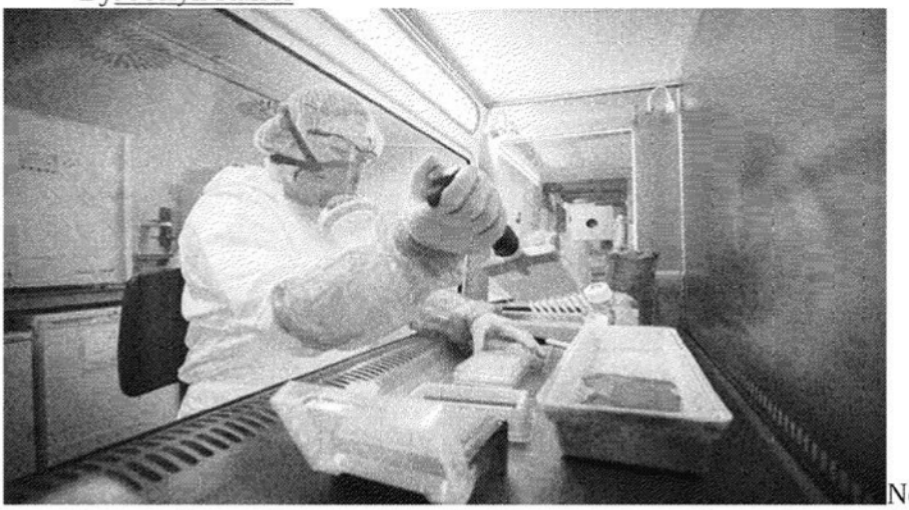
International panel calls for tighter oversight of risky pathogen studies

Pathogen Project's report does not rule out gain-of-function research and virus hunting, but urges better biosafety and biosecurity

- 28 Feb 2024
- 10:00 AM ET

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REL0000481186

- By Jocelyn Kaiser



New rules are needed for lab research on pathogens that could cause a pandemic, an expert panel says.Jane Barlow/PA Images via Getty Images

Research on dangerous human pathogens is essential to protect people from epidemics and pandemics, but safety rules for such work need to be tighter and more consistent around the world, according to a report released today by a broad international task force launched in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic. "All countries must look carefully at pathogen security, and we hope our report provides a universal framework," said co-chair Ravindra Gupta, a virologist at the University of Cambridge.

The report drew praise from scientists who acknowledge the risks of some types of virological experiments but worry more safety rules might hamper biomedical progress. It "attains a balance that has sometimes been lost in the past when the focus was on risks, with little attention paid to benefits," says virologist Michael Imperiale of the University of Michigan. "The recommendations are reasonable."

The Pathogens Project was launched in the fall of 2022 by the Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists, a group best known for its Doomsday Clock assessing nuclear and other threats. Organizers were concerned about the growing number of high-containment labs around the world that work with deadly pathogens, and the risk that an accident or a deliberate release of a virus or bacterium could spark a health catastrophe.

The project also addressed concerns about so-called gain-of-function (GOF) studies, a controversial type of research that involves modifying potential pandemic pathogens, such as H5N1 avian influenza, in ways that could make them more harmful to people. Some experts worry such research could have led to the release of SARS-CoV-2.

The bulletin assembled a 28-member independent task force consisting of experts in biosafety, biosecurity, microbiology, epidemiology, ethics, and other areas from around a dozen countries. Among them are virologist George Gao, former director of the Chinese Center for Disease Control and Prevention; chemist and former Mauritian President Ameenah Gurib-Fakim, a co-chair; and molecular biologist Alina Chan of the Broad Institute, who has promoted the notion that COVID-19 originated in a Wuhan, China, lab. The international expertise and diversity of viewpoints make the 53-page report stand out, says co-chair David Relman, a microbiologist at Stanford University.

The task force embraces a proposal from a U.S. government advisory group reviewing rules for taxpayer-funded GOF studies to expand the definition of a potential pandemic pathogen to include moderately virulent or transmissible viruses—which includes SARS-CoV-2—that could pose serious public health risks. (Current rules require stricter review only of studies using pathogens that are both highly virulent and highly transmissible, such as H5N1 and Middle East respiratory syndrome.)

The report also recommends that proposed studies on both natural and manipulated pandemic pathogens be done only if safer, alternative methods, such as studying the properties of a virus' surface proteins, aren't sufficient. These "surrogate" studies have benefits, the report points out: They can be far cheaper than working in high-containment labs and allow for more statistically rigorous experiments.

But the panel stopped short of ruling out work with dangerous live viruses or even GOF studies on potential pandemic pathogens, which some scientists and lawmakers want to ban. Surrogate methods have "caveats and limitations," and results "often need to be confirmed using actual virus research," the report concludes. Despite

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the dangers, "We all agreed that work on some of the more potentially risky pathogens needs to happen for a whole lot of important reasons," Relman says.

The panel also supports the practice of collecting wild viruses in nature and studying them in the lab in hopes of predicting which of them could trigger a pandemic. Some scientists have called for limiting or ending such studies, in part because they sometimes take place in so-called biosafety level-2 (BSL-2) laboratories, which have fewer security safeguards than BSL-3 or BSL-4 labs designed to contain more dangerous pathogens. Chinese scientists, for example, have drawn criticism for studying bat coronaviruses related to SARS-CoV in BSL-2 laboratories.

But the task force found these field studies to be valuable, Relman says. However, it urges that viruses of unknown risk be studied at the same biosafety level as well-characterized, "taxonomically close relatives." Under that approach, poorly understood bat coronaviruses, for example, would likely be studied in BSL-3 laboratories. The idea is "common sense" and would likely be the norm in the United States, says task force member Gustavo Palacios, a virologist at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai.

Reviewers of proposed studies on pandemic pathogens should weigh studies' public health benefits—such as the development of drugs, vaccines, and diagnostics—against their risks, and should seek input from outside groups for especially risky studies, the report says. The report also calls for laws and policies specifically regulating research on potential pandemic pathogens, international protocols for lab work and field studies, mandatory reporting of lab accidents—which sometimes get swept under the rug—and more research on lab safety and security risks.

Johns Hopkins University biosecurity expert Gigi Kwik Gronvall praises the report's biosafety recommendations. But achieving those goals "really comes down to the details," she says. "The next step is to actually drill down into what procedures, notifications, or processes are required to have oversight" while allowing "meaningful work [to] proceed in a way that doesn't hobble our ability to create vaccines and to do public health surveillance."

Date: Thu, 4 Apr 2024 4:47:49 PM -0400
Sent: Thu, 4 Apr 2024 4:47:35 PM -0400
Subject: Re: Ellen Carlin
From: (b)(6) (b) (6)
To: Peter Daszak < (b) (6)
CC: (b) (6)

TY, I will reconnect with her and also our mutual friend Sarah Babcock. d

Sent from Proton Mail Android

-------- Original Message --------
On 4/3/24 11:30, Peter Daszak < (b) (6) > wrote:

> David - I bumped into Ellen Carlin at the vaccine congress this morning.=I'm sharing your new email address with her.
>
> Ellen - David's new private cellphone number is + (b)(6)
>
>
>
> Cheers,
>
> Peter
>
>
>
> Peter Daszak
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> President
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> www.EcoHealthAlliance.org

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REL0000481191

Hooper is basically the original lab leaker, so this tracks.

Incidentally if anyone is in need of a bitter laugh, check out the "About Edward Hooper" section of that website.

As the weeks and months passed after the Royal Society meeting, it became increasingly clear that a carefully-organised whitewash was being carried out, partly by the original vaccinators (who had, among other things, leant on witnesses to change key aspects of their stories), and partly by well-meaning research scientists who firstly were unwilling or unable to imagine that their peers might not be telling the truth, and secondly could not countenance the possibility that their own work of the last ten years might be erroneous.

Stung by this realisation, I decided that I had no alternative but to continue my independent investigation into the origins of the pandemic.

This dude's complete lack of self-awareness and apparent unshakeable confidence that his hypothesis is correct without a shred of affirmative evidence and a mountain of data suggesting otherwise is matched only by his contemporaries Wade, Chan, Ridley, Birrell, et al.

Angie

Angela L. Rasmussen, Ph.D.
Research Scientist
Vaccine and Infectious Disease Organization (VIDO)
University of Saskatchewan
Office: (306) (b) (6)
She/her
www.vido.org

VIDO

On Aug 17, 2021, at 4:43 PM, Edward Holmes <(b) (6) > wrote:

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And just to complete the circle, Hooper has weighed in on COVID origins. Have a wild guess if he thinks there has been a conspiracy:

http://www.aidsorigins.com/covid- 19-and-the-origins-of-aids-debate/

http://www.aidsorigins.com/blunders- and-blunderbusses/

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 18 Aug 2021, at 8:36 am, Garry, Robert F (b)(6) > wrote:

Yes – Eddie and I have had some remembrances of our separate interactions with Hooper. There are a lot of parallels.

The current batch of Lab Leakers are giving Hooper a run for the money in the crazy Department.

I have nothing at all against people writing books [like Hooper or Sir Jeremy for that matter], but it's not a coincidence that several of the most annoying Lab Leakers are attempting to selling books.

b

From: David Morens (b) (6)
Date: Tuesday, August 17, 2021 at 5:20 PM
To: Edward Holmes <(b) (6) >
Cc: Jason Gale <j.gale@bloomberg.net>, Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >, Robert Garry (b) (6) <(b) (6) >, " (b) (6) " (b) (6) >
Subject: Re: Nicholas Wade's piece today in Bull Atom. Sci.

External Sender. Be aware of links, attachments and requests.

mber Nick was fired from the New York Times
and has a history of controversial stuff including truly appalling neo-eugenics crap.
Sadly, he has even influenced Don McNeil, another great journalist also fired from the NYT. I have always admired Don, a protege of sorts of the NyT's Larry Altman, but even he fell under the crazy spell

I greatly admire highly intellectual journalists as a whole, but as a group they seem to have a tenfency to go off the deep end

Is there something about this era? Did aliens put crazy-drugs in our drinking water???

Anyone remember Edward Hooper and The River, a best seller of 20+ years ago in which the author impugned, harassed, and nearly drove to the grave one of virology's heros, the late Hilary Koprowski. All from a cockamamie book length best selling slander that Hilary started the AiDS epidemic with 1950s polio vaccine trials

I knew Hilary well, the tragedy of slander by smart and smarmy journalists is real

You cannot make this shit up!!!!!

Something is very, very wrong about the interface between science and science journalism. Jason, we need folks like you to take note and follow breadcrumbs out of this forest. d

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

> On Aug 17, 2021, at 17:34, Edward Holmes <(b) (6) > wrote:
>
> It really doesn't get much lower than Wade. It really doesn't.
> ---
> **PROFESSOR EDWARD C. HOLMES FAA FRS**
> ARC Australian Laureate Fellow
>
> **THE UNIVERSITY OF SYDNEY**

MORENS_SUBPOENA_021788
MORENS_NIH_042667
REL0000481194

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 18 Aug 2021, at 7:00 am, Jason Gale (BLOOMBERG/ NEWSROOM:) <(b) (6) > wrote:

Please let me know when you can share it under embargo. I know Science goes mental when their own journos don't get stuff first. But it's helpful to have the luxury of time to properly read papers without the haste to get something out ASAP. JG

----- Original Message -----
From: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >
To: JASON GALE (b) (6) (b) (6)
CC: (b) (6) , (b) (6) ,
(b) (6)

UTC+10:00

Add to that a preprint we'll be posting next week that suggests 50,000 – 400,000 people are actually infected by bat SARSr-CoVs in SE Asia each year, and a comment from the international members of the WHO team that'll be in Nature this week or next.

As long as these articles keep up their 'drip, drip' with actual new data and analyses, all the lab leak hypothesis has is re-hashing of the same innuendo-filled vitriol.

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_021789
MORENS_NIH_042668
REL0000481194

From: Garry, Robert F (b) (6)
Sent: Tuesday, August 17, 2021 9:30 AM
To: Peter Daszak (b)(6) >; Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] <(b) (6) >; Jason Gale < (b) (6) >
Cc: (b) (6) ; (b)) (6) ; (b)(6)
Subject: Re: Nicholas Wade's piece today in Bull Atom. Sci.

Thanks Peter,

Totally agree that It's quite sad to see the attacks on scientists and science from Wade. It's the very basis for the "lab leak" hypothesis, so no surprise.

Wade is old enough to know this, but anyone that thinks that Jeremy Farrar and Tony Fauci are part of the "problem" has literally [in the case of Tony] not been paying attention for 50 years.

Looking forward to Wade and his ilk going ballistic as two new papers favoring natural origin appear shortly in *Cell* and *Science*.

Bob G.

From: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >
Date: Tuesday, August 17, 2021 at 7:40 AM
To: "Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E]" (b) (6) Jason Gale <j.gale@bloomberg.net>
Cc: "(b) (6) " <(b) (6) >, " (b) (6) " <(b) (6) >, Robert Garry <(b) (6) '(b) (6) " (b) (6)
Subject: Nicholas Wade's piece today in Bull Atom. Sci.

External Sender. Be aware of links, attachments and requests.

Nicholas Wade's at it again – another miserable innuendo-filled attack on science and the process by which scientists email, talk and come to decisions. Nothing new of course, just trash journalism published in a pseudo-scientific journal. Pretty shameless smear on some of us – no facts of course, no sue-able accusations, just snipey comments and excerpts from Social Media. It's as if we can't now be scientists and actually colleagues who break bread and share a glass any more.

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

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

Cheers,

Peter

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

By Nicholas Wade | August 17, 2021

Error! Filename not specified. A bus carrying a team of experts from the World Health Organization departs an airport in Wuhan on Jan. 14, 2021, after arriving in the Chinese city to investigate the origins of the coronavirus pandemic. That investigation is widely seen as having been obstructed by Chinese authorities. (Photo by Kyodo News via Getty Images)

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

The mishandling began at a pivotal teleconference held on February 1, 2020. The organizer was Jeremy Farrar, director of the Wellcome Trust, a large medical research charity in London. News of the conference emerged with the release this June of emails from the office of Anthony Fauci, director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID). Farrar supplied further information in his book *Spike*, published on July 22.

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

Error! Filename not specified. Letters published by *The Lancet* and *Nature Medicine* in early 2020.

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

More significant, the Chinese government would have found it much

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

At 10:32 p.m. on the evening before the February 1 conference, Fauci had received an electrifying memo from Kristian G. Andersen, a virologist at the Scripps Research institute in California. Andersen reported that the virus seemed to be man-made. "The unusual features of the virus make up a really small part of the genome," he wrote, referring presumably to a genetic component known as a furin cleavage site, which greatly enhances the virus's infectivity, "so one has to look really closely at all the sequences to see that some of the features (potentially) look engineered."

Error! Filename not specified. A key email from Kristian Andersen to Anthony Fauci.

Andersen went on to note that "after discussions earlier today, Eddie, Bob, Mike and myself all find the genome inconsistent with expectations from evolutionary theory"— meaning that, in their unanimous view, the virus didn't come from nature. "Those opinions could still change," Andersen added. Eddie is Edward C. Holmes of the University of Sydney. Bob is Robert F. Garry of Tulane University. Mike is Michael Farzan at Scripps Research.

The message sent Fauci into a whirlwind of activity. "You will have tasks today that must be done," he emailed his deputy director, Hugh Auchincloss, two hours later at 12:29 am on February 1. One of these urgent tasks evidently concerned NIAID funds that had been passed, via the EcoHealth Alliance of New York, to Zhengli Shi, China's leading bat virus expert, at the Wuhan Institute of Virology. Fauci was doubtless anxious to check whether his agency's funding of Shi's work had complied with US law, which banned funding gain-of-function research from 2014 to 2017 and required it be reported to a government panel thereafter. "Gain of function" refers to research in which a pathogen's ability to cause disease is enhanced. Auchincloss replied a few hours later that efforts were underway to ascertain "if we have any distant ties to this work abroad."

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

The participants included Fauci and possibly his nominal boss, Francis Collins, the director of the National Institutes of Health. (Farrar says in *Spike* that Collins was present, but Collins's name is

not on the list of invitees in the Fauci emails.) Officials on the UK side were Farrar and Patrick Vallance, the chief scientific adviser to the UK government. The others were mostly virologists, including Andersen, Holmes, and Andrew Rambaut of the University of Edinburgh.

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

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

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

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

RELATED:

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

Error! Filename not specified. A Jeremy Farrar email about the teleconference.

Whatever was said at the meeting, it was followed by a remarkable and almost immediate about-face. By at most three days later, Andersen had executed a 180 degree turn in his views about the virus. In an email of February 4, 2020 to Peter Daszak, president of the EcoHealth Alliance, which had directed NIAID funds to Shi, Andersen wrote, "The main crackpot theories going around at the

moment relate to this virus being somehow engineered with intent and that is demonstrably not the case." The email was obtained by U.S. Right to Know, an investigatory group.

Participants have not explained what was said at the meeting or found in the days immediately following it to induce the change of mind. Media offices at the Wellcome Trust and NIAID declined to comment on this article. Andersen, Holmes and Rambaut did not reply to emails seeking an account of the reversal.

Farrar, not Fauci, seems to have been the leader in the teleconference's deliberations. "This is not my area of expertise so I have backed off and am leaving it all to Jeremy," Fauci wrote on February 13 to a CDC official. US officials were not to take the lead in this pivotal inquiry.

Error! Filename not specified. Fauci's "leaving it all to Jeremy" email.

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

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

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

According to *Spike*, it wasn't until March, "after the addition of important new information, endless analyses, intense discussions and many sleepless nights" that Andersen and his four fellow virologists "were ready to pronounce on the origins of the novel coronavirus." Why then was Andersen, the virologists' leader, ready to pronounce just 3 days after the conference that lab release was a conspiracy theory? Farrar's account does not match with the available facts.

Nor does Andersen's. In a June interview with the *New York Times,* he painted a picture that includes a change of mind on the possible engineering of the virus "in a matter of days, while we worked around

the clock," and then that quick reversal being buttressed by drawn-out research.

"This is a textbook example of the scientific method, where a preliminary hypothesis is rejected in favor of a competing hypothesis as more data become available and analyses are completed," he said in a statement released by Scripps Research after his Jan 31 email to Fauci had become public. "I cautioned in that same email that we would need to look at the question much more closely and that our opinions could change within a few days based on new data and analyses—which they did," Anderson said in the *New York Times* interview. In that same interview, he also said that "more extensive analyses, significant additional data and thorough investigations to compare genomic diversity more broadly across coronaviruses led to the peer-reviewed study published in *Nature Medicine*."

These later data and analyses would not have been available three days after the conference, the date of Andersen's volte-face email to Daszak. And they would not have been available to Farrar as he signed the *Lancet* letter, which was published just 17 days after the teleconference.

More puzzling is Andersen's statement that in his preliminary studies "the genome of RaTG13, a SARS-related coronavirus found in bats, wasn't yet available." In fact its full sequence had been deposited by Shi in a data bank on January 24, 2020, a week before Andersen's report to Fauci, and Farrar says in *Spike* that he had seen the sequence by the time of the conference. RaTG13 is the closest known relative of SARS2, and the fact that it lacks the furin cleavage site found in SARS2 would have been a major reason for the Andersen group to suppose that this genetic element had been inserted into SARS2 in a lab.

Given his role in leading the February 1 teleconference, in presiding over the virologists' 180 degree change of views, and in arranging or influencing the *Lancet* and *Nature Medicine* letters, Farrar was evidently the driving force of the campaign to persuade the public that the SARS2 virus could not possibly have leaked from a lab. This was an unfortunate position for any scientist to take, given that he was assuring the public of something he could not be sure was true. Farrar now says in *Spike* that, although natural emergence is more likely, "nobody is yet in a position to rule out an alternative." But his campaign sought very vigorously to do exactly that. "We stand together to strongly condemn conspiracy theories suggesting that COVID-19 does not have a natural origin," Farrar and his cosignatories wrote in the *Lancet* on February 18, 2020. This lapse in scientific judgment reflects also on the other senior participants in the conference who saw what was happening but apparently took no steps to insist that scientific truth should take precedence over unjustifiable professions of certainty.

RELATED:

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

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

"I just wanted to say a personal thank you on behalf of our staff and collaborators, for publicly standing up and stating that the scientific evidence supports a natural origin for COVID-19 from a bat-to-human spillover, not a lab release from the Wuhan Institute of Virology," Daszak emailed Fauci after a White House press briefing on April 17.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Error! Filename not specified. Wuhan Institute of Virology researcher Shi Zhengli spoke about SARS during a Yixi event

(comparable to a TED talk) on June 23, 2018. (Yixi video)

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

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

Shi also failed to say when and where she had discovered the RaTG13 virus, surely important data for the closest known relative of SARS2. In fact, she had found RaTG13 in 2013, in an abandoned mine in Tongguan—the same place where six miners had fallen sick the year before. At that time, she analyzed just one of its genes and reported the virus under another name, BtCoV/4991. Daszak, the holder of her NIAID grant, told the London Times, perhaps on misinformation from Shi, that the virus was then thrown in a freezer and forgotten about until 2020. This was untrue—the virus was of much greater interest. Shi had analyzed its full genome, probably by 2018, but did not publish it. It was only when she needed a bat virus pedigree for SARS2 that Shi released information about the virus, which she now renamed RaTG13. The fact that BtCoV/4991 and RaTG13 were one and the same was discovered by Monali Rahalkar and Rahul Bahulikar, two internet-sleuthing researchers in Pune, India.

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

When RaTG13's connection to the Tongguan mine was pointed out, Shi still tried to conceal the lethality of the mine's bat viruses, saying the miners had died of a fungus infection. This untruth was corrected when a master's thesis by a Chinese doctor, Li Xu, was unearthed by the internet sleuth who calls himself TheSeeker268. The thesis reported that the miners had died of a SARS-related virus with symptoms identical to those of Covid-19 and with CT scans similar to those of Covid patients. The only evident difference between that

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virus's effects and those of SARS2 is that the miners' virus was not readily transmissible from one person to another.

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

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

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

Cheers,

Peter

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

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MORENS_NIH_042677
REL0000481194

From: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b) (6) >
Sent: Sunday, August 15, 2021 6:26 PM
To: Jason Gale <(b) (6) >
Cc: (b) (6) ;(b) (6) ;
(b) (6) (b) (6)
(b)(6)
Subject: RE: feedback on wild animals

Jason, not sure whose office politics is worse, but there is many a day I'd rather be in Australia, even if I had to drink that awful beer Fosters. (To quote Grouco Marx as he help up a glass of questionable beer: "last time I saw something like this, they had to shoot the horse")…. But I do have fond memories of Australia, and two of my closest freiends, both ex-students of mine, are out in Perth, the only large city there (if oy can call it that) I have never been, although it's high on my bucket list if this damn pandemic ever ends. He's an American public health physician and she's an Australian-Tongan PhD virologist, both wondeful smart people.

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David M. Morens, M.D.
CAPT, United States Public Health Service
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From: Jason Gale (BLOOMBERG/ NEWSROOM:) <j.gale@bloomberg.net>
Sent: Saturday, August 14, 2021 7:54 PM
To: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] <(b) (6) >
Cc: (b) (6) ; (b) (6) ;

(b) (6) (b)(6) ; Garry, Robert F(b) (6) >;

Subject: Re: feedback on wild animals

Thanks, David.
I just got off a video conf call with the current editor in NY (the one asking all the latest questions). He's very nice and I feel like he gets its. He thinks it's a fascinating story.
Problem we have in journalism is that there are some people who aren't interested in actual journalism and telling stories; they want to climb to the top and manage people. I rejected the latter route 10 years ago, but am so grateful that I still get to meet so many remarkable people, visit cool places and see all aspects of humanity.
A difficulty working for a NY-based organization is that it's assumed that all the best people are in NYC, so being in Melbourne (where I need to be to be close to my kids in Adelaide), is that folks consider Australia a backwater and, by association, I mustn't be all that important/valuable. But my new role as "global biosecurity czar" is helping somewhat.
Ahhhhh... Office politics!

From: (b)(6) At: 08/15/21 09:03:03 UTC+10:00
To: Jason Gale (BLOOMBERG/ NEWSROOM:)
Cc: (b) (6) (b) (6)
edward. (b) (6) (b) (6) , (b) (6) ,
(b) (6)
Subject: Re: feedback on wild animals

Jason, all I can say is that it must be harder to be a journalist than a scientist.... I had no idea someone at your level would get pushed back.

Usually i get from one to 4 reviewer responses to a ms. and three of those are out to lunch. Occasionally i get a reviewer who really understands the work: half of those are helpful, the other half are trashers.

Maybe it's like being in the government where i am: there is endless push back, but the push-backers are brainless idiots who don't know what they are talking about.

Do you ever get to a point where the editors leave you alone on the science? Or do they all think they are science geniuses? d

Sent from my iPhone

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David M Morens
OD, NIAID, NIH

On Aug 14, 2021, at 16:05, Jason Gale (BLOOMBERG/ NEWSROOM:) <(b) (6) wrote:

Thanks, Bob. In journalism, getting to the truth even when it's genuinely and actively pursued, can be a tortuous process!
----- Original Message -----
From: Robert F Garry <(b) (6) >
To: JASON GALE, (b) (6)
(b) (6) (b) (6)
(b)(6) , (b) (6)
At: 08/15/21 01:45:11 UTC+10:00

Looking forward to this important article. Truth is stronger than fiction.

From: Jason Gale (BLOOMBERG/ NEWSROOM:) <
j.(b) (6) >
Sent: Saturday, August 14, 2021 6:41 AM
To:(<
a(b)(6) >(b) (6)
<(b) (6) >(b) (6)
(b) (6)
(b) (6) >; Garry, Robert F <
(b) (6) >(b) (6)
(b) (6) >
Subject: Fwd:Re:feedback on wild animals

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Hi guys, in case you have nothing better to read over the weekend, this is some of the dialog I am having with editors in the U.S. Essentially, my response to questions from editor #6.
I thought I could claim victory when it looked like the story could be published this morning, but the editor of Businessweek objected and thinks he can make it better with another revision and an ETA of Tuesday. Sigh.
Jason

From: Jason Gale (BLOOMBERG/ NEWSROOM:)
At: 08/14/21 16:36:58 UTC+10:00
To: Cristina Lindblad (BLOOMBERG/ NEWSROOM:) , Eric Gelman (BLOOMBERG/ NEWSROOM:)
Cc: Joel Weber (BLOOMBERG/ NEWSROOM:)
Subject: Re:feedback on wild animals

Hi.
Thanks for the feedback and the questions, which I have tried to answer in detail.
It's often easier to have a conversation over Nexi or the phone to explain nuanced information, or details that are clear to me, but might not be to someone coming at this fresh, but that's tricky with the time difference.
When you look back at what's happened here, it seems that in trying to deflect blame for the pandemic, which became increasingly vicious as the cataclysmic nature of the Covid-19 pandemic unfolded around March-April 2020, China tried to conceal a very obvious, very plausible source of the pandemic: it's flourishing wildlife trade (worth about $90 billion in 2016).
It was an obvious cause of the pandemic because an almost identical scenario triggered an international outbreak caused by a very similar coronavirus (SARS) in 2003-04. But in attempting to cover up the wildlife trade, and making like there were never any wild animals being sold in Wuhan's wet markets, things began to backfire on China; questions were raised about the nearby lab studying these coronaviruses. The more geopolitical, heated and vicious the arguments and accusations became, the less cooperative China became. In response, the more intent/adamant some groups have become in their belief that China is covering up a lab-leak. It's become a vicious circle. If China isn't coming clean on the wild animals, what else is it trying to hide?? China's defensiveness means we may never get the cooperation needed to find the answers. If China had been honest and transparent about the wild animals in the wet markets, it might not be in this mess now.

Anyway, here are my response to your queries in green.

By the way, I wonder if the current headline:
Delayed Paper Gives Credence to Wuhan Market Covid Origin Story
doesn't convey much more than what we had 2 months earlier when we reported Xiao's findings: China Markets Sold Mink, Civets, Stoking Natural Origins Theory
Perhaps Obscured China Paper Scuppered Chance to Trace Covid Origins
would hits "China", "Covid" and "Origins" in a way that won't alienate people who already believe it was a lab-leak

<><><><>

According to the report, minks, civets, raccoon dogs and other mammals known to harbor coronaviruses were sold in plain sight for years in shops across the city, including the now infamous Huanan wet market, to which many of the earliest Covid cases were traced. The evidence collected over 30 months by **Xiao Xiao** a I'D NAME HIM HERE [[i don't know that naming a researcher no one has ever heard of adds much]]researcher working at a lab affiliated with China's Ministry of Education was hastily drafted into a manuscript and submitted to a scientific journal [Joel, we cannot name the first journal they delivered it to because the authors decline to give us the name, saying it may affect their future chances of being published] in February 2020, just weeks before the outbreak was declared a pandemic.

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While the study received wide attention when it was eventually released by a different publisher [Publisher (Springer Nature) and publication (Scientific Reports) are different. Might add confusion DO YOU WANT TO ADD NAME HERE?], its long and torturous journey to publication gave

Chinese officials an opportunity to weave alternative narratives in which the virus may have come from abroad, even from a U.S. Army biological research facility. [the stuff in bold is not contested and we go on to show how that happened, documenting with links when available]I TWEAKED WORDING HERE BUT THIS STILL ISN'T QUITE RIGHT. IF THE REPORT HAD BEEN PUBLISHED EARLIER CHINESE OFFICIALS COULD STILL HAVE DONE WHAT THEY DID—THEY COULD HAVE JUST SAID THE REPORT WAS SHODDY, OR WHATEVER, AND THEY ALSO COULD HAVE JUST IGNORED IT.
I disagree. The evidence that Xiao et al provide was meticulously documented and supported by photographs that would have been difficult/impossible for China to dismiss (as older published photos and media reports had been). What's more, Newman understands that Xiao collected blood-sucking ticks from the wild animals he studiously cataloged. His frozen tick samples could be tested for blood/antibodies/virus, which could be extremely helpful in identifying infected species PRIOR to December 2019. The WHO team knew nothing of this, so couldn't have asked China for this research or any results, had they actually done the research. The delay in the publication of Xiao's paper delayed the evidence that there were live animals sold in the Huanan market. The WHO researchers couldn't have asked about tests on wildlife that ostensibly were never there. Likewise, Chinese authorities couldn't have done the tests on animals that didn't exist. The problem is that in January and February 2020, it was widely assumed the animals HAD been there and that the necessary tests and tracing of animals (the sampling of animals on farms they were raised on, testing of farm workers, animal hunters, transporters and traders **had all been done** by researchers in China -- the very things that ultimately led to

the discovery of the origins of SARS and of MERS viruses. **None of these things were done** (or at least, there is nothing publicly available to show that they were done) **because the animals "weren't there"**. Now that we all know they were there, China as lost considerable face. The issue has become so political than there is much less/?no willingness to cooperate and conduct the additional research that the WHO-led team recommended. Ideally, Xiao's ticks should be studied, but it's doubtful that will now happen (I wouldn't be surprised if he's been ordered to incinerate them!) Hope this is clear.

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An international team of experts convened by the WHO traveled to Wuhan earlier this year to seek answers—a trip that might have yielded different results if the scientists had known about the work of Xiao Xiao, a virologist whose roles straddled epidemiology and animal research at the government-funded Key Laboratory of Southwest China Wildlife Resources Conservation and at Hubei University of Traditional Chinese Medicine.'MIGHT HAVE YIELDED DIFFERENT RESULTS' SEEMS HIGHLY SPECULATIVE. WHAT RESULTS DID IT YIELD? I'D CUT THIS GRAF
As mentioned above, the WHO-convened team of researchers was told by market authorities, vendors and regular market visitors that there were no live animals sold in the Huanan market. That undermined completely the premise that the Huanan market was the kind of place where live animals from different species are stacked in cages, with urine and fecal material drips from one cage to the one below it, where there are splatters of blood and guts from animals, and lots of potential for the spread of diseases from one species to another (including Homo sapiens). Instead, the market (and

one other one known to have been selling live wild animals in 2019) was presented as selling only frozen wild animals and aquatic species and things unlikely to be the source of SARS-CoV-2. The WHO researchers were told there were frozen ferret badgers and other wildlife found in freezers. Some of the carcasses actually came from Yunnan, the province where the closest coronavirus related to SARS-CoV-2 was found in bats -- thus establishing a potential route from Yunnan to Wuhan in wildlife. That was actually important. When the researchers showed their Chinese counterparts photos of caged raccoon dogs taken in the Huanan market by Prof. Edward Holmes five or six years earlier, they were told by Chinese scientists that the photos may have been faked, and that the market had ceased selling such live animals anyway. The WHO researchers saw no evidence (empty cages, animal pelts, etc) to dispute what the Chinese scientists told them, although they did smell "animals" -- but were told they were smelling rotten meat, sewage etc. Three people associated with the WHO-led mission told me that they didn't believe the information they were given by anyone associated with the market. But since there was no evidence to the contrary, they were unable to push the Chinese scientists further on this. **The fact that the mission concluded that frozen, not live wild animals were sold in the market undermined the thesis that Covid resulted from an animal spillover**. And the absence of strong evidence pointing to a spill over from wild animals to humans made the lab-leak theory look, in relative terms, more plausible.

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Six months and two revisions later, the journal's publishers rejected the paper. "They did not think it would have widespread appeal," says Newman,

who declined to name the publication [do you want us to say why he won't name it? I don't think it's necessary . There's no upside for scientists to make a publisher look bad (most journals are published by a handful of publishers)] "It caused us, especially our Chinese co-authors, concern that these data would not be taken seriously."

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The manuscript underwent a third revision to include data on China's pangolin trade networks (an earlier study, later contested, had implicated pangolins in the virus's spread to humans)WHO ASKED THAT THIS INFO BE INCLUDED? (I did, because we're trying to explain here why WHO missed the significance of Xiao's evidence. The WHO was slammed by other papers being submitted PLUS Xiao's paper had a weird title. That title seemed relevant to the authors back in January-February 2020, when pangolins were considered a possible SARS-CoV-2-spreading culprit. But in October 2020, pangolins were off the hook, so the title would have seem irrelevant/unimportant at first glance at WHO). It was then sent to the online journal *Scientific Reports* .

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The China-based researchers had reason to be cautious. In February 2020, the China Center for Disease Control (CCDC lets not use "CCDC". It's not commonly used like the U.S. "CDC" is, and it's going to force readers to go back and figure out what the "CCDC" is) prohibited scientists working on Covid-relate

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~~CCDC~~ Disease detectives arriving from Beijing (think this makes it clear that these are China's disease "feds"

arriving) on the first day of 2020 ordered environmental samples to be collected from drains and other surfaces at the market. Some 585 specimens were tested, of which 33 turned out to be positive for SARS-CoV-2. “All current evidence points to wild animals sold illegally,” China CDC Director George Gao and colleagues wrote in the agency’s weekly bulletin in late January. All but two of the positive specimens came from a cavernous and poorly-ventilated section of the market’s western wing, where many shops sold animals.

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~~The information void kindled a raging political debate that’s already caused a trade war between China and Australia, as nations~~ demand to know ~~how Covid emerged.~~
Australia in April 2020 called for a global inquiryinto the origins of the pandemic, including China’s handling of the initial outbreak. Days later, then-U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo used part of his Earth Day message to call on China to close its wet markets to “reduce risks to human health inside and outside of China.”

Based on a discussion today with someone with knowledge of the WHO-led mission to Wuhan in Jan-Feb 2021, a significant catalyst for China's defensiveness is the emergence of **claims for reparations** that extended from the finger-pointing at China's wet markets. These surfaced in April 2020, and have continued as recently as June 2021 (when Trump pushed for it again at a rally in the Midwest)

SO IS THIS THE POINT AT WHICH CHINA, WHICH SEEMINGLY ACCEPTED THE WET MARKET HYPOTHESIS, BEGAN TRYING TO CREATE A DIFFERENT NARRATIVE? (I think it was incremental. I believe China was embarrassed that its citizens were still buying wild

animals in wet markets to eat -- a well-known hazard for zoonotic disease transmission that China tried unsuccessfully to outlaw almost 20 years ago. But that embarrassment/humiliation morphed into rigid denial and obfuscation when governments began openly blaming the Chinese Communist Party and agitating for China to pay reparations for the pandemic. See these clips:

- USA Today: Blame the Chinese Communist Party for the coronavirus crisis: Coronavirus crisis proves communism is still a grave threat to the entire world. If Beijing had just been honest, the pandemic could be preventable. April 5, 2020
- Yahoo News: More than half of Americans think China should pay coronavirus reparations, poll shows April 9, 2020
- Voice of America: Americans Join Coronavirus Lawsuit to Make China Pay April 10, 2020
- Washington Post Opinion: China must pay reparations to Africa for its coronavirus failuresApril 16, 2020
- Reuters: In a first, Missouri sues China over coronavirus economic losses April 22, 2020
- Washington Post: Missouri is suing China over the coronavirus pandemic. It's the latest conservative gambit, April 22, 2020
- New York Post: Top German paper demands $165 billion coronavirus reparations from China April 22, 2020
- Attorney General Fitch Prepares to Sue China on Behalf of Mississippians April 22, 2020
- Newsweek: Trump on U.S. Seeking Compensation From China Over COVID-19: 'We Have Not Determined the Final Amount' April 28, 2020
- The Guardian: Trump says China

could have stopped Covid-19 and suggests US will seek damages April 28, 2020

- Intelligencer: Trump Thinks He Can Make China Pay for the Virus Like Mexico Paid for the Wall, April 30, 2020
- Washington Post: U.S. officials crafting retaliatory actions against China over coronavirus as President Trump fumes April 30, 2020
- Lawfare: Does China Really Owe the World Trillions of Dollars? May 7, 2020
- Fortune: Trump's demand that China pay coronavirus reparations evokes an ugly history May 8, 2020
- South China Morning Post: Why China won't be paying the West coronavirus reparations any time soon May 15, 2020
- Deccan Herald, India: Abhijit Bhattacharyya | Why China needs to pay reparations to the world June 4, 2020
- Why calls for reparations from China for coronavirus are an unfeasible distraction June 9, 2020
- Newsweek: Trump Demands China 'Pay Reparations' for COVID, Says $10 Trillion Not Enough June 12, 2021

In response, Geng Shuang, a spokesman for China's Foreign Ministry, denied "wildlife wet markets" existed in the country. Government researchersCAN WE BE MORE SPECIFIC? Twenty-two researchers from mostly nationally-funded laboratories (I think it's the Chinese equivalent of the NIH in the U.S.) and institutes attached to the Chinese Academy of Sciences) now dismiss the market hypothesis completely. "SARS-CoV-2 could not have possibly evolved in an animal market in a big city and even less likely in a laboratory," they wrote in a paper released last month ahead of publicationWHERE/WHENWILL IT BE

PUBLISHED? It was released as a "pre-print" on a Chinese academic repository ahead of publication that appears to be managed/owned by the Chinese Academy of Sciences. Papers are usually released in pre-print form before they have been accepted for publication or peer-reviewed as a way of expediting public access to the information. In this case, there is no information to suggest if, where or when the paper will be published.

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A more recent paperBY WHOM? (China CDC's Gao and eight other scientists mostly from the Chinese of Academy of Sciences' institutes) contends that the virus may have been imported from multiple locations worldwide, including parts of Europe where mink are raised in areas inhabited also by horseshoe bats known to harbor coronaviruses. “The official narrative changed not because the evidence changed,” says Robert Garry, a professor of microbiology and immunology at Tulane University’s School of Medicine in New Orleans “A spillover from a wet market was what caused SARS, and, embarrassingly for China, those wet markets were never shut down.” Garry is the co-author of one of the earliest papers on the origins of Covid but wasn’t involved in the research on Wuhan’s markets.

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I DON’T REALLY UNDERSTAND WHAT POINT THIS GRAF IS TRYING TO MAKE. This is intended to demonstrate the kind of gaslighting that has occurred. Some of the WHO-led researchers are veterinarians and zoologists -- they know what animals smell like, and could smell their lingering presence a year later, but were told essentially that it was impossible that they were smelling animals because **there "were no live animals**

there".) The researchers noted a mixed smell of animals and disinfectant in some areas of the market, but they were told by the market's manager that they were probably smelling the lingering stench of rotten meat and sewage, according to a joint WHO-China report. [should we add "according to Laing Wannian etc here? Liang Wannian was the leader of the Chinese research team collaborating jointly with the WHO-led research team. The source for the above description are in the annexes to the official joint WHO-China report released at the end of March 2021.]

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Earlier the same day, the international research team visited Wuhan's larger Baishazhou market, where Xiao had regularly surveyed two sellers of live wild animals. Yet the group was told only frozen food, ingredients, and kitchenware were on offer there. Liang Wannian, an epidemiologist who led the Chinese experts collaborating with the WHO-convened team, says his group had no knowledge of Xiao's data either. [if the above information on what the delegation saw all comes from this same source, maybe we should include his name higher up (The source for the description of what the origins researchers saw on Jan. 31, 2021, comes from the official 120-page joint WHO-China report and its 193-page annexes, not from Liang. Since we are essentially accusing China of concealing the information that Xiao documented, we asked Liang at a press conference in late July 2021 when the Chinese team first knew about Xiao's findings -- that the Huanan market and three others in Wuhan were selling live animals permissive to SARS-CoV-2 infection -- and what research China has done subsequently as a follow-up on this information? Liang gave a very long-winded

response in Chinese in which he said essentially "we didn't have that information in January-February 2021 when the research team was in Wuhan". I think it's important we keep this to demonstrate that we have tried to ascertain what China knew/has done and have given the Chinese researchers the opportunity to respond. In addition, I have emailed China CDC Director George Gao at least twice and not received any response.]

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Among the earliest clusters of infections recorded in Wuhan, one involved three Covid cases among staff working at a stall in Huanan. One of the employees, a 32-year-old who fell ill on Dec. 19, traded goods back and forth between the Huanan and Baishazhou markets.
WHERE DOES THIS FACT COME FROM? NOT THE REPORT, RIGHT? WHEN DID IT FIRST BECOME KNOWN? This information was from the joint WHO-China report released in March 2021, however, the WHO-led researchers went to the Baishazhou market more as a demonstration by the China team of what a perfectly functioning large food market looks like. The WHO-led team was oblivious to Xiao's research that showed there were at least two stalls in Baishazhou that had been selling live wild animals for human consuption. So this detail and its significance was lost on the WHO researchers at the time.)

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A confirmed case linking two markets that sold wild animals is “very intriguing,”says Stephen Goldstein, a research associate in evolutionary virology at the University of Utah in Salt Lake City. But tracing any contact the employee might have had with infected wildlife is impossible now that the animals are long

gone.WOULD TIMELY PUBLICATION OF THE REPORT HAVE CHANGED THIS? It's unlikely that Xiao et al's paper would have been *published* soon after It was drafted in February 2020, but it could have been *released* as a pre-print ahead of publication and peer-review that same month. That would have **confirmed** what almost everyone had suspected: that there **was** a flourishing wildlife trade in Wuhan that provides a plausible pathway by which coronavirus-infected wildlife from Yunnan and beyond could have introduced the virus to the city, sparking the Covid outbreak. It's also possible that swift recognition of these potential wild-animal vectors could have allowed scientists to test them for the virus and for antibodies against the virus while they were still alive (perhaps not the ones from Huanan, but wildlife in the three other Wuhan markets). Because of the statements the Chinese authorities had been making in January and February that strongly supported the animal spill over theory, it was assumed that this research was being done. Of course, the pandemic was raging then, so it would have been challenging. But, because of the denial by Chinese researchers that wild animals were being sold in Wuhan wet markets before the pandemic, there was never that level of follow up. At least, if there was, it was never made public.)

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"It seems to me, at a minimum, that local or regional authorities kept that informationWHAT INFORMATION? (that Wuhan had a flourishing live wild animal business going on in its wet markets before the pandemic) quiet deliberately," Goldstein says. "It's incredible to me that people theorize about one type of cover-up, but an obvious cover-up is staring them right in the face."

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Date:	Fri, 1 Jul 2022 11:24:13 AM -0400
Sent:	Fri, 1 Jul 2022 11:13:31 AM -0400
Subject:	Re: Sachs and Relman quoted again today
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:	image004.png; image005.jpg; image006.png; image007.png; image008.png; image004.png; image005.jpg; image006.png; image007.png; image008.png

Funny!

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP
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Health Policy Scholar
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University Professor, Baylor University

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Senior Fellow, Scowcroft Institute of International Affairs
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Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

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iPhone

On Jul 1, 2022, at 9:23 AM, Roberts, Rich <(b) (6) wrote:

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

Rich

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From: Hotez, Peter Jay < (b) (6)
Sent: Friday, July 1, 2022 9:46 AM
To: Peter Daszak <(b) (6)
Cc: Roberts, Rich < (b) (6) Gerald T Keusch < (b) (6) Aleksei Chmura < (b) (6) David Morens < (b) (6) Jeffrey Sturchio < (b) (6)
Subject: Re: Sachs and Relman quoted again today

EXTERNAL SENDER

It's getting crazy again

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Health Policy Scholar
Baylor College of Medicine

Texas Children's Hospital Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics
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iPhone

On Jul 1, 2022, at 8:37 AM, Peter Daszak (b) (6) > wrote:

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

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

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

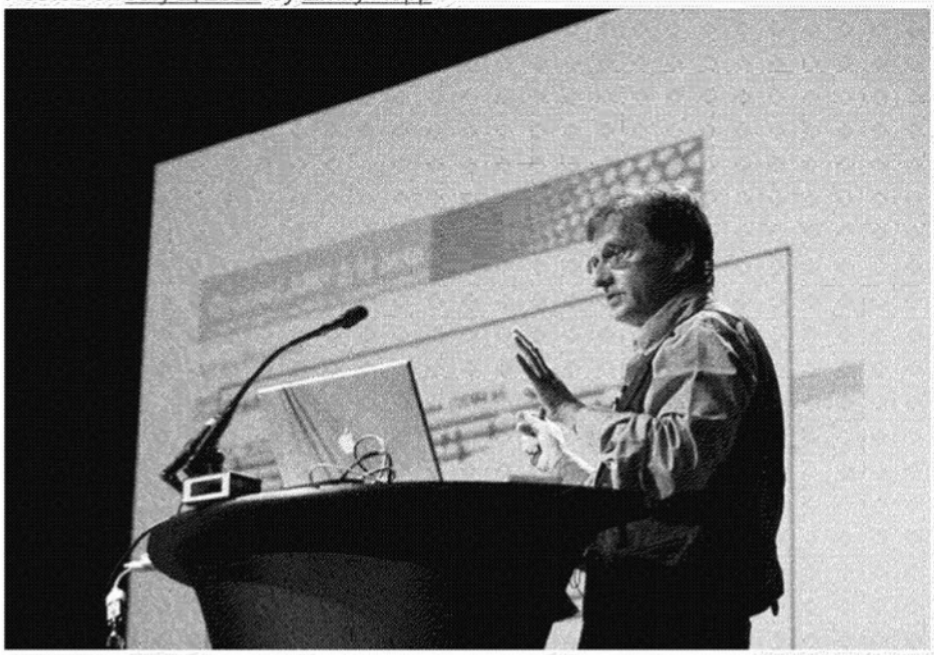
The article is also utterly disingenuous in pretending it took a FoIA lawsuit to find out that Ian Lipkin collaborated with us. All it would have taken is a 5 second Google Search.

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

US RTK
U.S. RIGHT TO KNOW
PURSUING TRUTH AND TRANSPARENCY FOR PUBLIC HEALTH

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

PrintEmailShareTweet
Posted on July 1, 2022 by Emily Kopp



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

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

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

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

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viruses. Some of those viruses were likely studied at its partnering lab in Wuhan, which housed one of the world's largest collection of bat coronaviruses.

Lipkin did not return several requests for comment.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Biohazards, Biohazards Blog Anthony Fauci, David Relman, EcoHealth Alliance, Ian Lipkin, Jeff Sachs, Kristian Andersen, Peter Daszak, proximal origin, Robert Garry, The Lancet's COVID Commission, Virologist, Wuhan Institute of Virology
0

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
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Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

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

From: Roberts, Rich (b (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 <

MORENS_SUBPOENA_008075
MORENS_NIH_017448
REL0000481201

(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
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Sent: Thursday, June 30, 2022 10:50 AM
To: Peter Daszak <(b) (6)
Cc: Gerald T Keusch (b)(6) >; Aleksei Chmu (b)(6) >; David Morens <(b) (6) Jeffrey Sturchio <J (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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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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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/

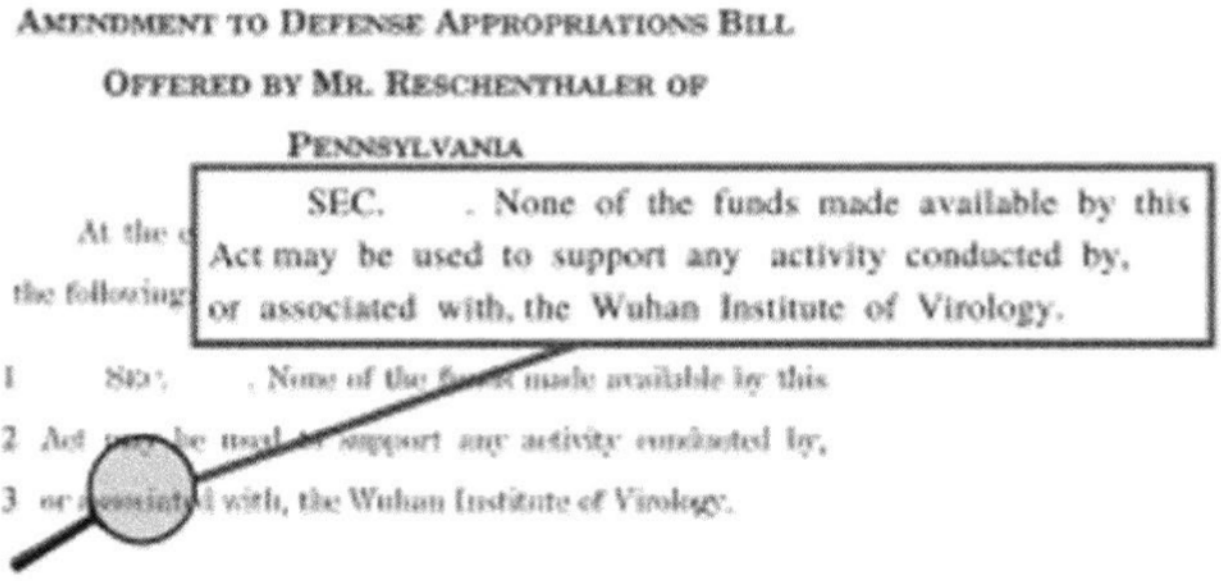
PROGRESS! CONGRESS DEFUNDS WUHAN

POSTED BY
24 JUNE 2022 |

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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 end

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!

MORENS_SUBPOENA_008079
MORENS_NIH_017452
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Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
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USA

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Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

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

---

From: Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6)
Sent: 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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University Professor, Baylor University

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

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MORENS_NIH_017454
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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 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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Daily Beast Contributor https://www.thedailybeast.com/author/peter- j-hotez
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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
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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 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

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MORENS_SUBPOENA_008085
MORENS_NIH_017458
REL0000481201

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

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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

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Health Policy Scholar
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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

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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
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

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

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

MORENS_SUBPOENA_008091
MORENS_NIH_017464
REL0000481201

(b) (6)

(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

MORENS_SUBPOENA_008092
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The Earth Institute, Columbia University
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Date: Sun, 3 Oct 2021 5:55:26 PM -0400
Sent: Sun, 3 Oct 2021 5:55:23 PM -0400
Subject: RE: Good LA Times article.
From: "Keusch, Gerald T" <(b) (6)
To: Roberts, Rich < (b) (6) Peter Daszak < (b) (6) David Morens <(b) (6) >;
CC: Robert Kessler < (b) (6) peter hotez < (b) (6)

That great to hear Rich. I spoke to Jon but had to be off the record because I am negotiating with Richard Horton for a reprieve for the dismissed Task Force under the Lancet banner. I have promised Richard I would stay quiet until we exhaust efforts to find a way forward, and in contrast to Jeff Sachs who also agreed to stay quiet I keep my promises.

If there is a way to follow up with Elizabeth Warren that would be very good and I am ready to do that.
Jerry

From: Roberts, Rich < (b) (6)
Sent: Sunday, October 3, 2021 12:10 PM
To: Keusch, Gerald T < (b) (6) Peter Daszak < (b) (6) David Morens < (b) (6) >
Cc: Robert Kessler < (b) (6) >; peter hotez < (b) (6)
Subject: RE: Good LA Times article.

Jerry:

I did get an answer from Elizabeth Warren's staff and anticipate a direct conversation soon.
The contact I have was passed from Seth Moulton's office in confidence so let me see if he would agree to converse with you directly after I have spoken with him.

I spoke with Jon Cohen yesterday and found him to be quite reasonable. He did agree to pass any quotes he might use past me before publishing. I specifically mentioned that it would be greatly appreciated if he could write something in direct support of Peter within the article.

Rich

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

From: Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6)
Sent: Saturday, October 2, 2021 6:20 PM
To: Roberts, Rich <(b) (6) Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >; David Morens < (b) (6) >
Cc: Robert Kessler <(b) (6) >; peter hotez (b) (6) >
Subject: RE: Good LA Times article.

EXTERNAL SENDER

I talk to him regularly, most recently about the attacks on Peter D and the task force we were on under the Lancet COVID Commission which Jeff Sachs has unilaterally terminated. I couldn't really allow him insights into where we are or to use anything I said (all off the record) because we are negotiating with Lancet for a different way to continue our work.

I think he is a decent guy. I know Peter D has concerns so if you do speak to Jon be careful about what you say and how you say it,

and require him to run any quotes he plans to use by you. That's his general modus operandi.

What we need is to get the amendment out of the appropriations bill, and while the senators are important it may be somebody like Eric Lander who is a cabinet member to get them to pay attention. The administration is mightily distracted.

Rich, if you are able to share your entre to Elizabeth Warrens staff I would happily follow up. I have contacted them, Markey, and my representation and all I get back is the auto thank you reply.

Jerry

From: Roberts, Rich <(b) (6)
Sent: Saturday, October 2, 2021 3:47 PM
To: Peter Daszak (b) (6) >; Keusch, Gerald T (b) (6) >; David Morens < (b) (6) >
Cc: Robert Kessler <(b) (6) >; peter hotez < (b) (6)
Subject: RE: Good LA Times article.

Peter:

I just spoke with Jon Cohen from Science. I mentioned that you were being attacked completely unfairly and that it would be good if he could find some encouraging words to help you. I am wondering if one of you would also be prepared to talk to Jon.

Rich

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

From: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >
Sent: Tuesday, September 28, 2021 11:47 PM
To: Roberts, Rich (b)(6) >; Keusch, Gerald T < (b) (6) David Morens (b) (6) >
Cc: Robert Kessler < (b) (6) >
Subject: Good LA Times article.

EXTERNAL SENDER

Just saw a piece in the LA Times that sums up the state of the origins "debate" pretty clearly:

https://www.latimes.com/business/story/2021- 09-28/evidence-against-a-lab-leak-as-covid-source

It's firewalled so here's the article:

Column: New evidence undermines the COVID lab-leak theory — but the press keeps pushing it

BY MICHAEL HILTZIK BUSINESS COLUMNIST
SEPT. 28, 2021 6 AM PT

When it comes to the pandemic, pseudoscience has outweighed real science at almost every turn. One of the best examples of that is the unsupported assertion that the virus causing COVID-19 escaped from a Chinese

laboratory.

Despite mounting evidence that the virus reached humans through natural pathways — from infected animals such as bats — the lab-leak hypothesis recently jumped back into the news, thanks to CNN, the investigative news site the Intercept, and the Atlantic.

All treat the idea that the virus escaped from a lab credulously. They downplay or entirely ignore the latest scientific findings that support the theory that the virus' origin can be found in the animal kingdom — the view accepted by a preponderance of experts in virology.

It's a likely probability that this one originated from animals as well. But the possibility also remains that the virus leaked from a lab.

CNN'S SANJAY GUPTA OVERSTATES THE LAB LEAK THEORY

This is known as the zoonotic theory, from the term for a disease that can be transmitted from animals to humans.

We've reported before on the near absence of evidence for a lab leak, whether or not it's the product of a deliberate act.

Ever since the lab-leak claim first emerged during the Trump administration, where it was part of a White House information campaign demonizing China, one of the arguments in its favor has been that evidence for a zoonotic origin has also been spotty.

That argument has never been quite true — virologists know that animals have been the source of most of the viral diseases afflicting humanity — but it has become weaker than ever over the last year.

The question of the origin of COVID-19 isn't of merely academic interest. The answer could guide the world's preparation for future pandemics; if the virus emerged from a laboratory, then improving lab safety measures will be prioritized. If scientific opinion continues to coalesce around animal-to-human transmission, that will underscore the importance of regulating contact between humans and wildlife.

To put it another way, if we focus on the wrong answer, the right measures won't be taken. In a real sense, humankind's future depends on not being distracted by an unsupported, politically motivated claim about Chinese labs.

Before examining the flaws in the CNN, Intercept and Atlantic treatments, let's look at what's been published recently about the zoonotic path.

For context, keep in mind that the earliest cluster of COVID-19 cases, in late 2019, was identified in the environs of the Huanan seafood market in the Chinese metropolis of Wuhan. Lab-leak theorists find this significant, because it's 7.5 miles from the Wuhan Institute of Virology, which does research on bat viruses.

A paper posted online earlier this month chiefly by researchers at France's Institut Pasteur and under consideration for publication in a Nature journal, however, reports that three viruses were found in bats living in caves in northern Laos with features very similar to SARS-CoV-2, the virus responsible for COVID-19.

MORENS_SUBPOENA_011432
MORENS_NIH_022220
REL0000481202

As Nature reported, those viruses are "more similar to SARS-CoV-2 than any known viruses."

Another paper, posted in late August by researchers from the Wuhan lab, reports on viruses found in rats also with features similar to those that make SARS-CoV-2 infectious in humans. Two other papers published on the discussion forum virological.org present evidence that the virus jumped from animals to humans at more than one animal market in Wuhan, not just the Huanan seafood market.

Given that these so-called wet markets have long been suspected as transmission points of viruses from animals to humans because they sell potentially infected animals, that makes the laboratory origin vastly less likely, according to a co-author of one of the papers.

"That a laboratory leak would find its way to the very place where you would expect to find a zoonotic transmission is quite unlikely," Joel Wertheim, an associate professor at UC San Diego's medical school, told me. "To have it find its way to multiple markets, the exact place where you would expect to see the introduction, is unbelievably unlikely."

As virologist Robert F. Garry of Tulane, one of Wertheim's co-authors, told Nature, the finding is "a dagger into the heart" of the lab-leak hypothesis.

Garry and Wertheim are among the 21 expert co-authors of a "critical review" of virological findings on the origins of COVID-19. The review concludes, "There is currently no evidence that SARS-CoV-2 has a laboratory origin."

Now let's look at the recent reporting in support of the lab-leak theory.

On Sept. 19, CNN aired an hourlong documentary entitled "The Origins of COVID-19: Searching for the Source." Hosted by the channel's star science anchor, Sanjay Gupta, the program carries the veneer of an evenhanded approach.

Proponents of the zoonotic origin theory are given airtime, including Kristian Andersen of the Scripps Research Institute in La Jolla and Peter Daszak, a prominent grant maker in the virology field.

But so are proponents of the lab-leak theory. They include Alina Chan, a researcher at the Broad Institute, a biomedical research center, and Josh Rogin, a Washington Post columnist. Neither has any experience in virology. Chan is co-writing a book about COVID's origins that is expected to feature the lab-leak theory prominently, a fact not mentioned by CNN.

Yet at the top of the hour, referring to the common pattern of viruses jumping from animals to humans, Gupta says, "It's a likely probability that this one originated from animals as well. But the possibility also remains that the virus leaked from a lab."

By posing these two theories as simply two equally plausible solutions to a mystery, CNN glosses over the fact that the virological community regards the animal origin as vastly more likely than a lab leak. In fact, the two hypotheses are miles apart in credibility.

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MORENS_NIH_022221
REL0000481202

One of the program's chief targets is a report by a World Health Organization team issued in early 2021 that found spillover from an animal host to be "likely to very likely" and a laboratory incident an "extremely unlikely pathway."

Gupta calls the WHO report "the only scientific study of COVID's origins to date." That's not remotely accurate. There have been countless scientific studies, both before the WHO report and since. Indeed, Gupta mentions one of them, a seminal paper by Andersen and colleagues, published in March 2020. That paper termed the lab-leak theory "a speculative incomplete hypothesis with no credible evidence."

Much of the rest of the CNN program is filled with speculation about the Wuhan Institute, typically presented with portentous music on the soundtrack, suggesting subliminally that something sinister is going on there. The absence of information from the institute or the Chinese government is generally taken as tantamount to an admission of guilt.

"Over the course of 2020," Gupta declares, "more and more revelations emerged related to the Wuhan Institute of Virology."

One of these revelations concerned three staff members who reportedly sought hospital treatment for a flu-like illness in November 2019, before the COVID pandemic emerged.

Nothing has ever transpired to suggest these workers had COVID — November is flu season, after all. That they sought treatment at a hospital is immaterial, since it is well-known that people in China often go to hospitals for primary care, which residents of other countries would tend to receive in a doctor's office.

A CNN reporter appearing on air overstated the case, saying the patients were "hospitalized with an unknown illness." There has been no evidence that they were admitted to the hospital or that their illness was "unknown."

CNN doesn't bring its audience up to date on any of the latest research supporting the zoonotic theory, though it was published well before the air date and superseded what Gupta described as "the only scientific study" of COVID origins.

More recently, the Intercept trumpeted a purported scoop based on a leaked document — a grant proposal submitted in 2018 by Daszak's organization, the EcoHealth Alliance, to the Pentagon's Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency, or DARPA.

The proposal, for a laboratory manipulation of a virus related to SARS, the viral disease that caused an outbreak of pulmonary disease in China in 2003. DARPA rejected the proposal, however, and there's no evidence that it was submitted to, much less approved by, any other funding body.

"Many questions remain about the proposal, including whether any of the research described in it was completed," the Intercept acknowledged.

Commentators on the Intercept's disclosure have displayed, perhaps in spite of themselves, that they lack the courage of their own convictions. In an article published Sept. 24, the Atlantic, unable or unwilling to delve into what the Intercept's document actually meant, if anything, settled for declaring that it made the lab-leak debate "even messier."

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The magazine's Daniel Engber and Adam Federman wrote: "Does the SARS-CoV-2 pandemic have an unnatural origin? The answer hasn't changed: probably not. But we have learned something quite disturbing in the past few days, simply from how and when this information came to light."

By pretending that the debate itself is important, as if both sides have something to offer, they manage to report on a claim that has no substance. The approach also protects journalists from their persistent fear of landing on the wrong side of things — the authors preserve an out in case the lab-leak hypothesis turns out to be true, as unlikely as that is. If that happens, they can point to their lily-livered observations and say, "See, we knew it all along."

In this debate, however, the zoonotic camp has evidence and the lab-leak camp nothing to offer but innuendo.

Here's the true state of the discussion. There is no evidence that the virus leaked from the Wuhan laboratory or any other lab. There is no evidence that the Wuhan lab was working with a bat virus that had anything but a very distant resemblance to SARS-CoV-2. Viruses that resemble it much more closely have been found in natural settings a thousand miles from Wuhan, as the crow, or bat, flies.

Evidence that artificial manipulation of a virus gave rise to SARS-CoV-2 has faded, as scientists find more evidence that features of SARS-CoV-2 thought to be unnatural occur in nature. Meanwhile, evidence for zoonotic transmission is constantly accumulating. No one who reports on the issue without acknowledging these two trends should be trusted.

Los Angeles Times columnist Michael Hiltzik writes a daily blog appearing on latimes.com. His seventh book, "Iron Empires: Robber Barons, Railroads, and the Making of Modern America," has just been published by Houghton Mifflin Harcourt. Follow him on Twitter at twitter.com/hiltzikm and on Facebook at facebook.com/hiltzik.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

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

MORENS_SUBPOENA_011435
MORENS_NIH_022223
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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

MORENS_SUBPOENA_011436
MORENS_NIH_022224
REL0000481202

Date: Fri, 3 May 2024 2:49:50 PM -0400
Sent: Fri, 3 May 2024 2:49:46 PM -0400
Subject: RE: Post by Prof Peter Hotez MD PhD on X
From: Jeffrey Sturchio (b)(6)
To: Peter Daszak (b)(6) Roberts, Rich (b)(6)
Hotez, Peter Jay (b)(6) Aleksei Chmura (b)(6);
CC: Gerald Keusch (b)(6) Keith Martin (b)(6) David Morens (b)(6) (b)(6);
Attachments: image001.png

All:

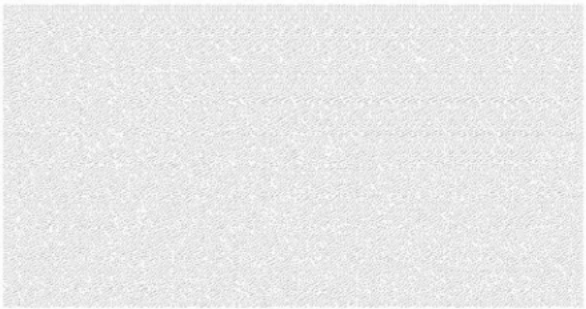
This is just Wenstrup and the Rs spiking the ball after a hearing in which they refused to let Peter answer the questions posed to him. All of the alleged "evidence" of EHA's supposed transgressions is based on misrepresentation and selective citation of the documentary evidence and false assumptions about the science involved (e.g., since when does a Republican Congresswoman with an MBA and no scientific training get to decide what the definition of gain-of-function research should be?). The only people showing contempt for the American people on Wednesday were the members of Congress and staff who used this hearing as a vehicle to propagate a malicious political narrative that falsely and unfairly blamed Peter Daszak and EHA for research that never happened and outcomes that are chimerical figments of their imagination.

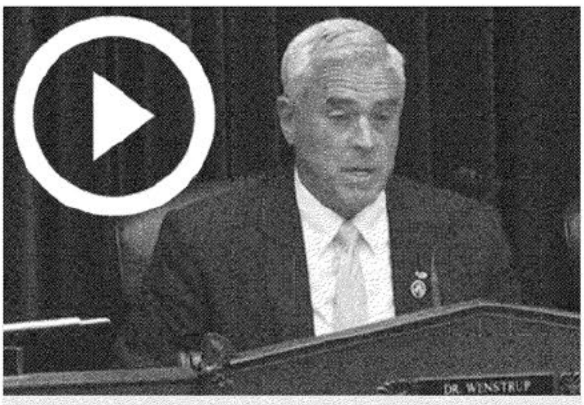
As ever,
Jeff

From: Peter Daszak (b) (6)
Sent: Friday, May 3, 2024 1:12 PM
To: Roberts, Rich (b) (6)
Cc: Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6) Aleksei Chmura (b) (6) ; Jeffrey Sturchio (b) (6) ; Gerald Keusch (b) (6) ; Keith Martin (b) (6) David Morens (b) (6)
Subject: Re: Post by Prof Peter Hotez MD PhD on X

This is the most awful piece I've seen yet - they say:

"The Select Subcommittee will take further steps to address Dr. Daszak's contempt for the American people."





Hearing Wrap Up: EcoHealth Alliance Should be Criminally Investigated, Formally Debarred - United States House Committee on Oversight and Accountability

oversight.house.gov

I am very worried for my future and the future of EcoHealth alliance right now. At best this will drive continued hate and death threats… at worst…

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak

President
EcoHealth Alliance

520 8th Avenue, New York, NY10018-6507, USA

www.EcoHealthAlliance.org

On May 2, 2024, at 10:00 AM, Roberts, Rich (b) (6) wrote:

Excellent article!

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

Executive Assistant: (b)(6)
Tel (b)(6)
Fax: (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); Keith Martin (b)(6); David Morens (b)(6)
Subject: Post by Prof Peter Hotez MD PhD on X

EXTERNAL SENDER

Prof Peter Hotez MD PhD
@PeterHotez

Important article on yesterday's disgusting Stalinist show trial in the House of Representatives: The politicization of the pandemic continues - great writing as always from @hiltzikm @latimes latimes.com/business/story…

5/2/24, 5:50 AM

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

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

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

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

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

Amazon Author Center | Daily Beast Contributor

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

Media Inquiries:
(b)(6)
iPhone

Date: Tue, 30 Apr 2024 5:26:41 PM -0400
Sent: Tue, 30 Apr 2024 5:23:57 PM -0400
Subject: More political theater from the SSCP leadership
From: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >
To: Roberts, Ric (b)(6) kuuipo9 (b)(6) Jeff Sturchio (b)(6)
CC: Hotez, Peter Jay (b)(6) John Feigelson (b)(6) eusch, Gerald T (b)(6) (b) (6) Aleksei Chmura (b)(6)
Attachments: image002.png; image003.png

Tweet from the Republican Chair of the SSCP just now – he's not only appearing on 'Newsmax' tonight to rip into me and EcoHealth, he's also publicly inviting me to watch!! It shows the simple truth that this is all about political theater and press, not a genuine effort to discover truth or understand how oversight of research happens…

https://x.com/RepBradWenstrup/status/1785411176957886496



Rep. Brad Wenstrup
@RepBradWenstrup I'll be joining "Rob Schmitt Tonight" on @NEWSMAX tonight at 7:20 ET to discuss tomorrow's
@COVIDSelect hearing with EcoHealth Alliance President Dr. Peter Daszak. Be sure to tune in!
https://newsmaxtv.com/robschmitt
4:49 PM · Apr 30, 2024

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

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

Tel.: +1-212-380-4474
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

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

From: Roberts, Rich (b) (6)
Sent: Tuesday, April 30, 2024 4:42 PM
To: (b) (6) eter Daszak (b) (6) ; Jeff Sturchio (b) (6)

MORENS_NIH_047697
REL0000481210

Cc: Hotez, Peter Jay (b)(6) Keusch, Gerald T (b)(6) (b)(6) ; Aleksei Chmura (b)(6)
Subject: RE: Re: Latest tweet from SSCP - schoolyard behavior at best!

I agree totally!

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 (b)(6)
Sent: Tuesday, April 30, 2024 3:47 PM
To: Peter Daszak (b)(6) >; Jeff Sturchio (b)(6)
Cc: Hotez, Peter Jay (b)(6) ; Keusch, Gerald T (b)(6) (b)(6) Roberts, Rich (b)(6) e; Aleksei Chmura (b)(6) >
Subject: Re: Re: Latest tweet from SSCP - schoolyard behavior at best!

EXTERNAL SENDER

I read your opening statement this morning. Excellent, well written.... Good luck tomorrow. d

Sent from Proton Mail Android

-------- Original Message --------
On 4/30/24 14:45, Peter Daszak wrote:

> My opening statement is now up on the SSCP website -



Daszak-Testimony
PDF Document · 48 KB

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak

President
EcoHealth Alliance

520 8th Avenue, New York, NY10018-6507, USA

www.EcoHealthAlliance.org

On Apr 29, 2024, at 7:37 PM, Jeffrey Sturchio (b) (6) · wrote:

Peter: This is puerile nonsense! Stay strong!

As ever,
Jeff

From: Peter Daszak (b) (6)
Sent: Monday, April 29, 2024 6:08 PM
To: Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6) ; John Feigelson (b) (6) >; Gerald Keusch < (b) (6) Jeff Sturchio (b) (6) ; Keith Martin (b) (6) Rich Roberts < >(b) (6) ; Aleksei Chmura (b) (6)
Subject: Latest tweet from SSCP - schoolyard behavior at best!

Having spent 27 yrs in the USA, going through the immigration process and becoming a US citizen, I'm reminded

what a great honor it is to have a chance to meet esteemed members of Congress. Here they are in their latest tweet mocking our organization by repeating insults from a private message of one of the Proximal Origins paper virologists.

I look forward to answering their questions in detail about this tattle-tale schoolyard gibberish on Wednesday morning. Thank God I worked hard for my Ph.D so that I can have all the right science-based answers on these critical issues!
<image001.jpg>

Select Subcommittee on the Coronavirus Pandemic
@COVIDSelect

"**EgoHealth**" was allegedly a "term of endearment" used by the co-authors of the now infamous "Proximal Origin" paper to describe EcoHealth Alliance President Dr. Peter Daszak. Is this characterization fact or fiction? On Wednesday, Dr. Daszak will testify before @COVIDSelect.
<image002.jpg>

5:44 PM · Apr 29, 2024

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, April 29, 2024 5:05 PM
To: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) Gerald Keusch <

MORENS_NIH_047700
REL0000481210

(b) (6) ; Jeff Sturchio (b)(6) >; Keith Martin (b)(6) ; Rich Roberts <
(b)(6) ; Aleksei Chmura (b)(6)
Subject: From Marcia McNutt

Below, after our panel

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

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

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

Baylor University, University Professor
Rice 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
Begin forwarded message:

> **From:** "McNutt, Marcia K." (b) (6)
> **Date:** April 29, 2024 at 3:48:31 PM CDT
> **To:** "Hotez, Peter Jay" (b) (6) Anthony Fauci <a (b)(6) >, "Iwasaki, Akiko" (b) (6) 'Mann, Michael E." < (b) (6)
> **Cc:** "Agee, Jennylee" (b) (6) "Chalfie, Martin" (b) (6) Martin Chalfie (b) (6)(b) (6) , "Everly, Rebecca" (b) (6) , Rich Roberts <roberts@neb.com>
> **Subject: Re: Thank you!**
>
> ***CAUTION:*** This email is not from a BCM Source. Only click links or open attachments you know are safe.
>
> ---
>
> Dear Peter, Tony, Akiko, and Michael,
>
> I cannot tell you how many members approached me to say how moved, inspired, and informed they were by your presentation yesterday. I've been responding to emails all day from members who want to find some way to help. I had thought that there would be wider

understanding of what you all were enduring; I did not anticipate how many eyes were opened to the persecution of people who speak out for the public good, even when the information is difficult to take in.

I will definitely keep you all informed as we move forward. I think the four of you would make an excellent sounding board for ideas, as I am sure that some strategies could have the potential to backfire if we are not very very careful in how we approach the issue.

I am not so naive as to think that we can reach everyone - too many opinions are baked in, often for nefarious reasons. However, I do have faith that the majority of Americans will respond to reason.

Marty and Becca can comment on the extent to which CHR can help with this issue. I certainly value their input as they have such a long history of dealing with persecution of scientists. Domestic cases have to date been outside of their scope, and your cases are all somewhat different than the majority of CHR interventions. Your persecution is coming from the public, whereas CHR mostly deals with foreign government actions. If CHR decides that this is beyond their remit, then we definitely will need to find some other unit at the NAS to take this on.

And Peter: thanks for the heads up about the Mitchell Foundation having an interest in supporting work to address this issue. Happy to talk to you more about it.

My gratitude to you all,

Marcia

NASNASNASNASNASNASNASNASNASNASNASNAS
Dr. Marcia K McNutt
President, National Academy of Sciences
Mailing Address | Physical location:
500 Fifth Street NW | 2101 Constitution Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20001 | Washington, DC 20418
(b) (6) (office) | (b) (6) (cell)
NASNASNASNASNASNASNASNASNASNASNASNAS

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On Apr 29, 2024, at 3:47 PM, Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6) wrote:

Dear Marcia (Martin): Thank you again for the extraordinary opportunity to meet with the NAS members and discuss the rise of anti-science activism in America. I received so much nice and productive feedback both at the panel session and the afternoon reception. As I indicated, the panel could be game-changing in helping to counter the anti-science monster.

I look forward to the follow up in the coming weeks and months. Perhaps working through the committee on human rights is a potential mechanism?

In the meantime we recently received some modest funding from the George and Cynthia Mitchell Foundation for this purpose and I will explore with them the potential for working through the NAS, etc.

Again, thank you for everything! It was a memorable weekend on many fronts.

Warmest regards, Peter

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

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

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

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

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

Amazon Author Center | Daily Beast Contributor

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

Media Inquiries:
(b) (6)

iPhone

Date: Mon, 23 Aug 2021 8:35:28 PM -0400
Sent: Mon, 23 Aug 2021 8:35:11 PM -0400
Subject: Francis Collins on CNBC today
From: Peter Daszak (b)(6)
To: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b) (6) ; Keusch, Jerry (b)(6) Robert Kessler (b)(6) >; Roberts, Rich (b)(6)
Attachments: image002.gif; image003.jpg; image004.png

Hello everyone - Not looking forward to the publicity this week with the Intel report coming out sometime soon, but wanted to share a couple of things.

First – here's an interview by Francis Collins on Squawkbox CNBC that makes him come over like a wet lettuce. He goes one way then the other, making sure he sounds somewhat anti-China (they could have been doing mysterious things), but makes it clear NIH didn't fund Gain of Function there.

It's the definition of flip-flopping I guess. Maybe he genuinely believes China were up to something. In any case, it feels like he basically couldn't care less about the organization in the middle (EcoHealth) that's being batted around like a table tennis ball… The URL is here: https://www.cnbc.com/2021/08/23/covid- origin-nih-director-doesnt-rule-out-that-virus-could-have-leaked-from-lab.html

NIH director says Covid likely came from nature, but doesn't rule out it could have escaped from lab

PUBLISHED MON, AUG 23 202112:53 PM EDTUPDATED MON, AUG 23 20211:08 PM EDT
Rich Mendez@RICHMENDEZCNBC

KEY POINTS

- President Joe Biden gave the U.S. intelligence community 90 days to investigate Covid's origins and report the findings, which are due Tuesday.
- Through a grant to non-profit EcoHealth Alliance, the NIH funded research at the Wuhan Institute of Virology to study how bat viruses could infect humans.
- Collins said the research didn't meet the technical definition of so-called gain-of-function research.

The director of the National Institutes of Health said Monday it appears Covid-19 originated from an animal, but he didn't rule out the possibility that scientists at the Wuhan Institute of Virology were secretly studying it and that it could have leaked out from there.

It's still unknown if the virus leaked out of a Wuhan lab, NIH director Dr. Francis Collins said

Monday in an interview on CNBC's "Squawk Box," adding that the World Health Organization's investigation into the origin of the coronavirus has gone "backwards."

"The vast evidence from other perspectives says no, this was a naturally occurring virus," Collins said. "Not to say that it could not have been under study secretly at the Wuhan Institute of Virology and got out of there, we don't know about that. But the virus itself does not have the earmarks of having been created intentionally by human work."

The WHO investigation has been made harder by China's refusal to participate, says Collins.

"I think China basically refused to consider another WHO investigation and just said 'nope not interested'," Collins told CNBC's Squawk Box.

"Wouldn't it be good if they'd actually open up their lab books and let us know what they were actually doing there and find out more about those cases of people who got sick in November of 2019 about which we really don't know enough," Collins said.

U.S. intelligence reports first reported by the Wall Street Journal indicated that in November 2019, three workers at the Wuhan Institute of Virology fell ill with symptoms similar to those seen in Covid-19 infections, a report that China said was "completely untrue."

About three months ago, President Joe Biden initiated an investigation of his own and gave his intelligence community 90 days to further the investigation the virus' origins and report the findings. The deadline is Tuesday.

"It will be an interesting week because tomorrow is the day of the 90-day deadline that President Biden set for the intelligence community to do all their poking around that they could to see if they could come up with anymore insight as to how this virus got started in China," Collins said.

Most of the information gathered will likely remain classified, but some information from the report will be released, according to Collins.

"We don't know what they're going to come up with either, but we're intensely interested," Collins said.

Collins also weighed in on the debate over whether or not the U.S. funded so-called gain-of-function research at the Wuhan lab, a debate that Republican Sen. Rand Paul of Kentucky and medical advisor to the president, Dr. Anthony Fauci, have engaged in time and time again. Gain-of-function research is when scientists take a pathogen and make it more contagious, deadly or both to study how to combat it.

"The kind of gain-of-function research that's under very careful scrutiny is when you take a pathogen for humans, and you do something with it that would enhance its virulence or its transmissibility," Collins said. "They were not studying a pathogen that was a pathogen for humans, these are bat viruses."

Some of the research at the Wuhan Institute of Virology that was funded, in part, by the NIH through a grant to non-profit EcoHealth Alliance studied how bat viruses could infect humans.

"So by the strict definition, and this was look at exquisitely carefully by all the reviewers of that research in anticipation that this might come up, was that this did not meet the official description of what's called gain-of-function research that requires oversight," Collins said. "I know this has

gotten lots of attention, but I think it's way out of place."

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

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USA

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Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

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

---

From: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b) (6)
Sent: Monday, August 23, 2021 5:33 PM
To: Peter Daszak (b)(6))<(b) (6) >; Keusch, Jerry (b)(6) (b)(6) ; Kessler, Robert (b)(6)
Subject: FW: Vice: Why China Is Struggling to Make the Lab Leak Theory Go Away

David

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

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MORENS_SUBPOENA_022678
MORENS_NIH_043682
REL0000481212



From: Folkers, Greg (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b)(6)
Sent: Sunday, August 22, 2021 12:29 AM
Subject: Vice: Why China Is Struggling to Make the Lab Leak Theory Go Away

Why China Is Struggling to Make the Lab Leak Theory Go Away

U.S. spy agencies are about to report on COVID-19's origins, but don't hold your breath.

by Alan Wong
by Viola Zhou
August 20, 2021, 9:38am

Robert Redfield has a lot of questions. The virologist and former director of the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention wants to know what happened at the Wuhan Institute of Virology, especially in the months before the emergence of COVID-19 in the same city. But China's answers didn't satisfy him.

"On Sept. 12, 2019, coronavirus bat sequences were deleted from the institute's database. Why? It changed the security protocols for the lab. Why? It put out requests for more than $600 million for a new ventilation system. What prompted this new need?" Redfield, who believes that the coronavirus escaped from the lab in Wuhan, asked those questions in the *Wall Street Journal* on Sunday, alluding to the possibility that something bad happened at the facility as early as September that year and caused a pandemic that has killed more than 4 million people worldwide. To bolster this view, he said a Harvard study of satellite images revealed a shutdown of traffic around the Wuhan lab around that time and that hospital parking lots in the city were filling up—signs, perhaps, of a lab accident and a subsequent surge in sick people.

But almost all of those insinuations are disputed, inaccurate, or just plain wrong.

The opinion article offers a stark illustration of the limits of circumstantial evidence as the search for the origins of COVID-19 enters a contentious new phase.

U.S. spy agencies are preparing to release a report on their findings on whether the pandemic started from human contact with an infected animal or a laboratory accident in China. The report is expected no later than next week, after President Joe Biden in May gave the U.S. intelligence community a 90-day deadline to further collect and analyze information that could "bring us closer to a definitive conclusion" on the origins of COVID-19.

But China is not keen to cooperate. Further muddling the search is Beijing's renewed push of an unsubstantiated, alternative theory that the virus could have originated in a U.S. army lab at Fort Detrick, Maryland. The move has only fueled suspicions that the Chinese government is hiding something.

Unless U.S. spies uncovered substantial evidence—such as proof that the Wuhan lab possessed the virus that caused COVID-19 or evidence that it created the virus—the debate on the pathogen's origins is likely to persist.

Redfield co-authored the *Journal* article with Marc Siegel, a physician and *Fox News* contributor who last March said the coronavirus was no worse than the flu. It was riddled with mistakes.

For example, the planned ventilation system upgrade at the Wuhan Institute of Virology cost about $600,000, not $600 million as the authors stated. The figure was corrected on Friday, a day after VICE World News emailed questions to the *Journal*'s opinion desk. That number came from a report by Republicans that exaggerated the amounts of several other projects by orders of magnitude and has been cited in several other prominent news outlets.

MORENS_SUBPOENA_022679
MORENS_NIH_043683
REL0000481212

The Trump-appointed former director of the CDC apparently also misattributed the findings of a military contractor's report to Harvard. The Harvard study he links to analyzed satellite images of hospital parking lots in Wuhan, but it did not once mention the Wuhan Institute of Virology. It was also criticized for its poor dataset, abuse of statistical methods, and mistranslation.

The analysis of traffic outside the Wuhan institute used commercial satellite imagery and phone location data to conclude that traffic was unusually thin around the Wuhan institute and was the result of containment efforts following a hazardous event. But the report's key assertions were found to be false as early as June last year.

These are just a few examples, from one article, showing the challenges of investigating the origins of the coronavirus without being in China and without the country's full cooperation.

The closest thing to a field study the world has seen was the World Health Organization (WHO) trip to China early this year, but the global health body has complained about not being able to access the complete raw data from the early COVID-19 patients that could give researchers insights into how the virus emerged.

Last month, the WHO chief urged Beijing to share the data, but Chinese officials said the information could not be disclosed due to patients' privacy. Some scientists are not convinced by the argument, citing the possibility of disclosing the data while keeping the patients' anonymous.

Beijing's obsession with a theory that the coronavirus could have been brought into China through frozen food imports has also raised doubts. Officials have kept calling for more research into such potential cold-chain transmission, although few scientists abroad have found it credible enough to justify further investigation.

"In my opinion, it's even less likely than lab origin," Angela Rasmussen, a virologist at the University of Saskatchewan in Canada, told VICE World News. Rasmussen, who has argued in favor of a natural origin of the coronavirus, said the Chinese government might be trying to distract people from the wildlife trade that could have led to a virus zoonotic spillover.

Scientists say only greater transparency will help Chinese authorities fend off all these suspicions. "We are being asked to take their words for it, without seeing any data," said Alina Chan, a biologist at the Broad Institute in Cambridge, Massachusetts, who has promoted the lab leak hypothesis. Chan told VICE World News she would like to see all of the sequences of the pathogens that were processed at the Wuhan lab. If the data could not be made public, she said, they should at least be reviewed by an international team of scientists.

"This situation is setting precedents for how future outbreaks are tracked," she said. "If every single country does this, and refuses to let international investigators check where the virus came from, we would just be facing a future where viruses are just exploding everywhere, and we are just getting a new pandemic every five or ten years."

Some other scientists still maintain that the lab leak theory is unlikely, in contrast with what they have called a "substantial body of scientific evidence" supporting a natural origin for the coronavirus, according to a peer-reviewed paper published in *Cell* this week.

Still, with few new data points to inform the origins probe, scientists on both sides of the debate have called for greater transparency.

WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus in July said the lack of raw data on the early days of the outbreak was hampering the investigations into the origin of the virus and urged China to be more transparent. Tedros suggested further studies into Chinese laboratories in the next phase of studies.

But the Chinese government would not feel comfortable with this degree of transparency. The Communist Party leadership is used to conducting investigations and making decisions behind closed doors, and sees the call for openness as a political threat.

"That is not atypical in China's crisis management," Yanzhong Huang, a senior fellow for global health at the Council on Foreign Relations, told VICE World News. "The U.S. could push for more transparency, but they fail to recognize that the lack of transparency itself is part of the authoritarian governance in the country."

This mindset could hurt China's reputation—the pandemic is not a small crisis but one that has upended almost everyone's life. "Even if the virus is caused by a natural spillover event," Huang said, "when you don't show transparency, when you are perceived as unwilling to share the data, people naturally will think you have something to hide."

The Chinese government has remained intransigent to the mounting calls for more transparency.

At the press conference last month, Chinese officials said they were "shocked" to hear about WHO's proposal for fresh audits into Chinese labs, adding the suggestion indicated "disrespect for common sense and an arrogant attitude toward science."

The same month, state media quoted a Facebook post by a self-claimed Swiss biologist named Wilson Edwards as saying that researchers faced intimidation from the U.S. for supporting the WHO-China origin-tracing study. The Swiss embassy said no such person exists.

It's unclear whether the U.S. intelligence probe, which was condemned by Chinese state media as a "political witch-hunt," would yield anything more than circumstantial evidence.

By the time a preliminary report was drafted, the intelligence community was still divided over the lab leak theory and the natural origin one, CNN reported this month. The outlet cited a source as saying that the draft contained "nothing too earth shattering."

In September 2019, the Wuhan Institute of Virology shut off public access to its database, which holds thousands of genetic sequences of bat coronaviruses it studied.

Shi Zhengli, director of the Center for Emerging Infectious Diseases at the institute, said the online database was shut down after cyberattacks—believe it or not, that's the answer to ex-CDC director Robert Redfield's first question. But almost two years later, the database remains offline. It's no wonder that people are asking questions.

Follow Alan Wong and Viola Zhou on Twitter.

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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
(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: 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,
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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) (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

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The University of Sydney | Sydney | NSW | 2006 | Australia
T (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

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

On 20 Sep 2021, at 10:52 am, Jason Gale (BLOOMBERG/ NEWSROOM:) <j.gale@bloomberg.net > wrote:

I did this podcast episode on bats and zoonoses at the start of 2020 with the help of Hume Field, Trevor Drew, Mark Schipp and Linfa. Still seems relevant today.
https://podcasts.apple.com/nz/podcast/how- it-all-started-rebroadcast/id1440051086?i=1000504072911

From: (b) (6) At: 09/20/21 10:17:32 UTC+10:00
To: Jason Gale (BLOOMBERG/ NEWSROOM:)
Cc: (b) (6) (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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T (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

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
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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.

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

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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:) <j.gale@bloomberg.net > wrote:

I'm planning to pull the threads Peter has so eloquently laid out into a story. Bob, Stephen, Joel (and Kristian), if you have time/interest to get on Zoom today, let me know. Thanks a lot. Jason

From: (b) (6) At: 09/20/21 07:31:51 UTC+10:00
To: (b) (6)
Cc: Jason Gale (BLOOMBERG/ NEWSROOM:) , (b) (6)
(b) (6) (b) (6)
(b) (6) (b) (6) (b) (6)
(b) (6) (b) (6)
(b) (6) (b) (6)
(b) (6) (b) (6)
Subject: Re: Study from 2007 shows SARS-infected civets on farms in Hubei

nPeter, as i am perennially swamped with work that has nothing to do with COVID issues of importance, i am always catching up on reading the important stuff

Just now i poured a martini and-read word for word your "A strategy…" paper with first author Sánchez. Also Kevin and Lin-fa were coauthors. Wow!!!

This is dynamite and also beautifully written. I mean, Hemingway, Conrad, Nin, couldn't have written it better. Beautiful job and so important.

I think you need to promote this work, and emphasize that the conclusions are far reaching and a sort of call to arms.

Let us all keep pushing,
and keep our eyes on the
prize of getting to the bottom of it all
david

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

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_004198
MORENS_NIH_011178
REL0000481226

Date:	Tue, 17 Aug 2021 11:11:57 AM -0400
Sent:	Tue, 17 Aug 2021 11:08:01 AM -0400
Subject:	Re: Nicholas Wade's piece today in Bull Atom. Sci.
From:	"Garry, Robert F" < (b) (6) >
To:	Peter Daszak < (b) (6) >; David Morens <(b) (6) >; Jason Gale <j.gale@bloomberg.net>;
CC:	(b) (6) (b) (6) (b) (6)
Attachments:	image001.jpg; image002.png; image003.png; image004.png; image005.png; image006.jpg; image007.gif; image008.jpg

Excited to hear about the pre-print and Who team Nature comment! Well done.

From: Peter Daszak < (b) (6) >
Date: Tuesday, August 17, 2021 at 9:54 AM
To: Robert Garry < (b) (6) >, David Morens < (b) (6) >, Jason Gale <j.gale@bloomberg.net>
Cc: (b) (6) < (b) (6) (b) (6) < (b) (6) >, " (b) (6) < (b) (6)
Subject: RE: Nicholas Wade's piece today in Bull Atom. Sci.

> External Sender. Be aware of links, attachments and requests.

As long as these articles keep up their 'drip, drip' with actual new data and analyses, all the lab leak hypothesis has is re-hashing of the same innuendo-filled vitriol.

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: Garry, Robert F (b) (6)
Sent: Tuesday, August 17, 2021 9:30 AM

MORENS_SUBPOENA_021586
MORENS_NIH_042464
REL0000481227

To: Peter Daszak (b) (6) >; Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b) (6) >; Jason Gale <(b) (6) >
Cc: (b) (6) ; (b) (6)
Subject: Re: Nicholas Wade's piece today in Bull Atom. Sci.

Thanks Peter,

Totally agree that It's quite sad to see the attacks on scientists and science from Wade. It's the very basis for the "lab leak" hypothesis, so no surprise.

Wade is old enough to know this, but anyone that thinks that Jeremy Farrar and Tony Fauci are part of the "problem" has literally [in the case of Tony] not been paying attention for 50 years.

Looking forward to Wade and his ilk going ballistic as two new papers favoring natural origin appear shortly in *Cell* and *Science* .

Bob G.

From: Peter Daszak (b) (6)
Date: Tuesday, August 17, 2021 at 7:40 AM
To: "Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E]" <(b) (6) >, Jason Gale <j.gale@bloomberg.net>
Cc: (b) (6) " <(b) (6) >, "(b) (6) " <(b) (6) >, Robert Garry (b) (6) (b) (6)
Subject: Nicholas Wade's piece today in Bull Atom. Sci.

External Sender. Be aware of links, attachments and requests.

smear on some of us – no facts of course, no sue-able accusations, just snipey comments and excerpts from Social Media. It's as if we can't now be scientists and actually colleagues who break bread and share a glass any more.

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

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

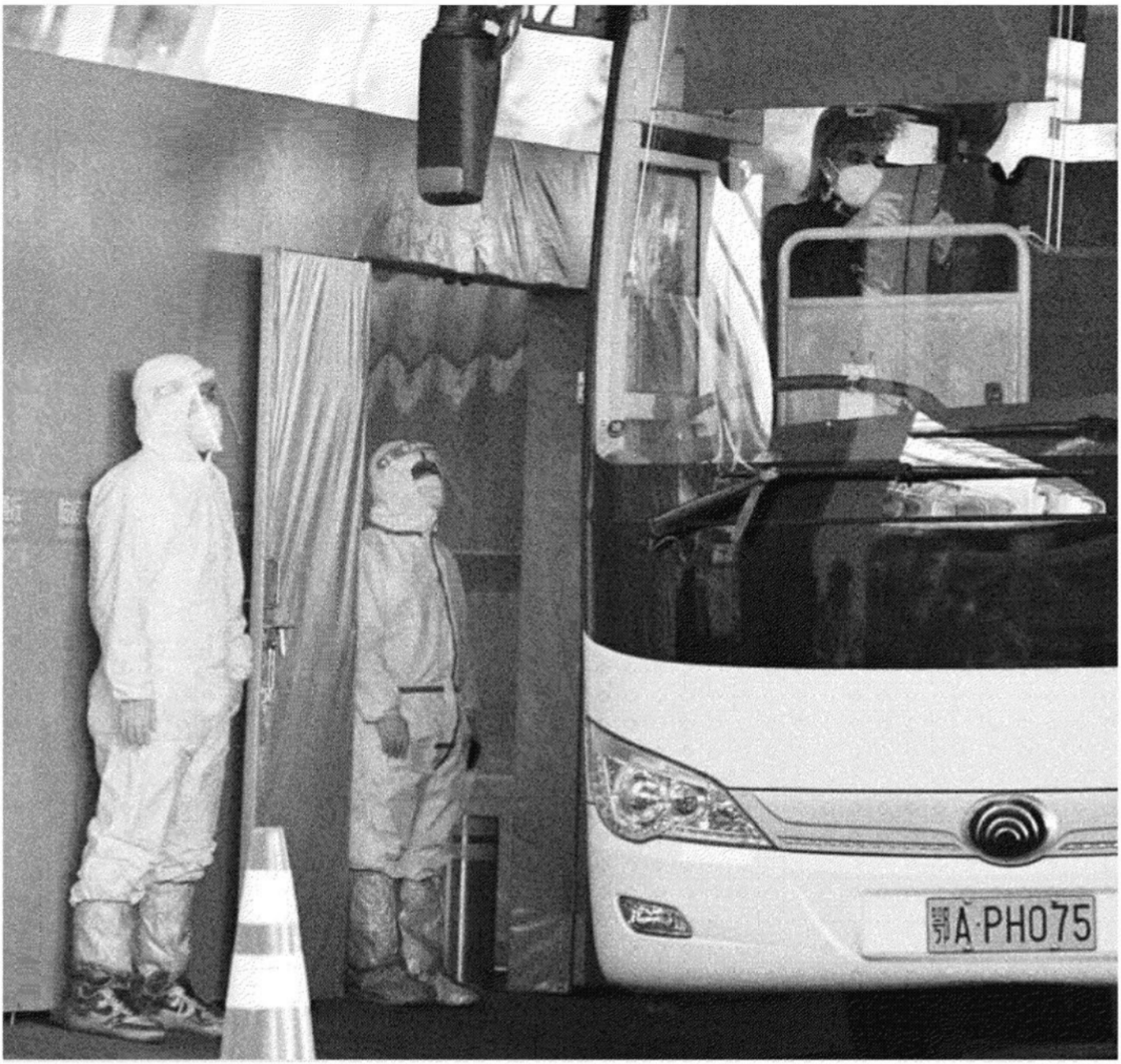
Cheers,

Peter

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

By Nicholas Wade | August 17, 2021

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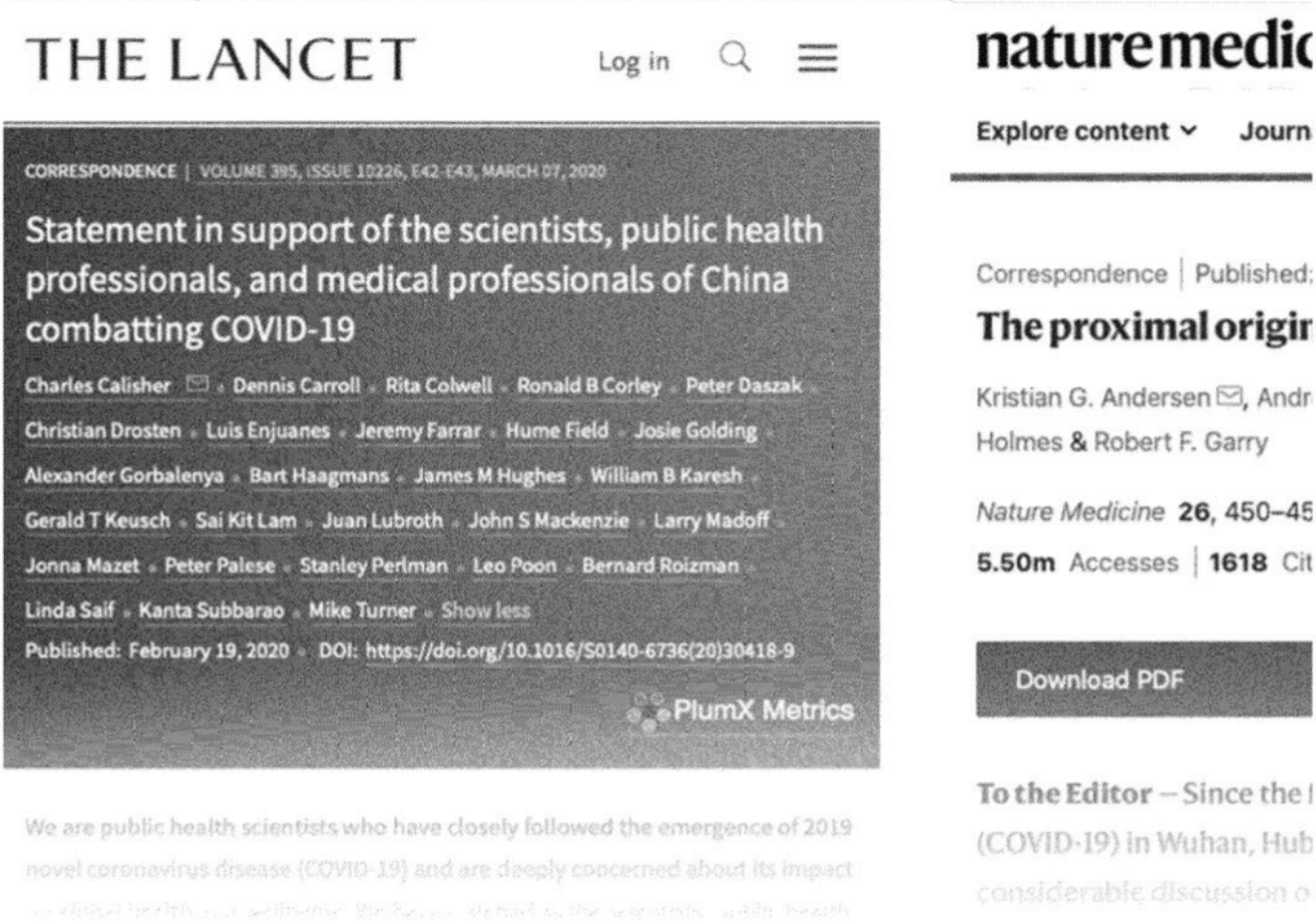
A bus carrying a team of experts from the World Health Organization departs an airport in Wuhan on Jan. 14, 2021, after arriving in the Chinese city to investigate the origins of the coronavirus pandemic. That investigation is widely seen as having been obstructed by Chinese authorities. (Photo by Kyodo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

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

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

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

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



THE LANCET

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CORRESPONDENCE | VOLUME 395, ISSUE 10226, E42-E43, MARCH 07, 2020

Statement in support of the scientists, public health professionals, and medical professionals of China combatting COVID-19

Charles Calisher, Dennis Carroll, Rita Colwell, Ronald B Corley, Peter Daszak, Christian Drosten, Luis Enjuanes, Jeremy Farrar, Hume Field, Josie Golding, Alexander Gorbalenya, Bart Haagmans, James M Hughes, William B Karesh, Gerald T Keusch, Sai Kit Lam, Juan Lubroth, John S Mackenzie, Larry Madoff, Jonna Mazet, Peter Palese, Stanley Perlman, Leo Poon, Bernard Roizman, Linda Saif, Kanta Subbarao, Mike Turner, Show less

Published: February 19, 2020 DOI: https://doi.org/10.1016/S0140-6736(20)30418-9

PlumX Metrics

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

nature medic

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Correspondence | Published:

The proximal origir

Kristian G. Andersen, Andr
Holmes & Robert F. Garry

Nature Medicine **26**, 450–45

5.50m Accesses | **1618** Cit

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To the Editor – Since the
(COVID-19) in Wuhan, Hub
considerable discussion o

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

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

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

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

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

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

Hi Tony,

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

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

Best,
Kristian

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

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

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

The participants included Fauci and possibly his nominal boss, Francis Collins, the director of the National Institutes of Health. (Farrar says in *Spike* that Collins was present, but Collins's name is not on the list of invitees in the Fauci emails.) Officials on the UK side were Farrar and Patrick Vallance, the chief scientific adviser to the UK government. The others were mostly virologists, including Andersen, Holmes, and Andrew Rambaut of the University of Edinburgh. Far from being selected at random, the conferees were associated through a complicated web of relationships, a sort of virologists' old boy network that included senior medical officials in China. Farrar was well acquainted with George Fu Gao, the head of China's counterpart of the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. He has described Gao as an "old friend," who in fact had called a month earlier, on December 31, 2019, to tell Farrar about the initial cases in Wuhan of what turned out to be Covid-19. Farrar says in his book *Spike* that on the weekend of the teleconference, he called another highly placed Chinese official, Chen Zhu, China's minister of health from 2007 to 2013, to tell him of "rumours that the novel coronavirus could be the result of a lab accident." As for Holmes, he has published many papers both with Farrar and with Gao and has been a guest professor at Gao's CDC from 2014 until 2020.

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

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

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

RELATED:

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

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

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

Hope it will help frame the discussions.

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

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

Nancy:

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

Best,

Tony

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

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

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

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

the *Lancet* letter a few days later.

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

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

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

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

RELATED:

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

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

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

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

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

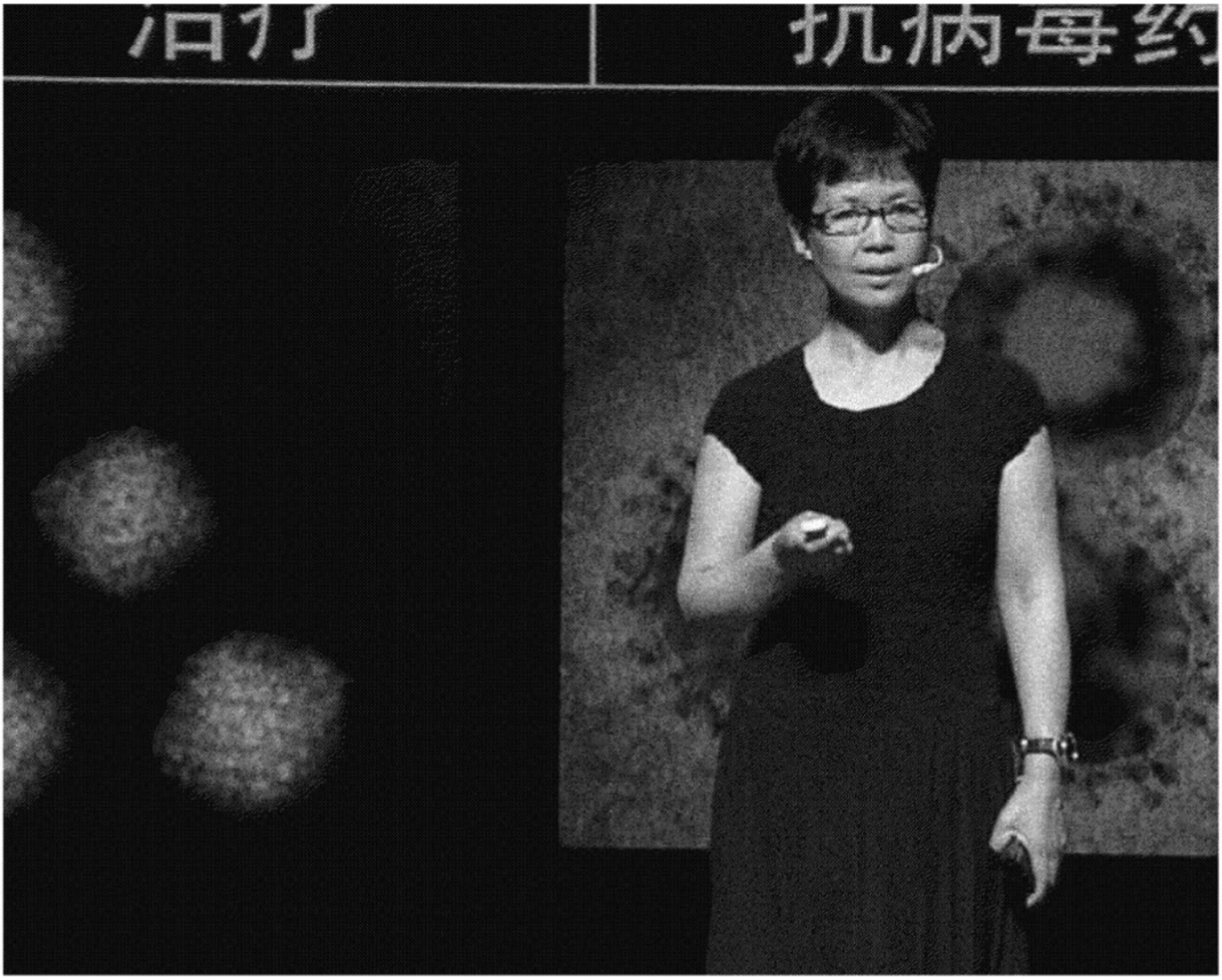
The perturbing lab leak theory raised by Andersen and his colleagues on January 31, 2020 had been safely laid to rest. Farrar and his colleagues had succeeded in the one goal also pursued by the autocrats in Beijing, that of suppressing discussion of whether the SARS2 virus might have escaped from the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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Cheers,

Peter

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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: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b) (6)
Sent: Sunday, August 15, 2021 6:26 PM
To: Jason Gale <j (b) (6)
Cc: (b) (6) ;(b) (6) g ;(b) (6) ; Garry, Robert F <
(b) (6) >; (b) (6)
Subject: RE: feedback on wild animals

Jason, not sure whose office politics is worse, but there is many a day I'd rather be in Australia, even if I had to drink that awful beer Fosters. (To quote Grouco Marx as he help up a glass of questionable beer: "last time I saw something like this, they had to shoot the horse")…. But I do have fond memories of Australia, and two of my closest freiends, both ex-students of mine, are out in Perth, the only large city there (if oy can call it that) I have never been, although it's high on my bucket list if this damn pandemic ever ends. He's an American public health physician and she's an Australian-Tongan PhD virologist, both wondeful smart people.

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
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(b) (6) (assistant: Whitney Robinson)
(b) (6)
(b) (6)

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REL0000481227



From: Jason Gale (BLOOMBERG/ NEWSROOM:) <(b) (6)
Sent: Saturday, August 14, 2021 7:54 PM
To: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] <(b) (6)
Cc: (b) (6) Garry, Robert F <
(b) (6)
Subject: Re: feedback on wild animals

Thanks, David.
I just got off a video conf call with the current editor in NY (the one asking all the latest questions). He's very nice and I feel like he gets its. He thinks it's a fascinating story.
Problem we have in journalism is that there are some people who aren't interested in actual journalism and telling stories; they want to climb to the top and manage people. I rejected the latter route 10 years ago, but am so grateful that I still get to meet so many remarkable people, visit cool places and see all aspects of humanity.
A difficulty working for a NY-based organization is that it's assumed that all the best people are in NYC, so being in Melbourne (where I need to be to be close to my kids in Adelaide), is that folks consider Australia a backwater and, by association, I mustn't be all that important/valuable.
But my new role as "global biosecurity czar" is helping somewhat.
Ahhhhh... Office politics!

From: (b) (6) At: 08/15/21 09:03:03 UTC+10:00
To: Jason Gale (BLOOMBERG/ NEWSROOM:)
Cc: (b) (6) (b) (6)
(b) (6) (b) (6) (b) (6)
Subject: Re: feedback on wild animals

Jason, all I can say is that it must be harder to be a journalist than a scientist.... I had no idea someone at your level would get pushed back.

Usually i get from one to 4 reviewer responses to a ms. and three of those are out to lunch. Occasionally i get a reviewer who really understands the work: half of those are helpful, the other half are trashers.

Maybe it's like being in the government where i am: there is endless push back, but the push-backers are brainless idiots who don't know what they are talking about.

Do you ever get to a point where the editors leave you alone on the science? Or do they all think they are science geniuses? d

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

On Aug 14, 2021, at 16:05, Jason Gale (BLOOMBERG/ NEWSROOM:) <(b) (6) > wrote:

Thanks, Bob. In journalism, getting to the truth even when it's genuinely and actively pursued, can be a tortuous process!
----- Original Message -----
From: Robert F Garry <(b) (6) >
To: JASON GALE. (b) (6) , (b) (6) , (b) (6) , (b) (6) , (b) (6)
At: 08/15/21 01:45:11 UTC+10:00

Looking forward to this important article. Truth is stronger than fiction.

From: Jason Gale (BLOOMBERG/ NEWSROOM:) <(b) (6)
Sent: Saturday, August 14, 2021 6:41 AM
To: (b) (6) , (b) (6) <(b) (6) , (b) (6) , Garry, Robert F <(b) (6) >; (b) (6) <(b) (6) >; (b) (6) , (b) (6) >
Subject: Fwd:Re:feedback on wild animals

External Sender. Be aware of links, attachments and requests.

Hi guys, in case you have nothing better to read over the weekend, this is some of the dialog I am having with editors in the U.S. Essentially, my response to questions from editor #6.
I thought I could claim victory when it looked like the story could be published this morning, but the editor of Businessweek objected and thinks he can make it better with another revision and an ETA of Tuesday. Sigh.
Jason

From: Jason Gale (BLOOMBERG/ NEWSROOM:) At: 08/14/21 16:36:58 UTC+10:00
To: Cristina Lindblad (BLOOMBERG/ NEWSROOM:) , Eric Gelman (BLOOMBERG/ NEWSROOM:)
Cc: Joel Weber (BLOOMBERG/ NEWSROOM:)
Subject: Re:feedback on wild animals

Hi.
Thanks for the feedback and the questions, which I have tried to answer in detail.
It's often easier to have a conversation over Nexi or the phone to explain nuanced information, or details that are

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clear to me, but might not be to someone coming at this fresh, but that's tricky with the time difference.
When you look back at what's happened here, it seems that in trying to deflect blame for the pandemic, which became increasingly vicious as the cataclysmic nature of the Covid-19 pandemic unfolded around March-April 2020, China tried to conceal a very obvious, very plausible source of the pandemic: it's flourishing wildlife trade (worth about $90 billion in 2016).
It was an obvious cause of the pandemic because an almost identical scenario triggered an international outbreak caused by a very similar coronavirus (SARS) in 2003-04.
But in attempting to cover up the wildlife trade, and making like there were never any wild animals being sold in Wuhan's wet markets, things began to backfire on China; questions were raised about the nearby lab studying these coronaviruses. The more geopolitical, heated and vicious the arguments and accusations became, the less cooperative China became. In response, the more intent/adamant some groups have become in their belief that China is covering up a lab-leak. It's become a vicious circle. If China isn't coming clean on the wild animals, what else is it trying to hide?? China's defensiveness means we may never get the cooperation needed to find the answers. If China had been honest and transparent about the wild animals in the wet markets, it might not be in this mess now.

Anyway, here are my response to your queries in green.

By the way, I wonder if the current headline:
Delayed Paper Gives Credence to Wuhan Market Covid Origin Story
doesn't convey much more than what we had 2 months earlier when we reported Xiao's findings: China Markets Sold Mink, Civets, Stoking Natural Origins Theory
Perhaps Obscured China Paper Scuppered Chance to Trace Covid Origins
would hits "China", "Covid" and "Origins" in a way that won't alienate people who already believe it was a lab-leak

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According to the report, minks, civets, raccoon dogs and other mammals known to harbor coronaviruses were sold in plain sight for years in shops across the city, including the now infamous Huanan wet market, to which many of the earliest Covid cases were traced. The evidence collected over 30 months by **Xiao Xiao** a I'D NAME HIM HERE [[i don't know that naming a researcher no one has ever heard of adds much]] researcher working at a lab affiliated with China's Ministry of Education was hastily drafted into a manuscript and submitted to a scientific journal [Joel, we

cannot name the first journal they delivered it to because the authors decline to give us the name, saying it may affect their future chances of being published] in February 2020, just weeks before the outbreak was declared a pandemic.

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While the study received wide attention when it was eventually released by a different publisher [Publisher (Springer Nature) and publication (Scientific Reports) are different. Might add confusion DO YOU WANT TO ADD NAME HERE?], its long and torturous journey to publication gave **Chinese officials an opportunity to weave alternative narratives in which the virus may have come from abroad, even from a U.S. Army biological research facility**. [the stuff in bold is not contested and we go on to show how that happened, documenting with links when available]I TWEAKED WORDING HERE BUT THIS STILL ISN'T QUITE RIGHT. IF THE REPORT HAD BEEN PUBLISHED EARLIER CHINESE OFFICIALS COULD STILL HAVE DONE WHAT THEY DID—THEY COULD HAVE JUST SAID THE REPORT WAS SHODDY, OR WHATEVER, AND THEY ALSO COULD HAVE JUST IGNORED IT. I disagree. The evidence that Xiao et al provide was meticulously documented and supported by photographs that would have been difficult/impossible for China to dismiss (as older published photos and media reports had been). What's more, Newman understands that Xiao collected blood-sucking ticks from the wild animals he studiously cataloged. His frozen tick samples could be tested for blood/antibodies/virus, which could be extremely helpful in identifying infected species PRIOR to December 2019. The WHO team knew nothing of this, so couldn't have asked China for this research or any results, had they actually done the research. The delay in the publication of Xiao's paper delayed the evidence that there were live animals sold in the Huanan market. The WHO researchers couldn't have asked about tests on wildlife that ostensibly were never there. Likewise, Chinese authorities couldn't have done the tests on animals that didn't exist. The problem is that in January and February 2020, it was widely assumed the animals HAD been there and that the necessary tests and tracing of animals (the sampling of animals on farms they were raised on, testing of farm workers, animal hunters, transporters and traders **had all been done** by researchers in China -- the very things that ultimately led to the discovery of the origins of SARS and of MERS viruses. **None of these things were done** (or at least, there is nothing publicly available to show that they were done) **because the animals "weren't there"**. Now that we all know they were there, China as lost considerable face. The issue has become so political than there is much less/?no willingness to cooperate and conduct the additional

research that the WHO-led team recommended. Ideally, Xiao's ticks should be studied, but it's doubtful that will now happen (I wouldn't be surprised if he's been ordered to incinerate them!) Hope this is clear.

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An international team of experts convened by the WHO traveled to Wuhan earlier this year to seek answers—a trip that might have yielded different results if the scientists had known about the work of Xiao Xiao, a virologist whose roles straddled epidemiology and animal research at the government-funded Key Laboratory of Southwest China Wildlife Resources Conservation and at Hubei University of Traditional Chinese Medicine.'MIGHT HAVE YIELDED DIFFERENT RESULTS' SEEMS HIGHLY SPECULATIVE. WHAT RESULTS DID IT YIELD? I'D CUT THIS GRAF
As mentioned above, the WHO-convened team of researchers was told by market authorities, vendors and regular market visitors that there were no live animals sold in the Huanan market. That undermined completely the premise that the Huanan market was the kind of place where live animals from different species are stacked in cages, with urine and fecal material drips from one cage to the one below it, where there are splatters of blood and guts from animals, and lots of potential for the spread of diseases from one species to another (including Homo sapiens). Instead, the market (and one other one known to have been selling live wild animals in 2019) was presented as selling only frozen wild animals and aquatic species and things unlikely to be the source of SARS-CoV-2. The WHO researchers were told there were frozen ferret badgers and other wildlife found in freezers. Some of the carcasses actually came from Yunnan, the province where the closest coronavirus related to SARS-CoV-2 was found in bats -- thus establishing a potential route from Yunnan to Wuhan in wildlife. That was actually important. When the researchers showed their Chinese counterparts photos of caged raccoon dogs taken in the Huanan market by Prof. Edward Holmes five or six years earlier, they were told by Chinese scientists that the photos may have been faked, and that the market had ceased selling such live animals anyway. The WHO researchers saw no evidence (empty cages, animal pelts, etc) to dispute what the Chinese scientists told them, although they did smell "animals" -- but were told they were smelling rotten meat, sewage etc. Three people associated with the WHO-led mission told me that they didn't believe the information they were given by anyone associated with the market. But since there was no evidence to the contrary, they were unable to push the Chinese scientists further on this. **The fact that the mission concluded that frozen, not live wild animals were sold in the market undermined the thesis that Covid**

resulted from an animal spillover. And the absence of strong evidence pointing to a spill over from wild animals to humans made the lab-leak theory look, in relative terms, more plausible.

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Six months and two revisions later, the journal's publishers rejected the paper. "They did not think it would have widespread appeal," says Newman, who declined to name the publication [do you want us to say why he won't name it? I don't think it's necessary. There's no upside for scientists to make a publisher look bad (most journals are published by a handful of publishers)] "It caused us, especially our Chinese co-authors, concern that these data would not be taken seriously."

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The manuscript underwent a third revision to include data on China's pangolin trade networks (an earlier study, later contested, had implicated pangolins in the virus's spread to humans)WHO ASKED THAT THIS INFO BE INCLUDED? (I did, because we're trying to explain here why WHO missed the significance of Xiao's evidence. The WHO was slammed by other papers being submitted PLUS Xiao's paper had a weird title. That title seemed relevant to the authors back in January-February 2020, when pangolins were considered a possible SARS-CoV-2-spreading culprit. But in October 2020, pangolins were off the hook, so the title would have seem irrelevant/unimportant at first glance at WHO). It was then sent to the online journal *Scientific Reports*.

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The China-based researchers had reason to be cautious. In February 2020, the China Center for Disease Control (CCDC lets not use "CCDC". It's not commonly used like the U.S. "CDC" is, and it's going to force readers to go back and figure out what the "CCDC" is) prohibited scientists working on Covid-relate

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~~CCDC~~ Disease detectives arriving from Beijing (think this makes it clear that these are China's disease "feds" arriving) on the first day of 2020 ordered environmental samples to be collected from drains and other surfaces at the market. Some 585 specimens were tested, of which 33 turned out to be positive for SARS-CoV-2. "All current evidence points to wild animals sold illegally," China CDC Director George Gao and colleagues wrote in the agency's

weekly bulletin in late January. All but two of the positive specimens came from a cavernous and poorly-ventilated section of the market's western wing, where many shops sold animals.

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~~The information void kindled a raging political debate that's already caused a trade war between China and Australia, as nations~~ demand to know ~~how Covid emerged.~~ Australia in April 2020 called for a global inquiry into the origins of the pandemic, including China's handling of the initial outbreak. Days later, then-U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo used part of his Earth Day message to call on China to close its wet markets to "reduce risks to human health inside and outside of China."

Based on a discussion today with someone with knowledge of the WHO-led mission to Wuhan in Jan-Feb 2021, a significant catalyst for China's defensiveness is the emergence of **claims for reparations** that extended from the finger-pointing at China's wet markets. These surfaced in April 2020, and have continued as recently as June 2021 (when Trump pushed for it again at a rally in the Midwest)

SO IS THIS THE POINT AT WHICH CHINA, WHICH SEEMINGLY ACCEPTED THE WET MARKET HYPOTHESIS, BEGAN TRYING TO CREATE A DIFFERENT NARRATIVE? (I think it was incremental. I believe China was embarrassed that its citizens were still buying wild animals in wet markets to eat -- a well-known hazard for zoonotic disease transmission that China tried unsuccessfully to outlaw almost 20 years ago. But that embarrassment/humiliation morphed into rigid denial and obfuscation when governments began openly blaming the Chinese Communist Party and agitating for China to pay reparations for the pandemic. See these clips:

- USA Today: Blame the Chinese Communist Party for the coronavirus crisis: Coronavirus crisis proves communism is still a grave threat to the entire world. If Beijing had just been honest, the pandemic could be preventable. April 5, 2020
- Yahoo News: More than half of Americans think China should pay coronavirus reparations, poll shows April 9, 2020
- Voice of America: Americans Join Coronavirus Lawsuit to Make China Pay April 10, 2020
- Washington Post Opinion: China must pay reparations to Africa for its coronavirus failures April 16, 2020
- Reuters: In a first, Missouri sues China over coronavirus economic losses April 22, 2020
- Washington Post: Missouri is suing China over the coronavirus pandemic. It's the latest conservative

gambit, April 22, 2020

- New York Post: Top German paper demands $165 billion coronavirus reparations from China April 22, 2020
- Attorney General Fitch Prepares to Sue China on Behalf of Mississippians April 22, 2020
- Newsweek: Trump on U.S. Seeking Compensation From China Over COVID-19: 'We Have Not Determined the Final Amount' April 28, 2020
- The Guardian: Trump says China could have stopped Covid-19 and suggests US will seek damages April 28, 2020
- Intelligencer: Trump Thinks He Can Make China Pay for the Virus Like Mexico Paid for the Wall, April 30, 2020
- Washington Post: U.S. officials crafting retaliatory actions against China over coronavirus as President Trump fumes April 30, 2020
- Lawfare: Does China Really Owe the World Trillions of Dollars? May 7, 2020
- Fortune: Trump's demand that China pay coronavirus reparations evokes an ugly history May 8, 2020
- South China Morning Post: Why China won't be paying the West coronavirus reparations any time soon May 15, 2020
- Deccan Herald, India: Abhijit Bhattacharyya | Why China needs to pay reparations to the world June 4, 2020
- Why calls for reparations from China for coronavirus are an unfeasible distraction June 9, 2020
- Newsweek: Trump Demands China 'Pay Reparations' for COVID, Says $10 Trillion Not Enough June 12, 2021

In response, Geng Shuang, a spokesman for China's Foreign Ministry, denied "wildlife wet markets" existed in the country. Government researchersCAN WE BE MORE SPECIFIC? Twenty-two researchers from mostly nationally-funded laboratories (I think it's the Chinese equivalent of the NIH in the U.S.) and institutes attached to the Chinese Academy of Sciences) now dismiss the market hypothesis completely. "SARS-CoV-2 could not have possibly evolved in an animal market in a big city and even less likely in a laboratory," they wrote in a paper released last month ahead of publicationWHERE/WHEN WILL IT BE PUBLISHED? It was released as a "pre-print" on a Chinese academic repository ahead of publication that appears to be managed/owned by the Chinese Academy of Sciences. Papers are usually released in pre-print form before they have been accepted for publication or peer-reviewed as a way of expediting public access to the information. In this case, there is no information to suggest if, where or when the paper will be published.

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A more recent paperBY WHOM? (China CDC's Gao and eight other scientists mostly from the Chinese of Academy of Sciences' institutes) contends that the virus may have been imported from multiple locations worldwide, including parts of Europe where mink are raised in areas inhabited also by horseshoe bats known to harbor coronaviruses. “The official narrative changed not because the evidence changed,” says Robert Garry, a professor of microbiology and immunology at Tulane University’s School of Medicine in New Orleans “A spillover from a wet market was what caused SARS, and, embarrassingly for China, those wet markets were never shut down.” Garry is the co-author of one of the earliest papers on the origins of Covid but wasn’t involved in the research on Wuhan’s markets.

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I DON’T REALLY UNDERSTAND WHAT POINT THIS GRAF IS TRYING TO MAKE. This is intended to demonstrate the kind of gaslighting that has occurred. Some of the WHO-led researchers are veterinarians and zoologists -- they know what animals smell like, and could smell their lingering presence a year later, but were told essentially that it was impossible that they were smelling animals because **there "were no live animals there"**.) The researchers noted a mixed smell of animals and disinfectant in some areas of the market, but they were told by the market’s manager that they were probably smelling the lingering stench of rotten meat and sewage, according to a joint WHO-China report. [should we add “according to Laing Wannian etc here? Liang Wannian was the leader of the Chinese research team collaborating jointly with the WHO-led research team. The source for the above description are in the annexes to the official joint WHO-China report released at the end of March 2021.]

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Earlier the same day, the international research team visited Wuhan’s larger Baishazhou market, where Xiao had regularly surveyed two sellers of live wild animals. Yet the group was told only frozen food, ingredients, and kitchenware were on offer there. Liang Wannian, an epidemiologist who led the Chinese experts collaborating with the WHO-convened team, says his group had no knowledge of Xiao’s data either. [if the above information on what the delegation saw all comes from this same source, maybe we should include his name higher up (The source for the description of what the origins researchers saw on Jan. 31, 2021, comes from the official 120-page joint WHO-China report and its 193-page annexes, not from Liang. Since we are essentially accusing China of

concealing the information that Xiao documented, we asked Liang at a press conference in late July 2021 when the Chinese team first knew about Xiao's findings -- that the Huanan market and three others in Wuhan were selling live animals permissive to SARS-CoV-2 infection -- and what research China has done subsequently as a follow-up on this information? Liang gave a very long-winded response in Chinese in which he said essentially "we didn't have that information in January-February 2021 when the research team was in Wuhan". I think it's important we keep this to demonstrate that we have tried to ascertain what China knew/has done and have given the Chinese researchers the opportunity to respond. In addition, I have emailed China CDC Director George Gao at least twice and not received any response.]

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Among the earliest clusters of infections recorded in Wuhan, one involved three Covid cases among staff working at a stall in Huanan. One of the employees, a 32-year-old who fell ill on Dec. 19, traded goods back and forth between the Huanan and Baishazhou markets.
WHERE DOES THIS FACT COME FROM? NOT THE REPORT, RIGHT? WHEN DID IT FIRST BECOME KNOWN? This information was from the joint WHO-China report released in March 2021, however, the WHO-led researchers went to the Baishazhou market more as a demonstration by the China team of what a perfectly functioning large food market looks like. The WHO-led team was oblivious to Xiao's research that showed there were at least two stalls in Baishazhou that had been selling live wild animals for human consuption. So this detail and its significance was lost on the WHO researchers at the time.)

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A confirmed case linking two markets that sold wild animals is “very intriguing,”says Stephen Goldstein, a research associate in evolutionary virology at the University of Utah in Salt Lake City. But tracing any contact the employee might have had with infected wildlife is impossible now that the animals are long gone.WOULD TIMELY PUBLICATION OF THE REPORT HAVE CHANGED THIS? It's unlikely that Xiao et al's paper would have been *published* soon after It was drafted in February 2020, but it could have been *released* as a pre-print ahead of publication and peer-review that same month. That would have **confirmed** what almost everyone had suspected: that there **was** a flourishing wildlife trade in Wuhan that provides a plausible pathway by which coronavirus-infected wildlife from Yunnan and beyond could have introduced the virus to the city, sparking the Covid outbreak. It's also possible

that swift recognition of these potential wild-animal vectors could have allowed scientists to test them for the virus and for antibodies against the virus while they were still alive (perhaps not the ones from Huanan, but wildlife in the three other Wuhan markets). Because of the statements the Chinese authorities had been making in January and February that strongly supported the animal spill over theory, it was assumed that this research was being done. Of course, the pandemic was raging then, so it would have been challenging. But, because of the denial by Chinese researchers that wild animals were being sold in Wuhan wet markets before the pandemic, there was never that level of follow up. At least, if there was, it was never made public.)

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"It seems to me, at a minimum, that local or regional authorities kept that informationWHAT INFORMATION? (that Wuhan had a flourishing live wild animal business going on in its wet markets before the pandemic) quiet deliberately," Goldstein says. "It's incredible to me that people theorize about one type of cover-up, but an obvious cover-up is staring them right in the face."

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Date: Thu, 8 Jul 2021 12:27:41 AM -0400
Sent: Thu, 8 Jul 2021 12:27:22 AM -0400
Subject: Some good media and science this week
From: Peter Daszak (b) (6)
To: Keusch. Gerald T (b) (6) Rich Roberts (b) (6) David Morens (b) (6) peter hotez (b) (6)
CC: Aleksei Chmura (b) (6)

Finally great to see some pushback this week against the 'anti-science' agenda out there…

First a bit more pickup of the new Lancet letter. A good piece in the Global Times. I know this is a Chinese Govt outlet, but it's read widely across Asia and in English speaking countries so it does have an impact: https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202107/1228109.shtml There's also a piece in South China Morning Post: https://www.scmp.com/news/china/science/article/3140052/coronavirus- scientists-again-say-theres-no-evidence-lab-leak and in The Hill https://thehill.com/policy/healthcare/561633- group-of-scientists-argues-covid-19-lab-theory-without-evidence

Second, I've heard that the China scientists from the WHO team also have letter in Lancet coming soon – don't know what it'll say but expect (hope) it calls for balance and patience…

Third – piece from Eddie Holmes and colleagues (incl. some big names) is now up online, laying out substantial evidence for 'natural' origin, including lots of data gathered by WHO team, as well as pointing out lack of evidence for lab leak: https://zenodo.org/record/5075888#.YOX5KuhKhY

Also of interest – China's Ministry of Foreign Affairs is paying close attention to the media reports of threats against scientists. Normally this would make me cringe, but EcoHealth is a bit more distanced this time, and the target is a letter from a group of activists pushing a lab leak agenda. It's interesting reading in any case https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202107/1227848.shtml

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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Date: Fri, 4 Jun 2021 4:35:28 PM -0400

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

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

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) <(b) (6) >;

CC: Taubenberger, Jeffery (NIH/NIAID) [E] <(b) (6) >; Peter Daszak ((b) (6) <(b) (6) >; Rich Roberts ((b) (6) <(b) (6) Keusch, Jerry ((b) (6) <(b) (6)

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

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.

David

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Senior Advisor to the Director
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- (b) (6) (assistant: Whitney Robinson)
- (b) (6)
- (b) (6)

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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

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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.'

Dr. Daszak - a key architect of the Lancet letter - runs the New York-based, tax payer-funded non-profit EcoHealth Alliance, which has funneled hundreds of thousands of dollars to the Wuhan Institute of Virology.

Guardian forced to amend article it published by Peter Daszack to reveal his ties to Wuhan lab as Lancet editor voices support for lab leak theory denouncement

The Guardian was forced to amend an article it published by Dr Peter Daszack to include a reference to his work with the Wuhan Institute of Virology.

The article, published in June last year, was amended three days after its publication.

In the article titled 'Ignore the conspiracy theories: scientists know Covid-19 wasn't created in a lab', Dr Daszack said the lab-leak theory was a 'chapter in a tale of blame, misinformation and finger-pointing'.

He characterised lab-leak theorists as 'conspiracy theorists' believing in 'frankenviruses'.

The Guardian was forced to amend the original article to highlight Dr Daszack's ties to the Wuhan lab from where some suggest

Covid was accidentally leaked.
The paper said: 'This article was amended on 11 June 2020 to make clear the writer's past work with researchers at the Wuhan Institute of Virology.'
Editor of the Lancet Richard Horton — who published the letter dismissing theories Covid may not have originated naturally in his prestigious scientific journal — Tweeted support for the piece.
He wrote: 'Peter Daszak rejects conspiracy theories about the origins of Covid-19 and he knows more than most of us about coronaviruses.'
Mr Horton has regularly criticised lab-leak theories during the pandemic.
He told the Hong Kong-based South China Morning Post it was it is 'not helpful' and 'unfair' to blame China for being the source of the pandemic last year.
He worked with the lab's so-called 'bat woman' Shi Zhengli as they investigated and modified coronaviruses.
Shi, 57, proved that horseshoe bats were behind a SARS virus that killed nearly 800 people in 2002 and has collected thousands of samples from bat caves.
Dr Daszak was one four Brits to sign the letter, including SAGE advisor Sir Jeremy Farrar and two other experts working for the Welcome Trust at the time. The letters' signatories included four others who worked for EcoHealth.
Jamie Metzl, who sits on the World Health Organization's advisory committee on human genome editing and is a form Bill Clinton administration staffer, said Dr Daszak's letter was a 'form of thuggery'.
He said: 'The Lancet letter was scientific propaganda and a form of thuggery and intimidation.
'By labeling anyone with different views a conspiracy theorist, the Lancet letter was the worst form of bullying in full contravention of the scientific method.'
MailOnline has approached the letters' other signatories for comment.
A Freedom of Information Act request revealed Dr Daszak told his fellow signatories in an email that the letter would not be sent under the EcoHealth logo 'and will not be identifiable as coming from any one organization of person'.
The emails show he even considered not signing the letter himself, although in the end he did.
The idea, he said was for it to be coming from 'a community supporting our colleagues'.
The letter — titled 'Statement in support of the scientists, public health professionals, and medical professionals of China combatting Covid-19' — praised the Chinese 'who continue to save lives and protect global health during the challenge of the Covid-19 outbreak'.
It went on to add: 'We stand together to strongly condemn conspiracy theories suggesting that Covid-19 does not have a natural origin.
'Conspiracy theories do nothing but create fear, rumors and prejudices that jeopardize our global collaboration in the fight against the virus.'
It ended with the words: 'We declare no competing interests.'
The letter proved so influential that it virtually ended debate on the origin of Covid for more than a year.
Anyone who suggested it could have been man-made was shot down amid accusations of anti-Chinese xenophobia.
Robert Redfield, the former director of the Centers for Disease Control told Vanity Fair he received death threats after floating the theory that the virus could have been man-made.
He said: 'I was threatened and ostracized because I proposed another hypothesis. I expected it from politicians. I didn't expect it from science.'
Dr Peter Daszak, 55, from Manchester, orchestrated a behind-the-scenes 'bullying' campaign to ensure blame for Covid was directed away from a Chinese lab with which he had worked closely.
Dr Daszack worked with the lab's so-called 'bat woman' Shi Zhengli (pictured left) as they investigated and modified coronaviruses. Shi, 57, proved that horseshoe bats were behind a SARS virus that killed nearly 800 people in 2002 and has collected thousands of samples from bat caves
The theory the virus escaped from the Wuhan Institute of Virology was originally dismissed by left-leaning media outlets last year as a conspiracy theory after it was mentioned by then-President Donald Trump.
But they have now changed course with the launch of the US investigation.
Liberal US outlets, who slammed Mr Trump when he said a year ago said he had 'a high degree of confidence' that the virus escaped from a lab, have finally conceded that he may have been right — after a year ridiculing the suggestion.

Who signed the letter in The Lancet?

- Peter Daszak, EcoHealth Alliance, New York
- Charles Calisher, Colorado State University
- Dennis Carroll, Scowcroft Institute of International Affairs, Texas
- Rita Colwell, University of Maryland
- Ronald Corley, NEIDL Institute, Boston
- Christian Drosten, Charité – Universitatsmedizin Berlin, Germany
- Luis Enjuanes, National Center of Biotechnology, Madrid

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- 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:	Mon, 27 May 2024 12:03:00 PM -0400
Subject:	Fwd: Science-Based Medicine: The ultimate COVID-19 antivax conspiracy theory, courtesy of The Brownstone Institute and Jeffery Tucker
From:	David Morens < (b) (6)
To:	Peter Daszak < (b) (6) < (b) (6) peter hotez < (b) (6) Keusch, Gerald T < (b) (6) Roberts, Rich Jeffrey Sturchio < (b) (6) Aleksei Chmura < (b) (6)
Attachments:	image001.png; image001.png

This would be hilarious if it were not so sick and dangerous. d

From the cell phone of David Morens

--------- Forwarded message ---------
From: **Folkers, Greg (NIH/NIAID) [C]** (b) (6) >
Date: Mon, May 27, 2024, 11:48
Subject: Science-Based Medicine: The ultimate COVID-19 antivax conspiracy theory, courtesy of The Brownstone Institute and Jeffery Tucker
To:



Science-Based Medicine

Exploring issues and controversies in the relationship between science and medicine

The ultimate COVID-19 antivax conspiracy theory, courtesy of The Brownstone Institute and Jeffery Tucker

I've long argued that antivax beliefs, indeed all science denial, is conspiracy theory. Leave it to The Brownstone Institute's Jeffery Tucker to make my point better for me than I ever could. Of course, Brownstone was always going to "go there."

David Gorski on May 27, 2024 0

It's a holiday weekend here in the US (and, if I'm not mistaken, in the UK as well), and because of that I debated whether I should just take the weekend off, particularly given how rough the last couple of weeks were getting a grant application finished on Thursday evening. However, I am managing editor here and felt obligated. Also, I came across a post over at that "spiritual child of the Great Barrington Declaration" (a.k.a. the Brownstone Institute) by its founder Jeffrey Tucker that illustrated so well a point that I've long made that I felt that a shorter-than-Gorski-usual post was warranted this weekend. The Brownstone Institute article is entitled

What Really Happened: Lockdown until Vaccination, and, wow, it is a doozy, even for the Brownstone Institute. You'll get a flavor of what you're about to read from the introduction:

Four years later, many people are investigating how our lives were completely upended by a pandemic response. Over my time on the case, I've heard countless theories. It was Big Tech, Big Pharma, Big Finance, the Green New Deal, the CCP, Depopulation, Get Trump, Mail-In Ballots, and so on.

There is evidence to back them all.

The problem with having so many pieces of evidence and so many theories is that people can too easily get thrown off track, going on wild goose chases. It's too much to follow through consistently, and this allows the perpetrators to hide their deeds.

There you have it, right from the very first paragraph, a Greatest Hits Collection of pandemic and antivax conspiracy theories, and guess what? Tucker thinks there's "evidence to back them all"! However, he cautions that there are just so many conspiracies that it's easy to "get thrown off track" and go "on wild goose chases," all the better to allow the "perpetrators to hide their deeds." No doubt that very plethora of conspiracies is part of "Their" plan, as "They" do whatever it is They planned to do in order to accomplish whatever it is They had planned to accomplish, all at the expense of…you, of course. That's because, as I've long argued, all antivaccine misinformation is basically a flavor of conspiracy theory, one that I dubbed a decade ago "the central conspiracy theory of the antivaccine movement."

Before I delve into the details of what Tucker thinks They are doing, let's step back a moment and marvel at this evolution of the Brownstone Institute. I will admit right up front that the conspiracy theory laid out by Tucker is not even the most bonkers antivax conspiracy theory that I've ever encountered. For instance, Mike Adam's "Oblivion Agenda" conspiracy theory that posited that COVID-19 was a bioweapon designed as part of a two-step plan hatched up by global elites and aliens—I kid you not!—to force humanity to be vaccinated in order to cause "depopulation," all so that they could together profit off of the natural resources of earth. Amusingly, the Oblivion Agenda was a pandemic-era update to Adams' older, similar "vaccine Holocaust" conspiracy theory from 2019. It's not even as bonkers as Toby Rogers' more recent COVID-19 vaccine conspiracy theory that would be as bonkers as Adams' if only it had aliens in it.

Truth be told, there's a lot of Toby Rogers' conspiracy theory in Jeffrey Tucker's conspiracy theory, and there could well be a reason for that. First, let's take a look at some of the central elements of Rogers' speculations:

What's striking about Covid is that every step was designed to inflict maximum harm:

- *Splicing HIV into a coronavirus (who even comes up with an idea that sinister!?).*
- *Blocking access to hydroxychloroquine and ivermectin.*
- *Removing NAC from the shelves.*
- *No early treatment.*
- *Respirators that kill 90% of patients.*
- *Seeding nursing homes with Covid+ patients.*
- *Blanket "Do Not Resuscitate" orders for the disabled.*
- *"15 days to flatten the curve" that slowed the rate of natural immunity.*
- *Closing schools for two years.*

- *Masks that reduce oxygen.*
- *Shutting down gyms to reduce exercise.*
- *Keeping liquor stores open while closing the churches that host AA meetings.*
- *Closing hiking trails, beaches, and parks thus preventing people from getting vitamin D.*
- *Remdesivir and Paxlovid that are expensive, useless, and deadly.*
- *The most toxic and deadly vaccines in history on a new platform that will never work.*
- *Billions of dollars spent on propaganda to convince people to accept every step of this nefarious plan.*
- *Firings, censorship, and blacklisting of critical thinkers.*

Actual science was always ignored. Every action by government for four years degraded the health of the public. Covid is a world war, launched by the ruling class, against humanity.

Two of the key elements of conspiratorial thinking are to see patterns in randomness and to attribute malign intent to this pattern, regardless of whether there is any evidence of malign intent or not; well, that, and to claim that the "truth" is being "suppressed," as Rogers does in the last two bullet points. As for the rest, I've written about damned near all of those pieces of misinformation, such as the false claims that HIV was "spliced into" SARS-CoV-2. I don't feel the need to address all those claims individually, as they are all nonsense, with the possible exception of the "flatten the curve" claim, which is not nonsense in the way that Rogers implies. (It's nonsense in that in retrospect it should always have been obvious that a period of 15 days was never going to be sufficient to flatten the curve.) The point is that "they" (the "ruling class") are not just malign; they actively wanted to kill millions of people, to launch a "world war" against all of humanity. Why? Who knows? As much as we might despise the ruling class, they are part of humanity too and can't escape that.

Now, let's look at Tucker's conspiracy theory, where he starts by, in essence, claiming to apply Occam's razor and then JAQing off:

For such situations, we can take recourse to Occam's razor: the best explanation is the simplest one that explains the maximum number of facts. This is what I offer here.

Those in the know will be shocked by nothing herein. Those not in the know will be amazed at the audaciousness of the entire scheme. If it is true, there are surely documents and people who can confirm this. At least this model of thinking will assist in guiding thinking and research.

Of course, the "explanation" that Tucker offers is nowhere near the "simplest one that explains the maximum number of facts." Also, conveniently enough, there is no "smoking gun" evidence, as Tucker appears to be readily admitting, saying that such documents must "surely" exist, along with people who can confirm his ramblings. It's a shame that he can't present any of them now, but that is the nature of conspiracy theories.

The first part (of three parts) of the conspiracy theory is, predictably enough, that SARS-CoV-2 was created, either intentionally or accidentally, but Frankenstein-like scientists engaged in dangerous "gain of function' research at the Wuhan Institute of Virology:

First, in late 2019 and perhaps as early as October, higher-ups in the biodefense industry and perhaps people like Anthony Fauci and Jeremy Farrar of the UK became aware of a lab leak at a US-funded bioweapons lab in Wuhan. This is a place that does gain-of-function research to produce both the pathogen and the antidote, just like in the movies. It's gone on for decades in possibly hundreds of labs but this leak

looked pretty bad, one with a fast-transmitting virus believed to be of high lethality.

The civilians were not likely the first to know. Military and security higher-ups, the people actually working with clearances in the bioweapons industry, were the first to get the word. They gradually leaked it out to civilian sources.

So, yes, Tucker is claiming that SARS-CoV-2 was the result of bioweapons research in China, even though there is no evidence that the Wuhan Institute of Virology was ever a bioweapons laboratory. Moreover, as I noted in May 2021, the idea that SARS-CoV-2 originated in a "lab leak" had already clearly become a conspiracy theory. While it was still possible that the virus had emerged as part of a lab leak, there was no good evidence that it was anything other than of natural origin, the wild (and highly misleading) claims of HIV sequences inserted into SARS-CoV-2, furin cleavage sites, nucleotide sequences leftover from common lab plasmids, and other supposed "evidence" of human alteration and engineering applied to the nucleotide sequence of the virus notwithstanding. Moreover, evidence was trending (and continues to trend) in the direction that SARS-CoV-2 arose naturally and that its spillover into humans also occurred naturally, most likely at the Wuhan wet market. Basically, taking a look at the totality of the evidence, lab leak as an origin for the virus is, while not impossible, incredibly unlikely, but that hasn't stopped conspiracy theorists, including a number of prominent legislators, from promoting the conspiracy theory as a way of attacking China and promoting doubt about science and vaccines.

Of course, to Tucker, the whole idea of zoonotic spillover at the Wuhan wet market as the origin of SARs-CoV-2 and the COVID-19 pandemic was a coverup by "Them" to shift blame from the Wuhan Institute of Virology:

That's when the effort began to shift blame over to the wet markets in Wuhan and scientifically back the idea of natural origins. They had to work very fast, but the result was the famed "proximal origins" article, published in early February, which was backed up by a stream of NIH-funded scientists labeling the claim of lab origin as conspiracy theory. The media backed the claim with censorship of anyone saying otherwise.

Actually, that paper was a good synthesis of what was known at the time, based on the newly published nucleotide sequence of the novel coronavirus, the history of virology and pandemics, and observations related to where the first outbreaks occurred. It was imperfect, but, in retrospect, not wrong. While Tucker doesn't go so far down the rabbit hole as to claim that the "lab leak" had been intentional, he does claim that "They" saw it as an opportunity to push mRNA vaccines:

So far so good, but there was still the problem of the virus itself. That's where the antidote labeled a vaccine came into play. This effort began in January too: the opportunity to deploy mRNA technology. It had been stuck in research for some 20 years but had never gained regulatory approval through conventional means. But with a pandemic declared, and the fix relabelled as a military countermeasure, the entire regulatory apparatus could be bypassed, along with all indemnifications pushed through and even taxpayer funding.

The people behind the lab disaster would become heroes instead of villains.

How convenient. But how? I think you can guess what's coming next:

Speed was always an issue. How can a vaccine be produced, distributed, and injected into the world's population before the pandemic has already passed through the population, ending the same way as every other such episode in history, namely through exposure and resulting immunological upgrades?

If that happened, the vaccine would be superfluous and the pharma would miss their chance to demonstrate the wonders of a technological promise that had consumed them for twenty-plus years.

Got it? After the "lab leak" of SARS-CoV-2, "They" (big pharma, with the complicity of, presumably, the US government, medical profession, and public health apparatus) saw an opportunity for Profit with a capital "P," by pushing mRNA vaccines. Why mRNA vaccines in particular? Tucker never really explains in any coherent

manner other than that mRNA technology was "new." Of course, mRNA technology wasn't really that "new." As Tucker readily admitted, it had been around for a couple of decades in development for various purposes, mostly cancer therapy but also as a novel vaccine platform. But apparently the profit motive was too strong, and "They" saw their opportunity.

According to Tucker, that's where—you guessed it!—the "lockdowns" came in:

That's where the lockdowns come in. Here is where the plan gets truly insidious. The idea was to come up with some way in which the antidote would gain the credit for having solved the pandemic that supposedly emerged from a wet market. The new technology would get the credit and then obtain generalized approval for a new form of health care that could be applied to myriad maladies in the future. Everyone would get rich. And Big Pharma and Fauci would be the heroes.

Apart from convincing Donald Trump to authorize the wrecking of his prized economy (which is a story unto itself), the vexing problem with the plan was timing. There was likely no way to get this released to the population for at least 9 months or perhaps more. It could be sooner in the future, perhaps 100 days, but the first time out would require more time.

It's not that the planners were in denial of natural immunity. They were simply against depending on it or even tolerating it when they could test out a new product on the population.

Surprise! Surprise! Surely you knew that "natural immunity" would enter the picture soon. Tucker's entire idea is that he and the three scientists who had served as his useful idiots to propose the Great Barrington Declaration had been right all along! You remember the Great Barrington Declaration, right? It was the Declaration issued by three scientists—Stanford's Dr. Jay Bhattacharya, Harvard's Dr. Martin Kulldorff, and Oxford's Dr. Sunetra Gupta—under the auspices of the "free market" right wing organization where Jeffrey Tucker had been employed at the time (the American Institute for Economic Research) that proposed, in essence, letting COVID-19 rip among the "healthy" population while supposedly using "focused protection" to keep those most at risk of severe complications and death from COVID-19 safe. It was a profoundly eugenicist document, given that they provided no good concrete policies or strategies for "focused protection" and thus basically boiled down to letting the elderly and those with chronic health problems die of COVID-19 given that the risk to the young and healthy was so much lower. Even more risibly, the Great Barrington Declaration claimed that, if its approach were followed, "natural herd immunity" could be achieved in six months.

Of course, as Jonathan Howard and I have long discussed, the Great Barrington Declaration was always a pipe dream. The reasons were simple. First, "natural herd immunity" requires either lifelong immunity to a disease after infection or, at minimum, very long-lasting postinfection immunity, such as for measles. We knew right from the beginning that SARS-CoV-2, the coronavirus that causes COVID-19, does not meet that criteria, as was pointed out in the John Snow Memorandum, which noted that coronaviruses generally do not produce long-lived post infection immunity. Even worse, coronaviruses are very good at evolving to evade immunity from prior infections, a characteristic that led to the Delta and Omicron waves. Also, the "vulnerable" population was estimated to be as high as 30%, meaning that protecting them could not be nearly as focused as the Great Barrington Declaration seemed to assume. As I said, this was a very eugenicist, "screw the weak" kind of document.

Note how Tucker's narrative promotes him and the useful idiots whom he recruited to write the Great Barrington Declaration as the heroes by claiming that the reason for the "lockdowns" and all the public health interventions that so damaged the economies of so many nations was because "They" were in a race against natural herd immunity to get their vaccines out, the better to claim credit for ending the pandemic, instead of just letting nature take its course and letting the virus cull the weak and elderly, while just inconveniencing the young and healthy (except, of course, for what Tucker considered the inconsequential number of "young and healthy" who did die of the virus despite being young and healthy). As is the case in conspiracy theories, those positing them receive great ego gratification in portraying themselves as the heroes with "hidden knowledge." He even makes it quite explicit:

The objective in this little game must be to preserve population-wide immunological naivete for the entire period. Exposure needed to be minimized to keep seroprevalence levels at their lowest possible point, perhaps no more than 10 or 20 percent and certainly below 50 percent. The only possible path here was to insist on as little human-to-human contact as possible.

Hence: lockdown. Forced human separation. Not just for two weeks. The protocol needed to be maintained for 9-11 months. Nothing like this had ever been attempted in human history, especially not on a global level. But maybe it would work, thanks to online commerce, work-from-home tools, and a properly panicked population that had not been through anything like this in many generations.

Thus did the plan commence. There were slogans: "flatten the curve," "slow the spread," and so on. They all amounted to the same thing: prolong the pain as long as possible to get ready for mass injections.

This is why people were told to stay inside. AA meetings had to be canceled. The gyms were closed. There could be no church services, concerts, weddings, or funerals. There had to be Plexiglas at all merchant locations. Restaurants had to close or be only at half capacity. This was the reason for the masking, a lame ritual but a good symbol of disease avoidance. The travel restrictions were the same. Media messaging would be to demonize all infections and raise constant panic about any exposure.

And, of course, this nefarious plot, not just science and evidence, was the reason for the hostile reaction to Tucker's Great Barrington Declaration:

It's also why there was such a hysterical reaction to the Great Barrington Declaration. The problem was not its opposition to lockdowns as such. The problem was this sentence: "all populations will eventually reach herd immunity – i.e. the point at which the rate of new infections is stable – and that this can be assisted by (but is not dependent upon) a vaccine." Further, with full and immediate opening, "society as a whole enjoys the protection conferred upon the vulnerable by those who have built up herd immunity."

Nope. Again, as I pointed out, the Great Barrington Declaration was built on dubious science and false assumptions. Moving on from just his hurt ego that it was mainly cranks and conspiracy theorists who promoted the Great Barrington Declaration, Tucker even makes it more explicit that everything was done in the service of making sure that the mRNA vaccines—and only the mRNA vaccines—would "save the day:

The goal of all of it was to keep natural immunity from ruining the chance for the mRNA shots to save the day. That is also why we could not have off-the-shelf therapeutics. There could be no Ivermectin or Hydroxychloroquine, not because they didn't work but precisely because they did. The last thing the pandemic planners wanted was a cure that was not mRNA.

This is also why the J&J shot was taken off the market very quickly on the grounds that it was generating blood clots. It was not a mRNA shot. And it was in competition with the preferred technology so it had to be knocked out. So too with AstraZeneca, which was also not part of the mRNA platform.

Keep in mind the perversity here: the goal was not health but sickness as long as possible, to be cured by a new technology. That was always the game plan.

See what I mean? It wasn't enough just for vaccines to "save the day." It had to be the mRNA vaccines. Why? Again, it's never made clear. Just because the mRNA vaccines were based on a "new" platform for vaccines that had been under development but had not yet produced a commercially viable product, vaccine or other class. Moreover, so pervasive was the plot, any effective therapeutic had to be "suppressed." (Never mind that neither ivermectin nor hydroxychloroquine, nor any of the other dubious "protocols" to treat COVID-19 were ever demonstrated to be effective.)

Of course, like all good conspiracy theories, Tucker's narrative has a germ of truth greatly distorted in it. There is no doubt that there was hope that vaccines could end the pandemic. However, one must remember that, in

March 2020, there was no way of knowing that mRNA vaccines could be developed, tested in preclinical models, and then validated in large clinical trials in years, much less in nine months. Indeed, I remember how early in the pandemic many of us were lamenting that an effective vaccine was likely years away—or might never be developed! Tucker's revisionist history is persuasive only in retrospect, because we know now that the vaccines received emergency use approval from the FDA in December 2020, a mere nine months after the World Health Organization had declared a pandemic. Moreover, Tucker neglects to note that "lockdowns," as difficult as they were, didn't last nearly long enough to accomplish what he claims.

That's why I laughed out loud when I reached the end of Tucker's post, in which he claims the "entire episode became history's biggest grift" and then admitted "problems" with his hypothesis. Two are predictable, but this one made me laugh:

First, the lockdowns were nearly universal at the same time, not just in the US and UK. How would the motivations described above apply to nearly every country in the world?

Why indeed? It never occurs to Tucker that maybe—just maybe—it was because they were following longtime, established public health interventions and that maybe—just maybe—big pharma isn't powerful enough to compel so many nations to impose "lockdowns." Basically, while he admits that this is a hole in his conspiracy theory, Tucker just glosses over how the implausibility is. The other two, of course, are standard antivax talking points, such as his claim that "They" had to keep the seroprevalence as low as possible in order to make it look as though the vaccines saved the day and that "They" knew that the vaccines didn't work, even though they did; they just didn't prevent transmission as much as hoped. (It's a standard antivax trope that if vaccines are not 100% effective in stopping transmission, they don't work.)

I long knew that the Brownstone Institute would devolve into conspiracy theories. After all, the Brownstone Institute has been spreading antivax and right wing conspiracy theories ever since it was founded a couple of years ago by Tucker, who is a neo-Confederate activist who had helped organize the Great Barrington Declaration, that document advocating his eugenicist "let 'er rip" approach to the pandemic to build up "natural herd immunity" as rapidly as possible by letting the virus circulate through the "healthy population" while claiming to have a strategy to "protect the vulnerable." Never mind that they never actually had such a strategy other than platitudes used to browbeat public health officials and that "natural herd immunity" never would have worked as a strategy given how easily SARS-CoV-2 could evolve new variants to evade immunity from infection with previous variants.

I also suspect that there is a reason why Tucker's conspiracy theory closely resembles Toby Rogers' conspiracy theory. Rogers had presented it at the Brownstone Institute:

Last week I traveled to Connecticut to participate in a four-day writers' retreat hosted by Jeffrey Tucker and the Brownstone Institute. It was amazing. Speakers presented on a topic or question for 15 minutes that was followed by a discussion for 15 minutes.

Predictably, the Brownstone Institute has completed its "evolution" from a mere ideological "think tank" designed to spread the Great Barrington Declaration into a more all purpose conspiracy promotion machine. It was always going to be thus, given how all antivax is conspiracy theory. In Tucker's case, just replace big pharma and the WHO for the CDC and amp up the stakes, and it's the same conspiracy theory. I'm just waiting to see if Tucker will involve aliens in the plot.David Gorski

> Dr. Gorski's full information can be found here, along with information for patients. **David H. Gorski, MD, PhD, FACS** is a surgical oncologist at the Barbara Ann Karmanos Cancer Institute specializing in breast cancer surgery, where he also serves as the American College of Surgeons Committee on Cancer Liaison Physician as well as an Associate Professor of Surgery and member of the faculty of the Graduate Program in Cancer Biology at Wayne State University. If you are a potential patient and found this page through a Google search, please check out Dr. Gorski's biographical information, disclaimers regarding his writings, and notice to patients here.

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MORENS_NIH_048576
REL0000481241

Date: Wed, 1 May 2024 3:50:47 PM -0400
Sent: Wed, 1 May 2024 3:50:28 PM -0400
Subject: Re: Vanity Fair: Ralph Baric, Whose Virology Techniques Were Used in Wuhan, Testified That Lab Leak Was Possible
From: Hotez, Peter Jay < (b) (6)
To: Peter Daszak < (b) (6)
CC: Roberts, Rich < (b) (6) David Morens < (b) (6) Jeffrey Sturchio < (b) (6) Aleksei Chmura < (b) (6)

How did you think it went for you overall? I couldn't tune in. I'm not seeing much coverage in the MSM

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

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

Baylor College of Medicine: Dean, National School of 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 May 1, 2024, at 2:35 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.

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

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

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

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

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
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New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

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Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

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

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

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

Rich

Richard J. Roberts
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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

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REL0000481246

Was Possible

EXTERNAL SENDER

From the cell phone of David Morens

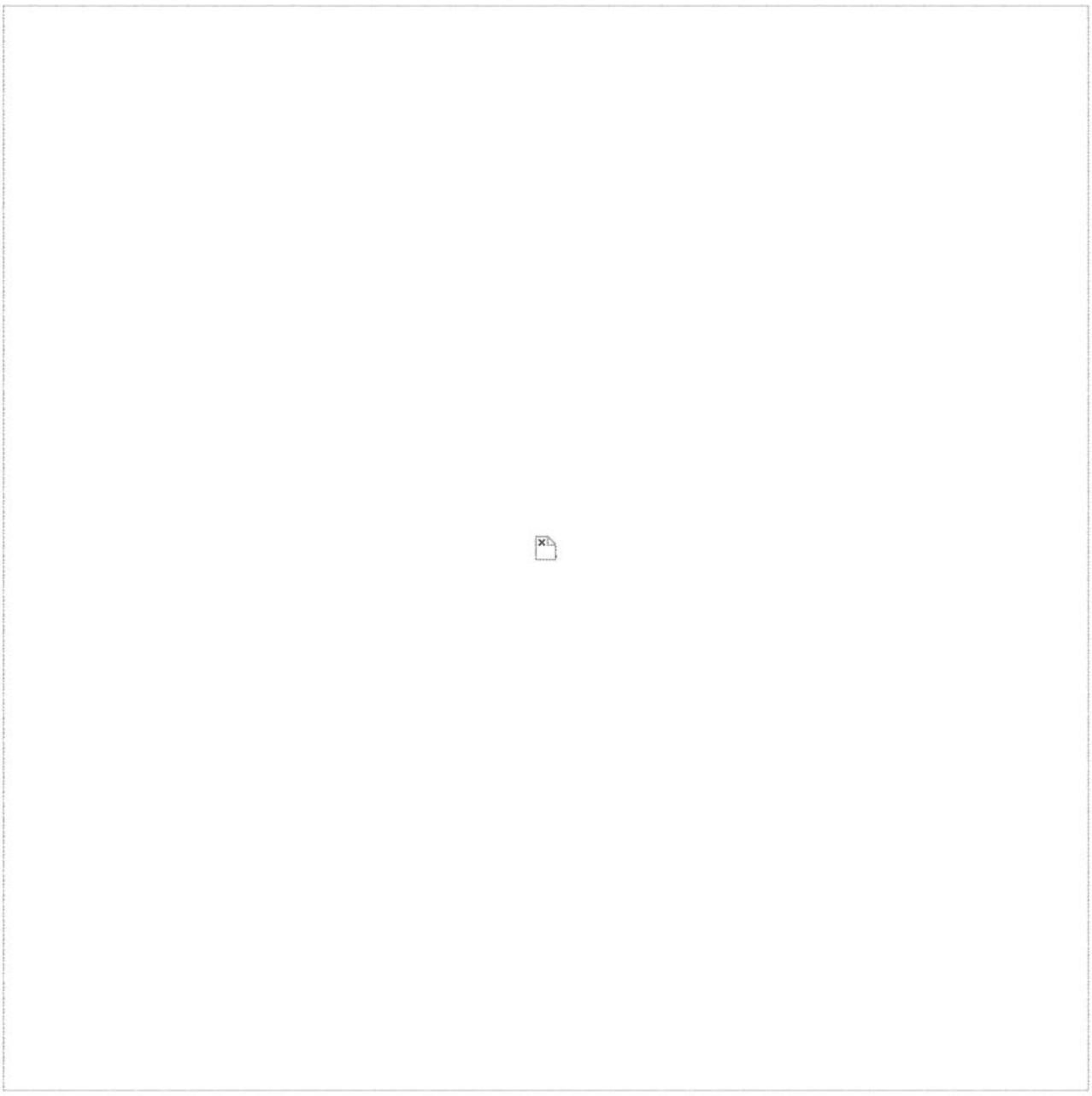
--------- Forwarded message --------- (b) (6)
From: **Folkers, Greg (NIH/NIAID) [C]**
Date: Wed, May 1, 2024, 08:26
Subject: Vanity Fair: Ralph Baric, Whose Virology Techniques Were Used in Wuhan, Testified That Lab Leak Was Possible
To:

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

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

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

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

The experiments were done in Baric's well-secured laboratory in Chapel Hill, North Carolina.

Afterward, however, Shi's team at the WIV continued to utilize Baric's cutting-edge research techniques. Their work was funded in part with a US research grant.

Baric testified that he had specifically warned Shi Zhengli that the WIV's critical coronavirus research

was being conducted in labs with insufficient biosafety protections.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The federal grant money for the experiment in question, which was conducted at the WIV sometime between 2018 and 2019, was funneled through EcoHealth Alliance. It was Daszak, EcoHealth's president, who organized an open letter in the *Lancet* medical journal early in the pandemic that helped paint the lab-leak hypothesis as a baseless conspiracy theory. Today, the Select Subcommittee is expected to release a report that calls for NIH to recommend that EcoHealth Alliance, and Daszak personally, be

debarred from receiving federal funds. As part of its investigation into COVID-19's origins, the Select Subcommittee is holding a series of hearings. Daszak is scheduled to testify publicly today, and Fauci is set to do so on June 3.

America's intelligence agencies remain divided over whether SARS-CoV-2 came from a natural spillover or a lab accident. US Health and Human Services Secretary **Xavier Becerra** recently said the question may "never" be answered "unless China opens up some more."

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Baric told congressional investigators that he wrote the margin comment to Daszak "to make sure he

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

After a congressional investigator observed, "It appears there may have been a willingness, not necessarily by you, to do some of this work in the BSL-2 in China," Baric responded, "There was no willingness on my part to do any of this work…. Let me make that clear." He subsequently clarified, "My role was to study a couple of the viruses that the Wuhan Institute of Virology found that they were willing to share with me."

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Baric said the earliest cases are "almost impossible" to document because many were asymptomatic. "It's

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

Calling the evidence for a market origin "powerful," Worobey told *Vanity Fair* that he thinks the first jump from animals to humans happened in November. Baric, he said, "possesses essentially no expertise in the subjects of the papers he is commenting on…. It is irresponsible for him to share these views with anyone without also making it clear that he is in no better position than the average educated person to judge this work."

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

By Katherine Eban

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Date:	Mon, 9 May 2022 10:25:47 PM -0400
Sent:	Mon, 9 May 2022 10:25:36 PM -0400
Subject:	Re: Get well soon Peter! e-card link inside...
From:	"Hotez, Peter Jay" (b) (6)
To:	Keusch, Gerald T
CC:	David Morens (b) (6) >; Peter Daszak (b) (6) Roberts, Rich (b) (6) ; Aleksei Chmura ; Jeff Sturchio (b) (6)
Attachments:	Chicken Soup Controversy.docx

A section on matzah balls and it could have gone in NEJM

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

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

University Professor, Baylor University

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

Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

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

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

iPhone

On May 9, 2022, at 9:23 PM, Keusch, Gerald T (b) (6) wrote:

Oy.

I spent 8 years at Mt. Sinai and if you need any advice on the preparation of therapeutic Chicken Soup I attach my classic paper (actually a letter to the Editor or Chest, but a classic none the less) which describes the methods we used and perhaps your lab team can get to work. It surely tastes a hellova lot better than Paxlovid. Get well quickly.

Jerry

From: Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6)
Sent: Monday, May 9, 2022 7:42 PM
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)
Subject: Re: Get well soon Peter! e-card link inside...

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
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Senior Fellow, Scowcroft Institute of International Affairs
Texas A&M University
Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty and Adjunct Professor of Bioengineering, Rice University
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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 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

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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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

Peter Daszak
President

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REL0000481248

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

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REL0000481248

Date: Mon, 27 May 2024 3:34:04 PM -0400
Sent: Mon, 27 May 2024 3:34:01 PM -0400
Subject: FW: Document summarizing our response to the HHS debarment allegations
From: Roberts, Rich (b) (6)
To: Peter Daszak <(b) (6)>; David Morens (b) (6); Keusch, Gerald T (b) (6); Jeffrey Sturchio (b) (6); Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6)

Peter:

I received this feedback from Marcia McNutt.

Rich

Richard J. Roberts
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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

NASNASNASNASNASNASNASNASNASNASNASNAS
Dr. Marcia K McNutt
President, National Academy of Sciences
Mailing Address | Physical location:
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On May 25, 2024, at 1:10 AM, Roberts, Rich (b) (6) wrote:

Marcia:

Here is a draft of a document that Peter Daszak is preparing in order to answer the questions from the Congressional sub-committee concerning EcoHealth Alliance. Any comments or advice you might have would be welcome.

There is getting to be increasing concern among the colleagues I speak to about the attacks on Science from politicians and many have expressed a willingness to help with a campaign to counter them. Has any progress been made from your end? I would be happy to talk with you or your communications staff about this.

Rich

Richard J. Roberts
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<Summary of EcoHealth's responses to SSCP and HHS allegations..pdf>

Date: Thu, 20 May 2021 2:29:24 PM -0400
Sent: Thu, 20 May 2021 2:29:21 PM -0400
Subject: Re: Interesting day at the coalface here at EHA
From: "Taubenberger, Jeffery (NIH/NIAID) [E]" (b) (6) (b) (6)
To: David Morens (b) (6) >; Keusch, Gerald
CC: Peter Daszak (b) (6) Roberts, Rich (b) (6) Aleksei Chmura
(b) (6) Robert Kessler (b) (6)

Greetings all,

From the NIH Office of Biotechnology Activities comes this definition:
https://osp.od.nih.gov/wp-content/uploads/2013/07/oba_risk_assessment_faq.pdf

"Unlike BSL2+ containment, BSL3+ is not defined in the NIH Guidelines for Research Involving Recombinant DNA Molecules (NIH Guidelines) or Biosafety in Microbiological and Biomedical Laboratories (BMBL). While BSL3+ is a commonly used term, only BSL3 containment is described in the NIH Guidelines and BMBL. Depending on the nature of the research, IBCs may recommend BSL3 containment with appropriate enhancements (e.g., BL3 with respiratory protection, HEPA filtration, shower out, etc.)."

This reflects my understanding and usage at NIH. Our BSL3 labs for select agent influenza (1918 and high path avian flu) are commonly referred to as BSL3+ including use of PAPRs and shower out. Our NIH safety office has us use a BSL3+ facility with PAPRs but not shower out for non-select agent influenza (e.g. 1957 H2N2, chimeric influenza viruses) as well as for SARS-CoV-2.

Best wishes,

Jeff

From: (b) (6) (b)(6)
Date: Thursday, May 20, 2021 at 2:15 PM
To: "Keusch, Gerald T" (b) (6)
Cc: Peter Daszak (b) (6) , "Roberts, Rich" (b) (6) , Aleksei Chmura (b) (6) >, Robert Kessler (b) (6) , "Taubenberger, Jeffrey (NIH/NIAID) [E]" (b) (6)
Subject: Re: Interesting day at the coalface here at EHA

Thanks, Jerry, i had not seen it, but as you recall, i have been speaking with Arthur at length, off the record, and recommended he contact you, Peter, and Jonna for this article, and also set up his interview with Tony

Re your other question, let me forward to Jeff T who works in BSL-3 at nih, and works with colleagues in BSL-4

My impression is that BSL-3+ Is a sort of slang that includes several different things, but not to my knowledge double HEPA filters. There is also BSL-3 Ag

I think all of this is in the BMBL book, but let's see what Jeff says. D

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

On May 20, 2021, at 12:15, Keusch, Gerald T (b) (6) wrote:

Two things. David/Peter you may have seen the article Arthur Allen published yesterday

MORENS_SUBPOENA_013798
MORENS_NIH_026048
REL0000481250

(attached). I think I summed up what Peter says in the last part of the email below. Second, I was on a call with the World Bank and the Ministry of Health of Turkey, who is looking to build a vaccine production facility and an emerging ID research lab. The Bank needed clarity on whether the latter was BSL-3 or BSL-4 for their required environmental and social risk assessment for a Bank loan. What emerged from the Turks was that the plan was BSL-3+. The only specific feature they mentioned was double HEPA filtered air exhaust. I'm wondering what it takes to go from BSL-3 to 3+, and if there is a set of clear criteria and requirements. So please fill me in if this is a formally codified concept for the engineering and/or the SOPs followed. Is it a standard BSL-3 facility (maybe double HEPA out) with BSL-4 procedures but using a PAPR for breathing air, or are their additional enhancements involved. Would it be suitable under currently understood regulations and certification criteria to work with a BSL-4 pathogen in a BSL-3+ facility? Does that matter, since as Peter has noted in the summary of the biosafety issues at WIV the regulations for working with the various pathogens varies from country to country and there is no single platinum standard.

Jerry

From: Peter Daszak (b) (6)
Sent: Thursday, May 20, 2021 1:57 AM
To: Roberts, Rich (b) (6) Keusch, Gerald T (b) (6) David Morens (b) (6)
Cc: Aleksei Chmura (b)(6) Robert Kessler (b) (6)
Subject: Interesting day at the coalface here at EHA

Lots happening:

> 'Report' on COVID-19 origins from the Republicans House Intel Select Committee led by Devin Nunes that he stated was based on journalists' reporting of open source data. In other words, nothing new and nothing of any credibility. Report available here: https://republicans-intelligence.house.gov/uploadedfiles/covid-19_and_the_wuhan_institute_of_virology_19_may_2021.pdf
> I now have a list of questions from the GAO. They are focused entirely on the circumstances surrounding the termination of our NIH grant. I've just sent them reams of information, including a detailed timeline with links to the letters on the NLcampaigns website and copies of other correspondence with NIH O/D. I'm naming names of who said what and when. I have an interview with them on Tuesday next week.
> I have a copy of the letter sent by HHS to WHO. This is the one where the State Dept said they didn't think WHO did a good enough job of the COVID origin mission, and HHS said they were going to demand investigation of a lab leak. It lists just about every recommendation that's already in the report. It then adds stuff about getting the lab audits, sending in lab biosecurity experts from other countries, having access to staff for interviews etc. None of this would ever be allowed if CDC's BSL-4 were targeted by Chinese conspiracists. None of this will likely ever happen. I believe HHS already knows that, as does the WHO DG, as does China. Just a massive waste of time for political point scoring by the Biden admin to look tough on China. Just unfortunate I'm right in the middle. One of their demands is access to the bat sample data that includes my samples. They're the same samples I reported to NIH every year….until they canceled my grant so I can't report them now. What a farce – you couldn't make this stuff up.

Cheers,

Peter

MORENS_SUBPOENA_013799
MORENS_NIH_026049
REL0000481250

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Date: Tue, 7 May 2024 11:22:55 PM -0400
Sent: Tue, 7 May 2024 11:22:47 PM -0400
Subject: Transcribed interviews from my and David Morens' behind-closed-doors testimony with the SSCP
From: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >
To: Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6)
CC: Jeffrey Sturchio (b) (6) Roberts, Rich (b) (6) Aleksei Chmura (b) (6) Gerald Keusch (b) (6) Keith Martin (b) (6) David Morens (b) (6)

Here are all the transcribed interviews of various people who recently appeared in front of the SSCP behind closed doors. It will make for tedious reading. I know that my 9-and-a-half hours was spent doing exactly what I did during my public hearing, although they did let me respond at the time…:

- Dr. Lawrence Tabak: https://oversight.house.gov/wp-content/uploads/2024/04/Tabak-TI-Transcript.pdf
- Dr. Michael Lauer: https://oversight.house.gov/wp-content/uploads/2024/04/Lauer-TI-Transcript.pdf
- Dr. David Morens (Part 1): https://oversight.house.gov/wp-content/uploads/2024/04/Morens-TI-Transcript-1.pdf
- Dr. David Morens (Part 2): https://oversight.house.gov/wp-content/uploads/2024/04/Morens-TI-Transcript-2.pdf
- Dr. Emily Erbelding: https://oversight.house.gov/wp-content/uploads/2024/04/Erbelding-TI-Transcript.pdf
- Dr. Erik Stemmy: https://oversight.house.gov/wp-content/uploads/2024/04/Stemmy-TI-Transcript.pdf
- Dr. Peter Daszak: https://oversight.house.gov/wp-content/uploads/2024/04/Daszak-TI-Transcript.pdf
- Dr. Ralph Baric: https://oversight.house.gov/wp-content/uploads/2024/04/Baric-TI-Transcript.pdf

David – you got two pdfs, you're obviously doubly important to them!

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, May 7, 2024 2:25 PM
To: Peter Daszak (b) (6)
Cc: Jeffrey Sturchio < (b) (6) >; Roberts, Rich < (b) (6) > Aleksei Chmura < (b) (6) >; Gerald Keusch (b) (6) Keith Martin < (b) (6) >; David Morens <
Subject: Re: More upsetting news for us at EcoHealth Alliance

The only person i have access to these days is Paul Friedrichs the White House pandemic coordinator. I'm wondering maybe you should contact Chuck Schumer?

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

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

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

Baylor University, University Professor
Rice 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 May 7, 2024, at 1:22 PM, Peter Daszak (b) (6) > wrote:
>
> Yes – it would need to be from high up in USDA to say that 'hold on, these guys aren't debarred, and this is a political action, so please carry on the process of funding them'
>
> The specific unit in USDA that's in charge of the funding process is NIFA (https://www.nifa.usda.gov/) which is the unit that oversees USDA research grants.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
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, May 7, 2024 2:16 PM
To: Peter Daszak <(b) (6)
Cc: Jeffrey Sturchio (b) (6) >; Roberts, Rich <(b) (6) Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) >; Gerald Keusch <(b) (6) >; Keith Martin <(b) (6) >; David Morens
Subject: Re: More upsetting news for us at EcoHealth Alliance

This is truly awful Peter, I'm so sorry. If there was to be an effective intervention who would do that? Would it be the White House with the Agriculture Secretary?

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

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

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

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

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Media Inquiries:
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iPhone

On May 7, 2024, at 10:25 AM, Peter Daszak <(b) (6)> wrote:

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

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

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

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

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

Extremely upsetting and disappointing!

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

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

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

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

From: Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6)
Sent: Friday, May 3, 2024 4:04 PM
To: Jeffrey Sturchio <J (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

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

Amazon Author Center | Daily Beast Contributor

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

Media Inquiries:
(b) (6)

iPhone

On May 3, 2024, at 1:52 PM, Jeffrey Sturchio (b) (6) wrote:

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

All:

This is just Wenstrup and the Rs spiking the ball after a hearing in which they refused to let Peter answer the questions posed to him. All of the alleged "evidence" of EHA's supposed transgressions is based on misrepresentation and selective citation of the documentary evidence and false assumptions about the science involved (e.g., since when does a Republican Congresswoman with an MBA and no scientific training get to decide what the definition of gain-of-function research should be?). The only people showing contempt for the American people on Wednesday were the members of Congress and staff who used this hearing as a vehicle to propagate a malicious political narrative that falsely and unfairly blamed Peter Daszak and EHA for research that never happened and outcomes that are chimerical figments of their imagination.

As ever,
Jeff

From: Peter Daszak (b) (6)
Sent: Friday, May 3, 2024 1:12 PM
To: Roberts, Rich (b) (6)
Cc: Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6) Aleksei Chmura (b) (6) >; Jeffrey Sturchio (b) (6) Gerald Keusch (b) (6) ; Keith Martin (b) (6) >; David Morens (b) (6)
Subject: Re: Post by Prof Peter Hotez MD PhD on X

This is the most awful piece I've seen yet - they say:

"The Select Subcommittee will take further steps to address Dr. Daszak's contempt for the American people."

<image001.png>

Hearing Wrap Up: EcoHealth Alliance Should be Criminally Investigated, Formally Debarred - United States House Committee on Oversight and Accountability
oversight.house.gov

I am very worried for my future and the future of EcoHealth alliance right now. At best this will drive continued hate and death threats… at worst…

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak

President
EcoHealth Alliance

520 8th Avenue, New York, NY10018-6507, USA

www.EcoHealthAlliance.org

On May 2, 2024, at 10:00 AM, Roberts, Rich [(b) (6)] > wrote:

Excellent article!

Richard J. Roberts
New England Biolabs
240 County Road
Ipswich, MA 01938-2723
USA
Tel: (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: Thursday, May 2, 2024 6:59 AM
To: Peter Daszak (b) (6) >; Aleksei Chmura < (b) (6) (b) (6) (b) (6) ; Jeffrey Sturchio (b) (6) >; Roberts, Rich < (b) (6) ; Gerald Keusch (b) (6) Keith Martin (b) (6) David Morens (b) (6)
Subject: Post by Prof Peter Hotez MD PhD on X

EXTERNAL SENDER

Prof Peter Hotez MD PhD
@PeterHotez

Important article on yesterday's disgusting Stalinist show trial in the House of Representatives: The politicization of the pandemic continues - great writing as always from @hiltzikm @latimes latimes.com/business/story…

5/2/24, 5:50 AM

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

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

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

Baylor University, University Professor
Rice 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)
iPhone

MORENS_NIH_044988
REL0000481253

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)
(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)
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_006158
MORENS_NIH_015048
REL0000481254

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

PROFESSOR EDWARD C. HOLMES FAA FRS
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THE UNIVERSITY OF SYDNEY
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The University of Sydney | Sydney | NSW | 2006 | Australia
T (b) (6)
E (b) (6)

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

THE UNIVERSITY OF SYDNEY
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The University of Sydney | Sydney | NSW | 2006 | Australia
T +(b) (6)
E (b) (6)

On 20 Sep 2021, at 10:16 am, Jason Gale (BLOOMBERG/ NEWSROOM:) <(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

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The University of Sydney | Sydney | NSW | 2006 | Australia
T (b) (6)
E (b) (6)

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

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

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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

MORENS_SUBPOENA_006162
MORENS_NIH_015052
REL0000481254

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_006164
MORENS_NIH_015054
REL0000481254

Date: Mon, 22 Apr 2024 5:14:27 PM -0400
Subject: Peter, would it be OK to give your contact info to a young Columbia grad student
From: David Morens < (b) (6)
To: Peter Daszak < (b) (6)

who is interested in EcoHealth's work? He's getting his masters at Columbia in environemental health and hopes to pursue a career that looks at One Health stuff, particularly the realtion between the environemnt, climate, domestic and wild animals and disease emergence.

He's a friend of a close friend of mine, seems very intellighent and accomplished, speaks fluent Mandarin and writes in both pinying and characters, also is fluent in French and a couple othert languages, has lived and worked abroad, etc.

He knows of yours and EcoHealth's work and would like to be able to speak briefly with you and some of your scientists, particularly Kevin and Jon, also Billy.

He's 28 and I think this guy may be a future rock star.

TY, 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: Wed, 21 Jul 2021 1:37:55 PM -0400
Sent: Wed, 21 Jul 2021 1:27:30 PM -0400
Subject: COVID origins issues and NASEM Forum on Microbial Threats
From: Peter Daszak (b)(6)
To: Roberts, Rich (b) (6) Keusch, Gerald T (b) (6) Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6)
CC: David Morens (b) (6) >; Robert Kessler (b) (6)

Here's a request for any inside info you may have picked up.

I'm the chair of the NASEM Forum on Microbial Threats. Jerry used to be a member or Co-Chair and (ironically) David Relman was the Chair before me. The Forum is planning a workshop on COVID-19 for early Fall. I'm not on the organizing committee but heard they were planning a section on 'origins', then were told from the top (I believe Victor Dzau of NAM) that because there is no new research on this, it's not something that would be good for the workshop to publicly consider right now. They've dropped that session. I actually agree with this decision, but it certainly adds to the feeling that the NAM is being very hesitant on this issue.

Then I got an email from staff asking if I'd like to avoid giving my usual opening comments for the workshop as chair, given the nasty publicity I've been getting. I pushed back (strongly) and pointed out that a key goal of the conspiracy theorists is to attack, discredit and silence scientists who's opinions don't support their political agenda. Staff were very nice and somewhat apologetic about this and I'm now giving my usual opening.

They also mentioned that the academies (maybe NAM, but could be NASEM) are planning something on origins – maybe a consensus study, workshop or just a statement. I don't have more info, but the reason I'm concerned is that 1) David Relman is a member of the NASEM Intelligence Community Studies Board (science-intel agency interface) and he may be trying to use that to 'investigate' the lab leak agenda; or 2) there may be an effort for an NASEM committee to investigate COVID-19 origins. I note that in my last letter from the NIH office of the director, they requested an inspection of the Wuhan lab either by NIH scientists or through the NASEM.

The way the NAM and NASEM operate is that USG agencies go to them, or they approach agencies with an idea for a consensus study or workshop and then they're funded to do one. It sounds likely that this is happening, and would likely end up as a forum for all the lab leak accusations and gain-of-function myths to be brought up by known scientists (e.g. Drs. Relman, Lipsitch, Ebright and others). This could end up putting me in the awful situation of either having to publicly defend EcoHealth's work and get attacked in the press for this, or decline to take part in a National Academy activity despite being a member. Not looking forward to that moment!

Have any of you heard anything about this?

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

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

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

MORENS_SUBPOENA_020983
MORENS_NIH_041749
REL0000481256

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

From: Peter Daszak (b) (6)
Sent: Tuesday, July 20, 2021 4:42 PM
To: 'Roberts, Rich' (b) (6) ; 'Keusch, Gerald T' <(b) (6) >; 'Hotez, Peter Jay' (b) (6)
Cc: 'David Morens' <(b) (6) >; Robert Kessler (b) (6)
Subject: Harold Varmus has been spotted in CT!

One of my Board members, Amy Attas, who's a veterinarian to the pets of people like Mike Bloomberg's wife, Elton John etc. goes to a monthly lunchtime talk series (b) (6) (b) (6) . Harold Varmus spoke there a couple of Sunday's ago. Amy asked the first question along the lines "I'm on the Board of an organization working to prevent pandemics..what are the best strategies to prevent the next COVID?" His response: "Is that EcoHealth Alliance?" "If so, what they're doing is exactly what should be done..." He then rolled off a series of key goals to prevent pandemics.

Amy was delighted, and a number of other donors expressed an interest. Please pass on my regards and gratitude to Harold – this is exactly the sort of word of mouth endorsement we need right now, rather than the other sort we're getting from Fox News!

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

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

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

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

From: Roberts, Rich (b) (6)
Sent: Tuesday, July 20, 2021 1:28 PM
To: Keusch, Gerald T (b) (6) ; Peter Daszak (b) (6) ; Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6)
Cc: David Morens <(b) (6) >; Robert Kessler (b) (6)
Subject: RE: Tony Fauci's testimony today

Jerry:

I haven't heard anything from Harold recently.

Rich

Richard J. Roberts
New England Biolabs
240 County Road
Ipswich, MA 01938-2723

MORENS_SUBPOENA_020984
MORENS_NIH_041750
REL0000481256

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

From: Keusch, Gerald T (b) (6)
Sent: Tuesday, July 20, 2021 1:21 PM
To: Roberts, Rich (b) (6) ; Peter Daszak (b) (6) Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6)
Cc: David Morens (b) (6) ; Robert Kessler (b) (6)
Subject: RE: Tony Fauci's testimony today

EXTERNAL SENDER

I totally agree with you that Tony was remarkable. I sent him a one word email, Bravo, and copied it to Patty Conrad so maybe he will see it as evidence of the support he has from the responsible scientific community.

Thanks for the response regarding the CNN reporters. I'll keep that in mind when I do talk to them and consider whether speaking with you might help them distinguish between good science and crap. I have no doubts about your expertise in science and knowing the difference between, well, good science and crap.

Harold is rather quiet – any sense of what he is up to?

Jerry

From: Roberts, Ric (b) (6)
Sent: Tuesday, July 20, 2021 12:50 PM
To: Keusch, Gerald T (b) (6) ; Peter Daszak (b) (6) ; Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6)
Cc: David Morens (b) (6) Robert Kessler (b) (6)
Subject: RE: Tony Fauci's testimony today

Jerry:

Tony was excellent in confronting Paul! It's high time that these senators are told the truth directly.

As for speaking with the reporters, in general I am always prepared to do that, but in this particular case I don't feel my credentials are necessarily the best when dealing with specifics. I have very much been an onlooker and not directly connected to any of the research itself. Peter Hotez and Peter D. are clearly much better informed and have the appropriate expertise. There are plenty of authors on the recent Lancet piece that would be good to include. I am happy to speak as an outsider, but would not want to be considered a knowledgeable expert.

Rich

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

From: Keusch, Gerald T (b) (6)

MORENS_SUBPOENA_020985
MORENS_NIH_041751
REL0000481256

Sent: Tuesday, July 20, 2021 12:39 PM
To: Peter Daszak (b) (6) ; Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6)
Cc: David Morens (b) (6) ; Roberts, Rich (b) (6) Robert Kessler <
(b) (6)
Subject: RE: Tony Fauci's testimony today

EXTERNAL SENDER

I had a long talk with two CNN International reporters who are preparing a story essentially on the politics and the misinformation about the origins controversy. I was talking to them off the record but I decided they were legitimately exploring the issues and would likely be a voice of reason if they were given the necessary space to build their case and it was eventually shown.

I mentioned Peter Hotez to them, among some others, and while I mentioned Peter D as well I also said you were under constant attack and it might well be better to allow others to take up the fight on your behalf. GOF and the Goffers were part of the chat. I have agreed to be interviewed on the record and potentially to do a video session as they were potentially interested in using some of that as part of the report. Rich, I didn't specifically mention your name, but if you would be willing to speak with them I can do that when I next connect.

Jerry

From: Peter Daszak (b) (6)
Sent: Tuesday, July 20, 2021 12:30 PM
To: Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6)
Cc: David Morens (b) (6) >; Roberts, Rich (b) (6) Keusch, Gerald T (b) (6) ; Robert Kessler (b) (6)
Subject: Tony Fauci's testimony today
Importance: High

I'm delighted to see Tony Fauci fighting to let everyone understand clear line between what is gain-of-function (work EcoHealth does NOT do), and what is not Gain of function (work EcoHealth did do with Wuhan).

It's a shame it will generate publicity, but he did this so well today that I'm hoping it might help get rid of the willful misinformation the Republicans are engaging in…

Here's a news piece on it https://thehill.com/policy/healthcare/563874- fauci-paul-doesnt-know-what-hes-talking-about-and-i-want-to-say-that , and there's some pretty exciting video to watch. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pFoaBV_cTek

Well done David on your briefing and practice runs!

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance

MORENS_SUBPOENA_020986
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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 Ja (b) (6)
Sent: Thursday, July 15, 2021 1:56 PM
To: Peter Daszak (b) (6)
Cc: David Morens (b) (6) ; Roberts, Rich (b) (6) Keusch, Gerald T (b) (6)
Subject: My AMA podcast on the origins of COVID19

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=q4NkcU7JK14 &feature=youtu.be

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

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

Health Policy Scholar
Baylor College of Medicine

Texas Children's Chair of Tropical Pediatrics
Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development
University Professor
Department of Biology, Baylor University

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

Founding Editor-in-Chief, PLoS Neglected Tropical Diseases
E-mail: (b) (6)
Twitter: @peterhotez
Skype: (b) (6)
Linkedin Peter Hotez
Amazon Author Center: https://www.amazon.com/Peter- J.-Hotez/e/B001HPIC48
Like us on Facebook https://www.facebook.com/BCMNationalSchoolOfTropicalMedicine/

Executive Assistant: Douglas Soriano
(b) (6)

Phone: (b) (6)



Sent from my iPhone

On Jul 15, 2021, at 12:43 PM, Peter Daszak (b) (6) wrote:

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

David – please pass this information on to Tony and Clifford if you possibly can,

The WHO DG, Dr. Tedros set up a 6am Monday morning meeting with the current WHO Origins team – the international experts who went to Wuhan to work with our China counterparts on COVID origins. He announced they'd be disbanding the team, setting up a separate structure and moving to a system whereby a new team will be formed to do Phase 2 of the work in China. The stated goal is to follow member state's wishes and improve transparency in the way the origins team is selected. Sadly it will reduce transparency because there will now be a 'behind closed doors' decision from the member states on who of the nominees are put forward to WHO, then another 'behind closed doors' decision from WHO on who is selected, with, we've been told, the DG of WHO having final say.

From my point of view it's a real problem because given the political pressure from the Right wing, it might prevent my future involvement in this work. This means my 17 years + of collaboration with the very people in China who we need to work with, will not be part of Phase 2 work – including designing the animal testing protocols that are my key expertise. Disbanding the current team will also significantly delay the work and this threatens to undermine our capacity to do the trace-back, as antibodies wane among wildlife farmers in rural China who we've proposed should be interviewed and tested in Phase 2, for example. The current team has a good working relationship with the China side and has made significant progress over the last few months, meeting weekly as an international expert group and working with our Chinese counterparts to update the WHO report, include new data and get phase 2 Terms of Reference thrashed out. We'd reached the beginnings of consensus on this.

It will also be seen as an implicitly political move on behalf of WHO, and one that projects a perception of undermining the hard work we did to produce buckets of new data in the WHO report. The rest of the team are very angry about the way we've been repeatedly undermined by politics, and we're working on a communications strategy right now.

David, I'm not sure who is the US representative for WHO Covid origins negotiations. It was publicly announced that Tony would represent the US at WHO, but it may be a State Dept or other HHS person. I think it's important that Tony and perhaps Clifford know what's happening.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

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520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
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USA

Tel.: (b) (6)

Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

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From: BOEHME, Catharina Cora (b) (6)
Sent: Wednesday, July 14, 2021 4:35 PM
To: Владимир Дедков (b) (6) ; Leendertz, Fabian (b) (6) Peter Daszak <
(b) (6) >; LeendertzF (b) (6) Keith Hamilton (b) (6) John
Watson (b) (6) >; DEBBICHE, Hassene (b) (6) ; Thea Kølsen Fischer <
(b) (6) >; BAERT, Primaël (b) (6) >; SHEATH, Danny (b) (6)
Nguyen, Hung (ILRI) (b) (6) STREIJFFERT, Carlos Johan (b) (6) DRURY, Patrick
Anthony (b) (6) >; Ken Maeda (b) (6) >; M.P.G. Koopmans (b) (6)
(b) (6) , Hayman, David (b) (6) >; IVANOVIC, Dragana <
(b) (6) : Dr. Elmoubasher Abu Baker Abd Farag (b) (6) ; Dominic Dwyer <
(b) (6)
(b) (6)
Cc: RYAN, Michael J. (b) (6) ; Dr VAN KERKHOVE, Maria (b) (6) ; BEN
EMBAREK, Peter Karim (b) (6)
Subject: Circular Letter to Member States - Origins of SARS-CoV-2

Dear all,

It was a pleasure to meet you on Monday. Please find attached for your information and on behalf of the DG our communication to member states, shared with them as a circular letter this evening. Please don't hesitate to reach out to us for follow up discussions.
Please keep this confidential during the next days. We will have a member state briefing and discussion on this subject on Friday.

With my best regards,
Catharina

P.S. I hope I have the correct list of emails addresses.

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<C.L.28.2021 (Origins of SARS-CoV-2).pdf>

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Date: Fri, 21 Jul 2023 1:18:10 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)
(b) (6) (work)
(b) (6) (cell)

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

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

---------- Forwarded message --------
From: **Garry, Robert F** (b) (6)
Date: Sat, Sep 18, 2021 at 10:26 AM
Subject: Re: Study from 2007 shows SARS-infected civets on farms in Hubei
To: Peter Daszak (b) (6) >
Cc: Wang Linfa (b) (6) a.(b) (6) Edward Holmes (b) (6) >, Jason Gale <(b) (6) >, Stephen Goldstein <(b) (6) >, (b) (6) < (b) (6) >, (b) (6) (b)(6) >, (b) (6) < (b) (6) >,(b) (6) <(b) (6) >, Robert Kessler < (b) (6) g >, David Morens <(b) (6) >, (b) (6) < (b) (6) >

Excellent summary - I'd add an intelligence community report despite some of the most biased news coverage I've ever seen. Reading the report it's clear that the Ic including the top committee also leans heavily to natural - zip zero nada evidence for lab leak - all that's left for lab leakers is thd Relman Special - that wiv had sc2 in a freezer and didn't know they had it - some lab person got infected and touched of transmission chains in multiple wet markets

Sent from my iPhone

On Sep 18, 2021, at 9:12 AM, Peter Daszak <(b) (6) > wrote:

External Sender. Be aware of links, attachments and requests.

Yes – saw that paper Jason – really interesting

I looked through the paper and it's yet another game changer. So far, in the last few weeks/months, we've got the following new evidence supporting emergence via bat-to-intermediate host-to-human origin for COVID-19 (I've probably missed something):

- Multiple new, SARS-CoV-2 related CoVs in SE Asia (Cambodia, Thailand, Japan, China etc.). I know of other work in review describing other related viruses in SE Asia also. We're also finding further novel SARS-CoV-2 related bat viruses in Malaysia, Thailand.

- New evidence that live animals of the type that carry CoVs were present in the Wuhan markets (including Huanan).

- Evidence from other bat SARSr-CoVs that mutations occur where there FCS is found (eg. RmYN02) https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC7211627/

- a rat alpha-CoV with an FCS in wildlife farms, hotels and train stations in S. China, showing that FCS insertions are more common in nature than previously thought. https://journals.asm.org/doi/epdf/10.1128/JVI.01173- 21

- Epidemiological analysis of early cases supporting early origin close to Huanan market, not WIV https://www.cell.com/cell/fulltext/S0092- 8674(21)00991-0

- Phylogenetic analyses suggesting there may have been multiple introductions into the human population, supporting presence of a virus circulating in animals rather than a lab leak (@virology paper)

- Our work showing a very large interface for bat SARSr-CoV spillover in a v. densly population region, and potential for large numbers of missing cases each year https://www.medrxiv.org/content/10.1101/2021.09.09.21263359v1

- This paper showing ACE2 binding for bat SARS-CoV-2 related CoVs. https://www.researchsquare.com/article/rs- 871965/v1

On the lab leak side, we have convoluted accusations based on interpretations of intent about how Chinese scientists submitted genomes, wrote the papers, or how me and other scientists had collaborations with Chinese scientists. But, as far as new evidence goes, I could only find this:

- None

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.

This rate of research even in a pandemic is remarkable and suggests that we'll pretty quickly have such overwhelming evidence for the 'natural' origins that most people will move on from the lab leak.

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(Off-the-record) However, the damage they leave behind is already horrific and will be worse by the time they decide to find another issue to focus on.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak

President

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Twitter: @PeterDaszak

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---

From: Wang Linfa (b) (6)

_SUBPOENA_003635
MORENS_NIH_010543
REL0000481257

Sent: Friday, September 17, 2021 10:56 PM
To: Edward Holmes (b) (6) >; Jason Gale <(b) (6) >
Cc: Stephen Goldstein (b) (6) ; (b) (6)
(b) (6) (b) (6) ; Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >;
(b) (6)
Subject: RE: Study from 2007 shows SARS-infected civets on farms in Hubei

Almost identical SARS-CoV-2 RBD in several bat sarbecoviruses! This is as close as you can get for a natural RBD origin!

Also, the paper concluded that SARS-CoV-2 genome fragments are found in different sarbecoviruses, very similar to the PloS Path paper for SARS-CoV-1.

All we need is to find a sarbecovirus with a furin cleavage site and no more debate on the natural origin of SARS-CoV-2!

Linfa (Lin-Fa) WANG, PhD FTSE FAAM

Professor

Programme in Emerging Infectious Disease

Duke-NUS Medical School,

8 College Road, Singapore 169857

Tel:(b) (6)

From: Edward Holmes (b) (6)
Sent: Thursday, 16 September 2021 3:31 PM
To: Jason Gale <j.gale@bloomberg.net >
Cc: Stephen Goldstein (b) (6) >; (b) (6) ; (b) (6)
(b) (6) ; (b) (6) ; Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >;
(b) (6) ov ; (b) (6) ; Wang Linfa (b) (6)
Subject: Re: Study from 2007 shows SARS-infected civets on farms in Hubei

External Email -

Dismantles one key argument of the leakers - how could a virus get from Yunnan to Wuhan - in one simple move.

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 16 Sep 2021, at 2:26 pm, Jason Gale (BLOOMBERG/ NEWSROOM:) <j.gale@bloomberg.net > wrote:

And there's this:

"The discovery of civet-CoVs in the Hubei province should not be a surprise as SARS-CoV-like viruses were recently found in a bat species in the same province"

From: (b) (6) At: 09/16/21 14:24:33 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)
Subject: Re: Study from 2007 shows SARS-infected civets on farms

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in Hubei

Just stumbled across it reading the discussion of another paper honestly. It's been cited since - there are certainly people who remembered it but I did not know of it and clearly had not penetrated the public origins discussion.

Stephen

Sent from my iPhone

On Sep 15, 2021, at 10:22 PM, Jason Gale (BLOOMBERG/ NEWSROOM:) <j.gale@bloomberg.net> wrote:

Well done, Stephen for finding this:
https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC1900161/

Jason Gale, MHlthSec
Senior editor & chief biosecurity correspondent | Bloomberg News
Level 30, 120 Collins St., Melbourne VIC 3000
Tel. (landline) (b) (6) | Mobile (b) (6)
@jwgale | Linkedin: http://www.linkedin.com/pub/jason- gale/6/249/a56

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Date: Wed, 12 May 2021 12:25:17 PM -0400
Sent: Wed, 12 May 2021 12:24:38 PM -0400
Subject: Reporter, and GAO
From: Peter Daszak (b)(6)
To: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b) (6)
CC: Keusch, Gerald T (b) (6) Aleksei Chmura (b) (6)
Robert Kessler (b) (6)

Thanks – please ask him to email me and cc Robert Kessler. Right now is not a great time for EHA to be speaking out, but we can always give him facts and have that in background.

Also, by the way, I heard back from GAO. They're focusing on the details of why the NIH grant to EHA was terminated, and the follow up actions, trying to understand if NIH was the subject of political interference. I'll be sending them all the relevant docs and doing an interview v. soon.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

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Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

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From: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b) (6)
Sent: Wednesday, May 12, 2021 10:28 AM
To: Peter Daszak (b) (6)
Cc: Keusch, Gerald T (b) (6) Aleksei Chmura (b)(6) Robert Kessler (b) (6)
Subject: Re: Busy day for my blood pressure - mostly good so far

Peter, am re-sending this in case you didn't see. He emailed me again this morning. d

On 5/11/2021 9:48 PM, David Morens wrote:

> PS, the journalist Arthur Allen asked me today whether he could contact you and potentially others knowledgeable about your situation
>
> I have know him for years and he is an honest honorable guy. I speak to him on background when needed

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I told him that i doubted you would speak on the record, and that i and others were advising you not to speak to the press, but he wants to talk to you anyway. Let me know if you will, you can just tell him its off the record. D

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

On May 11, 2021, at 21:40, David Morens (b) (6) rote:

Peter,

It just hit me that i have some recommended reading for you. The story of a great scientist who went through something eerily similar to what you are going through - attacked by the wackos with death threats requiring police protection, accused of bioterrorism and starting a potential pandemic, and thrown under the bus by the US government, AND losing his research work. This was exactly 120 years ago and the scientist was Joe Kinyoun, the founder of the NIH

You can read the whole story in a monograph i wrote 10 years ago, available on the nih website. It's quite long, but just read the several ending chapters beginning with the San Fran plague epidemic of 1900 until the end, maybe a 25 minute read.

I think you may he shocked at the similarities. Come to think of it, it would make a great then and now manuscript ….

The reason it hit me just now is that PBS is doing a show on it and they are filming at my house on Thu. In preparation, i just read the whole monograph to refresh my memory, and it was like i was reading YOUR story. Wow.

It should be easy to find on the nih website if you search on kinyoun and morens. If not I can send the pdf

D

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

On May 11, 2021, at 13:31, Peter Daszak (b) (6) wrote:

Just to let you know that the saga continues…

First, I got an email from a GAO group "examining issues related to scientific integrity and independence at HHS agencies, including NIH, at the request of Senators Warren, Peters, and Murray, and Rep. Tonko" requesting an interview re. the terminated grant. I'll be setting up an interview with them and hope this might lead somewhere. It might be part of the new Scientific Integrity Taskforce that Biden's setting up via OSTP – I'll find out (https://www.cnn.com/2021/05/10/politics/biden- task-force-science/index.html) – their first meeting is Friday

Second, Sen. Marshall (R) published a resolution calling for Covid-19 Select Investigative Committee, including "secret research and gain-of-function zoonic (sic) research at WIV" and "funding distributed by WIV by NIAID, NIH and organizations of higher education" https://www.washingtonpost.com/context/marshall- resolution-calling-for-covid-19-select-investigative-committee/b44a9780- 7653-4004-8887-ed24ace6dce8/ I doubt it will go anywhere – it's grandstanding.

Third – just saw excellent testimony before a senate committee where Dr. Fauci duked it out with Sen. Rand Paul re. 'gain-of-function': Dr. Fauci stated that "The NIH has not ever, & does not now, fund 'gain of function research' in the Wuhan Institute." He was then asked about our terminated grant and said: "Let me explain to you why that was done, the SARS COV-1 originated in bats in China. It would have been

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irresponsible of us if we did not investigate the bat viruses & the serology to see who might have been infected." https://thehill.com/policy/healthcare/552857- rand-paul-clashes-with-fauci-over-coronavirus-origins. The video is worth watching if you have a spare 10 mins: Full hearing here https://help.senate.gov, the Q&A with Rand Paul begins at 01:11:59. Fauci dodges the question on whether he 'supports funding of WIV', and just repeats that NIH did not fund GoF work there. It's categorically correct. He also points out that the expt. that Rand Paul talks about (a supervirus – actually SARS with a bat spike that is less able to infect human cells than sars!) was conducted in North Carolina, not Wuhan.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

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Date: Wed, 7 Apr 2021 11:25:19 AM -0400
Subject: EcoHealth and myself feeling the pressure here.
From: Peter Daszak < (b) (6)
To: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] < (b) (6) Roberts, Rich <(b) (6) Keusch, Jerry < (b) (6)
Attachments: image001.gif; image002.jpg

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

This is a symptom of a bigger issues – over the last 2-4 weeks, all of the allies who would normally talk to reporters about the science have either been silenced/sidelined, or are following a political agenda, e.g. the White House, the WHO Director-General (who single-handedly threw the whole WHO expert team under the bus), the former CDC director, and now NIAID – all following the political line.

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

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

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

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

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

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Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

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

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

Sent: Tuesday, March 30, 2021 4:25 PM
To: Roberts, Rich < (b) (6) Keusch, Jerry (b) (6) ; Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >
Subject: Fwd: FW: (FYI only): Origin of COVID-19 - Possible Interview

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

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

-------- Forwarded Message --------
Subject: FW: (FYI only): Origin of COVID-19 - Possible Interview
Date: Tue, 30 Mar 2021 17:43:09 +0000
From: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] <(b) (6)
To: David Morens ((b) (6)) (b) (6)

David

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

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From: Hoffman, Hillary (NIH/NIAID) [E (b) (6)
Sent: Tuesday, March 30, 2021 1:32 PM
To: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] <(b) (6)

Cc: NIAID OCGR NSWB <NIAIDOCGRNSWB@mail.nih.gov>
Subject: (FYI only): Origin of COVID-19 - Possible Interview

Hi Dr. Morens –

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

Best,
Hillary

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

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

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

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

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

---

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

Hi Dr. Morens,

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

Best,
Hillary

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

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

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

From: Mariana Lenharo (b) (6)
Date: March 16, 2021 at 18:21:42 EDT
To: "Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E]" <(b) (6)
Subject: Origin of COVID-19 - Possible Interview

Dear Dr. Morens,

I hope you are doing well. It's been a few months since we spoke for the article on the origins of SARS-CoV-2.

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

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

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

Thank you so much,

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

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

> Thanks, you did a great job!
>
> David
>
> David M. Morens, M.D.
> CAPT, United States Public Health Service
> Senior Advisor to the Director
> Office of the Director
> National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases
> National Institutes of Health
> Building 31, Room 7A-03
> 31 Center Drive, MSC 2520
> Bethesda, MD 20892-2520
> (b) (6) (assistants: Kimberly Barasch; Whitney Robinson)
> (b) (6)
>
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From: Mariana Lenharo <(b) (6) >
Sent: Wednesday, October 21, 2020 9:18 AM
To: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b) (6)
Subject: Re: FW: approved RE: (Origin of COVID-19 article) FW: Possible interview - Dr. David M. Morens

Dear Dr. Morens,

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

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

Kind regards,

Mariana

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

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

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MORENS_SUBPOENA_012747
MORENS_NIH_024135
REL0000481265



From: Mariana Lenharo <(b) (6) >
Sent: Tuesday, September 29, 2020 2:44 PM
To: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b) (6)
Subject: Re: FW: approved RE: (Origin of COVID-19 article) FW: Possible interview - Dr. David M. Morens

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

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

Thank you very much!

Best,

Mariana

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

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

David

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

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

Dear Dr. Morens,

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

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

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

Thank you.

Kind regards,

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

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

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

MORENS_SUBPOENA_012749
MORENS_NIH_024137
REL0000481265

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

Hello!

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

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

Thank you very much!

Kind regards,

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

MORENS_SUBPOENA_012751
MORENS_NIH_024139
REL0000481265

Date: Thu, 10 Jun 2021 3:48:58 PM -0400

Subject: FW: DAvid m ------ Cell: Identification of novel bat coronaviruses sheds light on the evolutionary origins of SARS-CoV-2 and related viruses https://bit.ly/3w96uAu

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

To: Peter Daszak ((b) (6) < (b) (6) >; Keusch, Jerry ((b) (6) < (b) (6) >; Rich Roberts ((b) (6) < (b) (6) >; Taubenberger, Jeffery (NIH/NIAID) [E] < (b) (6) >;

Attachments: image001.gif; image002.jpg

Peter and colleagues, what do you know about thisn work? I had not known it was in press….

David

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

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From: Folkers, Greg (NIH/NIAID) [E] < (b) (6)
Sent: Thursday, June 10, 2021 3:24 PM
To: NIAID OD AM < (b) (6)
Subject: DAvid m ------ Cell: Identification of novel bat coronaviruses sheds light on the evolutionary origins of SARS-CoV-2

and related viruses https://bit.ly/3w96uAu

We will no doubt be asked how/if this paper impacts the origins-of-covid discussions that are everywhere

What are your thoughts? What would u tell a reporter who called u?

Identification of novel bat coronaviruses sheds light on the evolutionary origins of SARS-CoV-2 and related viruses

- Hong Zhou [9]
- Jingkai Ji [9]
- Xing Chen [9]
- Yuhai Bi [9]
- Juan Li
- Qihui Wang
- Tao Hu
- Hao Song
- Runchu Zhao
- Yanhua Chen
- Mingxue Cui
- Yanyan Zhang
- Alice C. Hughes
- Edward C. Holmes
- Weifeng Shi [10]
- Show less
- Show footnotes

Published:June 09, 2021DOI:https://doi.org/10.1016/j.cell.2021.06.008

Highlights

- Four novel SARS-CoV-2 related viruses were identified in rhinolophid bats.
- RpYN06 is the closest relative of SARS-CoV-2 in most of the virus genome.
- A high diversity of bat coronaviruses was present in a very small geographic area.
- Ecological modeling reveals a broad range of rhinolophid bats in parts of Asia.

Summary

Despite the discovery of animal coronaviruses related to SARS-CoV-2, the evolutionary origins of this virus are elusive. We describe a meta-transcriptomic study of 411 bat samples collected from a small geographical region in Yunnan province, China, between May 2019 and November 2020. We identified 24 full-length coronavirus genomes, including four novel SARS-CoV-2 related and three SARS-CoV related viruses. *Rhinolophus pusillus* virus RpYN06 was the closest relative of SARS-CoV-2 in most of the genome, although it possessed a more divergent spike gene. The other three SARS-CoV-2 related coronaviruses carried a genetically distinct spike gene that could weakly bind to the hACE2 receptor *in vitro*. Ecological modeling predicted the co-existence of up to 23 *Rhinolophus* bat species, with the largest contiguous hotspots extending from South Laos and Vietnam to southern China. Our study highlights the remarkable diversity of bat coronaviruses at the local scale, including close relatives of both SARS-CoV-2 and SARS-CoV.

Keywords

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MORENS_SUBPOENA_020199
MORENS_NIH_040723
REL0000481273

Date: Wed, 17 Apr 2024 12:16:42 PM -0400
Sent: Wed, 17 Apr 2024 12:15:59 PM -0400
Subject: Re: Ranking Member Ruiz's Opening Statement at Select Subcommittee Hearing on Scientific Journals and the Peer Review Process
From: "Hotez, Peter Jay" < (b) (6)
To: David Morens < (b) (6)
CC: Peter Daszak < (b) (6) < (b) (6) <(b) (6) Jeffrey Sturchio < >; Keusch, Gerald T < (b) (6) (b) (6) Aleksei Chmura Roberts, Rich

---

Finally a little backbone and spine

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

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

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

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

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

Senior Coordinator & Executive Support: Douglas Soriano
(b) (6) | Phone: (b) (6) 9 | Fax: 713-798-2299

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

iPhone

On Apr 17, 2024, at 11:11 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.**

Wow, tell it Luke it is. d

From the cell phone of David Morens

--------- Forwarded message ---------
From: **Folkers, Greg (NIH/NIAID) [C]** <(b) (6) >
Date: Wed, Apr 17, 2024, 11:56
Subject: Ranking Member Ruiz's Opening Statement at Select Subcommittee Hearing on Scientific Journals and the Peer Review Process
To:

Ranking Member Ruiz's Opening Statement at Select Subcommittee Hearing on Scientific Journals and the Peer Review Process

April 16, 2024

•

Press Release

Washington, D.C. (April 16, 2024)—Below is Ranking Member Raul Ruiz's, M.D. opening statement, as prepared for delivery, at today's Select Subcommittee on the Coronavirus Pandemic hearing examining the peer review process and the relationship between scientific journals and the federal government.



Opening Statement

Ranking Member Raul Ruiz, M.D.

Select Subcommittee on the Coronavirus Pandemic

Hearing on "Academic Malpractice: Examining the Relationship Between Scientific Journals, the Government, and Peer Review"
April 16, 2024

Scientific journals play an important role in informing the public about the world around us, critical issues facing our nation, and advances in science and medicine.

Since their inception, these journals have placed objectivity at the forefront of their efforts to study, review, and publish articles that advance our research enterprise.

And when a once in a generation pandemic struck our nation in 2020, this was no different.

Despite the Majority's claims, the Select Subcommittee has not uncovered any evidence that directly implicates Drs. Fauci and Collins in a cover up of the pandemic's origins fueled by their collusion with scientific journals to suppress the lab leak hypothesis.

MORENS_SUBPOENA_000180
MORENS_NIH_000565
REL0000481284

Under the guise of investigating COVID-19's origins, the Majority has continually advanced a conspiratorial narrative against our nation's public health officials relying purely on speculation.

Their probe into federally funded research has spanned more than half a million pages of documents, more than a dozen transcribed interviews, and multiple hearings, and yet it has failed to substantiate any of their claims about Drs. Fauci and Collins or even bring us closer to understanding how COVID came to be.

Instead, it has only further politicized an issue of great importance to our public health and national security, which is not without consequence.

In fact, we're already seeing growing divides when it comes to trust in our nation's institutions and how that influences people's behavior when it comes to protecting their health.

Rebuilding the American people's trust in public health is critical to our ability to prevent, prepare for, and respond to future pandemics.

And the way we go about that is not by continuing to manufacture distrust in our nation's institutions by amplifying harmful—and often outright false—information about public health or by jumping to conclusions about how this virus emerged when its origins are still inconclusive.

Instead, it is by having honest conversations—that are rooted in fact—about what we can do better in the future.

So, as we begin today's hearing, I want to take a moment to address some of the allegations that have been levied by the Majority over the course of this probe and what the facts of the case have actually told us.

First, my Republican colleagues have alleged that Drs. Fauci and Collins orchestrated the "Proximal Origin" paper to suppress the lab leak theory, despite all evidence to the contrary.

Documents and testimony made available to this committee have repeatedly shown that British scientist Dr. Jeremy Farrar played the lead role in organizing and shepherding the paper through publication.

And second, my Republican colleagues have alleged that Drs. Fauci and Collins orchestrated a "takedown" of the Great Barrington Declaration.

Dr. Collins testified before this committee that he had privately called for "a quick and devastating published take down of its premises" out of concern for the public's health.

Documents and testimony provided to this committee have never shown that Dr. Collins pressured an NIH employee or scientific journal to "take down" the Great Barrington Declaration.

This committee seems to be forgetting that there is a difference between government speech—which the Supreme Court has previously ruled government entities have a right to —and government coercion, which my Republican colleagues are accusing public health officials of without a shred of evidence.

That aside, I have to say, I'm worried that today's hearing is setting a dangerous precedent—that if Congress doesn't like what you publish, you'll be hauled in before a congressional committee to answer for it.

The fact is, Congress should not be meddling in the peer review process.

And it should not be holding hearings to throw around baseless accusations, especially when there is so much work we can and should be doing to prevent and prepare for future pandemics.

Every minute wasted on spurious conjecture, every sentence spoken amplifying false information, and every hearing spent on unsubstantiated allegations comes at a cost.

And at the end of the day, it will be the American people who will pay the biggest price.

###

Subcommittees

Select Subcommittee on the Coronavirus Pandemic (118th Congress)

Issues: Coronavirus

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<image001.png>
<image001.png>

Date: Mon, 20 May 2024 1:38:10 PM -0400
Sent: Mon, 20 May 2024 1:34:20 PM -0400
Subject: Other testimonies from various people to the SSCP
From: Peter Daszak <(b) (6)>
To: Keusch, Gerald (b) (6); Alison Andre (b) (6); Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6); David Morens (b) (6); Jeffrey Sturchio (b) (6); Keith Martin (b) (6); Rich Roberts (b) (6)
CC: Soriano Osejo, Douglas (b) (6); Aleksei Chmura (b) (6); Kathy Chase-Gaudreau (b) (6)
Attachments: Erbelding-TI-Transcript.pdf; Lauer-TI-Transcript.pdf; (b) (6)

The attached are from other NIH officials who testified in closed door session in front of the SSCP during Fall-winter 2023-4

I haven't yet read through all of these, only Dr. Stemmy's and Dr. Erbelding's. Erik Stemmy is the program officer at NIH for all of the grants of interest, and Emily Erbelding is the head of Division that oversaw these grants. All of these testimonies are under penalty of criminal (federal) prosecution if shown to be untruthful. Both Dr. Stemmy's and Erbelding's provide direct statements that contradict allegations that EcoHealth's experiments concerned viral loads of any significance, or that EcoHealth was out of compliance. They also both state that there are other examples of organizations filling reports late, and that they do not normally alert a grantee to a late report until the next one is due (a year later), but this process was blocked by Trump/NIH terminating the grant.

We will be trawling through these testimonies for other evidence to fight back against debarment.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

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

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

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

From: Keusch, Gerald (b) (6)
Sent: Monday, May 20, 2024 11:49 AM
To: Alison Andre (b) (6); Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6); David Morens (b) (6); Jeffrey Sturchio (b) (6); Keith Martin (b) (6); Rich Roberts (b) (6)

MORENS_NIH_045565
REL0000481289

Cc: Soriano Osejo, Douglas (b) (6) >; Aleksei Chmura (b) (6) Peter Daszak (b) (6) Kathy Chase-Gaudreau (b) (6)) (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)
(b) (6) (fax)
www.ecohealthalliance.org

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

Date: Sun, 23 Jul 2023 1:02:02 PM -0400
Sent: Sun, 23 Jul 2023 1:01:19 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)

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

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

-------- Forwarded message --------
From: David Morens <(b) (6) >
Date: Fri, Jul 21, 2023 at 12:59 PM
Subject: Fwd: Fauci, Birx, Francis Collins, Baric, Azar, Daszak, Bourla, Bancel, Jha, Njoo, Theresa Tam, Walensky, Doug Ford, Williams, Kieran, Marks, de Villa, Jüni, Hotez, Tedros, CDC, FDA officials, HANG high!
To: David Morens <(b) (6)

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

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

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

-------- Forwarded message --------
From: Roberts, Rich <(b) (6)
Date: Sat, Dec 31, 2022 at 2:02 PM
Subject: RE: Fauci, Birx, Francis Collins, Baric, Azar, Daszak,

Bourla, Bancel, Jha, Njoo, Theresa Tam, Walensky, Doug Ford, Williams, Kieran, Marks, de Villa, Jüni, Hotez, Tedros, CDC, FDA officials, HANG high!
To: Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6) , Peter Daszak (b) (6)
Cc: Aleksei Chmura (b) (6) , David Morens (b) (6) >, Gerald Keusch (b) (6) Jeffrey Sturchio (b) (6)

Awful – and so disappointing that these people live among us and vote.

Richard J. Roberts

New England Biolabs

240 County Road

Ipswich, MA 01938-2723

USA

Tel: (b) (6)

Fax: (978) 412 9910

email: (b) (6)

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

Tel: (b) (6)

Fax: (978) 412 9910

email: (b) (6)

From: Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6)
Sent: Saturday, December 31, 2022 1:53 PM
To: Peter Daszak (b)(6) >
Cc: Aleksei Chmura (b) (6) >; David Morens (b) (6) >; Gerald Keusch (b) (6) Jeffrey Sturchio (b) (6) Roberts, Rich (b) (6)
Subject: Re: Fauci, Birx, Francis Collins, Baric, Azar, Daszak, Bourla, Bancel, Jha, Njoo, Theresa Tam, Walensky, Doug Ford, Williams, Kieran, Marks, de Villa, Jüni, Hotez, Tedros, CDC, FDA officials, HANG

high!

EXTERNAL SENDER

This week I had some of the lead antivaxxers: Robert Malone, Peter Koury, Peter McCullough, and Steve Kirsch all hang up on me with online harassment. Now a new round of death threats. It never ends

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

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

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

Baylor University, University Professor

Rice University, Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty

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

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

Media Inquiries:

(b) (6)

MORENS_SUBPOENA_002267
MORENS_NIH_008783
REL0000481294

iPhone

On Dec 31, 2022, at 12:17 PM, Peter Daszak <(b) (6) > wrote:

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

Not pleasant reading but thanks for sharing this link. It's a stream-of-consciousness diatribe that makes you think this guy is simply mentally ill, but actually he's a well-known right wing 'influencer', appearing on Steve Bannon's podcast, member of the Brownstone Institute and regular on other outlets. In the end, just probably a sad lonely person looking for outside validation. Still, pretty disturbing to read…

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak

President

MORENS_SUBPOENA_002268
MORENS_NIH_008784
REL0000481294

EcoHealth Alliance

520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200

New York, NY 10018-6507

USA

Tel.: (b) (6)

Website:
https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.ecohealthalliance.org%2F
&data=05%7C01%7Cdmorens%40niaid.nih.gov%7C6688cb7982da4aea5a5f08db8b9e889a%7C14b77578977342d585
&sdata=NJ%2FLNAjiyQ41b%2Fhd93sg23bBTrH86IiJ0kLhLnncfv8%3D &reserved=0

Twitter: @PeterDaszak

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

From: Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6)
Sent: Tuesday, December 27, 2022 2:16 PM
To: Peter Daszak (b) (6) ; Aleksei Chmura (b) (6) >; David Morens (b) (6) >;
Gerald Keusch (b) (6) >; Jeffrey Sturchio (b) (6) >;
Rich Roberts (b) (6) >
Subject: Fauci, Birx, Francis Collins, Baric, Azar, Daszak, Bourla, Bancel, Jha, Njoo, Theresa Tam, Walensky, Doug Ford, Williams, Kieran, Marks, de Villa, Jüni, Hotez, Tedros, CDC, FDA officials, HANG high!

https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fpalexander.substack.com%2Fp%2Ffauci-birx-francis-collins-azar-bourla
&data=05%7C01%7Cdmorens%40niaid.nih.gov%7C6688cb7982da4aea5a5f08db8b9e889a%7C14b77578977342d585
&sdata=BlupdD9efxG%2FdoC3nWo3fYZa0TFmr0JDha%2Bms8nxkCs%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: (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)

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iPhone

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Date: Fri, 28 Apr 2023 11:33:59 AM -0400
Sent: Fri, 28 Apr 2023 11:33:54 AM -0400
Subject: RE: Mother Jones: The Coming Tidal Wave of Right Wing Covid Lawsuits
From: "Roberts, Rich" < (b) (6)
To: Hotez, Peter Jay < (b) (6) David Morens < (b) (6) >;
CC: Gerald Keusch <(b) (6) Jeff Sturchio < (b) (6) >; Aleksei Chmura < (b) (6) >; Peter Daszak < (b) (6) >;

Peter:

That's good! We should look further for funding as well.

Rich

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

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

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

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 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

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federal government of violating their First Amendment rights. "The US government used its vast power over social media and big tech to censor legitimate scientific and policy discussion about Covid during the pandemic," Jay Bhattacharya wrote in a statement. That case is still ongoing, but in March, Trump-appointed judge Terry Doughty, in the Western District of Louisiana, denied a motion to dismiss it. "The US government used its vast power over social media and big tech to censor legitimate scientific and policy discussion about Covid during the pandemic."

There is more to come. Several of the conference speakers have embarked on a Covid litigation bonanza of late. Mark Meuser, a member of the Future Litigation and Censorship panels, boasts on his website that he "has been involved in 22 lawsuits brought against [California Governor Gavin] Newsom for his unconstitutional usurpation of power as a result of COVID-19." In the exhibition area, I visited the booth of Children's Health Defense, the anti-vaccine organization helmed by the new presidential hopeful Robert F. Kennedy, Jr., who announced his bid to replace Joe Biden in April. A flier that highlighted some of the dozens of lawsuits that the group had recently filed reveals its eagerness to sue the government, at both local and federal levels. It's suing California over a law that prohibits doctors from spreading misinformation; the *Washington Post* and other news outlets over their efforts to stop the spread of misinformation; and the CDC for access to reports of "unusual or unexpected patterns of adverse events reporting that can signal safety problems with a vaccine." Sen. Elizabeth Warren (D-Mass.) is getting sued for calling for a review of the Amazon algorithms that allegedly promoted anti-vaccine books, and Facebook parent company Meta is being sued for "collusion with the US government to censor CHD social media content." Add to the long list of defendants Rutgers University for its vaccine mandate for students and staff.

Law professor Reiss is dubious about the prospects for some of those lawsuits, especially those in which individuals sue a private company for censorship. The First Amendment, she noted, also protects "the freedom of private companies like Twitter and YouTube to kick them off." Nor was the idea of students suing universities, a winning strategy. "You don't have the right to go to a specific university," she said. "And if you don't like the university policies, universities are on pretty solid grounds denying you admission."

Yet she noted that some of the victories the medical freedom movement has racked up so far could pave the way for future legislation that would last long beyond the Covid era—and possibly transform established public health practices. In fact, that's already happening: Several panelists suggested making vaccination status a protected class like race or sex—which means that it would be illegal to discriminate against someone on the basis of whether or not they had received immunizations. In 2021, Montana became the first state to pass such a law. In February of this year, Idaho followed suit. Employers there who require vaccination against Covid can now be fined $1,000 per violation. A similar bill in Florida is currently under consideration.

Another potential opening for medical freedom advocates, Reiss said, is a broader interpretation of laws about religious exemptions to vaccine mandates, which most states allow. With the current Supreme Court's expansion of what is included within the definition of freedom of religion, she worried they may include religious objections to vaccines. "If they go there, it will make it a lot harder to prevent the abuse of religious exemption," she said. On April 18, a few weeks after I spoke to Reiss, a US district judge ruled that Mississippi must change its current policy to allow religious exemptions for vaccine mandates. (The judge, Halil Suleyman Ozerden, had been nominated by Trump in 2019 to serve on the 5th Circuit Court of Appeals, but key Republicans questioned his conservative bona fides and he was never confirmed.)

With all this coming litigation, some of the conference sponsors saw a business opportunity. While the speakers inside the ballroom railed against big pharma and the CDC, just outside, representatives from law-firm-adjacent companies handed out business cards. Zena Obebe, the CEO of Hill Redaction Services, told me, "We wanted to get in front of those litigation lawyers and say, 'Hey, you can use us for the medical records.'" She expects to see many more Covid-related cases soon, explaining, "There's a huge influx that's coming down the pipeline."

Though Covid was the official topic of the conference, many of the people I talked to made detours into other subjects. Their involvement in the medical freedom movement, they said, had caused the scales to fall from their eyes. Kirsch, the conference organizer, explained that before the pandemic, he had never been skeptical of routine childhood vaccinations, but over the past few years, he has come to believe they cause autism (a theory that has been extensively discredited but one cherished by RFK, Jr. whose campaign, Kirsch says, he looks forward to supporting). So fervent is his newfound aversion to immunizations, he told me, that he now believes "nobody should ever" even vaccinate their pets.

For FitzGibbon, the comms guy, his involvement with the medical freedom movement has led to a more thorough disenchantment with his progressive roots. In 2020, during the height of the pandemic, he had become acutely ill with Covid, but two different hospitals sent him home. Only when a doctor-client put in a good word for him did he get admitted to an ICU, where he received monoclonal antibodies—an effective

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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: Thu, 5 May 2022 11:41:13 AM -0400
Sent: Thu, 5 May 2022 11:40:44 AM -0400
Subject: RE: Article in Buzzfeed yesterday detailing political motivation behind Termination of EHA's grant
From: Peter Daszak < (b) (6)
To: Hotez, Peter Jay < (b) (6) Roberts, Rich <(b) (6)
CC: Keusch, Gerald T < (b) (6) David Morens < (b) (6) Jeff Sturchio < (b) (6) Aleksei Chmura < (b) (6)
Attachments: image010.png; image011.jpg; image012.jpg; image013.jpg; image001.jpg; image004.jpg

Agreed Peter – a small but awful group (White Coat Waste). They are firmly linked with Anti-GMO groups (e.g. Organic Consumers Association, GMO Watch) and anti-vaxx groups that have been partnering with them to attack our work to get at Fauci. Here's an article on the anti-GMO link to the lab leak theory:

https://www.motherjones.com/politics/2021/06/inside- the-anti-gmo-movements-obsession-with-virology-research-and-lab-leaks/

They have a "gain of function" hall of shame that features me, even though EcoHealth has never conducted research that's classified as GoF (a point that's now largely forgotten in the media frenzy!). It also has a link to the "Great Reset" conspiracy theory with George Soros, Bill Gates, and the World Economic Forum etc. and its clear anti-semitic overtones:
https://www.organicconsumers.org/campaigns/covid- 19/gain-of-function-hall-of-shame

Here's an article on the US Right To Know, that's filed over 100 FoIAs for emails linking to EcoHealth, showing that they're linked back to Robert Kennedy's anti-vaxx movement:
https://www.thedailybeast.com/us- right-to-know-fave-mainstream-media-source-is-funded-by-anti-vaxxers

Wait a minute – am I looking at a "conspiracy" here!??

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

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

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

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

From: Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6) >
Sent: Thursday, May 5, 2022 11:05 AM
To: Roberts, Rich <(b) (6)
Cc: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >; Keusch, Gerald T(b) (6) David Morens < (b) (6) >; Jeff Sturchio <j_(b) (6) >; Aleksei Chmura (b) (6) g>
Subject: Re: Article in Buzzfeed yesterday detailing political motivation behind Termination of EHA's grant

MORENS_SUBPOENA_008569
MORENS_NIH_018595
REL0000481298

Until now I hadn't heard of the white coat project

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

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

University Professor, Baylor University

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

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

iPhone

On May 5, 2022, at 9:15 AM, Roberts, Rich <(b) (6) wrote:

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Peter:

A good article, but hard to know how effective it might be.
It does continue to raise the need for scientists to fight back.

Rich

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

From: Peter Daszak (b) (6) >
Sent: Thursday, May 5, 2022 9:27 AM
To: Keusch, Gerald T (b) (6) >; Roberts, Rich (b) (6) ; David Morens (b) (6) >; Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6) ; Jeff Sturchio (b) (6)
Cc: Aleksei Chmura (b) (6)
Subject: Article in Buzzfeed yesterday detailing political motivation behind Termination of EHA's grant
Importance: High

EXTERNAL SENDER

Dear All,

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

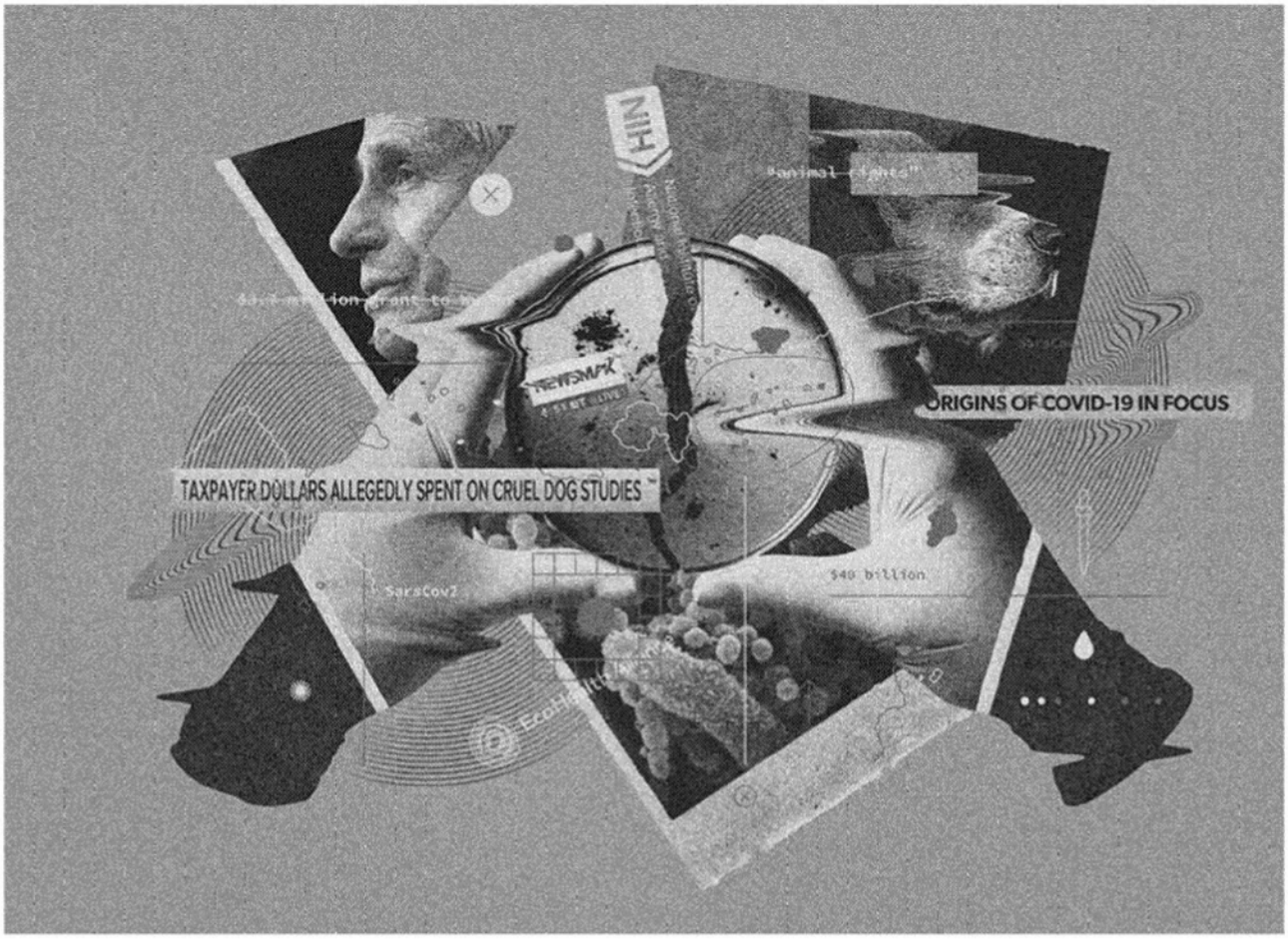
Note the following line, when Michael Lauer discovered that our Yr 5 report arrived late, so they could try to nail us for 'non-compliance' even though we'd already reported the experiment the year earlier.

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

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SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19, may never be conclusively solved. But thousands of pages of NIH emails and other documents released to BuzzFeed News through a Freedom of Information Act lawsuit show how the White Coat Waste Project rode the wave of partisan pandemic politics to serve its cause, and in the process triggered a storm that engulfed EcoHealth, one of the world's largest groups studying potentially dangerous animal viruses. They also show how the NIH, a behemoth that spends more than $40 billion annually on biomedical research, stumbled under the political pressure the White Coat Waste Project brought to bear.

The White Coat Waste Project has subsequently channeled right-wing anger toward Anthony Fauci, the public face of COVID policies including mask and vaccine mandates, accusing his National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, which is part of the NIH, of funding "beagle torture." The White Coat Waste Project is writing a controversial new activist playbook — and it's unclear whether anyone can control the forces that it has helped to unleash.

"They jumped on the bandwagon of how I have become public enemy number one of the far right," Fauci told BuzzFeed News. "If you engage and try and push back on that, it very often only gives it legs. And then it becomes even worse of a problem."



White Coat Waste via YouTube / Via youtube.com

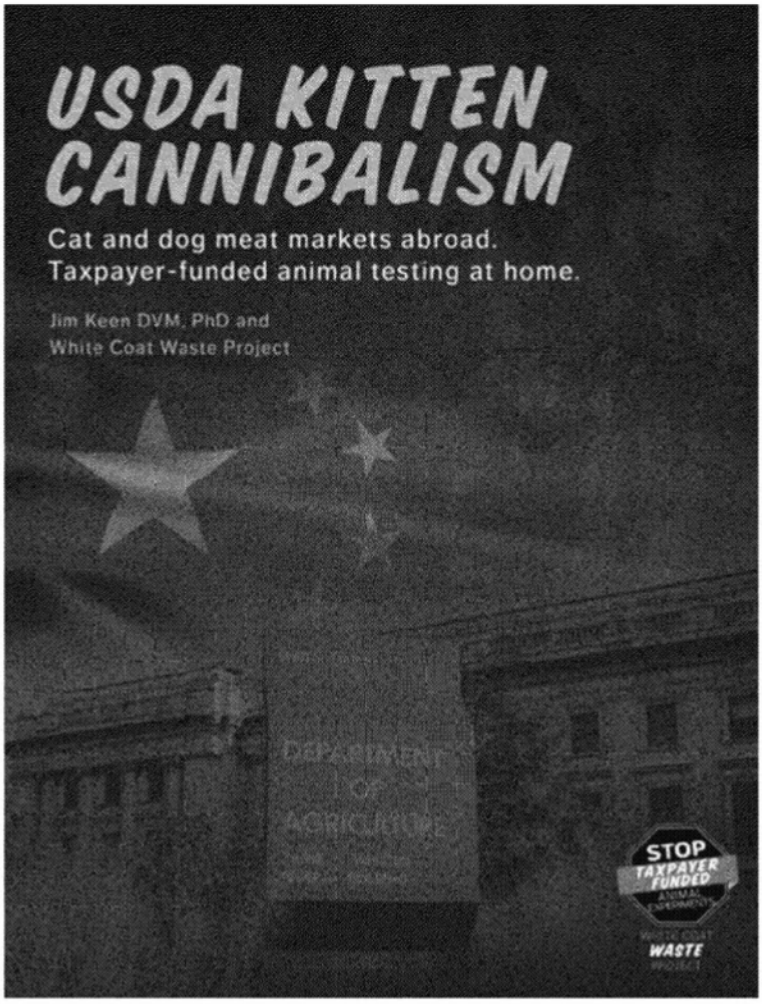
Anthony Bellotti

The White Coat Waste Project was formed in 2013 by Anthony Bellotti, a campaign consultant who over the years had worked for Republican candidates including Arnold Schwarzenegger and Lisa Murkowski, and on efforts to defund Planned Parenthood and Obamacare. But Bellotti's real passion had long been animal protection, he told BuzzFeed News — an interest forged at the age of 17 when he worked as a summer intern in a lab doing research on pigs, studying ways to extend the time they could be kept under anesthesia during heart surgery. Bellotti said he was struck both by the animals' suffering and the "repugnant and callous attitude" of the experimenters. "It really made a mark on me," he said.

Poring over polling data, Bellotti could see that there was a big gap between Democrats and Republicans on the issue. Democrats were much more likely to support campaigns against animal experiments, which had often focused on corporate labs, and Republicans tended to back the research. So Bellotti crafted a message calculated to bring the missing Republicans on board, focusing on government spending. He avoids the label "animal rights," and has cast the White Coat Waste Project as a "taxpayer watchdog uniting liberty-lovers and animal-lovers."

In addition to mobilizing support from the political right, there was another reason to target government spending: Congress has the power to shut it down. "The goal isn't to change hearts and minds, it's to win the fight," Bellotti told BuzzFeed News. "We had to get to the root cause of the problem, which was the government spending."

The group didn't really take off until 2016, when Bellotti hired Justin Goodman, a former director of laboratory investigations with People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals, to head the White Coat Waste Project's advocacy efforts. Goodman started digging into government databases and filing FOIA requests to identify projects that the group could campaign to defund.
Even before the pandemic, the White Coat Waste Project scored some victories. An early campaign, launched in a report called "Spending to Death," highlighted experiments involving dogs in federal labs, including one studying the effects of blood transfusions in dogs with pneumonia in which some of the animals died. The group then turned up the heat on the Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center in Richmond, Virginia, focusing on experiments into heart disease in which dogs were run on treadmills after their heart rhythms were disrupted using implanted pacemaker devices. The White Coast Waste Project's multiyear effort to shut down Veterans Affairs dog research eventually led Congress to restrict spending on the work and demand explicit approval from the secretary for veterans affairs for new dog experiments by the agency.



White Coat Waste

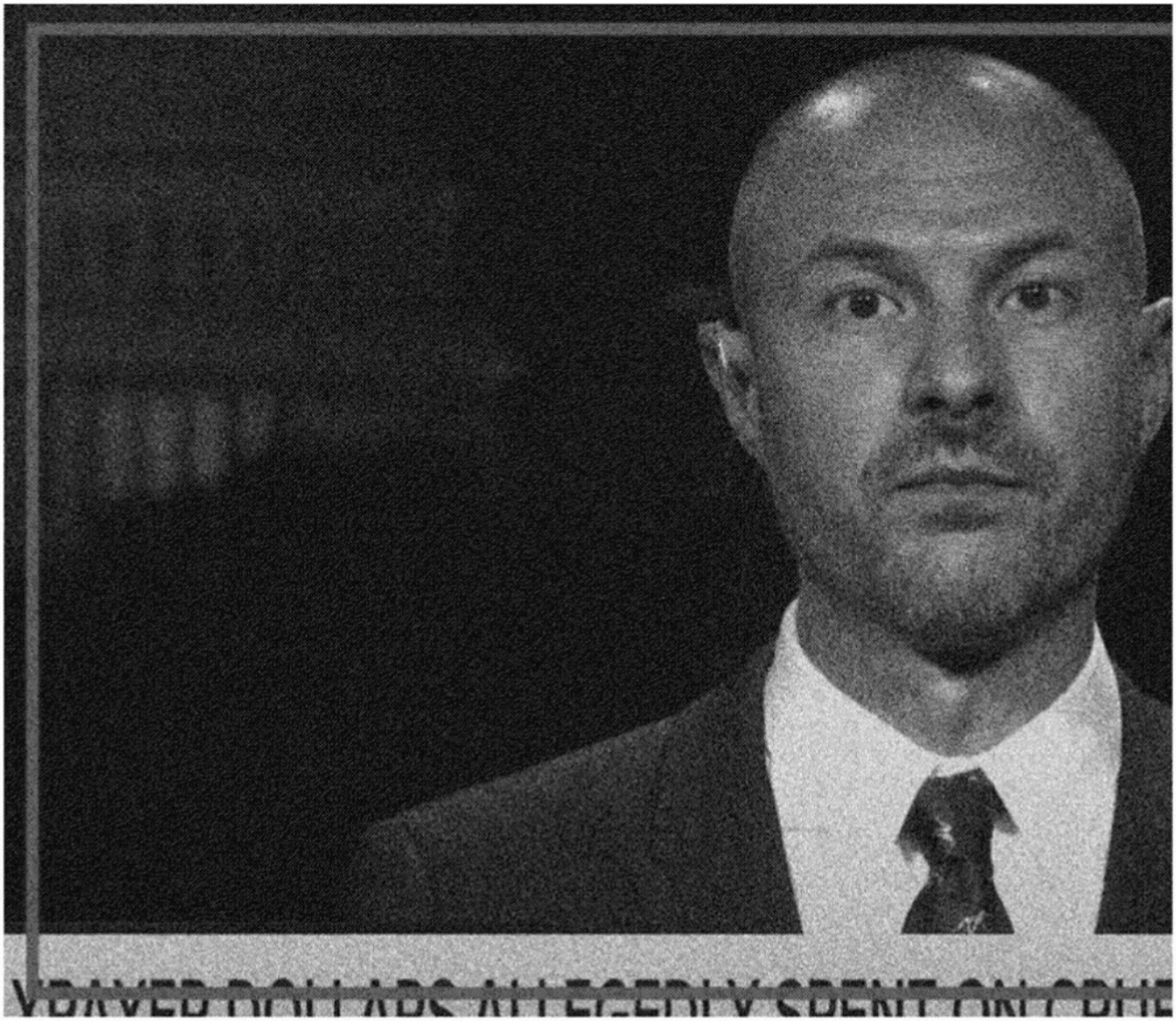
The cover of the White Coat Waste Project's 2019 report titled "USDA Kitten Cannibalism"

But it was another campaign that sowed the seeds for the attack on EcoHealth and its collaboration with the Wuhan Institute of Virology. In 2018, the White Coat Waste Project began to target the US Department of Agriculture's Animal Parasitic Diseases Laboratory in Beltsville, Maryland, zeroing in on its research into toxoplasmosis, which can infect people exposed to cat feces and can cause brain or eye damage in those with compromised immune systems. The campaign culminated in a March 2019 White Coat Waste Project report called "USDA Kitten Cannibalism." Its cover featured the Chinese flag superimposed over a photo of USDA's headquarters in Washington, DC. That framing drew on an experiment published in 2007 in which cats at the Maryland facility were fed meat from other cats purchased at a market in China to gauge its infectivity. Although the full report noted that these experiments were no longer being run, the association between this gruesome-sounding research and a nation seen as a major adversary to the US resonated with 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

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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.

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Federal spending records show that EcoHealth has received almost $120 million from research grants and contracts since 2008, from agencies including USAID, the NIH, and the Defense Threat Reduction Agency. EcoHealth's emergence as a major player in assessing pandemic threats, working with labs across the world, was fueled in part by the "near miss" with SARS, another respiratory disease caused by a coronavirus that emerged in southern China in 2002 and killed nearly 800 people before its spread was brought under control.

Indeed, in late January 2020, officials in Fauci's institute who were preparing talking points for their boss, due to appear at a Jan. 28 press conference on the US response to the new coronavirus, described Daszak's research into the risks posed by bat coronaviruses in glowing terms. The EcoHealth group was "among the biggest players in coronavirus research," wrote David Morens, senior adviser to Fauci, in an email obtained through the BuzzFeed News FOIA lawsuit. "In short, we have on our team … probably the world's experts in these non-human coronaviruses."

> "If you would have told me that this chain of events was going to happen, I would have said, 'No way, this is absolutely impossible.'"

Fast-forward to April 2020, and the White Coat Waste Project's findings about NIH funding for the Wuhan Institute of Virology were starting to find a receptive audience. On April 11, the group succeeded in getting DailyMail.com, the website of a British tabloid newspaper with a large online readership in the US, to run the story: "REVEALED: U.S. Government Gave $3.7 Million Grant to Wuhan Lab at Center of Coronavirus Leak Scrutiny." ($3.7 million was actually the total sum paid over six years to EcoHealth, gleaned by Goodman from the NIH's grants database; in fact, less than $600,000 went to the Wuhan institute.)

The White Coat Waste Project started reaching out to Republicans in Congress — and the NIH was soon reeling. By April 13, NIH officials were scrambling to respond to a request for information from the office of Florida Sen. Marco Rubio, which had forwarded an email from Goodman noting the press coverage of the White Coat Waste Project's "troubling find" about the Wuhan institute. In that email, Goodman noted: "We're working with Rep. Matt Gaetz (R-FL) and others on a sign-on letter about this."

Two days later, the alarm bells were ringing at the very top of the NIH. Lawrence Tabak, deputy to Francis Collins, then director of the NIH, wrote to his boss and Fauci, whose institute had awarded the grant, emphasizing in bold that the Trump White House was on the warpath: "The **WH has strongly embraced concerns** raised by Congressman Gaetz who is publicly criticizing HHS/NIH for funding the Wuhan laboratory's bat research."

"I reached Tony, he is now informed," Collins replied, confirming Fauci was in the loop.

Then, on April 17, a Newsmax reporter asked Trump about the project, repeating the false claim that $3.7 million had gone to the Wuhan institute. "We will end that grant very quickly," Trump said.

Michael Lauer, head of the NIH Office of Extramural Research, part of Collins' central command, then took control. On April 19, Lauer wrote to inform EcoHealth that NIH was looking to suspend the Wuhan institute from receiving federal funds. Other spending could continue, but EcoHealth should send no more money to China. In an April 21 email, Daszak told Lauer that since the grant was renewed for a second five-year term in July 2019, no funds had gone to Wuhan "nor has any contract been signed."

But three days later, NIH terminated the entire grant, for "convenience." In a one-page letter to

EcoHealth on April 24, Lauer wrote: "At this time, NIH does not believe that the current project outcomes align with the program goals and agency priorities."

Daszak was stunned. So too were many other scientists, disturbed that research that had been exceptionally highly rated in peer review, and which was directly related to the pandemic, could be canceled at a stroke. On May 21, 77 US Nobel Prize winners in science wrote to NIH director Collins and Alex Azar, secretary of health and human services, protesting the decision and describing the explanation given by Lauer about the NIH's priorities as "preposterous under the circumstances."

EcoHealth's response came on the day after the Nobelists' letter, when the group's pro bono lawyer wrote to Lauer contending that the NIH didn't have the legal authority to terminate a research grant in this way, without cause. The letter also argued that EcoHealth's goals were virtually identical to those laid out in the NIAID Strategic Plan for COVID-19 Research, released the day before the grant termination.

Later, in a congressional hearing, Fauci was asked why the grant was terminated. "It was canceled because the NIH was told to cancel it," he told the House Energy and Commerce Committee on June 23, 2020. "We got it from the highest office of the president: 'Cancel that grant,'" Fauci confirmed to BuzzFeed News.

The backlash against Lauer's initial letter seemed to prompt a rethink from the NIH. As first reported by the Wall Street Journal, Lauer came back to EcoHealth with a second letter on July 8. Abandoning the explanation about the NIH's priorities, Lauer wrote that the grant was reinstated, but immediately suspended because of concerns about biosafety at the Wuhan Institute of Virology. That tied the suspension directly to the lab leak theory, which posits that the pandemic may have started with the accidental release of a virus being studied in the lab, perhaps through a worker who became infected.

"We have concerns that WIV has not satisfied safety requirements under the award, and that EcoHealth Alliance has not satisfied its obligations to monitor the activities of its subrecipient to ensure compliance," Lauer wrote.

To lift that suspension, EcoHealth would have to respond to seven requests for information and materials. They included: "EcoHealth Alliance must arrange for WIV to submit to an outside inspection team charged to review the lab facilities and lab records, with specific attention to addressing the question of whether WIV staff had SARS-CoV-2 in their possession prior to December 2019." There was no way a US nonprofit could get the Chinese authorities to agree to such a request: Even the WHO team, including Daszak, that later visited the institute in February 2021 as part of its study of the origins of COVID-19 didn't get this unfettered access.

With Lauer's second letter, the grant entered a state of limbo from which it has yet to emerge — and seems unlikely to.

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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

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involved creating "chimeric" coronaviruses, engineered to combine genetic sequences from different viruses sampled from the wild.

Some proposed experiments involved chimeras based on the virus that causes MERS, a respiratory disease that first showed up in Saudi Arabia in 2012 and has since killed almost 900 people. EcoHealth wanted to replace the MERS virus's "spike" protein, used to enter animal or human cells, with those from these new viruses, to see whether they were also able to latch onto a molecule on cell surfaces targeted by the MERS virus. The NIAID officials also wanted to know more about two chimeras that had already been made, in which the genes for spike proteins from newly discovered bat coronaviruses had been put into another bat coronavirus called WIV1, named after the Wuhan Institute of Virology.

The NIAID officials accepted Daszak's explanation that these experiments didn't meet the US government's definition of gain-of-function research: He had argued that there was no reason to suppose the chimeric viruses would be any more dangerous than the viruses behind MERS and SARS. So the NIAID allowed the research to continue.

Daszak responded: "This is terrific! We are very happy to hear that our Gain of Function research funding pause has been lifted." The White Coat Waste Project later claimed that it had caught Daszak "red-handed, admitting to gain-of-function research" — omitting the context that this quote was part of an exchange in which he had argued that the research didn't meet the US government's definition of that term.

"We'll have to agree to disagree here," Goodman said, when BuzzFeed News questioned this claim. "We're not interested in debating the interpretation of these emails or the definition of gain-of-function. We're only interested in exposing and ending wasteful government spending on dangerous animal experiments."

Emails and other documents obtained by BuzzFeed News show that the chimera experiments had already been deepening EcoHealth's problems, as Lauer and other NIH officials looked for evidence that EcoHealth had breached the terms and conditions of its grant.

> "Because [Fauci] became a household name as the pandemic progressed, sure, it created an opportunity to go after him for animal testing in a way that would really make waves."

A heavily redacted series of emails from May 2021 centers on the July 2016 letter from the NIAID that had given EcoHealth permission to resume the chimera work. Accepting a suggestion made by Daszak himself, it stated that if any of the chimeric viruses showed unexpectedly rapid growth, he would "immediately stop all experiments with these viruses" and provide NIAID officials with information about the unexpected outcomes. Shortly after receiving the letter, Lauer sent it on to a senior attorney with the Department of Health and Human Services, assigned to the NIH, changing the subject line on the email thread to "Gift."

Daszak's problem was that the NIH determined that an experiment described in annual progress reports for the grant indicated that one of these viruses had made mice engineered to carry the human receptor targeted by SARS-like viruses sicker than expected and showed signs of rapid growth. "EcoHealth failed to report this finding right away," NIH deputy director Tabak later wrote in an October 2021 letter to James Comer, the ranking Republican member on the House of Representatives Committee on Oversight and Reform.

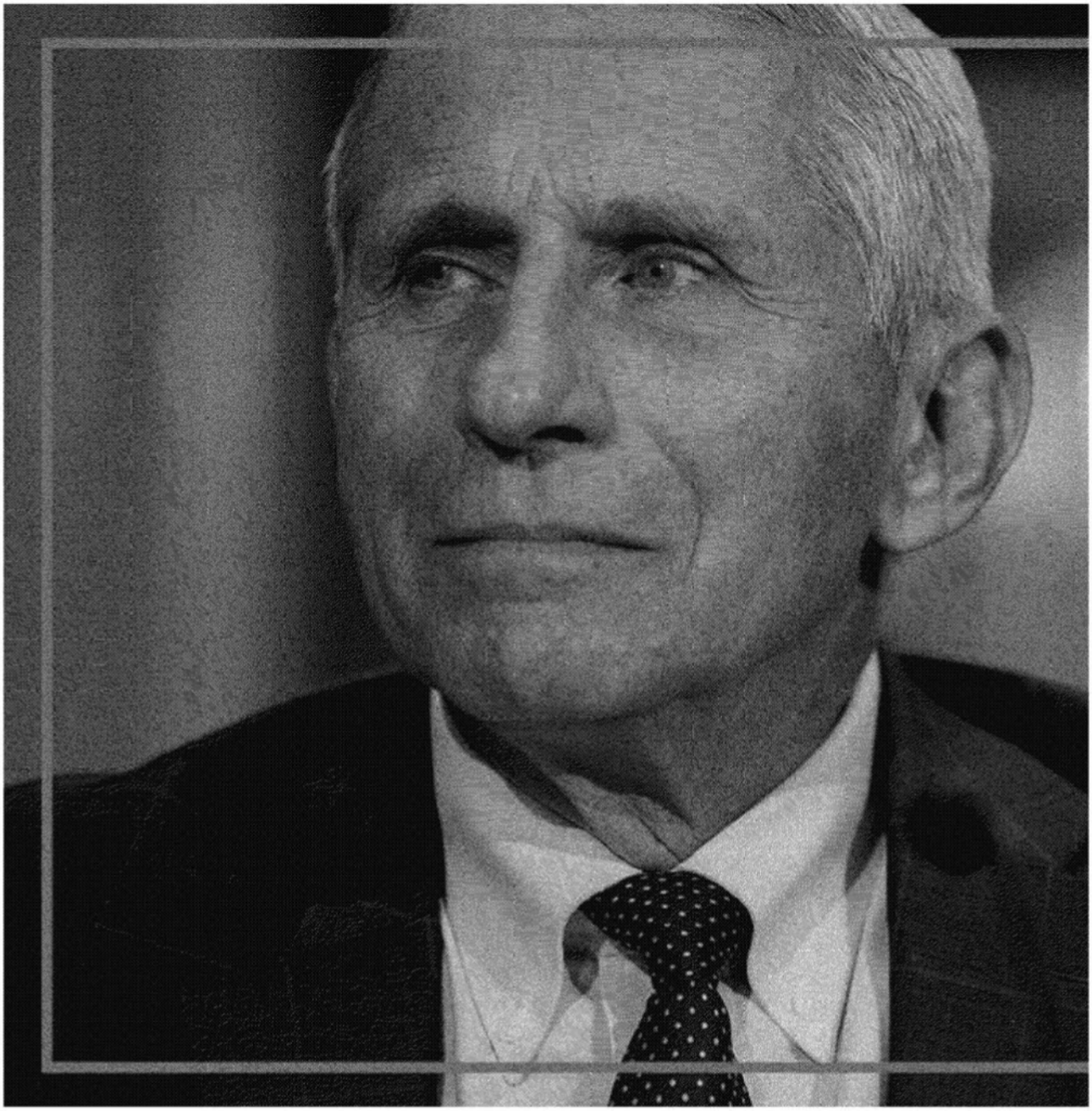
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None of this amounts to a smoking gun linking EcoHealth and the Wuhan institute to the origins of COVID, as the viruses involved were very different to SARS-CoV-2. And in a letter to Lauer and Tabak after the latter's communication with Comer, Daszak contested the conclusion that the experiment did show rapid viral growth and argued that EcoHealth had complied with its reporting requirements.

But it gave Lauer evidence that he was looking for. EcoHealth is now under audit from the Office of Inspector General for the Department of Health and Human Services, an independent watchdog that monitors fraud, waste, and other problems, as part of a review of the NIH and "selected grantees" initiated on June 11, 2021. Documents received by BuzzFeed News through its FOIA lawsuit, including a timeline of events put together by Lauer dated June 13, 2021, indicate that the suggestion for an OIG audit of EcoHealth came from the NIH, just days after Lauer sent his "Gift" email.

The NIH declined to discuss Lauer's email and timeline, saying in a statement: "NIH doesn't comment on internal deliberation of grant awards."

In December 2021, the White Coat Waste Project claimed a win from its activism around the EcoHealth grant when President Joe Biden signed the 2022 National Defense Authorization Act into law. It contained specific wording blocking the Department of Defense — which over the years has provided almost $40 million to EcoHealth — from supporting the nonprofit's research in China.



Stefani Reynolds / POOL / AFP via Getty Images
Anthony Fauci

The gain-of-function fight had also intensified the pressure on Fauci, who was by now a hate figure for many on the political right. In November 2021, he and Kentucky Republican Sen. Rand Paul clashed angrily in a Senate hearing, as Paul accused Fauci of changing the definition of gain-of-function and funding dangerous research in Wuhan. "He is egregiously incorrect," Fauci responded. In January, they locked horns in another hearing, featuring an extraordinary exchange in which Fauci accused Paul of jeopardizing his personal safety for political gain.

"What happens when he gets out and accuses me of things that are completely untrue is that all of a sudden that kindles the crazies out there, and I have threats upon my life, harassment of my family and my children," Fauci said.

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By the time of these acrimonious exchanges, the White Coat Waste Project had embarked on another campaign that made Fauci its main focus. In July 2021, the White Coat Waste Project launched its "BeagleGate" campaign, highlighting research on dogs funded by the NIAID, with a blog post headlined: "WCW Exposé: Fauci Spent $424K on Beagle Experiments, Dogs Bitten to Death by Flies."

The next month, the White Coat Waste Project accused Fauci of funding "beagle torture" in Tunisia, referring to a paper published in July 2021 investigating whether the biting sand flies that spread visceral leishmaniasis, a potentially fatal disease, preferred to feed on dogs already infected with the parasites that cause the condition.

The story really took off on Oct. 24, 2021, when 24 members of Congress from both parties, led by Rep. Nancy Mace, a Republican from South Carolina, wrote to Fauci protesting "costly, cruel, and unnecessary taxpayer-funded experiments on dogs." Fauci's nemesis, Rand Paul, wasn't among the signatories, but weighed in with a tweet touting the White Coat Waste Project's original blog post:

The Washington Post later reported that Fauci's office received 3,600 calls in 36 hours, causing his assistant to stop answering the phone for two weeks. The newspaper linked the onslaught to "a campaign by a little-known animal rights group called the White Coat Waste Project."

The NIAID tried to address the controversy, stating that it didn't actually fund the Tunisian beagle research paper — which in November 2021 was corrected to remove reference to a grant from the institute, which had been awarded to a researcher at Ohio State University for related work. "NIAID was listed as a courtesy because it had supported other leishmaniasis research in the past," a spokesperson for the university told BuzzFeed News. But that correction seemed only to give the White Coat Waste Project more ammunition. "Once again…color us unconvinced," it wrote in a later blog post disputing the NIAID's denial of funding the work.

The White Coat Waste Project's critics argue that its demonization of Fauci, seemingly calculated to channel existing right-wing anger with the government scientist seen as the public face of mask and COVID vaccine mandates, has taken animal activism into scary territory.

"They take a tiny sliver of truth, and then around that they build this highly emotional somewhat fictional narrative to build their case," Jim Newman, director of strategic communications with Americans for Medical Progress, which argues that animal experiments are essential to develop new treatments and vaccines, told BuzzFeed News. Animal activists have long been accused of cherry-picking facts and ignoring the goals of research to present animal experiments in the worst possible light. But portraying individuals as cruel villains in the current febrile political climate is "a very dangerous direction to be headed," Newman said.

"Of course, the pro-animal experimentation lobby hates that we hold government bosses accountable for funneling tax dollars to cruel and wasteful animal tests," Goodman said. "We generally don't run campaigns targeting individual taxpayer-funded animal experimenters to respect their privacy and because we question the approach's effectiveness, but federal agency bosses are public figures and fair game."

Threats to Fauci's life, which began well before the White Coat Waste Project's BeagleGate campaign, have been widely documented. Daszak, too, has faced security scares, including an incident in August 2020 when an envelope containing a mysterious white powder reportedly turned up at his home. "I get death threats regularly and we get crank calls at home trying to keep us awake at night," Daszak told BuzzFeed News.

The White Coat Waste Project stresses that it opposes violence and issued a statement in October 2021 saying it had no quarrel with Fauci over his advice on COVID policies. "You could stand

shoulder-to-shoulder with him on COVID response and go toe-to-toe with him on other issues," said Goodman, who makes no apology for the group's decision to make Fauci the focus of the BeagleGate campaign. "Because he became a household name as the pandemic progressed, sure, it created an opportunity to go after him for animal testing in a way that would really make waves."

As the White Coat Waste Project has seized its opportunities and gained a higher public profile, the group has itself come under scrutiny. In February, the Campaign for Accountability filed a complaint with the IRS and the Federal Election Commission, alleging that the White Coat Waste Project had coordinated with the White Coat Waste Political Action Committee, founded in 2017, in breach of regulations prohibiting tax-exempt nonprofits from engaging in political campaign activities.

In an interview with BuzzFeed News, Bellotti declined to answer questions about the political action committee, which he said was a separate organization. Goodman later sent a statement describing the Campaign for Accountability's complaint as a "politically-motivated, baseless, and frivolous attack," noting: "The WCW Project *does not* fund activities of the distinct, all-volunteer WCW PAC."

Despite the partisan dynamics that have driven the White Coat Waste Project's campaign against funding for the Wuhan Institute of Virology, Bellotti told BuzzFeed News that his group's goal remains finding ways to unite Democrats and Republicans on defunding animal experiments backed by the US government. "We didn't know when we launched this that it would get partisan in the way it did," he said.

The White Coat Waste Project's latest campaign, again tapping into concern about US taxpayer dollars going to the nation's most powerful adversaries, might just have broader political appeal. Less than a week after Russia's invasion of Ukraine, it published a new blog post: "Breaking: WCW Discovers NIH Pays For Cruel Kitten Experiments…in Russia!" ●

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

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Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

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

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Date: Sun, 16 May 2021 11:39:51 PM -0400
Sent: Sun, 16 May 2021 11:39:20 PM -0400
Subject: RE: Hugh Hewitt: NIH Director Francis Collins On "Gain of Function" Research At NIH and Wuhan Lab
From: Peter Daszak (b) (6)
To: Roberts, Rich (b) (6) Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b) (6) Keusch, Jerry (b) (6)
Attachments: image001.gif; image002.jpg; image003.jpg

Amusingly, some of the early attacks on Zhengli Shi in China accused her of being a CIA agent because she'd collaborated with Americans at….you guessed it EcoHealth Alliance!

By the way – another find just now… on 5/11/20, Kansas Republican Sen. Roger Marshall put forward a resolution for a Senate Select Committee to investigate origins of COVID, role of WIV etc. etc. https://www.kansascity.com/news/politics-government/article251329378.html . Bill details: https://www.marshall.senate.gov/wp-content/uploads/ROM21556.pdf

In a normal year I'd be shocked, but this just seems like more of the same gibberish…

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

From: Roberts, Rich (b) (6)
Sent: Sunday, May 16, 2021 3:34 PM
To: Peter Daszak (b) (6) ; Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b) (6) ; Keusch, Jerry (b) (6)
Subject: RE: Hugh Hewitt: NIH Director Francis Collins On "Gain of Function" Research At NIH and Wuhan Lab

Peter:

Utter nonsense all round. Don't let it get you down. My favorite non-sensical theory, which I heard recently, is that it was the CIA who started this and deliberately dropped the virus in Wuhan.

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)

From: Peter Daszak (b) (6)
Sent: Sunday, May 16, 2021 2:52 PM
To: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b) (6) >; Keusch, Jerry < (b) (6) > Roberts, Rich < (b) (6)
Subject: RE: Hugh Hewitt: NIH Director Francis Collins On "Gain of Function" Research At NIH and Wuhan Lab

EXTERNAL SENDER

Thanks for sharing. His comment "The original WHO study was not considered to have been as thorough or as objective as it needs to be." Seems harmless on the surface, but is grossly offensive to those of us who spent 4 miserable weeks in Wuhan, and many more miserable weeks being attacked in the press since that. It also demonstrates a total lack of understanding of the process of this study, and of the actual contents – 3 reasons why even just thi one sentence is inaccurate.

> Re. 'not considered to have been as thorough' – It's actually more thorough than the internationally-negotiated Terms of Reference laid out. These specifically did not include any investigation of the lab. It was only after we got on the ground in Wuhan and were told a hard 'no' on looking into the lab leak hypothesis that I then reached out to Zhengli Shi and set up calls to break the ice on this, allowing us to visit the lab and ask the questions we did, and get new data from the lab. Looking back on this – why did I bother!
>
> Re. '…or as objective as it needs to be'. It's been said repeatedly that the international experts on the WHO mission all unanimously considered the lab leak hypothesis extremely unlikely. If this is not objective, why not? Perhaps he's referring to the China side having also voted the same way – so what? Maybe because I was involved and somehow I can't think independently because I'm linked to the lab – so what? If >10 independent international experts viewed it as extremely unlikely, why is that not objective?
>
> Re. calling it the 'original WHO study' is erroneous because it's ongoing. This was phase 1 and the recommendations in the report are for the phase 2 studies that are being designed right now. This is in the terms of reference that are published. It's fine for someone to not know these details, but if you don't know, you should suggest this was the 'original study' as if indicating there would be a future, different one.

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_014941
MORENS_NIH_030594
REL0000481299

From: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b) (6) >
Sent: Friday, May 14, 2021 2:12 PM
To: Peter Daszak (b) (6) (b) (6) >; Keusch, Jerry (b) (6) <
(b) (6) >; Rich Roberts ((b) (6) >
Subject: FW: Hugh Hewitt: NIH Director Francis Collins On "Gain of Function" Research At NIH and Wuhan Lab

David

David M. Morens, M.D.
CAPT, United States Public Health Service
Senior Advisor to the Director
Office of the Director
National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases
National Institutes of Health
Building 31, Room 7A-03
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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: Friday, May 14, 2021 12:00 PM
Subject: Hugh Hewitt: NIH Director Francis Collins On "Gain of Function" Research At NIH and Wuhan Lab

THU, MAY 13, 2021 | BY HUGH HEWITT

NIH Director Francis Collins On "Gain

MORENS_SUBPOENA_014942
MORENS_NIH_030595
REL0000481299

# of Function" Research At NIH and Wuhan Lab



Transcript:
Dr. Francis Collins, director of NIH joined me this AM. He answered many objections about vaccinations and also discuss

HH: But first, let me ask you about gain of function research. It's become a contentious issue. I'm looking at an NIH symposium you held on gain of function. Could you explain for the Steelers fans out there what gain of function research is?

FC: Absolutely, and there has been a lot of noise about this. And a lot of the information is not accurate, so let me try. Basically, this is the kind of research where you're studying a particular pathogen in a very tightly controlled environment to try to understand what about that virus or that bacterium might we most want to be worried about that nature might develop into an even more dangerous organism. We do this under extremely tight circumstances. The NIH has only approved that kind of research in a couple of instances for influenza. We have never approved that for coronaviruses. But now, there's a buzz that maybe that Wuhan Institute of Virology was conducting that kind of research. We don't know that. There's no evidence for that. And let me say categorically, NIH would not have supported any such research on coronaviruses, because there are risks there that you might actually end up producing a virus that has a higher danger attached to it than what nature has already come up with. Again, the reason to do it is to try to have a little forecast of what we might need to watch out for that nature could develop. But that should only be done under very carefully controlled circumstances. We have in the United States a rigorous system for overseeing any kind of gain of function research like that. And it's only really been utilized twice for influenza.

MORENS_SUBPOENA_014943
MORENS_NIH_030596
REL0000481299

HH: Now I just heard you say categorically the United States did not fund research of gain of function sort into the COVID virus in Wuhan. Would they have funded, can you say the same thing about gain of function research period, of any sort, in Wuhan?

FC: We, of course, do not have internal insight as to what was going on at the Wuhan Institute of Virology. NIH strongly supports the position that we need more thorough investigation of what exactly were the origins of this virus. The original WHO study was not considered to have been as thorough or as objective as it needs to be. NIH, working with the State Department, the Agriculture Department, and WHO, is insisting upon a more careful and more objective analysis of everything that happened in Wuhan back in December of 2019.

HH: But can you rule out, Dr. Collins, the United States having funded any sort of gain of function research in Wuhan?

FC: We absolutely did not fund gain of function research in Wuhan.

HH: All right. That's great.

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Date: Sun, 3 Oct 2021 9:41:43 AM -0400
Sent: Sun, 3 Oct 2021 9:38:58 AM -0400
Subject: RE: Please help!
From: Peter Daszak (b) (6)
To: Roberts, Rich <(b) (6) (b) (6)>; Gerald Jerry Keusch (b) (6); David Morens <(b) (6)>; Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6)>; peter hotez (b) (6)

Great to hear that Rich. Seems like fighting a fire on multiple fronts at the moment. Peter – this is related to an amendment that the House passed as part of the NDAA (DoD funding bill) to block DoD funding for EcoHealth. We're trying to make sure it's stripped from the bill when it goes to the senate.

Cheers,

Peter

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

Peter:

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

Rich

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

MORENS_SUBPOENA_011331
MORENS_NIH_022118
REL0000481301

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

EXTERNAL SENDER

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

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

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

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

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

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

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
(Sent from my iPhone)

President
EcoHealth Alliance

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www.EcoHealthAlliance.org

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Date:	Tue, 31 May 2022 10:52:01 AM -0400
Sent:	Tue, 31 May 2022 10:51:55 AM -0400
Subject:	RE: Jeffrey Sachs peddling his BS in the Boston Globe today
From:	"Roberts, Rich" <(b) (6)
To:	Peter Daszak <(b) (6) David Morens <(b) (6)
CC:	Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6) Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6) Jeff Sturchio <(b) (6)
Attachments:	image001.jpg

Peter:

He's quite deranged over this.

Rich

Richard J. Roberts
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240 County Road
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Tel: (978) (b) (6)
Fax: (978) 412 9910
email: robert(b) (6)

From: Peter Daszak < (b) (6)
Sent: Tuesday, May 31, 2022 10:35 AM
To: David Morens <(b) (6) Roberts, Rich <(b) (6)
Cc: Keusch, Gerald T < (b) (6) Hotez, Peter Jay < (b) (6) Jeff Sturchio < (b) (6)
Subject: Jeffrey Sachs peddling his BS in the Boston Globe today
Importance: High

EXTERNAL SENDER

As predicted, Jeffrey Sachs has now re-hashed his PNAS op ed into a Boston Globe op ed, replete with a picture of a CoV and some human stitching on the Spike protein (I kid you not – see below)…

https://www.bostonglobe.com/2022/05/31/opinion/questions-surrounding-origins-covid-19-remain-unanswered/?event=event12

It's behind a paywall, so I've inserted the full text below.

It's still full of errors. His goal is to push the Democrats to call for a bipartisan 'investigation' into EHA, UNC and other US orgs.

Reads like a call for the 'Witchfinder General' to get their pliers and racks together– farcical really, and all based on a tissue of misinformed BS.

By the way Jerry, this is the same Boston Globe that wouldn't consider your Op Ed!

Cheers,

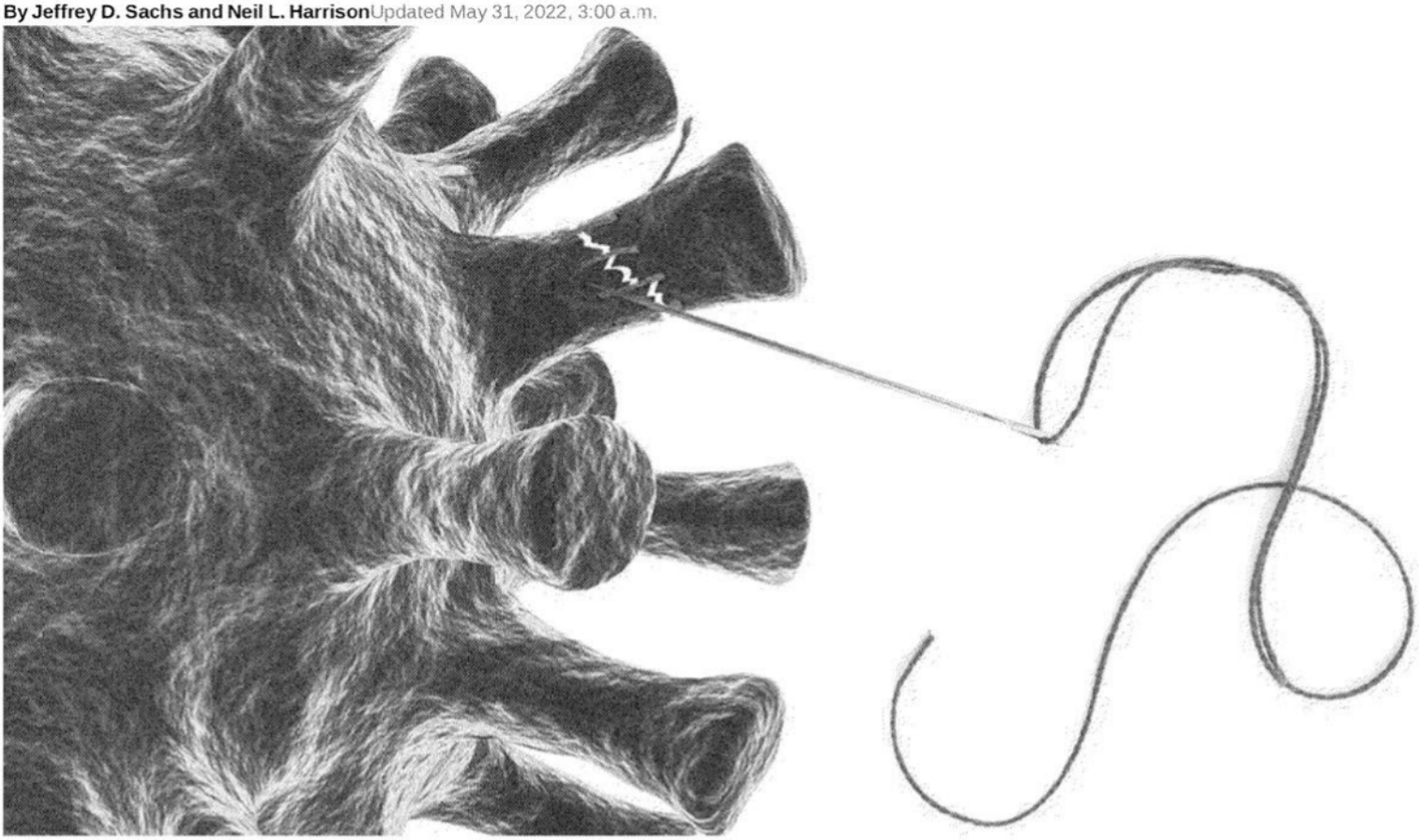
Peter

OPINION

Questions surrounding the origins of COVID-19 remain unanswered

Why did some components of the Intelligence Community lean toward a laboratory release as the source of the pandemic?

By Jeffrey D. Sachs and Neil L. HarrisonUpdated May 31, 2022, 3:00 a.m.



GLOBE STAFF ILLUSTRATION; JEROME CRONENBERGER/AFRICA STUDIO/ADOBE

It's not yet clear whether the SARS-CoV-2 virus that causes COVID-19 was created in a laboratory or emerged from nature; there is still no decisive evidence for either alternative. To find out, we have recently called for an independent and transparent investigation into the possible role that US biotechnology played in the emergence of the virus.

Americans have heard a lot about the possibility that Chinese laboratories played a role in the emergence of the pandemic, but very little about the role US organizations might have played. When President Biden tasked the US Intelligence Community with determining the origin of SARS-CoV-2, it found that either "a laboratory-associated incident" or a "natural origin" was possible. The IC said that China should cooperate more to find the truth, but did not make clear, or perhaps did not fully realize, the role that US science might have played in the origin of the virus. More important, the IC didn't present the details of its inquiry for independent scientific scrutiny. We don't know whether the IC's analysis was comprehensive or superficial.

The origins of the COVID-19 pandemic remain unknown, but may have had an assist from advanced US biotechnology. We do know this: The National Institutes of Health, which funded a lot of potentially hazardous and under-regulated laboratory manipulation of SARS-like viruses, has been less than transparent. And that's stating matters politely. The NIH has done its part to throw scientists and the public off track regarding the US-based and funded research.

The SARS-CoV-2 virus is so easily transmitted because it has an unusual sequence within its genetic code that makes the virus more infectious than other related viruses (including the original SARS virus from the 2003 outbreak). The key is the presence of a so-called Furin Cleavage Site that enhances the ability of the virus to enter and infect human cells.

From the early days of the pandemic, scientists have wondered how an FCS got into the SARS-CoV-2 genome, since it is the only virus among the group of SARS-like viruses that has an FCS. Other more distant relatives, such as the virus that causes the Middle East Respiratory Syndrome, have an FCS, but these other viruses are quite distant from SARS-CoV-2 in terms of evolution.

Did the FCS evolve naturally, or was it put into the virus by a laboratory manipulation? This may seem an odd question. Wouldn't that be a very dangerous thing to do? The answer is yes, it could definitely be dangerous, especially without proper safeguards. Yet remarkably, inserting an FCS was an aim of a US-China research team, using biotechnology developed by US scientists.

In a Project DEFUSE research proposal to the US government from the University of North Carolina, the EcoHealth Alliance, and the Wuhan Institute of Virology, the team wrote, "We will analyze all SARSr-CoV S gene sequences for appropriately conserved proteolytic cleavage sites in S2 and for the presence of potential Furin Cleavage Sites. . . . Where clear mismatches occur, we will introduce appropriate human-specific cleavage sites and evaluate growth potential in Vero cells and HAE cultures." Much of this work was to be carried out in a Wuhan laboratory with a low level of biosafety control.

In plain English, the researchers would look for FCS in viruses, and when they didn't occur naturally, would insert them. Notably, the UNC-EHA-WIV team also mentioned ">180 bat SARSr-Cov strains sequenced in our prior work and not yet examined for spillover potential." These sequences have not been made public.

Why would scientists propose such dangerous work? As one of the leaders of this research at UNC wrote in an editorial in 2018, "the study of zoonotic and human CoV [coronaviruses] outside of their natural host often times requires genetic manipulation and GOF to be useful." GOF, meaning "gain-of-function," is research in which the coronavirus is manipulated in the laboratory and then tested for its ability to infect cells and reproduce in tissue. It's used in drug and vaccine development.

Now, here's the thing: The DEFUSE proposal was rejected. But was the work undertaken anyway? We have no idea, but it is standard procedure to carry out preliminary work, or even a whole project, whether or not a particular grant is accepted. And in truth, the DEFUSE proposal is part of a much larger, and still hidden, research agenda overseen by the NIH. When the NIH was asked to release its 2020 Strategic Plan for COVID-19 Research, it did so — with all 290 pages fully blanked out.

The fact is that NIH has not told the American people, or the scientific community, what it knows about the origins of SARS-CoV-2. In a conference call call on Feb. 1, 2020, NIH leaders heard top virologists explain why the FCS in SARS-CoV-2 indicated the possibility of laboratory manipulation of the virus. Yet just a few days later, NIH encouraged a team of scientists to prepare a paper declaring a natural origin of the virus. Subsequently, NIH has resisted the release of critical documentation and dragged its feet until forced to make disclosures under Freedom of Information Act lawsuits, often providing only highly redacted materials.

The Biden administration and the scientific community need to do better. What work did NIH, DOD, and other US agencies fund that might have contributed to the emergence of SARS-CoV-2? When did agencies of the USG first learn of the virus? What evidence might there be in the United States in the form of laboratory notes, electronic communications, virus databases, and other troves of information, that can shed light on this matter? Why did some components of the Intelligence Community lean toward a laboratory release as the source of the pandemic?

There has been enough obfuscation and foot-dragging. Let's open the books and get the facts from US organizations to see what light they can shed on the origin of this tragic global disaster.

Jeffrey D. Sachs is university professor at Columbia University. Neil L. Harrison is a professor at Columbia University.

MORENS_SUBPOENA_005905
MORENS_NIH_014515
REL0000481302

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

---

From: David Morens <(b) (6)
Sent: Tuesday, May 24, 2022 6:37 PM
To: Roberts, Rich (b) (6)
Cc: Keusch, Gerald T (b) (6) ; Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6) Jeff Sturchio <(b) (6) Peter Daszak (b) (6)
Subject: Re: Jeff Sachs' comments to Rich

Colleagues, I will be polite snd point out that this sort of behavior from Sachs is not new. Too bad, because he is a smart guy....

Good that you will rebut this. Peter D has never stabbed a colleague in the back nor has he ever twisted the truth to undercut others. He still stands on the moral high ground. d

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

On May 24, 2022, at 17:57, Roberts, Rich <(b) (6) > wrote:

Jerry:

That is good.

I will reply to Jeff in a day or so and point out some of his specific errors (as documented in Peter's email). I was especially offended by his remarks about Peter D., which not only were unnecessarily disparaging but totally at odds with my experience.

Rich

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

From: Keusch, Gerald T (b) (6)
Sent: Tuesday, May 24, 2022 10:42 AM
To: Roberts, Rich <((b) (6) >; Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6) David Morens <(b) (6)
Jeff Sturchio <(b) (6)
Cc: Peter Daszak (b) (6) >
Subject: RE: Jeff Sachs' comments to Rich

EXTERNAL SENDER

As a signer of the Lancet letter in February 2020, the author of a follow up letter to Lancet in July 2021 (Science, not speculation, is essential to determine how SARS-CoV-2 reached humans) with 23 other signatories to the 2020 letter, a member of the infamous (soon to be famous) disbanded Lancet Task Force and the Independent Task Force which followed and has just yesterday submitted an invited Perspectives to PNAS about the pandemic (incidentally meeting the charge the Lancet Task Force had) I am one of those who advised

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MORENS_NIH_014516
REL0000481302

Peter D not to personally respond. I agree with Peter D that it will not be positive or productive to argue and rather hope to see others pick it up and dispute the ignorant science Sachs and Harrison include in their Opinion in PNAS (how in the world did PNAS publish that crap?) – I understand the Twitter world is already buzzing although I can't hear it personally because I am of another more ancient world civilization).

Jerry

From: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >
Sent: Tuesday, May 24, 2022 8:49 AM
To: Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6) David Morens <(b) (6) Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6) >; Jeff Sturchio (b) (6) >
(b) (6)
Subject: Jeff Sachs' comments to Rich
Importance: High

Rich reached out to Jeff Sachs to set up a call with him and he sent the response below, which Rich suggested I could share with you all.

I think, unfortunately, you're right Peter that he holds a grudge against me re. the way I pushed back against his efforts to remove me from the Taskforce, which is a shame, and he seems to have re-hashed his memory of what happened in a way that's unfortunate.

However, he also lays out below his rationale for his Op Ed, and again, it's riddled with errors or misconceptions that I've addressed with brief bullets in the body of his email below. It also shows that he's clearly bought into the lab leak theory hook, line and sinker. It's very worrying to see that, but this is the problem with beguiling conspiratorial narratives like these. To counter them, you have to explain complex science, and the convoluted way science is funded and conducted. The simplest, most exciting story often wins out.

Given the animosity in his email, the fact that Jeff's so well-known, and that his op ed calls for a "fair and balanced" investigation into COVID origins, I don't think EcoHealth 'wins' if I'm involved in a rebuttal to the PNAS paper. Others I've spoken with also suggest it would just amplify the attack. However, I would strongly encourage any of you to think about writing some sort of response either in PNAS or another form, and I'd be happy to provide facts and supporting documents for the many, many errors in his piece.

Please read his email below and my responses, I expect the lines of attack he puts forward will be used elsewhere by others, as many of them have already, and all can be easily refuted:

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

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Twitter: @PeterDaszak

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

From: Jeffrey Sachs (b) (6)
Sent: Saturday, May 21, 2022 9:37 PM
To: Roberts, Rich <(b) (6) >
Cc: Sonia E Sachs (b) (6)
Subject: Re: Your criticisms of the call for an independent investigation?

EXTERNAL SENDER

Dear Rich,

Thanks so much for your detailed comments.

Kindly let me share a few thoughts with you.

First, I got to know Daszak, as I invited him to chair a task force of the Lancet Covid-19 Commission. I observed close at hand that he was dishonest and untrustworthy. I had to dismiss him and disband the group that he set up. Many people associated with him also behaved very improperly, hiding their conflicts of interest and in other ways. I know that you defended him and I am absolutely sure that you did so out of the highest motives. Yet I've seen a side of Daszak that is disreputable.
Response: The conflicts of interest are that I worked with the WIV. This was absolutely known to Jeff from the start – it's why he reached out to me in April 2020 after Trump terminated our NIH funding, literally because "we funded the lab in Wuhan". A few weeks into my work with the Lancet Commission that Jeff headed up, he received a letter from a Congressman complaining about my alleged conflicts. Jeff responded to him to explain that my experience working with Wuhan is a benefit to the commission. Both are attached above.

Second, the EHA grant proposals are deeply disturbing. The DARPA-DEFUSE grant proposal raises the highest questions (especially pp. 10-11)
https://www.dropbox.com/s/7ds489l7l28us4t/DARPA%20defuse-proposal%20.pdf?dl=0
Response: This is a rejected proposal from 2018 – the grant was never funded, the work was never done. The hypotheses and experiments proposed on pp 10-11 are based on well-known properties of other virus' proteolytic cleavage sites, and the (correct) idea that SARSr-CoVs might have them.

Why did we have to wait for more than a year to know about this grant proposal – and then only through FOIA? NIH has behaved very badly and continues to do so.
Response: The reason it wasn't made public is because no scientist in their right mind would publicly release an unfunded grant proposal – they represent your best ideas and hard work, and by releasing them, you hand over those ideas to competitors who are vying for the same sources of funding. However, it was in the possession of the US Federal agencies – it was in the files at DoD! Should the intelligence agencies have wanted to see it, they could have done so easily. Jeff's also wrong in that it was not released by FoIA because USG agencies also refuse to release unfunded proposals – they're privileged and confidential. If scientists submit proposals knowing that they might be FoIA'd, they would not submit their best ideas for fear of being scooped by rivals. The DARPA proposal was leaked by someone. Finally Jeff says NIH behaved badly, but this was a DoD proposal.

Why did NIH redact 290 pages here? https://www.dropbox.com/s/hripmsjk3ovi5fm/nih-foia-request-55058-february-production.pdf?dl=0
Response: Simple. The 290 pages were an attachment to an email that happened to be a draft version of NIAID's COVID-19 Strategic Plan. This was published and widely disseminated later on, but it makes total sense for NIAID to redact a version that's unfinished, so that the public don't get fed other erroneous theories based on some typos or errors in the uncorrected version.

Third, NIH knew full well since February 1, 2020 if not earlier that a lab-leak was not only plausible, but for many leading scientists was odds-on. Yet that was deliberately covered up in the Proximal Origins paper in Nature Medicine, a paper advanced with Francis Collins' early intervention and editing. (The Proximal Origins paper is a remarkably crude whitewashing of the question – claiming that SARS-CoV-2 was "irrefutably" not from a known SARS-CoV backbone -- citing a 2014 (!!!) paper (see footnote 20, which gives away the game).
Response: It's just simply not true (and never has been) that many leading scientists view the lab leak theory as 'odds-on'. Neither was the theory deliberately covered up – it was debated and put to bed, that's why people changed their opinions from FoIA'd emails wherein they noticed the FCS and suggested it could indicate a lab origin, to the final paper wherein they had spent time debating the veracity of this with colleagues – that's how science should work. Ref. 20 is about how FCS arises in nature in avian flu, following prolonged passage of a mild strain. This plausibly could have happened when a bat-CoV circulated repeatedly in an amplifier host or in people prior to emerging with a full FCS. SARS-CoV circulated for months before emergence in China, so it's more plausible than months of lab passage for a virus that was never in the lab (we had all the sequences of all known bat-CoVs).

Fourth, even Baric has joined the call for an investigation. He has been the relentless champion of the genetic re-engineering of SARS-CoV viruses, and he trained Shi Zhengli. He has claimed that GoF is vital for drug and vaccine development. Yet GoF in a BSL2 laboratory (as in Wuhan) is a mighty risky proposition.
Response: The work in WIV that EHA collaborated on was definitively not gain-of-function. It was reviewed by NIH before we did it and they're the organization of note to do this. Their decision and the rationale has been made public and fits exactly with the published P3CO rules. This has been stated over and over again, but I guess Jeff just somehow disagrees with the authority to decide whether an expt is GoF or not!. In any case, none of the viruses at WIV were anywhere close to SARS-CoV-2, as published by us in Latinne et al. Nature Comms. 2020. Finally, the BSL argument is clearly false. The animal experiments that Jeff is alluding to here were conducted at BSL-3. The in vitro work at BSL-2 is the standard in China, just as it is in the USA for Cedar virus with a Hendra spike protein – something that's BSL4 in Australia. If we work with a lab in China, we cannot impose US law on them. NIH approved that work.

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Fifth, I am not much persuaded that the presence of an FCS in some coronaviruses means all that much when: (a) no FCS is known in a sarbecoronavirus; (b) UNC-WIV planned to insert an FCS into a library of so-far undocumented SARS-CoVs; and (3) no single animal in China, in >80,000 tested, has carried SARS-CoV-2.
Response: this has been widely debunked. A) The site where FCS is found in the SARS-CoV-2 spike has mutations in many of the closely related bat-CoVs that show it is 'evolvable' and could easily mutate into a full FCS. B) UNC planned to insert FCS in 2018, but the grant wasn't funded, the work wasn't done. C) the sample of 80,000 animals includes before and after the pandemic, zoo animals, animals known refractive to SARSr-CoVs (e.g. salamanders). No group of a single species known to harbor SARSr-CoVs from this sample is of a size large enough to give statistical power to rule out infection.

In short, I believe that we need an independent investigation because:
(1) The virus could have emerged in a BSL2 based on the research promised in the DARPA-DEFUSE grant proposal
Response: yes it could have, but not based on a grant that wasn't funded

(2) NIH knows this very well, but has never admitted it or supported a public review
Response: I don't know how anyone can second guess what NIH knows. However, they have publicly stated that they support continued efforts to identify the origin

(3) We should therefore have a long-overdue transparent stock-taking of what the US organizations (NIH, EHA, UNC, DOD, IC, others) actually know
Response: I think I've told everyone all I 'actually know' about 100 times over. What Jeff Sachs is actually proposing is an invasive witch hunt whereby my private emails and files are published for the right wing press to spend another 2 years canceling out our organization.

(4) The Intelligence Community is itself divided on the issue, which some agencies leaning towards a lab leak. Why do some IC agencies lean towards a lab release?
Response: Not true. Prior to Biden's 90 day intel review, only a few intel agencies expressed an opinion: 2 agencies concluded 'natural' origins were more likely and 1 concluded lab leak more likely. After the review 4 agencies considered 'natural' origins more likely and 1 concluded lab leak more likely. Confidence in conclusion was low throughout, but there was a distinct shift suggesting intelligence supports natural over lab leak.

All best wishes and with very warm regards,
Jeff

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Date: Tue, 24 Jan 2023 7:03:11 AM -0500
Sent: Tue, 24 Jan 2023 7:03:04 AM -0500
Subject: Re: Great Op Ed in Washington Post by David Quammen
From: "Hotez, Peter Jay" < (b) (6)
To: Peter Daszak < (b) (6)
CC: David Morens < (b) (6) Gerald Keusch <(b) (6) Aleksei Chmura < (b) (6) Rich Roberts < (b) (6) Jeff Sturchio < (b) (6)

I agree, although it could have gone much further

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 23, 2023, at 6:53 PM, Peter Daszak <(b) (6) > wrote:

A nice piece directly focusing on the Republican led 'investigations'. A couple of scathing comments at the end:

"Congress has an important role to play in all this. But attempting to determine the virus's origin isn't it."

Here's the link:

https://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/2023/01/23/covid- origin-house-subcommittee-scientists/

and here's the article:

Opinion

Let's leave the covid origin mystery to scientists

By David Quammen
January 23, 2023 at 7:00 a.m. EST
Share article
David Quammen is a science journalist and author. His most recent book is "Breathless: The Scientific Race to Defeat a Deadly Virus."

One of the world's most sensitive and consequential scientific questions will soon be grist for discussion among the members of a congressional subcommittee. The question is this: Where did the virus that causes covid-19 come from?

The subcommittee, created under a resolution adopted by the House on Jan. 9, is charged with investigating aspects of the pandemic and our national response. Its members (seven Republicans, five Democrats) have still not been named. The origin question is a seductive one, but it is also the mystery that they will be least likely and least qualified to solve — and they should focus their mission elsewhere. Virologists, epidemiologists, molecular evolutionary biologists and other experts around the globe have studied the origin matter for three years. They have scrutinized the genome of the covid virus and compared it with similar coronaviruses long known from wildlife. They have studied its peculiar features, pondered the ways it evolves and placed it in context among other lethal new viruses.

Most such experts say they believe this virus almost certainly reached humans by natural spillover — that is, from a nonhuman animal host. It closely resembles other coronaviruses that have been identified, through arduous fieldwork and rigorous genomic analysis, in small bats that roost in caves of southern China and Southeast Asia. Worrisome coronaviruses have also turned up in other wild mammals, including raccoon dogs, palm civets and pangolins, and one of those animals might have served as an intermediate host of the covid virus after close exposure to bats.

How would a raccoon dog suffer such an exposure? By being captured, caged and loaded for transport with bats and other animals sucked into the wildlife-for-food traffic that has been widespread and economically important in China. Such coronavirus-sharing has happened before: Palm civets trafficked to the city of Guangzhou in 2003 served as intermediate hosts of the original SARS coronavirus, acquired from bats and transmitted to humans. And palm civets, as well as raccoon dogs and other captured wildlife, were on sale as food in late 2019 in the Huanan "wet market" of Wuhan, in and around which the first few dozen known covid-19 cases appeared.

After the 2003 SARS event, the prospect that another coronavirus could spill from bats into humans and cause even worse devastation was never far-fetched or unimaginable. In fact, I predicted it myself back in 2012, in the book "Spillover" — not through my own prescience but simply by reporting what some of the world's leading experts on viral ecology and evolution were saying.

Other opinionizers on the covid-19 origin question, mostly amateur sleuths but also some journalists, have argued since early 2020 that this coronavirus came to humans — maybe? probably? definitely? — from a laboratory. There, the narrative goes, it was either assembled by genetic engineering, for nefarious purposes, or modified, in well-meant but reckless experiments, to be more infectious in humans. From the laboratory, according to this hypothesis, it was either intentionally or accidentally released. Some reputable scientists have agreed that a lab leak is theoretically possible and insisted that the possibility should be entertained.

And it should. The lab-leak idea stands as a long-shot alternative to the far stronger hypothesis of a natural origin. To settle the matter with greater confidence, we need more data: more field sampling of viruses from wild animals in southern China and Southeast Asia, and more sampling throughout the supply chain that has provided Chinese markets with such wildlife. If there's anything to indicate a laboratory accident, let that come out, too. Right now, though, a sizable body of evidence supports the natural-origin scenario and, so far, no positive evidence indicates a lab leak. But if that imbalance were to change, the scientific consensus could change, too. That's how science works.

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This question of origin is important far beyond our understanding of covid-19. It bears implications for how we shape our societies and institutions in the future, preparing ourselves — or neglecting to prepare — against future pandemic threats.

Consider one implication you might draw from a lab leak: We need less science, especially of the sort that fiddles with dangerous viruses. And from a natural spillover: We need more science, especially of the sort that studies dangerous viruses lurking in wild animals. From a lab leak: It was *those* foolish scientists in a Chinese lab who unleashed this terrible virus upon us. Suspicion, accusation, presumption of guilt and even a tincture of racism may therefore inform our relations with China, not an effort to encourage transparency and scientific exchange. From a natural spillover: Every one of us who consumes resources drawn from richly diverse natural ecosystems — be it meat or vital minerals for technology, such as coltan and cobalt — shares responsibility for the new viruses that attack humans. Why? Because those viruses reach us when humans invade such ecosystems, including the Congolese forests where coltan is mined, and come into contact with the virus-bearing wildlife living there.
We need to solve this origin conundrum because we need to take action. We need better structures for pandemic preparedness and response in this country, stronger international systems of surveillance for new outbreaks, vastly increased training of molecular biologists and disease field scientists around the world, and fuller collaborations among countries — including China. Only these measures will shore up the failure points that made our response to covid-19 such a disaster.

Congress has an important role to play in all this. But attempting to determine the virus's origin isn't it. The House Select Subcommittee on the Coronavirus Pandemic should examine, as it has been chartered to do, the many aspects of this nation's pandemic response that merit policy review: vaccine development and rollout, taxpayer-funded relief programs, the negative impacts of school closures versus the benefits, and the crucial balance between civil liberties and public health.

The not-quite-solved mystery of exactly where this virus came from and how it found its way into humans, on the other hand, is a scientific question best left to scientists. It's beyond the purview of 12 partisan members of Congress — and if they are wise, they will leave it in expert hands.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

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MORENS_SUBPOENA_015142
MORENS_NIH_031600
REL0000481304

From: David Morens <(b) (6) m>
Sent: Sunday, January 22, 2023 7:20 PM
To: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >
Cc: Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6) Gerald Keusch (b) (6) >; Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) >; Rich Roberts (b) (6) >; Jeff Sturchio (b) (6)
Subject: Re: Morens checking in

Good point..... d

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

On Jan 22, 2023, at 19:02, Peter Daszak (b) (6) > wrote:

I think given the political attacks (sorry 'investigations') that have already called for NIH/HHS interviews/documents, it's probably a good move to hold off on the NIH Director for a few months at least….

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: David Morens <(b) (6)
Sent: Saturday, January 21, 2023 11:50 AM
To: Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6)
Cc: Gerald Keusch <(b) (6) Peter Daszak (b) (6) >; Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) ; Rich Roberts (b) (6) ; Jeff Sturchio (b) (6) >
Subject: Re: Morens checking in

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MORENS_NIH_031601
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Yes, i think we are all surprised about not filling the nih director position

My guess is that it is not high on the WH radar screen, and that it would just he picking another fight with the right wing nut jobs. Maybe they figure scientists know what they are doing even without political puppeteers. Who knows? d

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

On Jan 21, 2023, at 11:42, Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6) wrote:

I probably won't do that. If there was a groundswell of interest I would consider it, but my science is going well here, and for now they are not running me out of Texas. Although that could change on a dime as well. I'm surprised the White House has no urgency to fill the NIH Director's slot.

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

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iPhone

On Jan 21, 2023, at 10:34 AM, David Morens <(b) (6) > wrote:

PS, this may sound cynical, but by applying and letting it be known publicly, you could force them from pursuing a cover up selection

There is much concern here that a poorly qualified nih or other candidate could be

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selected under the radar. d

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

On Jan 21, 2023, at 11:31, David Morens <(b) (6) > wrote:

I wouldn't bet on anything re Tony's position. If anyone here is in charge of anything, they are doing a great job of keeping it secret. david

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

On Jan 21, 2023, at 10:33, Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6) wrote:

Many thanks for that thoughtful email. Interesting times indeed! So far I've held off applying thinking they already know what they must want, etc. Warmest Peter

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

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MORENS_NIH_031603
REL0000481304

On Jan 21, 2023, at 9:23 AM, David Morens <
(b) (6) > wrote:

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

Yes, sadly, you are right. We are in for alot more shit

In terms of us looking for a new director, since this is not a political appointment position, niaid has much leeway in doing what we want, subject to HHS and NIH oversight/coordination, but not outright control

There seems to be secrecy around the process of finding a new director, which is not the way we have done things in the past. The job description is not what i would have written, eg, in specifying someone who is politically savvy. We have 27 IC directors here at nih and i can't recall any prior search looking for someone with political chops.

I am afraid we could end up with a pliant nih insider rather than an outsider with strong science credentials. The model is former NCI director Harold Varmus who was perceived as too big to mess with, and used that reputation to push back against all kinds of BS

There is no guarantee that anything will happen soon. Hugh is Acting Director but is taking a hands off, just-keep-the-ship-afloat approach so far. I hope he will be more proactive, as he is smart and capable, and has alot of management expertise

But internally there is absolute silence about what if anything is happening. I know all the senior leaders here, and none are involved in any search "above board", at least. Several have implied to me that they are as much in the dark as everyone else. If so, that is not good news because it raises the possibility of a covert and possibly politically oriented process

That is one reason i encouraged you to apply: an nih outsider who has political skills and a scientific reputation, as well as skill in pushing back against the BS. If you think of all possible scientists who would be good in the job, the list is not long, or at least my list isn't. If you know anyone please urge him or her to apply asap!

david

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

> On Jan 21, 2023, at 09:50, Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6) u
> > wrote:

Thanks for the thoughtful note David, in terms of moving forward with your plan, a couple of things to keep in mind:

The GOP House Oversight and Judiciary Committees each headed by Freedom Caucus members will begin their investigative hearings this year. While Biden is the major target at some point they hope to discredit NIH, and especially NIAID. They will also target their grantees.

NIAID is looking for a new director? Will that happen soon?

Best Peter

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

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(b) (6)
iPhone

On Jan 21, 2023, at 8:39 AM, David Morens <
(b) (6) > wrote:

Hi all, my apologies for being out of touch; had some non fatal health issues and surgery yesterday morning,

but should be back to work part time this week

There is a front page story in the Wash Post this morning about GOF and the NEIDL. You should all read

Since Tony stepped down 12/31, I have been mulling the implications for me being able to speak up more

Our deputy director, Hugh Auchincloss, is a good and reasonable guy, but i have not yet spoken to him about how muzzled i am expected to be going forward. I think the party line at nih is to be very fearful of the crazies in and out of congress, and in practice our guidelines of never speaking to the press unless approved by HHS or the White House remains in effect. That is why 95% of my interactions with the press are on background and off the record. (Incidentally, although i have spoken to Joel Achenbach on background numerous times in the past, i did not speak to him for today's article).

Here is how it works. Our press office knows that whereas Tony has the patter and nuance down pat, I will say pretty much exactly what i think scientifically, and therefore they do whatever they can ethically to cut me off from sensitive issues, knowing that HHS will cut me off if they don't

But I plan to sit down with Hugh and ask him to let me use my judgement in these issues. There is no govt reason anymore for me being forbidden to even speak with colleagues such as you all

And an interesting thing happened recently that i think bodes well. As you all know, over the last 15-20 years or so i have written 40-50 scientific papers with Tony, mostly reviews and commentaries that provide springboards for him to talk to the press. Usually i propose the topics and he says yes or no.

Ever since the GOF thing broke 15 years ago, with Ron F and Yoshi K publishing their two papers on H5N1, GOF has been a no no for me/us to write about. And so far, still is a no no. Another subject that has been a no no is my conclusion that our whole scientific enterprise to make vaccines against respiratory viruses is off base scientifically, and needs to be reoriented

A few months ago, Tony surprised me be giving me the go-ahead to write a review that says as much, implicitly criticizing what we at nIH and others do in terms of vaccine development approaches. Many others at NIH

told me that we dare not write that. But about 10 days ago the paper came out in Cell Host and Microbes, with Tony's name on it, and has been greeted very positively by many high level folks in and out of govt

This gives me SOME hope that us discussing GOF head on might be possible, by which i don't necessarily mean talking to the press, but by writing in science articles why it is that the whole concept of GOF is being (often willfully) misunderstood. The aim would be to have statements by govt scientists that change the terms of the dialog, ie, be more proactive rather than letting the crazies control the dialog

I wrote such a paper with Jeff Taubenberger 10 years ago, which has sat unpublished in a file cabinet ever since, and could easily resurrect it with updates addressing SARS-CoV-2....

So..... I am hoping that I will no longer be bound and gagged from from enjoying my first amendment right to speak to you all about scientific matters if importance. It's a new year and time to move forward by being more proactive

David

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

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MORENS_NIH_031607
REL0000481304

Date: Wed, 11 Aug 2021 5:06:50 PM -0400
Sent: Wed, 11 Aug 2021 5:06:12 PM -0400
Subject: RE: New Yorker: Fauci Says It Is Safe to Watch YouTube Now That Rand Paul Has Been Suspended
From: Peter Daszak (b) (6)
To: David Morens (b) (6) : Keusch, Jerry (b) (6) Robert Kessler (b) (6)
Attachments: image001.gif; image006.jpg; image007.jpg; image008.png; image009.jpg; image010.png

Love this fake news…

By the way – it's my first day back in the office after 18 months. It's so long since I've been in, we've actually moved location.

One of the highlights of today – meeting with the nice people from HHS Office of the Inspector General. They're beginning their audit – all's well, they're nice folk and we're doing all we can to make their job easy and rapid, although they're talking about this taking a year. I was hoping for a quicker report, so we can get the media pressure released a bit.

Their presence here (just 2 days so far) follows requests for docs on our grant with Wuhan and the current center grant (CREID). They're also auditing NIH's oversight of our grant, as you know, and we've had a bunch of requests from our chum up in O/D, Michael Lauer, who (no surprise) was asking us for almost all the identical docs the OIG has asked us for – obviously they're getting their ducks in a row.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

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From: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b) (6)
Sent: Wednesday, August 11, 2021 4:10 PM
To: Peter Daszak (b) (6) Keusch, Jerry (b) (6)
(b) (6) Kessler, Robert (b) (6) b) (6) (b) (6)
Subject: FW: New Yorker: Fauci Says It Is Safe to Watch YouTube Now That Rand Paul Has Been Suspended

On a lighter note!

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
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Bethesda, MD 20892-2520
(b) (6) assistant: Whitney Robinson)
(b) (6)

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From: Oplinger, Anne (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b) (6)
Sent: Wednesday, August 11, 2021 3:54 PM
To: Folkers, Greg (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b) (6) NIAID COGCORE <COGCORE@mail.nih.gov>; NIAID OCGR Leg <(b) (6) >; NIAID OD AM <NIAIDODAM@niaid.nih.gov>
Subject: RE: New Yorker: Fauci Says It Is Safe to Watch YouTube Now That Rand Paul Has Been Suspended

HAHAHA!
First couple secs of this one funny—didn't watch all—picked at random

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2425wHMiSK0

Anne A. Oplinger
(b) (6)
Office of Communications and Government Relations
National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, NIH
MEDIA request phone (b) (6)

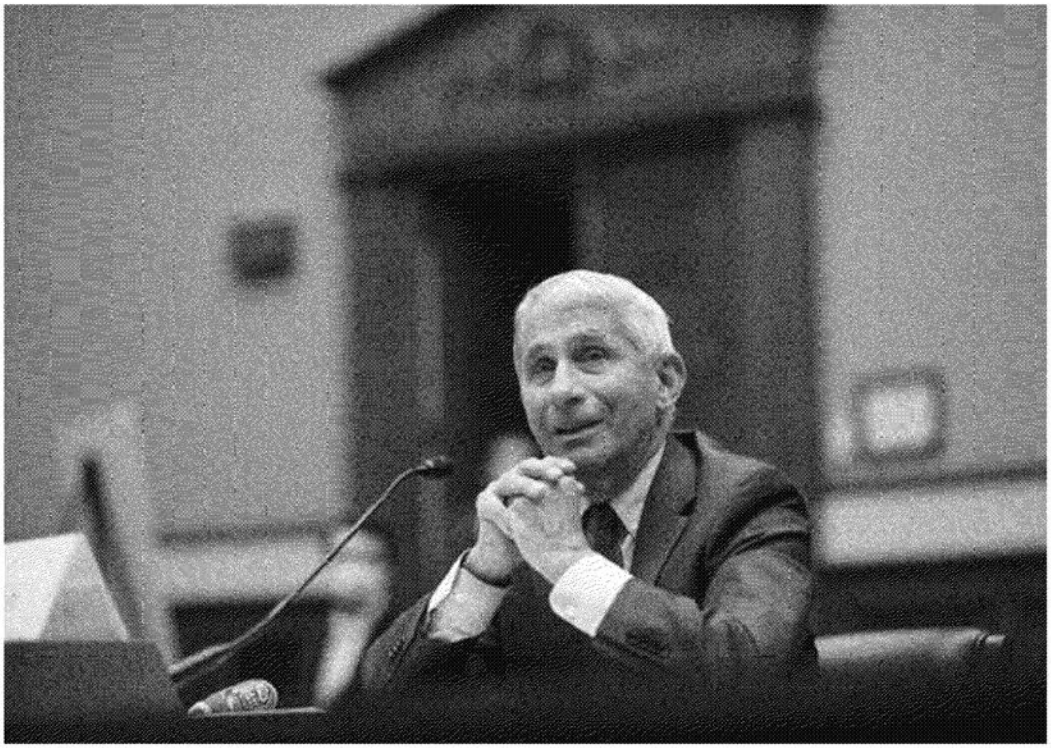


From: Folkers, Greg (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b) (6)
Sent: Wednesday, August 11, 2021 3:15 PM
To: NIAID COGCORE <(b) (6) >; NIAID OCGR Leg <(b) (6) >; NIAID OD AM <NIAIDODAM@niaid.nih.gov>
Subject: New Yorker: Fauci Says It Is Safe to Watch YouTube Now That Rand Paul Has Been Suspended

Fauci Says It Is Safe to Watch YouTube Now That Rand Paul Has Been Suspended



By Andy Borowitz



Photograph by Kevin Dietsch / UPI / Alamy

WASHINGTON (The Borowitz Report)—In a new health advisory, the nation's leading epidemiologist, Dr. Anthony Fauci, said that it is "perfectly safe" for Americans to watch YouTube, following news that Senator Rand Paul had been suspended from the platform.

"In the past, I've warned about the health consequences of listening to Rand Paul," he said. "People experience headaches and nausea. Sometimes, they feel like their brain cells are actually leaking straight out of their heads. That's why I've consistently urged people to limit their exposure to this guy."

MORENS_NIH_042283
REL0000481313

Fauci said that, given Paul's suspension from the site, previous health advisories regarding YouTube "no longer apply."

"I think that this would be an excellent time for every American to enjoy YouTube," he said. "Watch some funny cat videos, or maybe some kooky skateboard stunts that went awry. Rand Paul's suspended for only seven days, so watch as much YouTube as you can while it's still safe."

More Satire from the Borowitz Report

- Republicans protest lack of rioters on the January 6th commission.
- Biden considers a new plan to convince people to get the vaccine.
- A G.O.P. punishment for Liz Cheney and Adam Kinzinger.
- Trump received a medical note to avoid serving in his own coup.
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Andy Borowitz is a Times best-selling author and a comedian who has written for The New Yorker since 1998. He writes The Borowitz Report, a satirical column on the news.

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Date: Wed, 27 Oct 2021 5:17:02 PM -0400
Sent: Wed, 27 Oct 2021 5:16:59 PM -0400
Subject: RE: In Confidence - EcoHealth's response to NIH public accusations that we failed to comply with reporting requirements
From: "Roberts, Rich" (b) (6)
To: Peter Daszak (b) (6) ; Jeff Sturchio (b) (6) ; David Morens (b) (6) ; Keusch, Gerald T (b) (6) ; Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6)
CC: Robert Kessler (b) (6)

Peter:

Unbelievable that Francis and Tony would speak without first checking the facts.
Your letter is very convincing.

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: Wednesday, October 27, 2021 3:06 PM
To: Jeff Sturchio (b) (6) ; David Morens (b) (6) ; Keusch, Gerald T (b) (6) ; Roberts, Rich (b) (6) ; Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6)
Cc: Robert Kessler (b) (6)
Subject: In Confidence - EcoHealth's response to NIH public accusations that we failed to comply with reporting requirements
Importance: High

EXTERNAL SENDER

Dear All,

I know you're probably sick of this sort of email, but as you may have seen, on Thursday night last week, Republican Congress member Comer publicly released a letter from NIH Dep Director Tabak that on the one hand stated EcoHealth's work in China was clearly not associated with COVID origins; but also accusing of failure to report a lab experiment on time to NIH that involved recombinant bat SARS-related CoVs. Since then, the press has been vilifying us repeatedly, and it's been very ugly here. I've spent the last few days gathering all the evidence and documents together to respond to yet another request from NIH Office of the Director for all IACUC information, and all unpublished data from our work in China. At the same time, NIH never mentioned that they effectively threw us under the bus to the Republican politicians.

I want you all to be first to know that we sent in our formal response to NIH yesterday (attached), diplomatically but strongly refuting the allegation that we filed our report late, and providing substantial supporting documentation. It turns out that our report was filed over 3 years and 6 months ago, on time, and that Dr. Tabak mistakenly assumed the data in our later report was from a different experiment – it was not, but he never reached out to us to check before he responded to congress. Please read or skim our response if you can – please treat it confidentially, although I believe Betsy McKay of WSJ has it and may release it later today. I've not attached all the pdfs (9 of them) with documentary evidence, but will send them in another email in a minute.

My major concern is that both Francis Collins, and Tony Fauci publicly stated to reporters on Friday and last weekend that there would be "consequences for EcoHealth Alliance". Francis Collins said on Sunday morning TV that "EcoHealth messed up and there will be consequences for them". Tony Fauci said on HBO that "there would be administrative consequences for EcoHealth ". We currently have a $1.5 million per year contract with NIAID to do work emerging disease research in Southeast Asia (not China) that is critical to our mission and our staff. I am worried they will cancel that, or put it on hold to show the Congress that they're doing something – even though our letter clearly shows we were not in the wrong here.

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If or when NIH come back to us with some awful decision, I will need all the support I can get to fight back. I'm hoping I can count on your help, and will of course be ready and willing to give you any further information or answer questions about this so you know you are on the right side of the fight.

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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Date: Fri, 21 Jul 2023 1:00:48 PM -0400
Sent: Fri, 21 Jul 2023 1:00:02 PM -0400
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Fwd: Fauci, Birx, Francis Collins, Baric, Azar, Daszak, Bourla, Bancel, Jha, Njoo, Theresa Tam, Walensky, Doug Ford, Williams, Kieran, Marks, de Villa, Jüni, Hotez, Tedros, CDC, FDA officials, HANG high!
From: David Morens (b) (6)
To: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b) (6)

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

(b) (6)

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

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

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

-------- Forwarded message --------
From: Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6)
Date: Sat, Dec 31, 2022 at 1:53 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: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >
Cc: Aleksei Chmura (b) (6) >, David Morens (b) (6) >, Gerald Keusch (b) (6) >, Jeffrey Sturchio (b) (6) >, Rich Roberts (b) (6)

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

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

Media Inquiries:
(b) (6)

iPhone

On Dec 31, 2022, at 12:17 PM, Peter Daszak <(b)(6)> wrote:

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Not pleasant reading but thanks for sharing this link. It's a stream-of-consciousness diatribe that makes you think this guy is simply mentally ill, but actually he's a well-known right wing 'influencer', appearing on Steve Bannon's podcast, member of the Brownstone Institute and regular on other outlets. In the end, just probably a sad lonely person looking for outside validation. Still, pretty disturbing to read…

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak

President

EcoHealth Alliance

520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200

New York, NY 10018-6507

USA

Tel.: (b) (6)

Website:
https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.ecohealthalliance.org%2F
&data=05%7C01%7Cdmorens%40niaid.nih.gov%7C9bba8324009f4370d49308db8a0c0602%7C14b77578977342d585
&sdata=1a9D8756DbXs%2FNdXsCvxlqEpvKc1YcaL8X5ZfXEB6U0%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!

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&data=05%7C01%7Cdmorens%40niaid.nih.gov%7C9bba8324009f4370d49308db8a0c0602%7C14b77578977342d585
&sdata=LOEVDU41ZrWRMnp0O5t38Ud41Dz4AZaVSy4kaFWAGrE%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

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Date: Mon, 21 Feb 2022 8:35:35 AM -0500
Sent: Mon, 21 Feb 2022 8:35:19 AM -0500
Subject: Lancet Commission
From: "Hotez, Peter Jay" (b) (6)
To: Keusch, Gerald T
CC: David Morens (b) (6) ; Peter Daszak (b)(6) >;
Rich Roberts (b)(6) Aleksei Chmura < (b) (6) >;
Attachments: image001.jpg; image001.jpg

I had a very difficult conversation with Jeff on our Commissioners call this morning. I will follow up with Jerry.

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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iPhone

On Feb 20, 2022, at 10:14 PM, Keusch, Gerald T (b) (6) wrote:

I was in touch with Michael Eisen at Berkeley per Peter H's suggestion regarding the possible appointment of Collins to see what he thought might be done to impede it if it was for real. The only thing I could think of was to write to our two Massachusetts senators regarding the concerns I have about Collins' integrity. I will do that.
I wonder if this is time for Rich to gear up his Nobel friends and get something out there in the public realm. I have not been able to make that happen for the past 4 months, but not for not trying.
Whatever is to be done now is the time. I will focus on this in the morning. As Peter D knows I have been doing Task Force work this weekend while chilling out in the Berkshires. I also mean literally as it was 7 degrees (Rich, that's F and not C) this morning at 7:30 am, although it's now a balmy 25. It was so cold I couldn't get in to the hot tub until late this afternoon when it had warmed up a bit.

If anybody has any ideas I can help pursue please let me know.

Jerry

From: David Morens (b) (6)
Sent: Sunday, February 20, 2022 8:08 PM
To: Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6)
Cc: Peter Daszak (b) (6) ; Keusch, Gerald T (b) (6) Rich Roberts (b) (6) Aleksei Chmura (b) (6)
Subject: Re: Francis Collins to be nominated to replace Eric Lander

kind of bizarre. d

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

On Feb 20, 2022, at 18:49, Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6) wrote:

Looks real, Jerry and I were discussing this week

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

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

University Professor, Baylor University

Faculty Fellow, Hagler Institute for Advanced Study
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On Feb 20, 2022, at 5:37 PM, Peter Daszak (b) (6) > wrote:

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Am I just reading another conspiracy theory, or is this real?

https://www.statnews.com/2022/02/16/biden- to-tap-francis-collins-ostp-deputy-to-split-the-role-of-his-ousted-science-adviser/

POLITICS

Biden to tap Francis Collins, OSTP deputy to split the role of his ousted science adviser

By Darlene Superville — Associated Press Feb. 16, 2022
Reprints

MORENS_NIH_033333
REL0000481324



Biden is expected to tap Francis Collins and OSTP deputy Alondra Nelson to split the role of his ousted science adviser, Eric Lander. *MATT ROURKE/AP*

WASHINGTON — President Joe Biden is replacing a top science adviser who resigned under a cloud with two individuals who will split his duties on an interim basis.

Biden is tapping a deputy in the White House science and technology office along with the recently retired director of the National Institutes of Health, according to a personal familiar with the president's plans.

Related:

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The fall of Eric Lander and the end of science's 'big ego' era

Biden was expected to elevate Alondra Nelson, currently the deputy director for science and society in the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy, to become the temporary director of the office.

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Biden was also expected to name Francis Collins, who retired in December from his job as longtime director of the NIH, to be the president's top science adviser, according to the person, who requested anonymity to discuss the plans before a formal announcement, likely this week.

Eric Lander, who had served in the dual roles of Biden's chief science adviser and head of the science and technology office, resigned last week after the White House confirmed that an internal investigation had found credible evidence that he mistreated staff.

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Lander was the first Cabinet-level departure of the Biden administration.

About the AuthorReprints

Darlene Superville — Associated Press

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

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Date:	Sat, 20 Aug 2022 10:05:56 AM -0400
Sent:	Sat, 20 Aug 2022 10:05:37 AM -0400
Subject:	Continued NIH action - already leaked to the press
From:	Peter Daszak < (b) (6)
To:	David Morens < (b) (6) < (b) (6) Roberts, Rich < (b) (6) Gerald T Keusch < (b) (6) Hotez, Peter Jay < (b) (6) Jeff Sturchio
CC:	Aleksei Chmura < (b) (6)
Attachments:	image001.jpg; To EHA 8 19 22.pdf

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

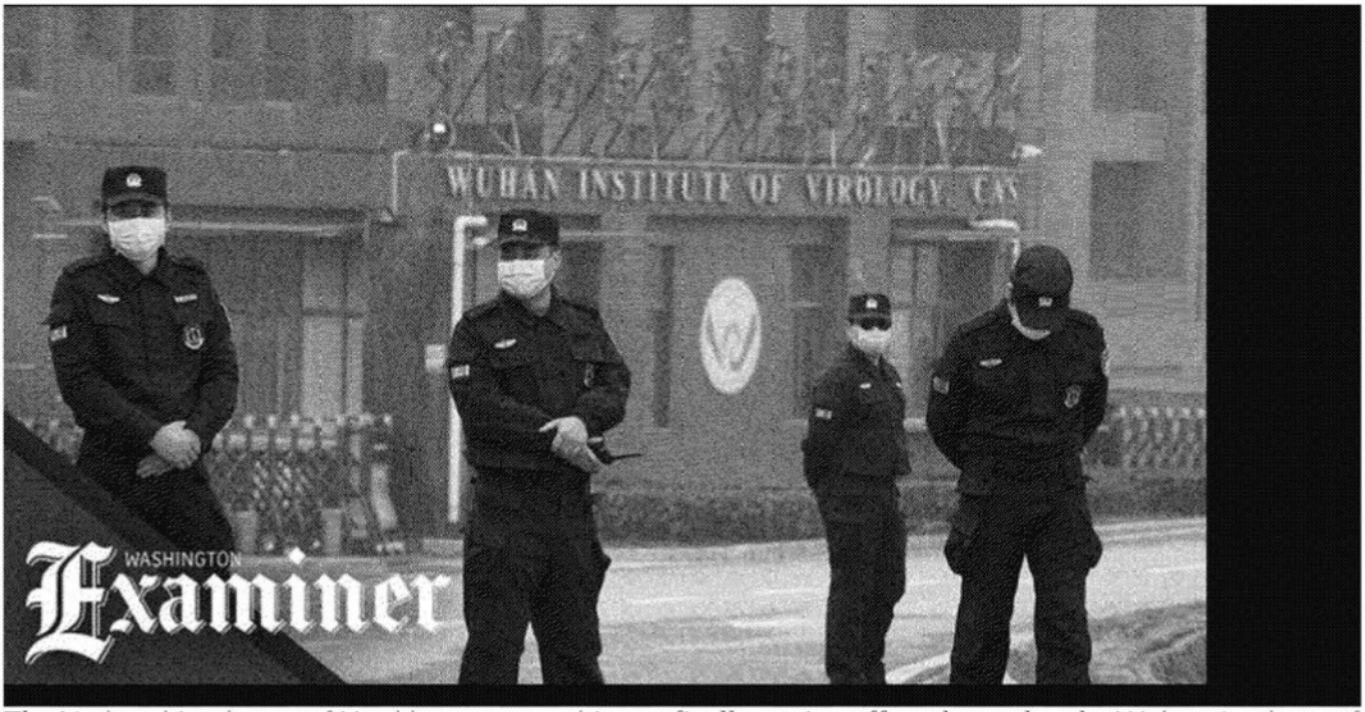
WUHAN LAB

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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MORENS_NIH_020932
REL0000481326



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

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MORENS_NIH_020933
REL0000481326

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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Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

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

MORENS_SUBPOENA_010418
MORENS_NIH_020934
REL0000481326

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) .org >; 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) rg > wrote:

Some good news..

Just letting you all know that our paper in *Nature Communications* will go live tomorrow at 11am: Sánchez *et al.* "*A strategy to assess spillover risk of bat SARS-related coronaviruses in Southeast Asia*". We used distribution data from bats known to host SARSr-CoVs, human population data, and serological testing results to estimate that a median of ~66,000 people are infected by bat-origin SARSr-CoVs in South and Southeast Asia each year. Obviously, this suggests spillovers are a daily occurrence in the region and would make any possibility of a lab leak pale into insignificance, given that 1) only a few dozen people work in labs or in the field on these viruses, 2) they all wear PPE as opposed to villagers hunting bats etc.

Note that the analysis doesn't take into account people working in the wildlife trade because data are so patchy, but we do know that 14 million people worked in the wildlife trade in China alone before the outbreak, so that means human infections are probably even more common.

I've attached the proofs here, and a press release, as well as an editorial I've published in our journal *EcoHealth* published by Springer. We also know that a story will appear in orrow about this. tomorrow about this.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
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Tel.: + (b) (6)
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org

MORENS_SUBPOENA_010419
MORENS_NIH_020935
REL0000481326

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

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

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

---

From: Roberts, Rich <(b) (6)
Sent: Monday, August 8, 2022 4:16 PM
To: Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6) Peter Daszak <d(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)) (6)
Fax: (978) 412 9910
email: (b) (6) m

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

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MORENS_NIH_020937
REL0000481326

(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" <h(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 <e(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?

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MORENS_NIH_020938
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Thank you,

--
Emily Kopp
Reporter
U.S. Right to Know
Signa(b)
(6)



MORENS_SUBPOENA_010423
MORENS_NIH_020939
REL0000481326

Date: Wed, 9 Jun 2021 12:07:53 PM -0400
Sent: Wed, 9 Jun 2021 12:06:49 PM -0400
Subject: RE: We've lost two significant funders this week
From: Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6)
To: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] <(b) (6)
CC: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >; Roberts, Rich <(b) (6) >;
Attachments: image001.gif; image002.jpg; image003.jpg

Hi David,

I think you are on the right track. I am ready to help in any way I can be of assistance to you.
Jerry

From: Peter Daszak < (b) (6)
Sent: Wednesday, June 9, 2021 11:32 AM
To: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] < (b) (6) Roberts, Rich < (b) (6)
Cc: Keusch, Gerald T < (b) (6)
Subject: RE: We've lost two significant funders this week

Will do.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

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

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

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

---

From: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] <(b) (6)
Sent: Tuesday, June 8, 2021 8:40 PM
To: Roberts, Rich (b) (6) >
Cc: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >; Keusch, Jerry <(b) (6) >
Subject: Re: We've lost two significant funders this week

Peter, i had some long discussions with the Trop med folks today

They want me to write something, a follow up to what we did last july.

But they are 14 leaders not on the same page

I suggested a follo
w up one year later that does NoT emphasize rebutting the crazies but says here is what is needed now, urgently, and includes 5-10 things such ad 1 international open collegial collaboration
with China and other countries in the region, wider sampling/sequencing to look at the sarbecovirus universe, phylogenetics, serosurveys, etc.
Can you and your folks help me compile a list of top research priorities with supporting data?

I would also ask for good msps of Rhinolophus range separated by those species that are and are not enzootic for SARS-like viruses

ETc….

The focus would be : proactive. This is an emsrgrncy. Science needs to get cracking! What must me do asap? (Funding you, and then what?). d

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

On Jun 8, 2021, at 19:54, Roberts, Rich <(b) (6) wrote:

Peter:

OK – let me know. Before I would write anything it would be good to know exactly what they are proposing.

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, June 8, 2021 12:16 PM
To: Roberts, Rich (b) (6) >; Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b) (6) ; Keusch, Jerry < (b) (6)
Subject: RE: We've lost two significant funders this week

EXTERNAL SENDER

That's a very kind offer Rich. I think it might be very helpful with Gates right now.

Let me get more information from Jon Epstein who manages the grant and find out who you could reach out to potentially.

Cheers,

Peter

MORENS_SUBPOENA_016704
MORENS_NIH_034852
REL0000481327

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: Tuesday, June 8, 2021 12:08 PM
To: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) ; Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] <(b) (6)
Keusch, Jerry (b) (6)
Subject: RE: We've lost two significant funders this week

Peter:

I would be happy to write to these funders if you think it might help

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) m

From: Peter Daszak (b) (6)
Sent: Tuesday, June 8, 2021 11:59 AM
To: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] <(b) (6) Keusch, Jerry (b) (6) >; Roberts, Rich < (b) (6)
Subject: We've lost two significant funders this week
Importance: High

EXTERNAL SENDER

Thanks for sharing.

We're getting mounting damage at EcoHealth. One of our corporate funders has pulled out because of the news (Swiss Re). They donated $30K per year and I talked with the senior execs about pandemic risk.

We heard today that our brand new 3-year Gates Foundation grant for One Health work in India will now be "re-assigned". They're telling us they'll still fund us, but I think they're just being polite. This is a loss of $500K per year.

I'm extremely worried right now. People's jobs, careers, reputations are on the line, not just mine – the Gates grant is Jon Epstein's.

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MORENS_NIH_034853
REL0000481327

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
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USA

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

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

---

From: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] <(b) (6)
Sent: Tuesday, June 8, 2021 9:59 AM
To: Peter Daszak ((b) (6) (b) (6) ; Keusch, Jerry (b) (6)
(b) (6) Rich Roberts ((b) (6) < (b) (6)
Subject: FW: Miami Herald [Opinion]: Despite Trump's new round of bullying, Fauci says COVID likely didn't leak from a Chinese lab

David

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

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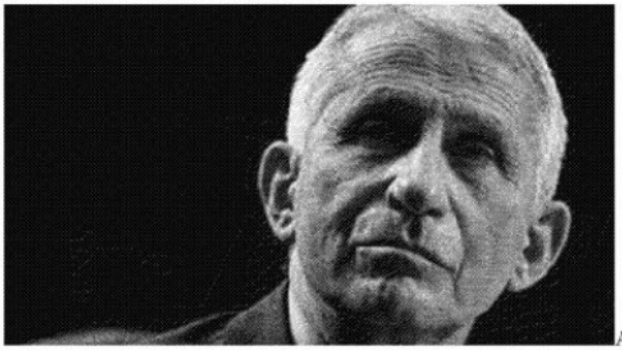
MORENS_SUBPOENA_016706
MORENS_NIH_034854
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From: Folkers, Greg (NIH/NIAID) [E] <(b) (6)
Sent: Tuesday, June 8, 2021 9:47 AM
Subject: Miami Herald [Opinion]: Despite Trump's new round of bullying, Fauci says COVID likely didn't leak from a Chinese lab

Despite Trump's new round of bullying, Fauci says COVID likely didn't leak from a Chinese lab | Opinion

BY ANDRES OPPENHEIMER
JUNE 08, 2021 09:13 AM,
UPDATED 19 MINUTES AGO


Anthony Fauci, director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, says the coronavirus likely jumped species, from animal to human. *GETTY IMAGES*

Former President Trump, perhaps trying to divert attention from his own disastrous

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handling of the COVID-19 pandemic, is now lashing out against Dr. Anthony Fauci for allegedly failing to seriously consider that the virus might have originated from China's Wuhan lab, rather than from an animal's transmission to humans.

But judging from what Fauci told me in a June 4 interview, the most

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respected U.S. infectious diseases expert has not yet seen any convincing evidence that the virus may have escaped from a Chinese lab.

Fauci, who heads the U.S. National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, and is a top medical adviser to President Biden, said, “It is more likely” that — much like

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SARS,
ebola,
influenza
and
HIV
—
COVID-
19
“originated
from
an
animal
reservoir
and
jumped
species
to
humans.”
He
added,
“There’s
the
possibility
that
it
came
from
the
lab,
but
I
believe
that
that’s
a
much
less
likely
possibility.”

In the interview, scheduled to be aired Sunday , June 13 n “Oppenheimer Presenta” on CNN en Español, Fauci said that it’s “important” to try to find out the exact origin of the pandemic, so that we can prevent it from happening again.

Biden
has
asked
U.S.
intelligence
agencies
to
investigate
the

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origins of COVID-19 and come back with a report before the end of August.

Asked how the investigation into the source of the virus should be conducted, Fauci said that the World Health Organization has indicated that it will go back to China to continue its investigation.

"I think it needs to be done in a collegial way, with the collaboration of the Chinese scientists, because you're going to have to have cooperation and do it in a way that you

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can best get the information," he said.

Regarding his emails obtained by BuzzFeed and the Washington Post through the Freedom Of Information Act, Fauci told me that his critics "cherrypick things out of context" when they claim that he knew more than he was saying publicly about the possibility that the virus

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came out of a Chinese lab.

Stressing that he never totally discarded the lab theory — though he never thought it was a major possibility — Fauci added that, "I think what has increased is the interest, not necessarily the evidence."

Right-wing media have had a field day with the

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Fauci emails, claiming that he was alerted about the "lab theory" early on and allegedly failed to take it seriously. Much of their claims are based on a Jan. 31, 2020, email, in which infectious-disease expert Kristian Andersen wrote to Fauci that some of the virus' features "[potentially] looked engineered."

But what most right-wing media fail to mention is that, a few weeks later, Andersen concluded, upon

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further investigation, that the "lab theory" was implausible. So the criticism that Fauci was wrongfully hiding the "lab theory" from the public does not hold up.

Of course, Trump now is trying to paint Fauci as the culprit for the fact that America holds the world's record for COVID-19 deaths in absolute numbers. In a mass email on June 3, Trump claimed that "President Trump was right about the China Virus coming from the Wuhan

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Lab," and suggested that Fauci was defending China.

But, until we see any hard evidence that COVID-19 emerged from the Wuhan lab, Trump's accusations should be seen as just another attempt to bypass science and divert public attention from the COVID-19 deaths caused by his failure to tackle the pandemic.

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Remember, Trump knew early on that COVID would be deadly — he is on tape telling author Bob Woodward this in February 2020 — but chose to lie to the American people for fear that it would ruin his re-election chances. What's more, Trump consistently refused to wear a mask or preach

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social distance, as scientists were recommending.

As I wrote at the time

Trump neglected his main duty — to protect the American people.

Granted, investigations into the origins of COVID-19 are justified and should continue. And there's no question that China's dictatorship is responsible for its delay in alerting

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the
world
about
the
deadly
virus
as
soon
as
it
started.

But
barring
solid
evidence
that
the
virus
originated
from
a
Chinese
lab,
Trump
remains
the
villain
—
and
Fauci
the
hero.

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Date: Fri, 21 Jul 2023 1:39:08 PM -0400
Sent: Fri, 21 Jul 2023 1:38:13 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) (b) (6)
To: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E]

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

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

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

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

---------- Forwarded message ---------
From: 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)

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

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

---------- Forwarded message ---------
From: Peter Daszak (b) (6)
Date: Sat, Dec 31, 2022 at 1:11 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) >, Aleksei Chmura [(b) (6) >, David Morens [(b) (6) , Gerald Keusch [(b) (6) , Jeffrey Sturchio [(b) (6) , Rich Roberts [(b) (6) >

Not pleasant reading but thanks for sharing this link. It's a stream-of-consciousness diatribe that makes you think this guy is simply mentally ill, but actually he's a well-known right wing 'influencer', appearing on Steve Bannon's podcast, member of the Brownstone Institute and regular on other outlets. In the end, just probably a sad lonely person looking for outside validation. Still, pretty disturbing to read…

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak

President

EcoHealth Alliance

520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200

New York, NY 10018-6507

USA

Tel.: (b) (6)

Website:
https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.ecohealthalliance.org%2F
&data=05%7C01%7Cdmorens%40niaid.nih.gov%7C133c1960b2774d59454108db8a116207%7C14b77578977342d58
&sdata=QqyguvfeQNEM1aTB3D2c0KfwsJcwGzNQVW4Rpth1XSk%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!

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&data=05%7C01%7Cdmorens%40niaid.nih.gov%7C133c1960b2774d59454108db8a116207%7C14b77578977342d58
&sdata=NwH4wuBv9yL4UySPkZZk83%2BFLwFW8M%2BMqhNr7OChOMY%3D &reserved=0

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

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Microbiology | Health Policy Scholar

Baylor University, University Professor

Rice 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

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

Date: Thu, 15 Sep 2022 1:48:51 PM -0400
Sent: Thu, 15 Sep 2022 1:48:42 PM -0400
Subject: RE: Publication of Angie Rasmussen article
From: Jeffrey Sturchio (b) (6)
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 Morens (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 (b) (6) Peter Daszak <

MORENS_SUBPOENA_001303
MORENS_NIH_007373
REL0000481332

(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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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 <
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

(b) (6)

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Media Inquiries:
(b) (6)

iPhone

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

Peter:

Do you have Horton's email address? I was going to write to him about Jeff and see what he has to say.

Rich

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

From: Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6)
Sent: Thursday, September 15, 2022 7:37 AM
To: Jeffrey Sturchio <(b) (6)
Cc: Peter Daszak (b) (6) ; Keusch, Gerald T (b) (6) David Morens (b) (6) Roberts, Rich <(b) (6) ; Aleksei Chmura < (b) (6)

Subject: Re: Another attack from Republican Senators

EXTERNAL SENDER

I'm just sick of the whole thing. Richard Horton sent me an inappropriate note this morning. I feel as though I protected the reputation of the LC by being the bad cop with Jeff, and beat up for it.

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

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(b) (6)

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 (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

MORENS_SUBPOENA_001307
MORENS_NIH_007377
REL0000481332

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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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 Sep 14, 2022, at 8:31 PM, Peter Daszak (b) (6) wrote:

Just saw this letter being promoted by Richard Ebright online. It's an effort to get USAID to defund EcoHealth, even when the funding they give us at present doesn't involved viral work at all – it's conservation and training grants.

The letter's led by Sen. Marshall, cosigned by the usual suspects, Rand Paul, Marc Rubio etc.

https://www.marshall.senate.gov/wp- content/uploads/USAID-Letter-re-EHA-suspension-9.14.2022.pdf

I hope it won't get much traction or lead to further delays in our work.

Cheers,

Peter

MORENS_SUBPOENA_001308
MORENS_NIH_007378
REL0000481332

Peter Daszak
President

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

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

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

From: Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6)
Sent: Wednesday, September 7, 2022 9:17 AM
To: Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6)
Cc: Peter Daszak (b) (6) >; David Morens <(b) (6)
Rich Roberts <(b) (6) >; Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6)
Subject: Re: Lancet covid commission report

I've mostly given up on appealing to Richard Horton. Initially he wouldn't answer my emails, and finally when he agreed to a zoom and promised to redress my concerns, even stating he would do so in writing, so far nothing. He can't be bothered or at some level he agrees with Jeff?

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

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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

(b) (6)

On Sep 7, 2022, at 7:57 AM, Keusch, Gerald T wrote:

The Task Force paper is now in production. I won't have a real estimated date for publication until the galleys are available and then its 2-3 weeks. So probably end of the month, at best around the time of UNGA.

Now you should remind Horton about his promise to control Sachs. Its shameful how ineffective he, Horton, has been and how slovenly he is with accuracy and science.

We (the Independent Task Force) are addressing the dissemination of our report to be as forceful and as fast as possible when the paper appears.

Jerry

From: Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6)
Sent: Wednesday, September 7, 2022 6:49 AM
To: Peter Daszak (b) (6)
Cc: Keusch, Gerald T (b) (6) ; David Morens < (b) (6) ; Rich Roberts (b) (6) Aleksei Chmura (b) (6)
Subject: Re: Lancet covid commission report.

Yes I think it may be released as soon as next week, with press conferences I believe in NY around the time of UNGA (as originally planned). I was not invited to participate.

Two weeks ago, Richard Horton in a zoom agreed to address my concerns about Jeff's specific attacks on me, he was supposed to respond by last week. But nothing so far, so I'm not optimistic. Best Peter

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

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Senior Coordinator & Executive Support: Douglas Soriano

(b) (6)

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

(b) (6)

Media Inquiries:
(b) (6)

iPhone

On Sep 7. 2022. at 2:00 AM. Peter Daszak <
(b) (6) wrote:

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

Just been sent this link to a webinar on sept 15th.
https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_2fOHd3OlRHuljvaKUPrYHg?s=09

It looks like the lancet Covid-19 commission's report will be released then. Is that right Peter?

I note that there's no specific placeholder for a report on the origins despite Jeff Sachs' recent pontification on the subject!!

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak

President
EcoHealth Alliance

520 8th Avenue, New York, NY10018-6507, USA

www.EcoHealthAlliance.org

Date: Wed, 1 Jun 2022 11:17:51 PM -0400
Sent: Wed, 1 Jun 2022 11:17:48 PM -0400
Subject: RE: Paper now published in Nature Communications Biology showing that furin cleavage is readily 'evolvable' in European bat CoVs
From: "Roberts, Rich" (b) (6)
To: Peter Daszak (b) (6); Keusch, Gerald T (b) (6); David Morens (b) (6); Aleksei Chmura (b)(6); Peter Hotez (b) (6); Jeff Sturchio (b) (6)

Peter:

Thanks. I hadn't seen this before. Another nail in the coffin of the furin hypothesis.

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: Wednesday, June 1, 2022 6:34 PM
To: Keusch, Gerald T (b) (6); David Morens (b) (6); Aleksei Chmura (b) (6); Peter Hotez (b) (6); Roberts, Rich (b) (6); Jeff Sturchio (b) (6)
Subject: Paper now published in Nature Communications Biology showing that furin cleavage is readily 'evolvable' in European bat CoVs

EXTERNAL SENDER

I don't know if this has been shared with us all yet, but a preprint on this issue came out a few months ago and is now published in Nature Communications Biology.

As you can read, it clearly indicates that the ability of SARSr-CoVs to undertake furin cleavage is something that is clearly achievable in nature – in this case in European bat SARSr-CoVs, with just one nucleotide mutation. Normally, this would close the door on all lab leak suppositions around the FCS of SARS-CoV-2, but we're not in a normal world, and with loud voices like Jeff Sachs spuriously claiming the opposite, the confusion will continue in the public's mind…..

https://www.nature.com/articles/s42003-022-03421-w

Published: 30 May 2022

Genomic determinants of Furin cleavage in diverse European SARS-related bat coronaviruses

Anna-Lena Sander,
Andres Moreira-Soto,
Stoian Yordanov,
Ivan Toplak,
Andrea Balboni,
Ramón Seage Ameneiros,

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MORENS_NIH_006436
REL0000481336

Victor Corman,
Christian Drosten &
Jan Felix Drexler
Communications Biology **volume 5**, Article number: 491 (2022) Cite this article
353 Accesses
157 Altmetric
Metricsdetails

Abstract

The furin cleavage site (FCS) in SARS-CoV-2 is unique within the *Severe acute respiratory syndrome–related coronavirus* (*SrC*) species. We re-assessed diverse *SrC* from European horseshoe bats and analyzed the spike-encoding genomic region harboring the FCS in SARS-CoV-2. We reveal molecular features in *SrC* such as purine richness and RNA secondary structures that resemble those required for FCS acquisition in avian influenza viruses. We discuss the potential acquisition of FCS through molecular mechanisms such as nucleotide substitution, insertion, or recombination, and show that a single nucleotide exchange in two European bat-associated *SrC* may suffice to enable furin cleavage. Furthermore, we show that FCS occurrence is variable in bat- and rodent-borne counterparts of human coronaviruses. Our results suggest that furin cleavage sites can be acquired in *SrC* via conserved molecular mechanisms known in other reservoir-bound RNA viruses and thus support a natural origin of SARS-CoV-2.

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: Tuesday, May 31, 2022 7:14 PM
To: David Morens (b) (6) ; Peter Daszak (b) (6) ; Aleksei Chmura < (b) (6) Peter Hotez (b) (6) ; Rich Roberts (b) (6) , Jeff Sturchio <

Subject: RE:

MORENS_SUBPOENA_000787
MORENS_NIH_006437
REL0000481336

A classic how to obscure truth in writing for a School of Journalism's honor role of how not to do journalism. Rather disgusting. I suspect The Scientist referred to is a chief advisor to Jeff Sachs.

Jerry

From: David Morens (b) (6)
Sent: Tuesday, May 31, 2022 2:46 PM
To: Peter Daszak (b) (6) ; Keusch, Gerald T (b) (6) ; Aleksei Chmura <
(b) (6) Peter Hotez (b) (6) Rich Roberts (b)(6) Jeff Sturchio <

Subject: Fwd:

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

> **From:** David Morens <(b) (6)
> **Date:** May 31, 2022 at 14:44:17 EDT
> **To:** David Morens <(b) (6)
>
> Sent from my iPhone
> David M Morens
> OD, NIAID, NIH

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Date: Mon, 8 Mar 2021 3:44:11 PM -0500
Sent: Mon, 8 Mar 2021 3:44:10 PM -0500
Subject: RE: Yet another article
From: "Keusch, Gerald T" [(b) (6)]
To: David Morens [(b) (6)];
CC: Peter Daszak [(b) (6)]; Kessler Robert [(b)(6)];
Attachments: image001.gif; image002.jpg

Thanks David, I'll do some more thinking, will wait for Peter's views, as well as Rich Roberts who Peter was in touch with over the weekend. I agree its time to get it out there again, and again. But we will need some heavy hitters to penetrate the walls that surround OD.

Jerry

From: David Morens [(b) (6)]
Sent: Monday, March 8, 2021 3:33 PM
To: Keusch, Gerald T [(b) (6)]
Cc: Peter Daszak [(b) (6)]; Kessler Robert [(b) (6)]
Subject: Re: Yet another article

Jerry, i am not sure what the next step should be. You are better at thinking these things through snd have higher placed contacts. There may be no slam dunk, but every little bit of push back may have value. A short letter to the editor can't hurt and these are screened by a different staff which looks for balance. A gentle prod that the emperor's new clothes are threadbare has a chance of getting heard. D

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

On Mar 8, 2021, at 15:21, Keusch, Gerald T [(b) (6)] wrote:

So what's the rebuttal? The Washington Post won't be interested in denigrating their own editorial board opinion pieces. Its interesting that the guy in charge of the editorial board, Fred Hiatt, is the son of a former Dean of Harvard School of Public Health, Howard Hiatt (now 95 years old). This made me think about connecting with former IOM President Harvey Feinberg (who succeeded Howard Hiatt at HSPH) and figuring out some way to respond publicly to the WaPo stuff. Harvey chose not to support the letter I organized to the NASEM presidents, or to sign on to the Op-Ed in The Hill, but that probably doesn't capture his views or concerns, which I believe are rather to the left.

I think there needs to be some response which won't be buried by the attention now devoted to the stimulus package, voting rights, Andrew Cuomo, filibuster and getting vaccine out to people and in their arms, to the exclusion of most everything else. I'm wondering if there is some way to stimulate the editorial team at Science, Jon Cohen, Meredith Wadman, also Kai Kupferschmidt to write something about the follow up from NIH to Peter, the threats, the security, the WHO team and the fact he is the only American to be selected by WHO and the only one who has personal connections to Wuhan to be able to have real conversations about what happened. I'm willing to reach out to prod them along. 60 minutes would be another

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REL0000481343

given the program they did last year, and the interest in the WHO report which will greatly increase when its published and the yahoos begin to denigrate its value.

David, what do you think might be a next step (note I sent this to your gmail account so if you respond to all it will stay just among us friends and colleagues). I'm willing to get on it.

Jerry

From: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b) (6)
Sent: Monday, March 8, 2021 11:37 AM
To: Peter Daszak (b) (6) ; Keusch, Gerald T (b) (6) Kessler Robert < (b) (6)
Subject: RE: Yet another article

Same one I sent you a bit ago…… I think the Post is being duped by its own columnists

David

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

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From: Peter Daszak (b) (6)

Sent: Monday, March 8, 2021 10:04 AM
To: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b) (6) ; Keusch, Gerald T (b) (6) ; Kessler Robert (b) (6)
Subject: Yet another article

Josh rogin, who drama-queened up the state dept cables about their Wuhan visit now had a book and he's touting it in an excerpt in politico todsy.

It's one hit piece a day at this point!

https://www.politico.com/news/magazine/2021/03/08/josh- rogin-chaos-under-heaven-wuhan-lab-book-excerpt-474322

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
(Sent from my iPhone)

President
EcoHealth Alliance

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

www.EcoHealthAlliance.org

(b) (6)

On Feb 25, 2021, at 6:53 PM, Peter Daszak wrote:

Just going through your emails over last few days. It turns out that this is the source of the annoying letter from the Republicans – complete misinterpretation of the facts – WIV is eligible, but no contracts are current or pending. The R wing press and Trumpian republicans then used this to try to attack NIH-WIV-EHA again, no doubt to have another dig at Tony Fauci, and play to their base.

I also saw Pompeo had an Opinion in the WSJ attacking the Wuhan lab again… Tedious…

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

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

MORENS_SUBPOENA_012781
MORENS_NIH_024181
REL0000481343

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

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

From: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b) (6)
Sent: Monday, February 22, 2021 12:24 PM
To: Peter Daszak (b) (6) Keusch, Gerald T <
(b) (6)
Subject: FW: NY Post: Wuhan lab at heart of COVID outbreak may get three more years of US funding

<image002.gif>
David M. Morens, M.D.
CAPT, United States Public Health Service
Senior Advisor to the Director
Office of the Director
National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases
National Institutes of Health
Building 31, Room 7A-03
31 Center Drive, MSC 2520
Bethesda, MD 20892-2520
(b) (6) (assistant: Whitney Robinson)
(b) (6)

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<image003.jpg>

From: Folkers, Greg (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b) (6)
Sent: Monday, February 22, 2021 8:34 AM
Subject: NY Post: Wuhan lab at heart of COVID outbreak may get three more years of US funding

Wuhan lab at heart of COVID outbreak may get three more years of US funding

By Post Editorial Board
February 21, 2021 | 5:37pm | Updated
Enlarge Image
<image004.jpg>
The Wuhan Institute of Virology in Wuhan, China. Photo by HECTOR RETAMAL/AFP via Getty Images
The Wuhan Institute of Virology remains the most likely source of the coronavirus pandemic, yet it is set to receive US taxpayer dollars for the next three years. Worse, the cash will fund more animal research.
The National Institutes of Health told the Daily Caller that the Wuhan lab has an active Foreign Assurance file that authorizes it for US funding until 2024. When the virus first broke out, the Wuhan Institute had reportedly been testing coronaviruses in bats with $600,000 of US funding routed via the nonprofit EcoHealth Alliance.

The NIH terminated that EcoHealth grant, with the promise to restore it if an independent investigation cleared the Wuhan Institute of involvement in the outbreak. Now a World Health Organization delegation tasked with investigating the lab has preliminarily concluded that a leak was "extremely unlikely," which may let the contract resume. Never mind that the head of the WHO and the US State Department remain unwilling to rule out that possibility.

Here's where it gets really swampy: Not only did the WHO delegation fail to do its own investigation, merely accepting reports from China's government, the WHO team's only American member happens to be the EcoHealth Alliance's president, Peter Daszak — who demands that Washington unequivocally accept the delegation's findings. (This also tells you how pathetic the whole WHO investigation was.)

Anthony Bellotti, who heads nonpartisan watchdog group White Coat Waste Project, called for EcoHealth to be stripped of funding and asked Congress to finally conduct a real investigation into how the pandemic really started.

If this grant goes ahead, you'll know the Biden administration is committed to restoring Washington business-as-usual in all its disgusting ingloriousness.

Filed under Coronavirus , editorial , taxpayers , world health organization , 2/21/21

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Date: Fri, 9 Jul 2021 12:19:35 PM -0400
Sent: Fri, 9 Jul 2021 12:19:03 PM -0400
Subject: RE: Politico: POLITICO-Harvard poll: Most Americans believe Covid leaked from lab
From: Peter Daszak < (b) (6)
To: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] < (b) (6) Keusch, Jerry < (b) (6)
Attachments: image001.gif; image002.jpg

By the way – we got our notice from the HHS Office of the Inspector-General today that they're going to audit us.

I'm not worried, we've done nothing wrong, but this is upsetting and a major waste of our time and of taxpayer funds.

Advice welcome, of course…

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

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

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

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

From: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] <(b) (6)
Sent: Friday, July 9, 2021 10:32 AM
To: Peter Daszak ((b) (6) (b) (6) Keusch, Jerry(b) (6)) <
(b) (6)
Subject: FW: Politico: POLITICO-Harvard poll: Most Americans believe Covid leaked from lab

Sad….. Most small children believe in Santa Claus….. Not so sad….

David

David M. Morens, M.D.

MORENS_SUBPOENA_022843
MORENS_NIH_043847
REL0000481346

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: Folkers, Greg (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b) (6) >
Sent: Friday, July 9, 2021 8:52 AM
Subject: Politico: POLITICO-Harvard poll: Most Americans believe Covid leaked from lab

POLITICO-Harvard poll: Most Americans believe Covid leaked from lab

Opinion on the lab leak scenario, once seen as a fringe theory, has shifted dramatically.

By ALICE MIRANDA OLLSTEIN
07/09/2021 06:00 AM EDT

Most Americans now believe that the coronavirus leaked from a laboratory in China, according to a new POLITICO-Harvard poll that found a dramatic shift in public perception of Covid-19's origins over the last year.

U.S. adults were almost twice as likely to say the virus was the result of a lab leak in China than human contact with an infected animal, which many scientists believe is the most likely scenario. The poll's findings show what was once a fringe belief held mainly among some on the political right has become accepted by most Republicans, as well as most Democrats, amid heightened scrutiny of the lab leak theory.

In March 2020, a Pew Research Center poll found 29 percent of Americans believed the virus was made in a Chinese lab and released either accidentally or intentionally. The new survey shows 52 percent believe the virus came out of a lab, including 59 percent of Republicans and 52 percent of Democrats, while 28 percent said it was from an infected animal.

MORENS_SUBPOENA_022844
MORENS_NIH_043848
REL0000481346

The absence of a large partisan gap on the issue is particularly striking, said Bob Blendon, a professor of health policy and political analysis at the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health who designed the poll.

"Usually, our polls find a big split between Republicans and Democrats, so this is unique," he said. "More conservative media have been carrying the 'lab leak' issue, and it's been a Trump talking point from the beginning, so we expected people who lean Democratic would say either 'It's not true' or 'I don't know.' But the belief is bipartisan."

Blendon said Democrats likely became more receptive to the idea after President Joe Biden's recent order that intelligence agencies investigate the virus' origin and comments from Anthony Fauci, the White House chief medical officer, that it's worth digging into. Fauci and other scientists have cautioned the answer may never be known definitively.

"That the president thought there was enough evidence to ask intelligence agencies to put together a report sends a signal to Democrats that there might be something there," Blendon said.

Democratic lawmakers have also faced pressure to look more closely at the lab leak scenario, though they worry Republicans will stoke uncertainty about the virus origin for political gain. Several congressional committees have launched inquiries, and the House Science Committee plans to hold its first hearing on the issue next week.

The POLITICO-Harvard poll, which will be released next week, also found there's a high level of public interest in investigating Covid-19's origin, with almost two-thirds of Democrats and Republicans calling the issue "extremely" or "very" important. The finding also surprised Blendon, who said the public isn't typically invested in such a scientific inquiry.

The broad attention on the issue underscores the stakes for the Biden administration's upcoming report on the virus origin, due in August. Even if the report concludes the virus came from nature, it could be hard to move public opinion, lawmakers and researchers like Blendon have noted.

The poll surveyed 1,009 adults from June 22-27. The margin of error was plus or minus 3.8 percentage points.

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Date: Thu, 6 May 2021 9:09:47 AM -0400
Sent: Thu, 6 May 2021 9:09:43 AM -0400
Subject: RE: McCarthyism looming - Bipartisan bill re. competition with China includes language on WIV and our work
From: "Roberts, Rich" < (b) (6)
To: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) David Morens < (b) (6)
CC: Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6) Aleksei Chmura < (b) (6) Robert Kessler <(b) (6) >;

Peter:

Have you seen this hard-hitting article by Nicholas Wade?

https://thebulletin.org/2021/05/the- origin-of-covid-did-people-or-nature-open-pandoras-box-at-wuhan/

Rich

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

MORENS_SUBPOENA_014209
MORENS_NIH_026818
REL0000481351

Date: Mon, 4 Sep 2023 9:42:41 PM -0400
Sent: Mon, 4 Sep 2023 9:42:04 PM -0400
Subject: Re: Zoom Link for call at 2pm Today
From: Aleksei Chmura < (b) (6)
To: (b) (6) <(b) (6)

David,

One option may be to try via your non-work phone and/or laptop. Both of those had consistently clear and good connectivity, if I recall correctly.

I think these connectivity issues usually happen when you are on Kent Island, is that correct?

If so, let me know when you will be there this week on Wednesday or Thursday and we could give a try on Zoom on different devices and see if things are working.

Cheers,

-Aleksei

On Thu, Aug 24, 2023 at 4:43 PM (b) (6) <(b) (6) > wrote:
Alexei, if you have time in the next week, I would like to try to fix these time wasting tech issues, frustrating to all of us

Sorry I am tech UNsavvy, but I believe it should be possible, with your expertise, to find failsafe workarounds

The weird thing is that I use Zoom, Skype, and Teams frequently but rarely have a problem except with EcoHealth. Does th a t mean something?

I am frustrated th as t we have these issues, gotta be fixed!

d

Sent from Proton Mail mobile

-------- Original Message --------
On Aug 23, 2023, 14:01, Aleksei Chmura < (b) (6) > wrote:

> Apologies, David. The calendar invite went to you a bit ago, but I had not emailed. Here is our link: Join Zoom Meeting(b) (6)
>
> (b) (6) Meeting ID: (b) (6)
> (b) (6) Passcode(b) (6) --- One tap mobile -(b) (6)

Date:	Sun, 2 Jun 2024 10:44:30 AM -0400
Subject:	Fwd: The Hill: Fauci set for fiery hearing with House GOP
From:	David Morens <(b) (6)
To:	Peter Daszak < (b) (6) < (b) (6) Jeffrey Sturchio <(b) (6) Keusch, Gerald T < (b) (6) Roberts, Rich peter hotez < (b) (6) Aleksei Chmura < (b) (6)
Attachments:	image001.jpg; image001.jpg

From the cell phone of David Morens

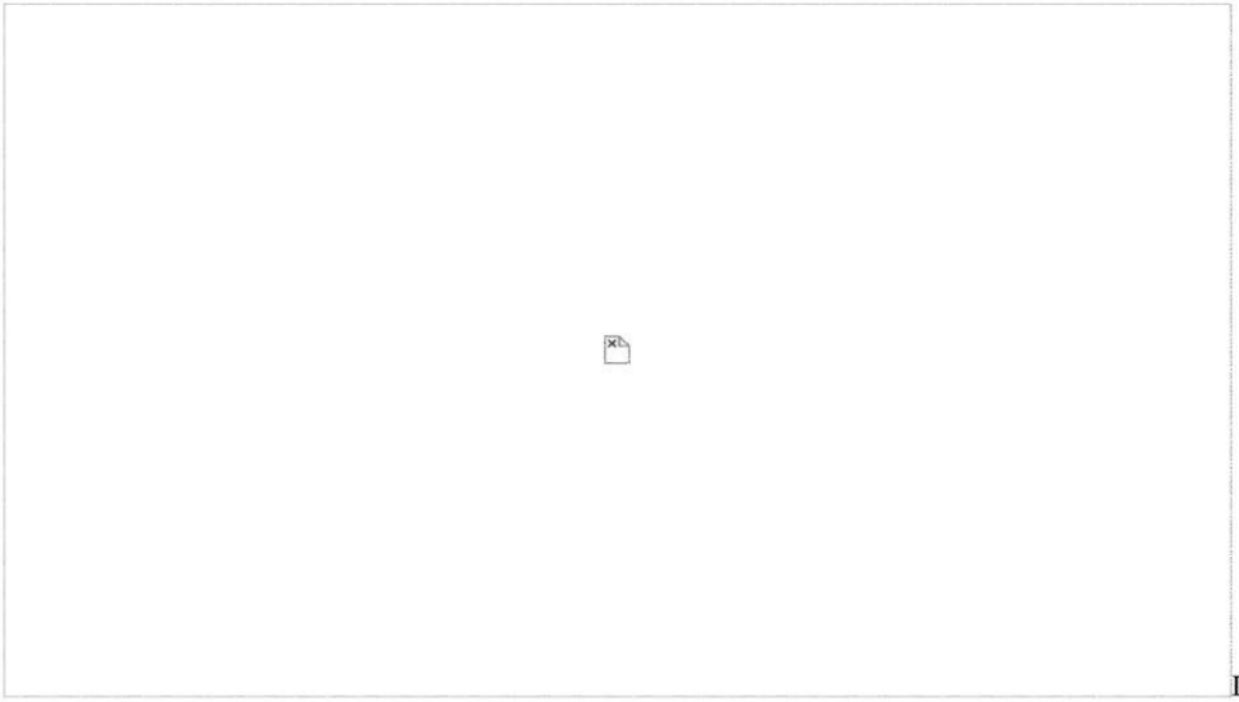
--------- Forwarded message ---------
From: **Folkers, Greg (NIH/NIAID) [C]** (b) (6)
Date: Sun, Jun 2, 2024, 10:35
Subject: The Hill: Fauci set for fiery hearing with House GOP
To:

Fauci set for fiery hearing with House GOP

by Joseph Choi - 06/02/24 6:00 AM ET

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Drew Angerer, Getty Images

Anthony Fauci, former director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID), arrives

MORENS_NIH_054236
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for a closed-door interview with the House Select Subcommittee on the Coronavirus Pandemic at the U.S. Capitol Jan. 8, 2024, in Washington, DC.

Anthony Fauci, the public face of the government's response to the coronavirus pandemic, will offer his first congressional testimony in nearly two years Monday by a GOP-led committee likely to grill him over alleged misconduct that occurred under his leadership of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID).

Fauci, the NIAID director for nearly 40 years, will testify before the House Select Subcommittee on the Coronavirus Pandemic. It's his first testimony since leaving government work at the end of 2022.

The last time he testified before Congress was in September 2022, when he appeared before the Senate Health Education, Labor and Pensions Committee to discuss the response to the mpox response along with other health officials.

Fauci did return to the Capitol earlier this year for two days of closed-door interviews with the subcommittee. Transcripts of those all-day interviews were published Friday ahead of the hearing.

His testimony comes on the heels of two highly contentious hearings before the subcommittee that raised questions over the level of oversight and conduct that went on in his agency, especially during the COVID-19 pandemic that raised him to public prominence.

Here's what to know ahead of what could be a testy hearing.

Public records controversy

Fauci is likely to get tough questions from Republicans about what he knew of efforts by another NIAID official accused of evading public records laws.

Over the past month, the select subcommittee has taken testimony from EcoHealth Alliance President Peter Daszak and David Morens, a senior adviser to the NIAID director who worked closely with Fauci.

Morens's testimony did little to endear Republicans to Fauci. Previously publicized emails from Morens suggested Fauci knew of public records misconduct at NIAID and sought to detach himself from it.

In one email exchange with Daszak, Morens wrote, "… there is no worry about FOIAs. I can either send stuff to Tony on his private gmail, or hand it to him at work or at his house. He is too smart to let colleagues send him stuff that could cause trouble."

In another email, Morens told Daszak that Fauci was seeking to protect EcoHealth from scrutiny, though in other emails, he indicated that the former NIAID director wasn't particularly involved in National Institutes of Health grants. Morens testified before the subcommittee that Fauci did not comment when asked in a conversation between them whether he had a hand in getting rid of a grant for EcoHealth.

Speaking to The Hill, subcommittee Chair Brad Wenstrup (R-Ohio) questioned if Fauci's leadership as NIAID director had a role in Morens's behavior.

"Under Dr. Fauci, we see Dr. Daszak from EcHealth Alliance and Dr. David Morens and their willingness to deceive. And you know, they seem to be without scruples."

Morens came up sporadically throughout Fauci's January interview, though the bulk of questions had to do with whether Fauci dictated how Morens could communicate with the press. Fauci said he left those issues up to the NIAID's press office.

Democrats have routinely accused GOP members of trying to transfer blame for the pitfalls of the pandemic response onto public health officials like Fauci.

A partisan hearing

Republicans and Democrats on the subcommittee are planning to approach the hearing from different angles.

Wenstrup said he plans to ask questions about the grant process, whether Fauci knew of Morens's communications with Daszak and continue to press the former government official on what he believes were the origins of the COVID-19 pandemic.

"I think we need to ask questions about whether he thinks it's a good process or not. And I'd like to hear what he thinks we should do going forward since he was involved with what I believe to be mistakes or a misguided process," said the chairman. "Maybe we'll get to hear from him on how we can do things better in the future."

Throughout his January interview, Fauci repeatedly said he did not recall certain details, though this was often in response to particularly granular questions or whether he remembered speaking to certain people. Fauci himself seemed to anticipate how this would reflect on him.

"I guess this is going to go into the thing of 'Fauci said so many times he can't recall,' but I can't recall," he said during the second day of interviews.

Wenstrup said he hoped Fauci's recollection had improved in the months since his interview.

"But I think there are a lot of things he said he didn't recall, and it's probably in his best interest to not recall them," said Wenstrup. "I'm not a lawyer but it seems to me that might be some lawyerly advice."

Democratic committee member Rep. Deborah Ross (N.C.) said she plans to ask what public health guidance Fauci can offer.

"I will be focusing a lot on what public health has learned, how we can improve things, how to go forward in terms of communicating with the community," said Ross.

When asked if she believes Fauci's testimony will be worthwhile given the exhaustive interview he gave just months ago, Ross said, "It would be worthwhile if we could work together toward a common goal. But I don't think it's worthwhile to attack a public health official who did everything that he could at the time with the goal of public health in mind."

Fauci's interviews

Transcripts from Fauci's interview with the select subcommittee in January were released on Friday, giving a glimpse into the veteran scientist's thoughts about the pandemic and his time as the country's leading health adviser. Since leaving NIAID, Fauci has avoided interviews or making public comments.

In his interview, he restated that he was open to both the natural origins and lab-leak theories about the virus, but leaned towards the natural origins given the current scientific evidence.

He also reiterated his stance that federal funding did not reach the Wuhan Institute of Virology to support gain-of-function research, which enhances a pathogen's transmissibility to predict how it may mutate in the future.

Fauci said that by the "strict definition" of what gain-of-function research is — an experiment meant to cause an "increase in the transmissibility and/or the pathogenesis of a [potential pandemic pathogen]" — he did not believe gain-of-function research was funded by U.S. grants.

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He also briefly touched on how prior congressional testimonies affected him and his family.

Asked about the threats he received during the pandemic, Fauci requested a "time out for a second" and the interview went off the record. When the interview went back on the record, he linked the threats and harassment he received during the pandemic to prior testimonies.

"Every time Sen. Rand Paul gets up and says I'm responsible for the death of 4 million people, the death threats go up off the wall, the threats against me and my wife and my children go off of the wall," he said.

Fauci and Sen. Rand Paul (R-Ky.) had numerous heated exchanges during Senate hearings throughout the pandemic. In one 2022 hearing, Fauci accused Paul of "distorting everything about me," and adding "you just do the same thing every hearing."

"I don't want to talk too much about it because I don't want to get it," added Fauci. "But it was constant threats to me, my wife, and my children, calling up — I have three daughters, and they're, you know, at the time 28, 31, and 33, calling them up and saying — I don't know how they got their phone number — but calling them up and telling them, 'We know where you live, we know where you work,' and very, very aggressive, violent, sexually explicit threats against them and against my wife."

Fauci is scheduled to testify before the subcommittee on Monday at 10 a.m. EDT.

Tags Anthony Fauci Brad Wenstrup

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Date: Fri, 21 May 2021 10:07:28 AM -0400
Sent: Fri, 21 May 2021 10:07:16 AM -0400
Subject: Re: Interesting day at the coalface here at EHA
From: "Taubenberger, Jeffery (NIH/NIAID) [E]" < (b) (6)
To: Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6) David Morens < (b) (6)
CC: Peter Daszak < (b) (6) Roberts, Rich <(b) (6) Aleksei Chmura < (b) (6) Robert Kessler < (b) (6)

Hi Jerry,

If a research lab is going to be set up with the intention of working with Ebola or other related filoviruses, I would strongly advise BSL4 level containment. If however, the question is treating patients infected with Ebola or other virus should an outbreak occur in Turkey, that is a different story, and it would not be really possible to treat patients or do clinical lab work at BSL4. NIH treated Ebola patients in a BSL3+ clinical unit with PAPRs.

Hope this is helpful.

Jeff

From: "Keusch, Gerald T" <(b) (6)
Date: Thursday, May 20, 2021 at 5:30 PM
To: "Taubenberger, Jeffrey (NIH/NIAID) [E]" <(b) (6) >, "(b) (6) <(b) (6) >
Cc: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >, "Roberts, Rich" <(b) (6) Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) >, Robert Kessler <(b) (6) >
Subject: RE: Interesting day at the coalface here at EHA

Hi Jeff,
I passed this information on to the World Bank Team. The Turkish Ministry officials said they realized that most of the pathogens of concern were going to be BSL-3 containment – some even BSL-2. With that, they decided not to pursue the expense of building, maintaining, and training and sustaining a qualified work force. But there was the what if – what if Ebola entered the country? Or a different hemorrhagic fever virus? So they have decided to alter their plans to enhance the BSL-3 labs. The only thing I heard them say was double HEPA filter exhaust air, but that doesn't mean there isn't more.
The question to you – so I can respond most appropriately to the Bank team – what do you think the risk is to work with Ebola in a BSL-3 and what additional safeguards would there be by enhancing the BSL-3 suites? Is it real or for public/politician/media perception purposes?
Thanks, Jerry

Gerald T. Keusch, M.D.
Professor of Medicine
Associate Director
National Emerging Infectious Diseases Laboratory
Boston University, Boston MA 02118

From: Taubenberger, Jeffery (NIH/NIAID) [E] < (b) (6)
Sent: Thursday, May 20, 2021 2:29 PM
To: David Morens < (b) (6) Keusch, Gerald T < (b) (6)
Cc: Peter Daszak < (b) (6) Roberts, Rich < (b) (6) Aleksei Chmura < (b) (6) Robert Kessler < (b) (6)
Subject: Re: Interesting day at the coalface here at EHA

Greetings all,

From the NIH Office of Biotechnology Activities comes this definition:
https://osp.od.nih.gov/wp-content/uploads/2013/07/oba_risk_assessment_faq.pdf

"Unlike BSL2+ containment, BSL3+ is not defined in the NIH Guidelines for Research Involving Recombinant DNA Molecules

(NIH Guidelines) or Biosafety in Microbiological and Biomedical Laboratories (BMBL). While BSL3+ is a commonly used term, only BSL3 containment is described in the NIH Guidelines and BMBL. Depending on the nature of the research, IBCs may recommend BSL3 containment with appropriate enhancements (e.g., BL3 with respiratory protection, HEPA filtration, shower out, etc.)."

This reflects my understanding and usage at NIH. Our BSL3 labs for select agent influenza (1918 and high path avian flu) are commonly referred to as BSL3+ including use of PAPRs and shower out. Our NIH safety office has us use a BSL3+ facility with PAPRs but not shower out for non-select agent influenza (e.g. 1957 H2N2, chimeric influenza viruses) as well as for SARS-CoV-2.

Best wishes,

Jeff

From: " (b) (6) " <(b) (6) >
Date: Thursday, May 20, 2021 at 2:15 PM
To: "Keusch, Gerald T" <(b) (6) >
Cc: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >, "Roberts, Rich" <(b) (6) >, Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) >, Robert Kessler <(b) (6) >, "Taubenberger, Jeffrey (NIH/NIAID) [E]" <(b) (6) >
Subject: Re: Interesting day at the coalface here at EHA

Thanks, Jerry, i had not seen it, but as you recall, i have been speaking with Arthur at length, off the record, and recommended he contact you, Peter, and Jonna for this article, and also set up his interview with Tony

Re your other question, let me forward to Jeff T who works in BSL-3 at nih, and works with colleagues in BSL-4

My impression is that BSL-3+ Is a sort of slang that includes several different things, but not to my knowledge double HEPA filters. There is also BSL-3 Ag

I think all of this is in the BMBL book, but let's see what Jeff says. D

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

On May 20, 2021, at 12:15, Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6) > wrote:

Two things. David/Peter you may have seen the article Arthur Allen published yesterday (attached). I think I summed up what Peter says in the last part of the email below. Second, I was on a call with the World Bank and the Ministry of Health of Turkey, who is looking to build a vaccine production facility and an emerging ID research lab. The Bank needed clarity on whether the latter was BSL-3 or BSL-4 for their required environmental and social risk assessment for a Bank loan. What emerged from the Turks was that the plan was BSL-3+. The only specific feature they mentioned was double HEPA filtered air exhaust. I'm wondering what it takes to go from BSL-3 to 3+, and if there is a set of clear criteria and requirements. So please fill me in if this is a formally codified concept for the engineering and/or the SOPs followed. Is it a standard BSL-3 facility (maybe double HEPA out) with BSL-4 procedures but using a PAPR for breathing air, or are their additional enhancements involved. Would it be suitable under currently understood regulations and certification criteria to work with a BSL-4 pathogen in a BSL-3+ facility? Does that matter, since as Peter

has noted in the summary of the biosafety issues at WIV the regulations for working with the various pathogens varies from country to country and there is no single platinum standard.

Jerry

From: Peter Daszak (b) (6)
Sent: Thursday, May 20, 2021 1:57 AM
To: Roberts, Rich (b) (6) Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6) >; David Morens (b) (6) m>
Cc: Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) >; Robert Kessler <(b) (6) >
Subject: Interesting day at the coalface here at EHA

Lots happening:

> 'Report' on COVID-19 origins from the Republicans House Intel Select Committee led by Devin Nunes that he stated was based on journalists' reporting of open source data. In other words, nothing new and nothing of any credibility. Report available here: https://republicans-intelligence.house.gov/uploadedfiles/covid-19_and_the_wuhan_institute_of_virology_19_may_2021.pdf
> I now have a list of questions from the GAO. They are focused entirely on the circumstances surrounding the termination of our NIH grant. I've just sent them reams of information, including a detailed timeline with links to the letters on the NLcampaigns website and copies of other correspondence with NIH O/D. I'm naming names of who said what and when. I have an interview with them on Tuesday next week.
> I have a copy of the letter sent by HHS to WHO. This is the one where the State Dept said they didn't think WHO did a good enough job of the COVID origin mission, and HHS said they were going to demand investigation of a lab leak. It lists just about every recommendation that's already in the report. It then adds stuff about getting the lab audits, sending in lab biosecurity experts from other countries, having access to staff for interviews etc. None of this would ever be allowed if CDC's BSL-4 were targeted by Chinese conspiracists. None of this will likely ever happen. I believe HHS already knows that, as does the WHO DG, as does China. Just a massive waste of time for political point scoring by the Biden admin to look tough on China. Just unfortunate I'm right in the middle. One of their demands is access to the bat sample data that includes my samples. They're the same samples I reported to NIH every year….until they canceled my grant so I can't report them now. What a farce – you couldn't make this stuff up.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

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

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

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

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Date: Thu, 15 Jul 2021 1:43:38 PM -0400
Sent: Thu, 15 Jul 2021 1:43:16 PM -0400
Subject: FW: Confidential: WHO DG Circular Letter to Member States - Origins of SARS-CoV-2
From: Peter Daszak < (b) (6)
To: David Morens < (b) (6) Roberts, Rich < (b) (6) Keusch, Gerald T < (b) (6) peter hotez < (b) (6)
Attachments: C.L.28.2021 (Origins of SARS-CoV-2).pdf

David – please pass this information on to Tony and Clifford if you possibly can,

The WHO DG, Dr. Tedros set up a 6am Monday morning meeting with the current WHO Origins team – the international experts who went to Wuhan to work with our China counterparts on COVID origins. He announced they'd be disbanding the team, setting up a separate structure and moving to a system whereby a new team will be formed to do Phase 2 of the work in China. The stated goal is to follow member state's wishes and improve transparency in the way the origins team is selected. Sadly it will reduce transparency because there will now be a 'behind closed doors' decision from the member states on who of the nominees are put forward to WHO, then another 'behind closed doors' decision from WHO on who is selected, with, we've been told, the DG of WHO having final say.

From my point of view it's a real problem because given the political pressure from the Right wing, it might prevent my future involvement in this work. This means my 17 years + of collaboration with the very people in China who we need to work with, will not be part of Phase 2 work – including designing the animal testing protocols that are my key expertise. Disbanding the current team will also significantly delay the work and this threatens to undermine our capacity to do the trace-back, as antibodies wane among wildlife farmers in rural China who we've proposed should be interviewed and tested in Phase 2, for example. The current team has a good working relationship with the China side and has made significant progress over the last few months, meeting weekly as an international expert group and working with our Chinese counterparts to update the WHO report, include new data and get phase 2 Terms of Reference thrashed out. We'd reached the beginnings of consensus on this.

It will also be seen as an implicitly political move on behalf of WHO, and one that projects a perception of undermining the hard work we did to produce buckets of new data in the WHO report. The rest of the team are very angry about the way we've been repeatedly undermined by politics, and we're working on a communications strategy right now.

David, I'm not sure who is the US representative for WHO Covid origins negotiations. It was publicly announced that Tony would represent the US at WHO, but it may be a State Dept or other HHS person. I think it's important that Tony and perhaps Clifford know what's happening.

Cheers,

Peter

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

From: BOEHME, Catharina Cora <(b) (6)

Sent: Wednesday, July 14, 2021 4:35 PM
To: Владимир Дедков (b) (6) ,eendertz, Fabian (b) (6) >; Peter Daszak <
(b) (6) >; LeendertzF <(b) (6) Keith Hamilton (b) (6) >; John Watson
(b) (6) >; DEBBICHE, Hassene (b) (6) Thea Kølsen Fischer <
(b) (6) >; BAERT, Primaël (b) (6) , Danny (b) (6) Nguyen,
Hung (ILRI) <(b) (6) >; STREIJFFERT, Carlos Johan <(b) (6) >; DRURY, Patrick Anthony <
(b) (6) >; Ken Maeda (b) (6) ; M.P.G. Koopmans (b) (6)) <
(b) (6) >; Hayman, David <(b) (6) >; IVANOVIC, Dragana <(b) (6)
>; Dr. Elmoubasher Abu Baker Abd Farag <(b) (6) ; Dominic Dwyer (b) (6) _(b) (6) >
Cc: RYAN, Michael J. (b) (6) >; Dr VAN KERKHOVE, Maria (b) (6) >; BEN EMBAREK, Peter
Karim <(b) (6) >
Subject: Circular Letter to Member States - Origins of SARS-CoV-2

Dear all,

It was a pleasure to meet you on Monday. Please find attached for your information and on behalf of the DG our communication to member states, shared with them as a circular letter this evening. Please don't hesitate to reach out to us for follow up discussions.
Please keep this confidential during the next days. We will have a member state briefing and discussion on this subject on Friday.

With my best regards,
Catharina

P.S. I hope I have the correct list of emails addresses.

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MORENS_SUBPOENA_020917
MORENS_NIH_041682
REL0000481377

Date: Tue, 18 May 2021 5:38:26 PM -0400
Subject: RE: Not to be shared, please....
From: Peter Daszak < (b) (6)
To: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] < (b) (6) roberts, Rich < (b) (6) Keusch, Gerald T < (b) (6)
Attachments: image001.gif; image002.jpg; image003.jpg; image004.png

It seems to be another example of Sen. Paul being simply incorrect. The question he asked Tony was "Did NIH fund GoF work at the Wuhan lab". Tony is 100% correct in saying NIH did not.

The doc below is simply NIH doing the correct process of pausing proposed work within specific aims "that appear to involve work covered under the pause"..in GoF.

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

From: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b) (6) >
Sent: Tuesday, May 18, 2021 5:02 PM
To: dasz >> Peter Daszak <(b) (6) roberts, Rich (b) (6) >; Keusch, Gerald T < (b) (6)
Subject: Not to be shared, please....

-------- Forwarded Message --------
Subject: FW: Sen Paul tweet
Date: Tue, 18 May 2021 20:53:51 +0000
From: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E]
To: David Morens ((b) (6) (b) (6) (b

MORENS_SUBPOENA_012620
MORENS_NIH_024008
REL0000481378

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 18, 2021 4:46 PM
To: NIAID OD AM <NIAIDODAM@niaid.nih.gov>
Subject: Sen Paul tweet

He links to this document
https://www.sciencemag.org/sites/default/files/documents/43088final.pdf

page 64 is letter to NC

"may include…"

MORENS_SUBPOENA_012621
MORENS_NIH_024009
REL0000481378

October 21, 2014

Ms. Sherrie Settle
Director, Proposal Management
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
Office of Sponsored Research
Administrative Office Bldg, Suite 2200
104 Airport Drive #1350
Chapel Hill, NC 27599-1350

RE: 5U19 AI107810-02

Dear Ms. Settle:

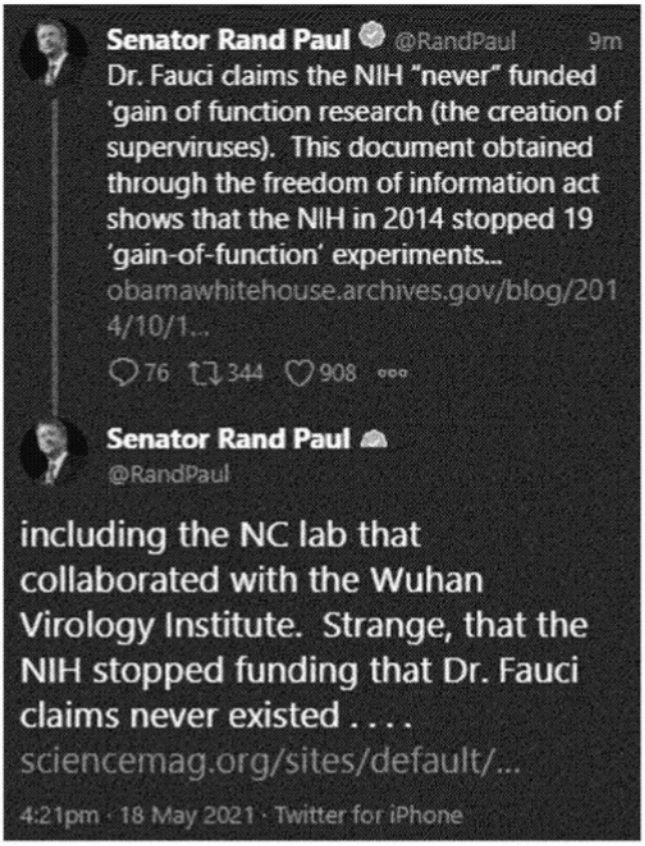
NIAID has determined that the above referenced grant may include Gain of Function (GoF) research that is subject to the recently-announced U.S. Government funding pause (http://www.phe.gov/s3/dualuse/Documents/gain-of-function.pdf), issued on October 17, 2014. The following specific aims appear to involve research covered under the pause:

Project 1: Role of Uncharacterized Genes in High Pathogenic Human Coronavirus Infection - Ralph S. Baric, PhD- Project Leader

- Specific Aim 2. Novel functions in virus replication in vitro.
- Specific Aim 3. Novel functions in virus pathogenesis in vivo.

From: Crawford, Chase (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b) (6) >
Sent: Tuesday, May 18, 2021 4:32 PM
To: Folkers, Greg (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b) (6) Billet, Courtney (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b) (6)
Haskins, Melinda (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b) (6) >; Selgrade, Sara (NIH/NIAID) [E] <(b) (6) >
Subject: for awareness

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MORENS_SUBPOENA_012623
MORENS_NIH_024011
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Date:	Fri, 27 Aug 2021 5:04:11 PM -0400
Sent:	Fri, 27 Aug 2021 5:03:53 PM -0400
Subject:	DNI releases summary of Intel report
From:	Peter Daszak < (b) (6)
To:	David Morens < (b) (6) Roberts, Rich < (b) (6) Keusch, Jerry < (b) (6) Hotez, Peter Jay < (b) (6)
Attachments:	image003.jpg; image004.jpg; Unclassified-Summary-of-Assessment-on-COVID-19-Origins.pdf

Happy Friday afternoon!

The summary of the report is out now (attached).

It's inconclusive, but states that China did not engineer the virus. Also that China had no forewarning of the outbreak. It's slightly more leaning towards the "natural" origin that they were prior to the 90 day analysis. At that point it was 2 agencies for natural vs. 1 for lab (I think). Now it's 4 agencies believe it's animal origin, one believes may be lab. All have low confidence.

Maybe now we can get on with the actual scientific analysis of COVID origins – something that will likely take many more months than it should because of all the politics and "Intelligence" involved!

Maybe we can read something into the fact this was released late on a summer Friday afternoon! I'm definitely happy it was!

https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2021- 08-27/u-s-probe-of-covid-origin-inconclusive-without-help-from-china

Prognosis

Biden Criticizes China for Not Aiding Report on Virus Origins

By Josh Wingrove and Chris Strohm
August 27, 2021, 3:35 PM EDT *Updated on August 27, 2021, 4:19 PM EDT*

- More U.S. agencies think virus came from animal than lab
- The U.S. believes virus wasn't created as a biological weapon

President Joe Biden rebuked China for stonewalling a U.S. investigation into the origins of the coronavirus, as his administration reported it was unable to reach firm conclusions because of Beijing's unwillingness to cooperate.

"The world deserves answers, and I will not rest until we get them," Biden said in a statement on Friday shortly after the Office of the Director of National Intelligence released an unclassified summary of the report. "Responsible nations do not shirk these kinds of responsibilities to the rest of the world."

The intelligence community determined the virus wasn't created as a biological weapon and said Chinese officials had no "foreknowledge" of the outbreak, but was divided on how it came to infect humans and spread across the globe.

Four components of the intelligence community said -- with low confidence -- that the outbreak was likely linked to exposure to an infected animal, according to the summary. This theory is the most widely supported by scientists, including Anthony Fauci, who is advising Biden on Covid.

One intelligence community component assessed with moderate confidence that the outbreak was associated with a research lab in China. As of a few months ago, two components backed the animal theory while one backed the lab theory.

Analysts at other agencies are unable to coalesce around either without more information, including some who think both are equally likely. To reach a conclusion with higher confidence, the intelligence community said it would need more cooperation of China, which it said continues to hinder global efforts.

"Beijing, however, continues to hinder the global investigation, resist sharing information and blame other countries, including the United States," the summary says. "These actions reflect, in part, China's government's own uncertainty about where an investigation could lead as well as its frustration the international community is using the issue to exert political pressure on China."

The intelligence community overall believes that the virus infected humans through an initial small exposure no later than November of 2019, according to the report. The report says the intelligence agencies judge that the virus was not developed as a biological weapon, and most assess -- with low confidence -- that it was not genetically engineered, though two agencies believe there isn't enough evidence to know either way.

"China's officials did not have foreknowledge of the virus before the initial outbreak of COVID-19 emerged," the summary says. But the intelligence agencies and the global community lack clinical samples and other data from the earliest Covid-19 cases, the summary says.

The report is partly a sign of how far from reach a conclusion remains. Only five of the agencies, or components, of the intelligence community expressed any view and none did so with more than low or moderate confidence.

The U.S. Intelligence Community is made up of 18 different organizations, including the Office of the Director of National Intelligence, which released the summary, and the Central Intelligence Agency, among others.

The intelligence community sprinted to provide the report within Biden's timeline, and approached it

from multiple perspectives, including consulting scientists and epidemiologists, an official familiar with the process said, speaking on condition of anonymity. The intelligence community also reached out to academic experts, as well as international allies and partners, the official said.

Cheers,

Peter

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

---

From: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >
Sent: Friday, August 27, 2021 12:28 PM
To: 'David Morens(b) (6))' < (b) (6) 'Roberts, Rich' < (b) (6) Keusch, Jerry ((b) (6) <(b) (6) ; 'Hotez, Peter Jay' (b) (6)
Subject: FW: The good, the bad, and the ugly
Importance: High

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

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

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

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

The Guardian

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

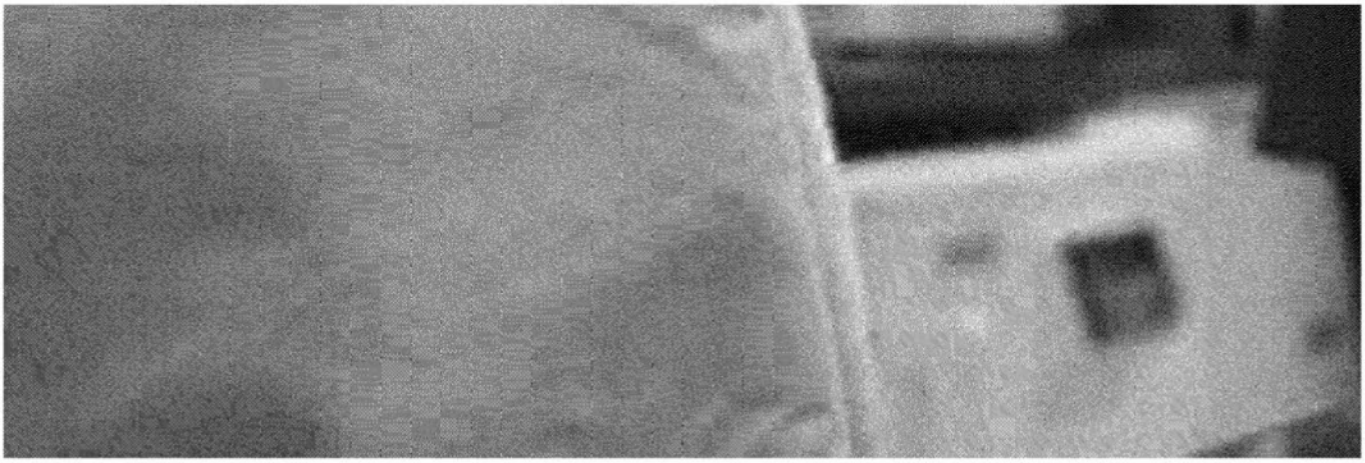
Laura Spinney

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

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

Fri 27 Aug 2021 11.20 EDT

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Read more

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Let Lawyers Hunt for Covid's Origin

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

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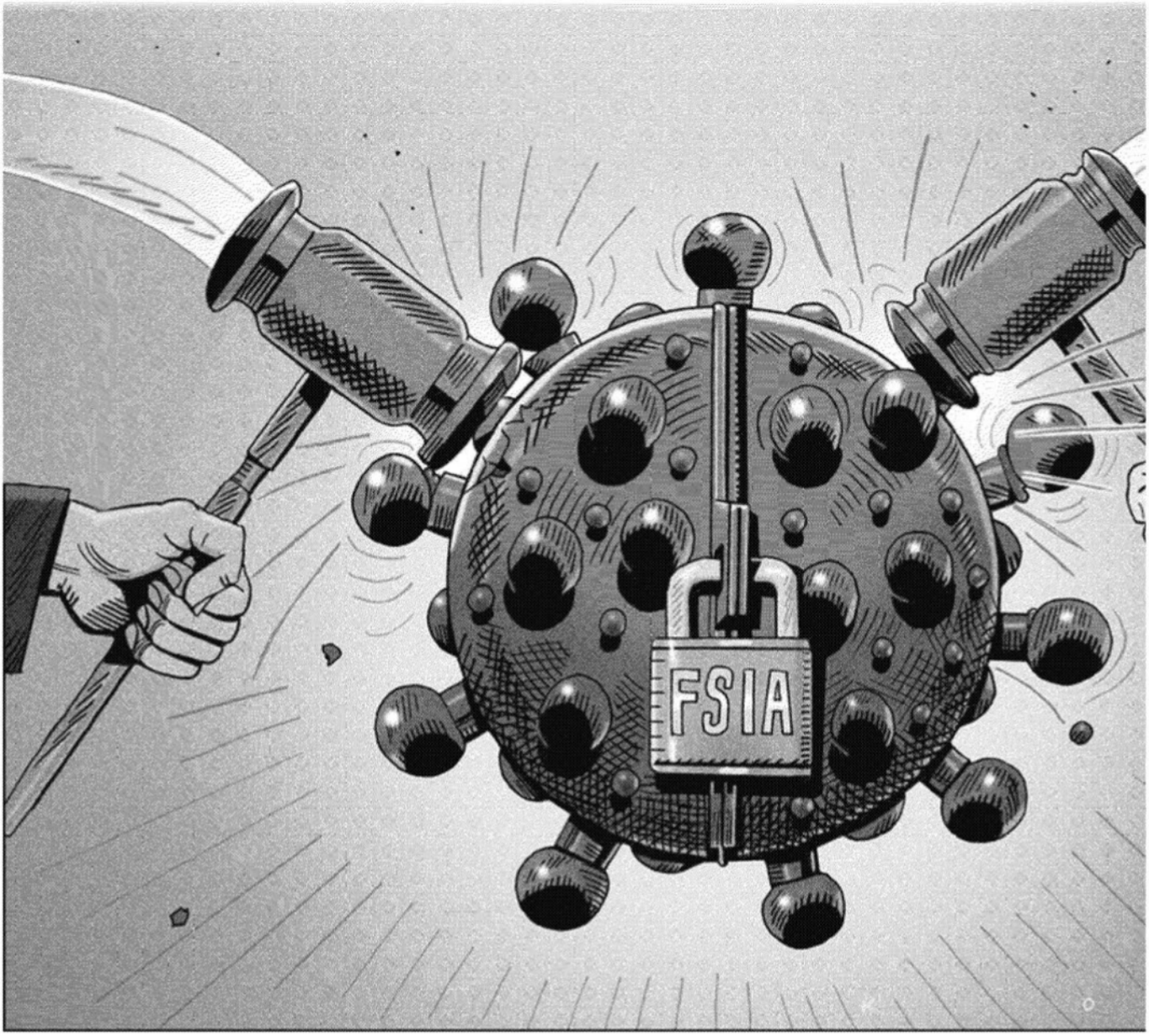


PHOTO: MARTIN KOZLOWSKI

Listen to article
Length 7 minutes
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Will we ever know where Covid-19 came from? Not if the last word comes from the U.S. intelligence community, which reported to the White House this week that China's fault is plausible but unprovable. Beijing has refused to cooperate with inquiries, which it has characterized as "origin tracing terrorism." The Chinese Foreign Ministry even denounced the equivocal intelligence report: "If they want to baselessly accuse China, so they better be prepared to accept the counterattack from China."

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

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

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Date: Thu, 29 Feb 2024 6:14:31 PM -0500
Subject: Re: WSJ/Nicolas Wade: Where Did Covid Come From?
From: David Morens < (b) (6)
To: Keusch, Gerald < (b) (6)
CC: Jeffrey Sturchio <(b) (6) Roberts, Rich < (b) (6) Peter Daszak < (b) (6) peter hotez < (b) (6) Aleksei Chmura < (b) (6) >;

Jerry, yes, all of those. I would sign on if I could! Maybe I could do so anyway as a private citizen. Angie is the most aggressive of those you named. Bob, more cautious. Who will stand up???? Who can take the lead to move this forward? d

From the cell phone of David Morens

On Thu, Feb 29, 2024, 17:09 Keusch, Gerald <(b) (6) wrote:
This has to be vigorously countered with scientific data as soon as possible by as many virologists with the necessary credentials, especially to counter Ebright. Peter D should not be involved. Angie Rasmussen? Kristian Anderson? Bob Garry? Others?

I'm still in Spain with no laptop. Back this weekend. Maybe awake by Monday or Tuesday. Jerry

Sent from my iPhone

> On Feb 29, 2024, at 5:00 PM, Jeffrey Sturchio(b) (6) > wrote:
>
> Good answer!
>
> Jeff
>
> ---
>
> **From:** Roberts, Rich <(b) (6)
> **Sent:** Thursday, February 29, 2024 10:56 AM
> **To:** Jeffrey Sturchio (b) (6) ; David Morens <(b) (6) >; Peter Daszak < (b) (6) >; Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6) >; peter hotez <(b) (6) Aleksei Chmura (b) (6)
> **Subject:** RE: WSJ/Nicolas Wade: Where Did Covid Come From?
>
> He probably didn't note that I told him he was full of BS when he asked me about his theory.
>
> Rich

MORENS_SUBPOENA_012368
MORENS_NIH_023504
REL0000481388

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: ((b) (6)

Fax: (978) 412 9910

email: (b) (6)

From: Jeffrey Sturchio (b) (6) >
Sent: Thursday, February 29, 2024 10:47 AM
To: David Morens <(b) (6) Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >; Keusch, Gerald T < (b) (6) ; peter hotez <(b) (6) Roberts, Rich <(b) (6) Aleksei Chmura < (b) (6) >
Subject: RE: WSJ/Nicolas Wade: Where Did Covid Come From?

EXTERNAL SENDER

This is the critical fulcrum of Wade's evidence-free argument: "After Darpa turned down the DEFUSE proposal in February 2019, the researchers in Wuhan might have secured Chinese government funding and gone ahead by themselves." So – his entire argument is spun up from a speculation.

JLS

From: David Morens <(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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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

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MORENS_NIH_023507
REL0000481388

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.)

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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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MORENS_NIH_023509
REL0000481388

Date: Tue, 30 Apr 2024 2:45:25 PM -0400
Sent: Tue, 30 Apr 2024 2:45:10 PM -0400
Subject: Re: Latest tweet from SSCP - schoolyard behavior at best!
From: Peter Daszak <(b) (6)>
To: Jeffrey Sturchio <(b) (6)>
CC: Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6)>; John Feigelson <(b) (6)>; Gerald Keusch <(b) (6)>; Keith Martin <(b) (6)>; Rich Roberts <(b) (6)>; Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6)>;
Attachments: preview.png

My opening statement is now up on the SSCP website -



Daszak-Testimony
PDF Document · 48 KB

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak

President
EcoHealth Alliance

520 8th Avenue, New York, NY10018-6507, USA

www.EcoHealthAlliance.org

On Apr 29, 2024, at 7:37 PM, Jeffrey Sturchio <(b) (6)> wrote:

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REL0000481391

Peter: This is puerile nonsense! Stay strong!

As ever,
Jeff

From: Peter Daszak < (b) (6)
Sent: Monday, April 29, 2024 6:08 PM
To: Hotez, Peter Jay < (b) (6) John Feigelson < (b) (6) >; Gerald Keusch < (b) (6) Jeff Sturchio < (b) (6) Keith Martin < (b) (6) Rich Roberts < (b) (6) (b) (6) Aleksei Chmura < (b) (6)
Subject: Latest tweet from SSCP - schoolyard behavior at best!

Having spent 27 yrs in the USA, going through the immigration process and becoming a US citizen, I'm reminded what a great honor it is to have a chance to meet esteemed members of Congress. Here they are in their latest tweet mocking our organization by repeating insults from a private message of one of the Proximal Origins paper virologists.

I look forward to answering their questions in detail about this tattle-tale schoolyard gibberish on Wednesday morning. Thank God I worked hard for my Ph.D so that I can have all the right science-based answers on these critical issues!
<image001.jpg>
Select Subcommittee on the Coronavirus Pandemic
@COVIDSelect

"**EgoHealth**" was allegedly a "term of endearment" used by the co-authors of the now infamous "Proximal Origin" paper to describe EcoHealth Alliance President Dr. Peter Daszak. Is this characterization fact or fiction? On Wednesday, Dr. Daszak will testify before @COVIDSelect.
<image002.jpg>

5:44 PM · Apr 29, 2024

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

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

MORENS_NIH_047673
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USA

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

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

---

From: Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6)
Sent: Monday, April 29, 2024 5:05 PM
To: Peter Daszak (b) (6) Gerald Keusch <(b) (6)
>; Jeff Sturchio (b) (6) (b) (6) Keith Martin < (b) (6) Rich Roberts < (b) (6)
Aleksei Chmura (b) (6)
Subject: From Marcia McNutt

Below, after our panel

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

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

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

Baylor University, University Professor
Rice 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
Begin forwarded message:

> **From:** "McNutt, Marcia K." <(b) (6)
> **Date:** April 29, 2024 at 3:48:31 PM CDT
> **To:** "Hotez, Peter Jay" (b) (6) >, Anthony Fauci <(b) (6) >, "Iwasaki, Akiko" <(b) (6) >, "Mann, Michael E." (b) (6) >
> **Cc:** "Agee, Jennylee" <(b) (6) >, "Chalfie, Martin" <(b) (6) >, Martin Chalfie <(b) (6) >, "Everly, Rebecca" <(b) (6) >, Rich Roberts < (b) (6) >
> **Subject: Re: Thank you!**

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

Dear Peter, Tony, Akiko, and Michael,

I cannot tell you how many members approached me to say how moved, inspired, and informed they were by your presentation yesterday. I've been responding to emails all day from members who want to find some way to help. I had thought that there would be wider understanding of what you all were enduring; I did not anticipate how many eyes were opened to the persecution of people who speak out for the public good, even when the information is difficult to take in.

I will definitely keep you all informed as we move forward. I think the four of you would make an excellent sounding board for ideas, as I am sure that some strategies could have the potential to backfire if we are not very very careful in how we approach the issue.

I am not so naive as to think that we can reach everyone - too many opinions are baked in, often for nefarious reasons. However, I do have faith that the majority of Americans will respond to reason.

Marty and Becca can comment on the extent to which CHR can help with this issue. I certainly value their input as they have such a long history of dealing with persecution of scientists. Domestic cases have to date been outside of their scope, and your cases are all somewhat different than the majority of CHR interventions. Your persecution is coming from the public, whereas CHR mostly deals with foreign government actions. If CHR decides that this is beyond their remit, then we definitely will need to find some other unit at the NAS to take this on.

And Peter: thanks for the heads up about the Mitchell Foundation having an interest in supporting work to address this issue. Happy to talk to you more about it.

My gratitude to you all,

Marcia

NASNASNASNASNASNASNASNASNASNASNASNAS
Dr. Marcia K McNutt
President, National Academy of Sciences
Mailing Address | Physical location:
500 Fifth Street NW | 2101 Constitution Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20001 | Washington, DC 20418
(b) (6) (office) (b) (6) (cell)
NASNASNASNASNASNASNASNASNASNASNASNAS

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On Apr 29, 2024, at 3:47 PM, Hotez, Peter Jay (b)(6) > wrote:

Dear Marcia (Martin): Thank you again for the extraordinary opportunity to meet with the NAS members and discuss the rise of anti-science activism in America. I received so much nice and productive feedback both at the panel session and the afternoon reception. As I indicated, the panel could be game-changing in helping to counter the anti-science monster.

I look forward to the follow up in the coming weeks and months. Perhaps working through the committee on human rights is a potential mechanism?

In the meantime we recently received some modest funding from the George and Cynthia Mitchell Foundation for this purpose and I will explore with them the potential for working through the NAS, etc.

Again, thank you for everything! It was a memorable weekend on many fronts.

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

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

iPhone

Date: Thu, 24 Jun 2021 9:55:55 PM -0400
Sent: Thu, 24 Jun 2021 9:54:32 PM -0400
Subject: RE: Article gives further details on termination of EcoHealth's NIH grant
From: Peter Daszak < (b) (6)
To: Keusch, Gerald T < (b) (6) David Morens < (b) (6) Rich Roberts < (b) (6) peter hotez <(b) (6)
CC: Aleksei Chmura < (b) (6) Robert Kessler < (b) (6)
Attachments: image001.gif

Also, FYI – Robert Kessler will be reaching out to Peter Staley and I'll be reaching out to Greg Gonsalves, both very active in the HIV/AIDS field, and both potential strong allies in our efforts.

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, June 24, 2021 9:51 PM
To: 'Keusch, Gerald T' (b) (6) >; David Morens (b) (6) >; 'Rich Roberts ((b) (6))' (b) (6) >; peter hotez (b) (6) <(b) (6)
Cc: 'Aleksei Chmura ((b) (6))' (b) (6) (b) (6) >; 'Robert Kessler ((b) (6))' < (b) (6) >
Subject: Article gives further details on termination of EcoHealth's NIH grant
Importance: High

My wife spotted this in the awful rag the Daily Mail. It's now in all the Murdoch right wing press (this is from Fox News - https://www.foxnews.com/politics/fauci- resisted-trump-cancel-virus-research-grant-wuhan-lab). Apparently a new tell-all book about Trump's management of the pandemic gives details of how the EcoHealth CoV grant was terminated. This is written from the right wing perspective – their spin is that "Fauci had the audacity to think it shouldn't have been terminated!". But actually, it reveals some interesting new information:

1. NIH and HHS thought it likely illegal to terminate a grant "for convenience". My lawyers also believe that, as does just about everyone I've asked
2. Trump pressured HHS who pressured Tony and Francis. They hesitated to terminate, the well-known HIV/AIDS activist Peter Staley tried to persuade them both not to allow this to happen – political interference in science
3. Fauci and Collins thought it not worth resigning over a $3.7 million grant. Peter Staley agreed ultimately. Fauci

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reluctantly agreed to terminate it, as he said, "because the white house told us to". Personally, I understand this decision, even though it's been devastating to me and EcoHealth. It would not have been good to have lost Tony's leadership in the middle of the pandemic with Trump's reckless leadership.

FYI – I forwarded a copy of this to the GAO in case they want to use it in their work.

Fauci resisted Trump directive to cancel virus research grant linked to Wuhan lab: Book

The White House demanded the grant be canceled after reports the coronavirus leaked from the lab

By Thomas Barrabi | Fox News

Exclusive: Anthony Fauci resisted a White House directive in April of last year to cancel a research grant for a nonprofit linked to the Wuhan Institute of Virology but "reluctantly agreed" after he learned that then-President Donald Trump had explicitly ordered its cancellation, according to an exclusive excerpt from a book detailing the Trump administration's response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Fauci's debate with other top officials on how to handle the request was detailed in "Nightmare Scenario: Inside the Trump Administration's Response to the Pandemic That Changed History," an upcoming book from Washington Post reporters Yasmeen Abutaleb and Damian Paletta.

The White House pushed the National Institutes of Health to cut funding for a study examining how coronaviruses jump from infected bats to humans following reports linking the research to the Wuhan facility at the center of the "lab leak theory," which posits the pandemic originated from a lab accident. The study's sponsor, the nonprofit EcoHealth Alliance, was told not to spend the remaining $369,819 balance of its 2020 grant.

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In their book, Abutaleb and Paletta provide a behind-the-scenes account of how Fauci and his colleagues at the National Institutes of Health responded to the White House's directive:

"With questions swirling about the origins of COVID-19—experts had determined that the virus was not man-made but could not rule out that it might have slipped out of a lab—the NIH had gone to the principal study investigator on April 19 and asked that payments be halted to the subcontractor in Wuhan until it had more answers.

A few days later, the relatively small grant had garnered new attention…On the afternoon of April 24, NIH director Francis Collins and Fauci received notice that Trump wanted to formally announce in a 5:00 p.m. press conference that the grant had been terminated."

Collins and Fauci told the White House and [the Department of Health and Human Services] that they were not sure the NIH actually had the authority to terminate a peer-reviewed grant in the middle of a budget cycle. The HHS general counsel told them to do it anyway and made clear it was a direct order from the president, implying that their jobs were on the line if they didn't comply. Fauci and Collins reluctantly agreed to cancel the grant."

According to the book, Fauci relayed the incident to his longtime friend Peter Staley, the prominent HIV/AIDS activist, who purportedly pushed him to resist the administration's directive.

"What do you mean?" Staley asked. "You can't cancel a grant like this."
"What do you want me to do?" Fauci said.
"Can't you and Collins threaten to resign over this?" Staley suggested.
"You want us both to resign over a $3.7 million grant?" Fauci snapped back.
Staley instantly backed down. 'You're right, you're right,' he said. 'That's not what you resign over.'"
(Collins and Fauci heard from many members of the scientific community that they should have resigned. The HHS general counsel later found that the agency probably had not had the authority to terminate the grant. NIH had to reinstate the grant but stopped all of its funding.)

It was the second time in a matter of days that it looked as though Fauci was being bullied by political forces at the White House, and Staley thought it was a worrisome trend.
"You combine this with what happened with your Oval Office remdesivir announcement— and I know this doesn't matter to the country. We're not talking about Trump and politics and Fox and the whole

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country. "We're talking about the fact that you are now our leader in AIDS, in public health advocacy, " he told Fauci, his voice rising with emotion.

"In the scientific community, you are our leader. And in the course of forty-eight hours, you have broken two major tenets of how the scientific community does things. We have these rules for a reason, which you've been a major defender of your whole life."

Fauci did not return a request for comment on the book's claims by the time of this article's publication.

EcoHealth Alliance has worked with Wuhan lab researchers in the past but was not actively collaborating with them when the grant was canceled, Politico reported last year.

When testifying at a House Energy & Commerce Hearing in June 2020, Fauci claimed he was unaware of the reason why the grant was canceled.

"Why was it canceled? It was canceled because the NIH was told to cancel it," Fauci said at the time. "I don't know the reason, but we were told to cancel it."

The NIH's decision to fund research at the Wuhan Institute of Virology is an ongoing point of contention between Fauci and several Republican lawmakers. Sen. Rand Paul and others have alleged that Fauci was aware scientists at the Wuhan lab were conducting "gain of function" research on the virus – a charge Fauci has adamantly denied.

"Nightmare Scenario: Inside the Trump Administration's Response to the Pandemic That Changed History" will debut on June 29.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
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MORENS_NIH_041313
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Date: Mon, 27 Sep 2021 2:42:41 PM -0400
Sent: Mon, 27 Sep 2021 2:42:38 PM -0400
Subject: RE: Urgent - Amendment to defund EcoHealth Alliance was passed by the House last night and now moves to the Senate
From: "Keusch, Gerald T" < (b) (6)
To: David Morens < (b) (6)
CC: Peter Daszak < (b) (6) Roberts, Rich < (b) (6) Robert Kessler < (b) (6) >;

Tony called me right back but the ringtone was muted so I didn't hear it. He left a message to call him back which I just did and he will call me back after he is off another call. More to follow.

Jerry

-----Original Message-----
From: Keusch, Gerald T
Sent: Monday, September 27, 2021 2:26 PM
To: David Morens < (b) (6) >
Cc: Peter Daszak < (b) (6) >; Roberts, Rich < (b) (6) Robert Kessler < (b) (6) >
Subject: RE: Urgent - Amendment to defund EcoHealth Alliance was passed by the House last night and now moves to the Senate

Hi David and friends,

Just to let you know I called Tony's office and while he was not available now he told his secretary to take my phone number and he would call me back when he can, perhaps not until this evening.

Peter/Robert, anything new on the Reschenthaler amendment to the defense appropriations bill? I want to contact my congressional representatives and being up to date is relevant.

Jerry

-----Original Message-----
From: David Morens < (b) (6) >
Sent: Sunday, September 26, 2021 7:39 AM
To: Keusch, Gerald T < (b) (6)
Cc: Peter Daszak < (b) (6) >; Roberts, Rich < (b) (6) Robert Kessler < (b) (6) >
Subject: Re: Urgent - Amendment to defund EcoHealth Alliance was passed by the House last night and now moves to the Senate

Guys, i just emailed chief of staff Greg Folkers and also Patty, as these are the two key people who decide what Tony sees. I expect they will get back to me and will make sure Tony gets the message in advance. d

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

> On Sep 26, 2021, at 07:25, David Morens < (b) (6) > wrote:
>
> Patty is his « scheduler », whatever that means. But I will line up all the right people. Since Tony no longer reads his unfiltered email or answer his phone, this has to be teed up

>
> David
>
> Sent from my iPhone
> David M Morens
> OD, NIAID, NIH
>
>> On Sep 25, 2021, at 21:03, Keusch, Gerald T < (b) (6) wrote:
>>
>> Thanks David,
>>
>> I will plan on doing that. I have a call with Richard Horton at noon to discuss whether the Lancet will appoint us a Working Group reporting directly to the Lancet. He was prepared to do that, extracted a promise from Jeff he wouldn't be out in the public space after he altered the Commission website, and asked up to develop a proposal. We did and listed all 12 of the task force members as the new Working Group. With the WSJ piece and other media vehicles picking up on it we are not inclined to give one inch and it will be all 12 of us or none of us. We are still holding our public voice silent, but the issue is not if but when, and then what we will say.
>>
>> What I want to talk to Tony about is the amendment to defund EHA in the defense appropriation bill passed by the House. I am sure staff were largely unaware. Just like I expect Richard Horton to stand on the side of scientific integrity so too must the NIH, and it is time for Francis Collins to set the record straight - Peter and EHA did nothing wrong, their science was important and helped the world prepare for the emergence of COVID rather than being responsible for it happening. I think Tony can speak to Francis - who probably won't be listening - but even more important to Biden, his senior staff, and to Eric Lander.
>>
>> Long story short is I can call Tony in the 1:30-2:30 time frame. If you can let him and his secretary know that would be great. Is that still Patty Conrad because she will most likely recognize my name.
>>
>> Jerry
>>
>> ----Original Message-----
>> From: David Morens < (b) (6) >
>> Sent: Saturday, September 25, 2021 4:08 PM
>> To: Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6)
>> Cc: Peter Daszak < (b) (6) >; Roberts, Rich
>> < (b) (6) Robert Kessler < (b) (6) >
>> Subject: Re: Urgent - Amendment to defund EcoHealth Alliance was
>> passed by the House last night and now moves to the Senate
>>
>> Jerry, i would call him on his land line at work on Monday. (b) (6) and his assistant Kim will answer. I can give her a heads up of who you are and that u will be calling.
>>
>> In a pinch i can give you his cell phone, but there is a sort of rule that us piss-ons shouldn't give it out. Although i sm sure he would be fine
>>
>> But as he is so swamped all the time, i think the land line call is best, so that he will know in advance that you are going to call. david
>>
>> Sent from my iPhone
>> David M Morens
>> OD, NIAID, NIH
>>

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REL0000481399

>>>> On Sep 25, 2021, at 15:59, Keusch, Gerald T < (b) (6) wrote:
>>>
>>> David. What's the best way for me to contact Tony. I don't know what he could achieve in trying to get Collins to do what is right here but he can have a lot of influence on Biden and Eric Lander. I will raise what our mutual mentor, Shelly Wolff, would have done - make it clear this is egregious and get the Govt to do what is right.
>>>
>>> Jerry
>>>
>>> Sent from my iPhone
>>>
>>>>> On Sep 25, 2021, at 11:50 AM, David Morens <(b) (6) > wrote:
>>>>
>>>> Peter, sorry for not replying earlier I was in a sort of urgent
>>>> situation and was tied up the whole past two days.
>>>>
>>>> First, it is hard to believe this passed or will be allowed to
>>>> stand, I suspect most Democrats and Republicans didn't even know
>>>> about it because some staffer sneaked it in. Also, and I dread
>>>> appearing charitable, I doubt even most Republicans would want this.
>>>>
>>>> beyond that, the law prevents me from doing anything about it other
>>>> than fume, so please accept my sympathetic fuming and hope that
>>>> this will die a rapid death. d
>>>>
>>>>
>>>> David M. Morens, MD
>>>> (b) (6)
>>>>(b) (6)

>>>>
>>>> (b) (6)
>>>> (b) (6) (work)
>>>> (b) (6) (cell)
>>>>
>>>> IMPORTANT: My gmail frequently sends incoming messages to Trash,
>>>> which is apparently not correctable. If you don't hear from me in
>>>> a reasonable time, please try again, call, or use my NIH email
>>>> address
>>>>
>>>> IMPORTANT: For US Government-related email, please also reply to
>>>> my NIAID address
>>>>
>>>>>> On Sat, Sep 25, 2021 at 9:30 AM Peter Daszak
>>>>>> < (b) (6) > wrote:
>>>>>
>>>>> Jerry – this is very good to hear. Yesterday was a very worrying day. If this amendment becomes law, we will have to lay off staff and basically close down. It penalizes us for something that we didn't do, without due process. It sets a terrible precedence for congress members ability to shut down a non-profit or a university's line of research based on rumor and hearsay. It's also based on a falsehood that there is any evidence that the virus came out of a lab, of course.
>>>>>
>>>>>

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MORENS_NIH_021457
REL0000481399

>>>>>
>>>>> There's a lot of drum-banging going on out there, and the attacks on us continue. We're trying to do the right thing by keeping quiet and not talking to the press, but this also means they have a field day at our expense when every rumor or hyped-up article comes out.
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>>>>> Cheers,
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>>>>> Peter
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>>>>>
>>>>> Peter 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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>>>>>

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>>>>> EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent
>>>>> pandemics and promote conservation
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>>>>>
>>>>> From: Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6)
>>>>> Sent: Friday, September 24, 2021 9:05 PM
>>>>> To: Peter Daszak < (b) (6) >; David Morens
>>>>> < (b) (6) Roberts, Rich < (b) (6)
>>>>> Cc: Robert Kessler < (b) (6) >
>>>>> Subject: RE: Urgent - Amendment to defund EcoHealth Alliance was
>>>>> passed by the House last night and now moves to the Senate
>>>>>
>>>>>
>>>>>
>>>>> I'm going to contact my congressional representative and senators, and Tony Fauci and Victor Dzau as well.
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>>>>>
>>>>> If Rich gets in touch with Harold that could help some, at least with Eric Lander who sits in the cabinet and has the ear of the White House leadership.
>>>>>
>>>>>
>>>>>
>>>>> Jerry
>>>>>
>>>>>
>>>>>
>>>>> Gerald T. Keusch, M.D.
>>>>>
>>>>> Professor of Medicine
>>>>>
>>>>> Associate Director
>>>>>
>>>>> National Emerging Infectious Diseases Laboratory
>>>>>
>>>>> Boston University, Boston MA 02118
>>>>>
>>>>>
>>>>>
>>>>> From: Peter Daszak < (b) (6) >
>>>>> Sent: Friday, September 24, 2021 1:31 PM
>>>>> To: David Morens < (b) (6) >; Keusch, Gerald T
>>>>> < (b) (6) Roberts, Rich < (b) (6)
>>>>> Cc: Robert Kessler < (b) (6) >
>>>>> Subject: FW: Urgent - Amendment to defund EcoHealth Alliance was
>>>>> passed by the House last night and now moves to the Senate
>>>>> Importance: High
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>>>>>
>>>>> Dear Robert, David, and Jerry,

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>>>>>
>>>>> Sorry to send this, but please read the email below and you'll see that a bill filed by a Republican congressman from PA then became a single line amendment attached to the Defense Appropriations bill, and actually passed the House last night.
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>>>>>
>>>>> We're very worried here because we rely on Federal funding and this puts our organization in great threat. Any advice is welcome. We're reaching out to Senators Gillibrand and Schumer, but I'm really worried that if they are too busy to get involved for a small non-profit with no political clout, we'll be drummed out of business.
>>>>>
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>>>>>
>>>>> If you have colleagues who know how to deal with this sort of issue, and are willing to help, we would be extremely grateful for any advice, suggestions and support. I realize you've all spent social and political capital helping our organization since we were first targeted by Pres. Trump, but this is truly an existential threat to us, considering 80-90% of our budget is from federal grants and contracts.
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>>>>> Cheers,
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>>>>>
>>>>> Peter
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>>>>> Peter Daszak
>>>>>
>>>>> President
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>>>>>
>>>>> EcoHealth Alliance
>>>>>
>>>>> 520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
>>>>>
>>>>> New York, NY 10018-6507
>>>>>

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>>>>> USA
>>>>>
>>>>> Tel.: + (b) (6)
>>>>>
>>>>> Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
>>>>>
>>>>> Twitter: @PeterDaszak
>>>>>
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>>>>>
>>>>> EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent
>>>>> pandemics and promote conservation
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>>>>> From: Peter Daszak < (b) (6) >
>>>>> Sent: Friday, September 24, 2021 1:11 PM
>>>>> To: 'Jamison, Brooke (Gillibrand)'
>>>>> < (b) (6) >; 'Ruiz, Gilbert (Gillibrand)'
>>>>> < (b) (6) >
>>>>> Cc: Aleksei Chmura < (b) (6) >; Robert Kessler
>>>>> < (b) (6) >; Jeff Sturchio
>>>>> (b) (6) <(b) (6)
>>>>> Subject: Urgent - Amendment to defund EcoHealth Alliance was
>>>>> passed by the House last night and now moves to the Senate
>>>>> Importance: High
>>>>>
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>>>>>
>>>>> Dear Jamison and Gilbert,
>>>>>
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>>>>>
>>>>> You were kind enough to talk with us a couple of months ago about attacks on our New York City-based 501c3 non-profit from the hard right wing regarding the work we've done in the past trying to protect us from new emerging diseases coming out of China and other hotspots. As you remember, this work was largely funded by NIH, DoD and USAID and has become a target for Republican-led attacks on the Biden administration.
>>>>>
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>>>>>
>>>>> We're very concerned that one of the House Republicans, Congressman Reschenthaler, filed a bill titled HR591 "Defund EcoHealth Alliance Bill" in Jan. 2021 and managed to get this attached as Amendment 148 to the National Defense Authorization Act (HR 4350). The five other co-sponsors are all Republicans: Van Drew, Perry, Harshbarger, Keller, and Budd: https://rules.house.gov/bill/117/hr- 4350. The House passed the NDAA last night (https://armedservices.house.gov/ndaa) and unfortunately this Amendment is now progressing with it.
>>>>>
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>>>>>
>>>>> EcoHealth Alliance is a non-profit based in Midtown Manhattan that employs around 50 people whose jobs depend on the funding we receive each year. If this amendment continues forwards, we stand to all lose our jobs and close down the organization. This amendment is based on a false premise that our organization

acted wrongly and was involved in the origin of the COVID pandemic. In fact it's the opposite, we worked with federal approval to help protect US citizens against this and other pandemic risks. If passed, it would penalize an organization doing public good, without any due process or consideration of the facts. Also of great concern is that this amendment would set a precedent that any single member of Congress can specifically block funding to an organization or institution through a simple amendment, bypassing all political norms.
>>>>>
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>>>>>
>>>>> We are urgently hoping that you will be able to make Sen. Gillibrand aware of our issue and move to strike out this amendment at the first possible opportunity. We are at this point very worried for our staff, and our work around the world protecting the US against the next pandemic.
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>>>>> Yours sincerely,
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>>>>> Peter
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>>>>> Peter 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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>>>>>
>>>>> EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent
>>>>> pandemics and promote conservation
>>>>>
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>>>>> From: Peter Daszak < (b) (6) >
>>>>> Sent: Thursday, July 15, 2021 10:46 AM
>>>>> To: Jamison, Brooke (Gillibrand)
>>>>> < (b) (6) >; Ruiz, Gilbert (Gillibrand)
>>>>> <(b) (6) >
>>>>> Cc: Dennis Carroll < (b) (6) >; Aleksei Chmura
>>>>> < (b) (6) >; Robert Kessler
>>>>> < (b) (6) >
>>>>> Subject: RE: Concerns about political attacks on EcoHealth Alliance around COVID origins.
>>>>>
>>>>>
>>>>>
>>>>> That would be perfect. It'll be me, our chief of staff Aleksei Chmura, and our Communications Director Robert Kessler.
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>>>>> Thanks for making time!
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>>>>> Cheers,
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>>>>> Peter Daszak
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>>>>> President
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>>>>>
>>>>> EcoHealth Alliance
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>>>>> 520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
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>>>>> New York, NY 10018-6507
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>>>>> USA
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>>>>> Tel.: + (b) (6)
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>>>>> Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
>>>>>
>>>>> Twitter: @PeterDaszak
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>>>>>
>>>>> EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent
>>>>> pandemics and promote conservation
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>>>>> From: Jamison, Brooke (Gillibrand)
>>>>> < (b) (6) >
>>>>> Sent: Thursday, July 15, 2021 8:42 AM
>>>>> To: Peter Daszak < (b) (6) >; Ruiz, Gilbert
>>>>> (Gillibrand) < (b) (6) >
>>>>> Cc: Dennis Carroll < (b) (6) >; Aleksei Chmura
>>>>> < (b) (6) >; Robert Kessler
>>>>> < (b) (6) >
>>>>> Subject: RE: Concerns about political attacks on EcoHealth Alliance around COVID origins.
>>>>>
>>>>>
>>>>>
>>>>> Happy to chat. Would Monday at 2:30pm over zoom work for you all?
>>>>>
>>>>>
>>>>>
>>>>> From: Peter Daszak < (b) (6) >
>>>>> Sent: Wednesday, July 14, 2021 3:38 PM
>>>>> To: Jamison, Brooke (Gillibrand)
>>>>> < (b) (6) >
>>>>> Cc: Dennis Carroll < (b) (6) >; Aleksei Chmura
>>>>> < (b) (6) >; Robert Kessler
>>>>> < (b) (6) >
>>>>> Subject: Concerns about political attacks on EcoHealth Alliance around COVID origins.
>>>>> Importance: High
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>>>>>
>>>>> Dear Brooke,
>>>>>

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>>>>>
>>>>>
>>>>> I hope you don't mind me contacting you directly – I was given your email address by my colleague Dennis Carroll.
>>>>>
>>>>>
>>>>>
>>>>> As you may know, I'm the President of EcoHealth Alliance, based here in NYC, and also Chair of the NASEM Forum on Microbial Threats and member of the National Academy of Medicine. I mentioned the latter, because I received a very kind letter from Senator Gillibrand when I was voted onto the NAM a couple of years ago – it's now framed on my wall!
>>>>>
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>>>>>
>>>>> You may have heard our organization's name (EcoHealth Alliance) and mine being mentioned in the press recently in the general discussion of identifying the origins of COVID-19. For the last 17 years, we've worked closely with colleagues in China to get ahead of emerging viruses, including by collaborating with their premier virologists at the Wuhan Institute of Virology. Unfortunately, this work has become a very public target politically following over a year of conspiracy theories online that have now gone mainstream about the possibility COVID emerged as a leak from a biosafety laboratory in Wuhan. This was amplified a few weeks ago with testimony by Dr. Fauci and the release of FoIA'd emails that have put our organization in the cross-hairs of efforts to attack the current administration. This includes proposals by some minority members for bills that would significant harm our international work to prevent pandemics, as well as directly defund our organization.
>>>>>
>>>>>
>>>>>
>>>>> I've attached a letter in Lancet that came out last week that helps provide some context of the way this issue is being viewed by serious scientists, but as you can imagine we're worried about the impact on work that we believe is critical to preventing future pandemics. I wondered if you would be interested in my giving you a short briefing on this issue, to explain in more detail what the evidence behind these theories is, and to get your take on the political issues we are concerned about?
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>>>>> Cheers,
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>>>>> Peter
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>>>>> Peter Daszak
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>>>>> President
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>>>>> EcoHealth Alliance
>>>>>
>>>>> 520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
>>>>>
>>>>> New York, NY 10018-6507
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>>>>> USA
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>>>>> Tel.: + (b) (6)
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>>>>> Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
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>>>>> Twitter: @PeterDaszak
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>>>>> EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent
>>>>> pandemics and promote conservation
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>>>>> Disclaimer
>>>>>
>>>>> The information contained in this communication from the sender is confidential. It is intended solely for use by the recipient and others authorized to receive it. If you are not the recipient, you are hereby notified that any disclosure, copying, distribution or taking action in relation of the contents of this information is strictly prohibited and may be unlawful.
>>>>>
>>>>> This email has been scanned for viruses and malware, and may have been automatically archived by Mimecast, a leader in email security and cyber resilience. Mimecast integrates email defenses with brand protection, security awareness training, web security, compliance and other essential capabilities. Mimecast helps protect large and small organizations from malicious activity, human error and technology failure; and to lead the movement toward building a more resilient world. To find out more, visit our website.
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>>>>> Disclaimer
>>>>>
>>>>> The information contained in this communication from the sender is confidential. It is intended solely for use by the recipient and others authorized to receive it. If you are not the recipient, you are hereby notified that any disclosure, copying, distribution or taking action in relation of the contents of this information is strictly prohibited and may be unlawful.
>>>>>
>>>>> This email has been scanned for viruses and malware, and may have been automatically archived by Mimecast, a leader in email security and cyber resilience. Mimecast integrates email defenses with brand

protection, security awareness training, web security, compliance and other essential capabilities. Mimecast helps protect large and small organizations from malicious activity, human error and technology failure; and to lead the movement toward building a more resilient world. To find out more, visit our website.
>>>>>
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>>>>> Disclaimer
>>>>>
>>>>> The information contained in this communication from the sender is confidential. It is intended solely for use by the recipient and others authorized to receive it. If you are not the recipient, you are hereby notified that any disclosure, copying, distribution or taking action in relation of the contents of this information is strictly prohibited and may be unlawful.
>>>>>
>>>>> This email has been scanned for viruses and malware, and may have been automatically archived by Mimecast, a leader in email security and cyber resilience. Mimecast integrates email defenses with brand protection, security awareness training, web security, compliance and other essential capabilities. Mimecast helps protect large and small organizations from malicious activity, human error and technology failure; and to lead the movement toward building a more resilient world. To find out more, visit our website.

Date: Fri, 10 Sep 2021 8:43:10 AM -0400
Sent: Fri, 10 Sep 2021 8:43:03 AM -0400
Subject: RE: Nasty piece in the Intercept
From: Jeffrey Sturchio < (b) (6)
To: Peter Daszak < (b) (6) >; David Morens <(b) (6) >; Keusch, Gerald T < (b) (6) Robert Kessler < (b) (6) >; Aleksei Chmura < (b) (6) >;
Attachments: image001.jpg; image003.jpg; image004.jpg; image005.jpg; image006.jpg; image007.jpg; image008.jpg; image009.jpg; image010.jpg; image011.jpg; image012.jpg

Peter: Both the headline and the lead sentence in the *Intercept* article are sensational and false – as would be clear if the reporters had bothered to check the NIH definition of GoF. A more accurate headline would be "NIH Documents Provide New Evidence US Did Not Fund Gain-of-Function Research in Wuhan"! The reporters include statements by Rasmussen, Deatrick, and Kessler that show clearly what the Wuhan researchers found – and that it did not meet the criteria for GoF research, yet they chose to structure the article to give greater weight to the opinions of other scientists that the research was risky.

Moreover, the reporters buried the lead in their third paragraph: "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." So the headline should have been "NIH Documents Provide New Evidence that US-funded Research in Wuhan Did Not Cause COVID-19 Pandemic."

As Daniel Moynihan once famously observed in another context, they may be entitled to their own opinions (in this case on what constitutes risky research and adequate biosafety monitoring), but they're not entitled to their own facts. The facts are, as you point out below, that the Wuhan research did not meet the criteria for GoF research, that the NIH reviewed the interim findings reported by EHA and came to this conclusion, and that most of the contrary opinions quoted by scientists in this article are just that – opinions that are irrelevant to the underlying question at issue about whether the Wuhan work met the criteria for GoF research.

Best regards,
Jeff

From: Peter Daszak < (b) (6)
Sent: Friday, September 10, 2021 1:28 AM
To: David Morens < (b) (6) Keusch, Gerald T < (b) (6) Robert Kessler <(b) (6) >; Aleksei Chmura < (b) (6) >
Cc: Jeff Sturchio < (b) (6)
Subject: Nasty piece in the Intercept
Importance: High

This story is disappointing reading as Robert forewarned us yesterday. Intercept has interviewed 11 scientists about the work FoIA'd and 8 said it was Gain of function and risky, even though none said it was likely origin of COVID. One of those saying it was GoF was Vincent Racaniello, which is a huge disappointment to be honest. Here's the link:
https://theintercept.com/2021/09/09/covid- origins-gain-of-function-research/

Angela Rasmussen was one of the people who spoke out in defense that this work was not GoF, pointing out correctly 3 things:

These viruses do not meet the definition of gain of function, which is currently defined as per the P3CO rules, and with NIH as the agency of note to check if a proposal meets that definition. Here it is (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

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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

Angela's point is that these viruses can't possibly meet definition because they haven't even been reported from people, or shown to transmit from one mouse to another, so it's a huge stretch to assume they would be "likely highly transmissible and likely capable of wide and uncontrollable spread in human populations"

From the quotes, the 8 scientists seem to believe that because one of the chimeras grew faster than the parental strain early on, it therefore 'gained function' and therefore the expt. was a GoF expt. Actually, in addition to the above ruling this out as GoF, if you look at the figure lower in the story, the higher viral load was in the first 2-4 days, with the parental strain (WIV-1) catching up in viral load later on.

The GoF rules were designed for manipulation of a human pathogen known able to cause illness in a way that runs the risk of it becoming more transmissible (per above). However, what people are forgetting here is that this is the insertion of a spike protein from one bat virus into another bat virus. Any increased virulence would have been due to picking up phenotypic traits from a virus that already existed, not due to the creation of a novel phenotype.

Of course, all this is just complicated and 'sciencey', and all the public needs to see is 1) frankenviruses and 2) some good scientists believe it was dangerous. Very disappointing.

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

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purpose.

Grant money for the controversial experiment came from the National Institutes of Health's National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, which is headed by Anthony Fauci. The award to EcoHealth Alliance, a research organization which studies the spread of viruses from animals to humans, included subawards to Wuhan Institute of Virology and East China Normal University. The principal investigator on the grant is EcoHealth Alliance President Peter Daszak, who has been a key voice in the search for Covid-19's origins.

Scientists unanimously told The Intercept that the experiment, which involved infecting genetically engineered mice with "chimeric" hybrid viruses, could not have directly sparked the pandemic. None of the viruses listed in the write-ups of the experiment are related to the virus that causes Covid-19, SARS-CoV-2, closely enough to have evolved into it. Still, several scientists said the new information, which the NIH released after it was sued by The Intercept, points to biosafety concerns, highlighting a general lack of oversight for research on pathogens and raising questions about what other information has not been publicly disclosed.

"As a virologist, I personally think creating chimeras of SARS-related bat coronaviruses that are thought to pose high risk to humans entails unacceptable risks," said Jesse Bloom, who studies the evolution of viruses at the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center. Severe acute respiratory syndrome, or SARS, is a disease caused, like Covid-19, by an airborne coronavirus.



National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases Director Anthony Fauci listens during a briefing on the coronavirus pandemic at the White House on March 26, 2020 in Washington, DC.

Photo: Drew Angerer/Getty Images

The experiment also raises questions about assertions from Fauci and NIH Director Francis Collins that NIH-funded projects at the Wuhan Institute of Virology did not involve gain-of-function research. In May, Fauci testified before Congress: "The NIH has not ever and does not now fund gain-of-function research in the Wuhan Institute of Virology." The documents do not establish whether Fauci was directly aware of the work.

Scientists working under a 2014 NIH grant to the EcoHealth Alliance to study bat coronaviruses combined the genetic material from a "parent" coronavirus known as

WIV1 with other viruses. They twice submitted summaries of their work that showed that, when in the lungs of genetically engineered mice, three altered bat coronaviruses at times reproduced far more quickly than the original virus on which they were based. The altered viruses were also somewhat more pathogenic, with one causing the mice to lose significant weight. The researchers reported, "These results demonstrate varying pathogenicity of SARSr-CoVs with different spike proteins in humanized mice."

But the terms of the grant clearly stipulated that the funding could not be used for gain-of-function experiments. The grant conditions also required the researchers to immediately report potentially dangerous results and stop their experiments pending further NIH review. According to both the EcoHealth Alliance and NIH, the results were reported to the agency, but NIH determined that rules designed to restrict gain-of-function research did not apply.

The Intercept consulted 11 scientists who are virologists or work in adjacent fields and hold a range of views on both the ethics of gain-of-function research and the Covid-19 origins search. Seven said that the work appears to meet NIH's criteria for gain-of-function research.

One said that the experiment "absolutely does not meet the bar" for gain-of-function research. "You can't predict that these viruses would be more pathogenic, or even pathogenic at all in people," said Angela Rasmussen, a virologist with the Vaccine and Infectious Disease Organization at the University of Saskatchewan. "They also did not study transmissibility at all in these experiments," meaning that the scientists did not look at whether the viruses could spread across a population.

Three experts said that, while they did not have enough knowledge of U.S. policies to comment on whether the research met NIH criteria, the experiment involving humanized mice was unnecessarily risky.

One virologist, Vincent Racaniello, a professor of microbiology and immunology at Columbia University, said while he considered the mouse experiment described in the document to clearly fall into the gain-of-function category, he didn't see it as problematic. "You can do some kinds of gain-of-function research that then has unforeseen consequences and may be a problem, but that's not the case here," said Racaniello.

Robert Kessler, communications manager for EcoHealth Alliance, denied that the work on the humanized mice met the definition of gain-of-function research. Kessler insisted that bat viruses are not potential pandemic pathogens because, he said, "a bat virus is not known to be able to infect humans." The proposal justified the work on WIV1 by explaining that it is "not a select agent" — referring to a list of closely monitored toxins

and biological agents that have the potential to pose a severe threat to public health — and "has not been shown to cause human infections, and has not been shown to be transmissible between humans."

But the group's bat coronavirus research was focused on the very threat that bat viruses pose to people. Kessler did acknowledge that, while the original bat coronavirus in the experiment did not spread among humans, the research was designed to gauge how bat coronaviruses could evolve to infect humans.

All but two of the scientists consulted agreed that, whatever title it is given, the newly public experiment raised serious concerns about the safety and oversight of federally funded research. "In my point of view, the debate about the definition of 'gain-of-function' has been too much focused on technical aspects," said Jacques van Helden, a professor of bioinformatics at Aix-Marseille Université. "The real question is whether or not research has the potential to create or facilitate the selection of viruses that might infect humans." The experiments described in the proposal clearly do have that potential, he said.

NIH spokesperson Elizabeth Deatrick said that the agency had considered the research — and decided not to restrict it under its own rules. "In 2016, NIAID determined that the work was not subject to the Gain-of-Function (GoF) research funding pause and the subsequent HHS P3CO Framework," Deatrick wrote, referring to criteria put in place in 2017 to guide the agency's funding decisions about research that involves, or is reasonably anticipated to involve, potential pandemic pathogens.

Republican members of Congress have alleged, without sufficient evidence, that gain-of-function research in Wuhan sparked the coronavirus pandemic. As part of an inquiry into the origins of the pandemic, they have twice grilled Fauci in Congress on his role as NIAID director.

In a heated exchange in July, Republican Sen. Rand Paul accused Fauci of lying when he claimed that NIH did not fund gain-of-function research at the Wuhan Institute of Virology.

Experts now say that the documents support the contention that NIH funded gain-of-function work, though not in the specific instance where Paul alleged it. "There's no question," said Racaniello, of Columbia University, who pointed to the decreased weight of the mice infected with the chimeric viruses that was described in the research summaries sent to NIH. "From the weight loss, it's gain of function. Tony Fauci is wrong saying it's not."

But the documents do not prove Paul's claim that Fauci was lying, as they do not make clear whether Fauci read them. Nor do they in any way support Paul's allegation that

Fauci was "responsible for 4 million people around the world dying of a pandemic" — or that anyone intentionally caused Covid-19. What is clear is that program officers at NIAID, the agency that Fauci oversees, did know about the research.

A paragraph describing the research, as well as two figures illustrating its results, were included in both a 2018 progress report on the bat coronavirus grant and an application for its 2019 renewal. And NIH confirmed that it reviewed them.

"NIH has never approved any research that would make a coronavirus more 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.

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

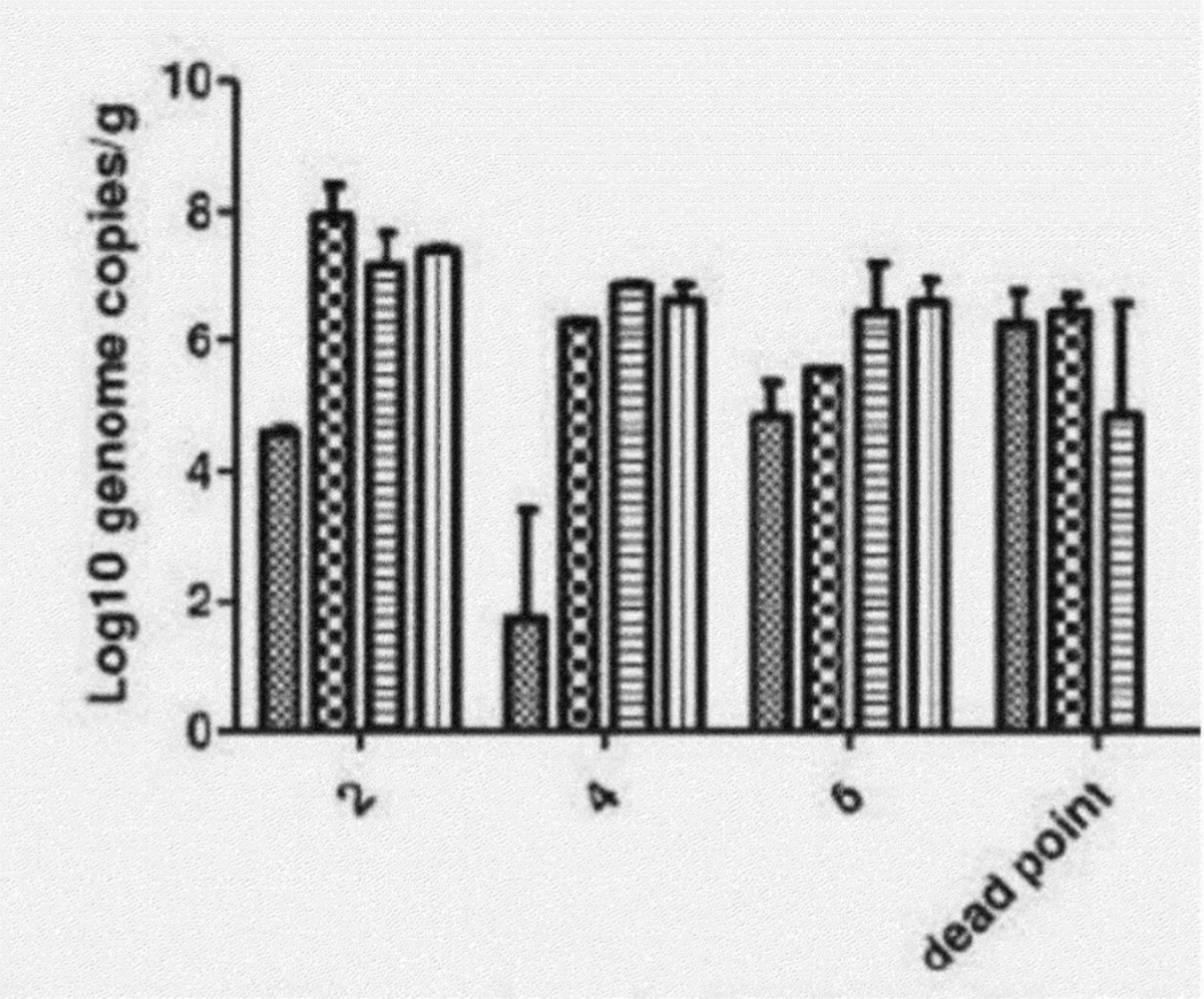
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chimeric viruses. Research published in 2017 in the journal PLOS Pathogen showed that, in cells in a laboratory, similar chimeric viruses reproduced less effectively than the original. NIH cited that research as one of the reasons the moratorium on 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

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

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From: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >
Sent: Thursday, September 9, 2021 4:58 PM
To: 'David Morens(b) (6) >; 'Keusch, Gerald T' (b) (6) 'Robert Kessler ((b) (6))' <(b) (6) >; 'Aleksei Chmura ((b) (6))' (b) (6)
Cc: 'Jeff Sturchio (b) (6))' (b) (6)
Subject: RE: New line of attack today as expected, based on higher viral load in mouse lungs etc..

..and let's not forget that the virus with 10,000x viral load in mice, was actually 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!

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Cheers,

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

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From: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >
Sent: Thursday, September 9, 2021 4:49 PM
To: 'David Morens (b)(6) <(b) (6) 'Keusch, Gerald T' <(b) (6) >; 'Robert Kessler ((b) (6))' <(b) (6) >; 'Aleksei Chmura(b) (6) <(b) (6) >
Cc: Jeff Sturchio (b)
Subject: New line of attack today as expected, based on higher viral load in mouse lungs etc..

Note – cc'ing Jeff Sturchio, who's working with us at EHA.

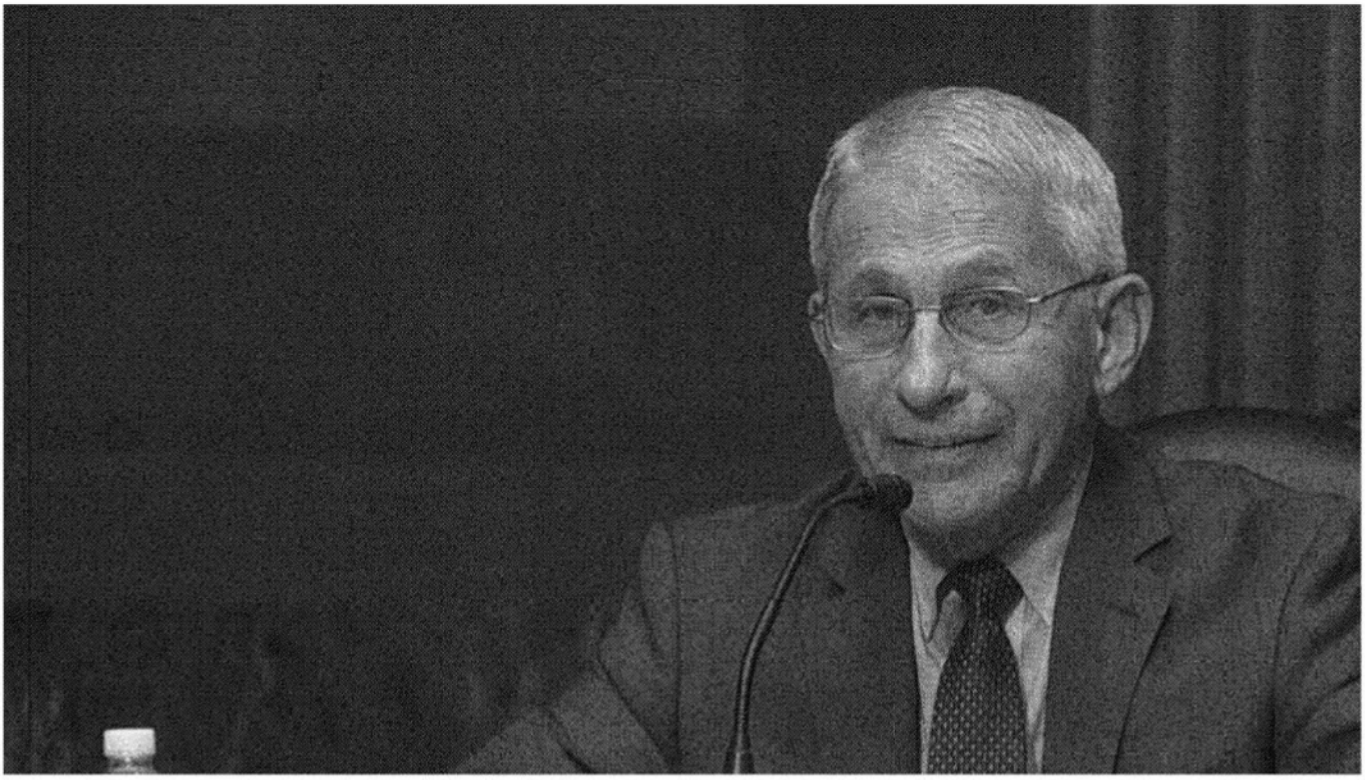
Here's a report in the Daily Caller that goes after the GoF argument that the chimeric bat viruses yielded more virus in humanized mice than the parental bat virus strain. Good response from NIH spokesperson: An NIH spokesperson told the DCNF the agency "never approved any research that would make a coronavirus more dangerous to humans." "The research we supported in China, where coronaviruses are prevalent, sought to understand the behavior of coronaviruses circulating in bats that have the potential to cause widespread disease," the spokesperson said. "The body of science produced by this research demonstrates that the bat coronavirus sequences published from that work NIH supported were not SARS-CoV-2. More importantly, because of similar research to understand coronaviruses, we were able to move swiftly to develop vaccines against SARS-CoV-2 and save lives."'

The other important thing for NIH spokespeople to say is that P3CO rules are for pathogens that occur in humans and might be made more dangerous. These were bat viruses that have never been shown to occur in humans.

https://dailycaller.com/2021/09/09/ecohealth- alliance-gain-of-function-higher-viral-load-anthony-fauci/

INVESTIGATIVE GROUP
Fauci-Funded Wuhan Lab Viruses Exhibited Over 10,000 Times Higher Viral Load Than Natural Strain, Documents Show

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DAILY CALLER NEWS FOUNDATION

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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

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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.

B.2 (Year 4 NIAID CoV Report_Final for eRA Commons.pdf)

1R01AI110964 Year 4 Report PI: Das

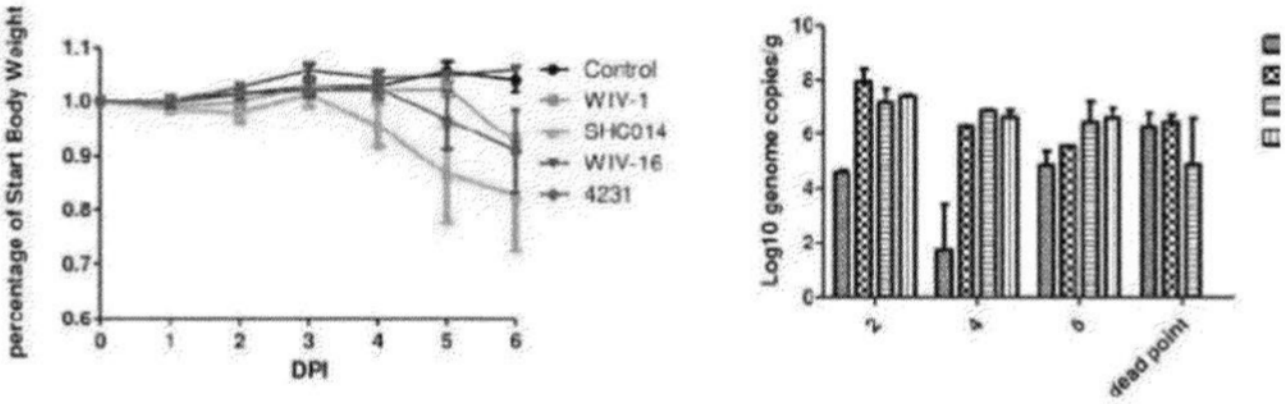


Figure 35. *In vivo infection of SARSr-CoVs in hACE2-expressing mice. (a, left) Body weight c infection; (b, right) Viral load in lung tissues*

Charts submitted by EcoHealth Alliance to the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases showing loss of body weight (right) and viral load (left) of mice with humanized cells infected with the natural WIV1 viral strain and three EcoHealth lab-created virus strains. The viral load chart is presented in Log scale, meaning each tick of the graph represents a 100-fold increase in viral load, Rutgers University professor Richard Ebright explained to the DCNF. (Screenshot)
"Each tick in the chart on the right represents an increment of 100x," Ebright told the DCNF. "The day 4 data show greater-than-10,000x higher viral loads for the lab-generated viruses."
The viral load for humanized mice infected with the natural virus caught up with the lab-created strains by the end of the experiment, the chart shows, but Ebright said that viral loads in the early stages of an infection are important figures to consider when assessing a pathogen's transmissibility.
"In terms of assessing potential for transmissibility, the viral load at all time points, particularly at early time points, is relevant. (See Delta variant)," Ebright told the DCNF.
EcoHealth Alliance provided another chart in its progress report showing that humanized mice infected with EcoHealth's lab-created viruses lost more bodyweight than humanized mice infected with the natural WIV1 strain.
EcoHealth Alliance included the same two charts in a 2018 request to the NIAID requesting additional funding for its research in China, the document trove released by The Intercept shows.
Federal funding for gain-of-function experiments that increase the transmissibility or pathogenicity of potential pandemic

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pathogens was temporarily suspended in 2014 due to widespread scientific concerns it risked leaking supercharged viruses into the human population.

Funding for gain-of-function research was resumed in late 2017, but only for projects that went through the new Potential Pandemic Pathogens Control and Oversight (P3CO) Framework, which includes a review by an HHS review board tasked with critically evaluating whether grants that involve enhancing dangerous pathogens, such as coronaviruses, are worth the risks and that proper safeguards are in place.

The NIAID opted not to flag the EcoHealth Alliance grant for P3CO after determining on its own accord that the project "did not involve the enhancement of the pathogenicity or transmissibility of the viruses studied," a National Institutes of Health spokesperson previously told the DCNF. **(RELATED: US Grant To Wuhan Lab To Enhance Bat-Based Coronaviruses Was Never Scrutinized By HHS Review Board, NIH Says)**

Fauci said during a congressional hearing in May that the NIH and NIAID "categorically has not funded gain-of-function research to be conducted at the Wuhan Institute of Virology," a claim that led Republican Sen. Rand Paul of Kentucky in July to send a criminal referral to the Department of Justice to investigate whether Fauci lied before Congress.

The P3CO framework defines an "enhanced" potential pandemic pathogen as any lab-created virus that exhibits any level of boosted transmissibility and/or virulence. Funding agencies such as the NIAID are required to flag any research grant that is "reasonably anticipated to create, transfer, or use enhanced PPPs" for P3CO review.

Despite this, documents released by The Intercept suggest that the NIAID authorized EcoHealth Alliance to conduct gain-of-function experiments on bat coronaviruses up to a certain threshold.

The NIAID informed EcoHealth Alliance in a June 2018 award notice that it must notify the agency only if it creates a virus "with enhanced growth by more than [10 times] compared to wild type strains," according to documents released by The Intercept. The NIAID linked to the P3CO review process, which contains no such mention of a 10 times allowance, in the very next sentence, the document shows.

SECTION IV – AI Special Terms and Conditions – 5R01AI110964-05

Clinical Trial Indicator: No
This award does not support any NIH-defined Clinical Trials. See the NIH Grants Policy Stat
Section 1.2 for NIH definition of Clinical Trial.

Page-5

NIH NGA 8.1 Version: 1 - 01/16/2018 12:52:00 Generated on: 6/18/2018 12:02:35 AM

If any experiments proposed in this award result in a virus with enhanced growth by more t log compared to wild type strains, you must notify your NIAID Program Officer and Grants Management Specialist immediately. Further research involving the resulting virus(es) may require review by the Department of Health and Human Services in accordance with the Framework for Guiding Funding Decisions about Proposed Research Involving Enhanced Potential Pandemic Pathogens (https://www.phe.gov/s3/dualuse/Documents/P3CO.pdf).

NIAID notice to EcoHealth Alliance in June 2018 saying it must notify the agency only if it produces a lab virus that exhibits more than 10 times enhancement over wild-type strains. (Screenshot)

An NIH spokesperson told the DCNF the agency "never approved any research that would make a coronavirus more dangerous to humans."

"The research we supported in China, where coronaviruses are prevalent, sought to understand the behavior of coronaviruses

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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,

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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: Wednesday, September 8, 2021 4:07 PM
To: 'David Morens(b) (6) Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6) 'Robert Kessler (b) (6) <(b) (6) >; 'Aleksei Chmura ((b) (6))' < (b) (6)
Subject: More incoming expected tonight from the Intercept
Importance: High

David – I hope you saw my email response to Kristian Andersen (below). We're expecting a story tonight from the Intercept that accuses EHA of breaking the rules with our work in Wuhan re. GoF, and in general.

Their main angle is the GoF issue. They're maintaining that our expts on bat-CoVs were GoF, despite us stating that these are not viruses that have ever been shown to infect people, something required in the P3CO definitions. They're also following Ebright's focus on one of expts in WIV that shows a chimera with a bat SARSr-CoV spike insert leading to higher viral load in mouse lungs than the parental strain (WIV1 – it's fig. 35 in the year 4 report, aim 3, p. 29 – attached). Again that doesn't mean GoF because these are both bat viruses. Furthermore, the NoA states that we should report 1 log or higher growth to NIH and stop the expt. Our view is that this is exactly what we did – we reported to NIH and that's the report that the Intercept has now FoIA'd. It's all somewhat moot in any case because at least two of the other viruses who's spikes were inserted, have also been cultured and therefore none of the chimeras are of higher risk than those parental strains.

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They might also try to accuse us of breaking the agreement on releasing genetic data publicly, which we suggested we'd do 6 months after receiving 'final sequences' or upon publishing. Jesse Bloom emailed me to ask for these data and is clearly trying to catch us out. However, we published all SARSr-CoV genetic sequence data on Genbank prior to our publication in Nature Comms last year. There are many reasons why other results may not be able to be released as rapidly as we would like, given the pandemic and rapid breakdown in communication with colleagues in Wuhan, but of course, that won't stop these folks trying to cause problems and get a story out.

Hope you're able to brief folks who need to know that 1) we're aware of these accusations; 2) we won't be speaking in detail to the press about them; 3) we will be giving very short statements if we have to that clearly push back in the way I've outlined above, via our EHA spokesperson – Robert Kessler. We believe the story tonight might be a bit more aggressive than yesterday, but for anyone who understands this work, it does not prove GoF.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

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Twitter: @PeterDaszak

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

---

From: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >
Sent: Wednesday, September 8, 2021 3:48 PM
To: 'Kristian G. Andersen (b) (6) >
Cc: 'David Morens' (b) (6) >; 'Garry, Robert F' (b) (6) >; 'Edward Holmes' <(b) (6) >; 'Jason Gale' <j.gale@bloomberg.net >; 'Rasmussen, Angie' (b) (6) Robert Kessler (b) (6) 'Stephen Goldstein' (b) (6) u >
Subject: RE: The Intercept report on coronavirus research at Chinese labs

Great to see your email Kristian – right on every point. The isolate vs. sequence vs. sample misnomer is something that really has plagued me with this stuff – Zhengli's group repeatedly used 'isolate' for 'sample' on Genbank and I've made that mistake here also.

Re. the MERS work, you're dead right – we proposed it, explained that it would likely need review by the P3CO committee equivalent, and then pushed it to Yr4. In the end we didn't do this work – there was already a ton of other more interesting work directly on SARSr-CoVs to do.

The latest line of attack that will be coming out in a follow-up article in the *Intercept* tonight is that in the Y4 report, we show one of the chimeras having more than a log virus output than the parent strain (WIV- 1). The NoA was updated in Y3 to say that if this

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happened we had to report to NIH and cease expts. Ironically, the way *Intercept* found this out is because they now have a copy of our "report to NIH" in which we show this, but of course that's not going to stop them saying we broke the rules on GoF.

The other line of attack is the one Jesse Bloom's pursuing – that we didn't publish sequence data within 6 months of the "final version being received" as per our proposal. Jesse sneakily suggested this in an email to me last night in which he asked for the sequences so he can do SARS-CoV-2 origin analyses, while at the same time tweeting an accusation that we broke the rules in a chain with Alina Chan and the "Seeker". I'm not sure whether to respond at all, but I might just let him know that all SARSr-CoV sequences we had are already published in our 2020 paper in Nat. Comm. Again – the problem with these accusations is that just being accused of this by the press causes us seven levels of hell, and arguing back is even worse.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

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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) ; 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

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mistake before). So again, there's nothing.

This absence of evidence is *in fact* evidence of absence in this particular case - there would have been *some* evidence for SARS-CoV-2 in *some* of these documents had it been at the WIV. Yet, nothing.

As for GOF work, again nothing. I note the mention of work with recombinant MERS in the year 3 report for work proposed in year 4 - depending on the nature of work, that could be considered GOF/DURC. However, when reading the year 4 report, I don't see any of that work mentioned - just work with pseudotyped viruses, which is clearly not GOF (or DURC).

Of course, people will take stuff out of context to make *anything* fit a particular narrative. However, there's an expiration date on bullshit and I suspect we're well past due.

K

On Tue, Sep 7, 2021 at 6:28 PM Peter Daszak < (b) > wrote:

> Here's one of the "journalists" who got the "Scoop". Basically they just FoIA'd NIH, then sued when NIH refused to release, then dumped the documents online and asked for "people with relevant expertise to get in touch". Cue Drs. Ebright, Relman, Chan, Bloom and others to start their attempt at a character assassination…
>
> **Mara Hvistendahl**
> @MaraHvistendahl
>
> .
> 15h
> NEW: We obtained hundreds of pages from NIH detailing EcoHealth Alliance's work with the Wuhan Institute of Virology. We are publishing them in full. With
> @fastlerner and @theintercept legal team, which filed a FOIA lawsuit for the documents' release

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New Details Emerge About Coronavirus Research at Chinese Lab
More than 900 pages of materials related to US.-funded coronavirus research in China were released following a FOIA lawsuit by The Intercept.
theintercept.com



Mara Hvistendahl
@MaraHvistendahl

.

15h The full documents are here: “Understanding the Risk of Bat Coronavirus Emergence”
https://documentcloud.org/documents/21055989- understanding-risk-bat-coronavirus-emergence-grant-notice…
"Understanding Risk of Zoonotic Virus Emergence in Emerging Infectious Disease Hotspots of Southeast Asia"
https://documentcloud.org/documents/21055988- risk-zoonotic-virus-hotspots-grant-notice…



Mara Hvistendahl
@MaraHvistendahl

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MORENS_NIH_043539
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.

7h

There is a lot here. @fastlerner and I are interested in hearing feedback from people with relevant expertise.

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, 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.

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Jesse Bloom's now trying to claim we weren't following our proposed rules for data release (not true – all SARSr-CoV RdRp sequences on Genbank in summer 2020, despite the grant being terminated) – he's tagging Alina Chan and 'The Seeker' on Twitter. Ebright's trying to claim we were working on MERS as a 'shadow' line of work. There'll be more to come – just a free-for-all effort to find a few sentences that they can take out of context.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

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

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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: Jason Gale <(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

MORENS_SUBPOENA_022551
MORENS_NIH_043541
REL0000481400

To: Edward Holmes (b) (6) >
Cc: Jason Gale <j.gale@bloomberg.net>; (b) (6) <(b) (6)
(b) (6) <(b) (6) >(b) (6) (b) (6) gov
>; (b) (6) (b) (6) >; Garry, Robert F(b) (6) ;
(b) (6) <(b) (6) >
Subject: Re: The Intercept report on coronavirus research at Chinese labs

External Sender. Be aware of links, attachments and requests.

Going through it carefully as we speak (already wasted a few hours) - because that's how idiotic this has become.

Nicely detailed annual reports - makes it easy to show that there's in fact no SARS-CoV-2 in there...

People have lost their minds with this s***.

K

On Tue, Sep 7, 2021 at 4:50 PM Edward Holmes (b) (6) > wrote:

> Yes, just more like evidence that they never had SC2 in the lab.
>
> Professor Edward C. Holmes FAA FRS
> The University of Sydney
>
> > On 8 Sep 2021, at 9:43 am, Jason Gale (BLOOMBERG/ NEWSROOM:) <
> > j.gale@bloomberg.net > wrote:
> >
> > Just FYI
> > https://theintercept.com/2021/09/06/new- details-emerge-about-
> > coronavirus-research-at-chinese-lab/

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Date: Tue, 8 Jun 2021 12:00:57 PM -0400
Sent: Tue, 8 Jun 2021 11:58:31 AM -0400
Subject: We've lost two significant funders this week
From: Peter Daszak < (b) (6)
To: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] < (b) (6) Keusch, Jerry < (b) (6) Rich Roberts < (b) (6)
Attachments: image001.gif; image003.jpg; image004.jpg

Thanks for sharing.

We're getting mounting damage at EcoHealth. One of our corporate funders has pulled out because of the news (Swiss Re). They donated $30K per year and I talked with the senior execs about pandemic risk.

We heard today that our brand new 3-year Gates Foundation grant for One Health work in India will now be "re-assigned". They're telling us they'll still fund us, but I think they're just being polite. This is a loss of $500K per year.

I'm extremely worried right now. People's jobs, careers, reputations are on the line, not just mine – the Gates grant is Jon Epstein's.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

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Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

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From: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b) (6)
Sent: Tuesday, June 8, 2021 9:59 AM
To: Peter Daszak ((b) (6))<(b) (6) >; Keusch, Jerry (b(b) (6)) < (b) (6) >; Rich Roberts(b) (6) >
Subject: FW: Miami Herald [Opinion]: Despite Trump's new round of bullying, Fauci says COVID likely didn't leak from a Chinese lab

MORENS_SUBPOENA_016936
MORENS_NIH_035092
REL0000481412

David

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

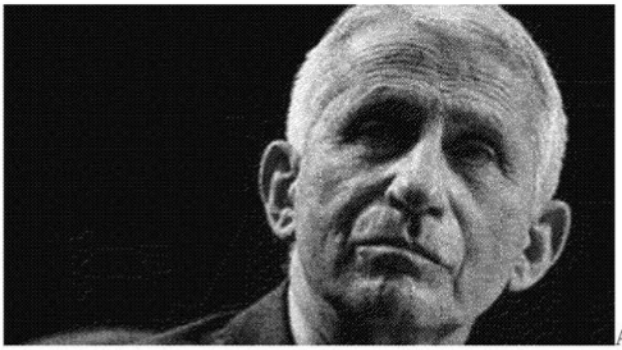
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From: Folkers, Greg (NIH/NIAID) [E] < (b) (6)
Sent: Tuesday, June 8, 2021 9:47 AM
Subject: Miami Herald [Opinion]: Despite Trump's new round of bullying, Fauci says COVID likely didn't leak from a Chinese lab

Despite Trump's new round of bullying, Fauci says COVID likely didn't leak from a Chinese lab | Opinion

BY ANDRES OPPENHEIMER
JUNE 08, 2021 09:13 AM,
UPDATED 19 MINUTES AGO



Anthony Fauci, director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, says the coronavirus likely jumped species, from animal to human. *GETTY IMAGES*

Former President Trump, perhaps trying to divert attention from his own disastrous handling of the COVID-19 pandemic, is now lashing out against Dr. Anthony Fauci for allegedly failing to seriously consider that the virus might have originated from China's Wuhan

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lab, rather than from an animal's transmission to humans.

But judging from what Fauci told me in a June 4 interview, the most respected U.S. infectious diseases expert has not yet seen any convincing evidence that the virus may have escaped from a Chinese lab.

Fauci, who heads the U.S. National

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Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, and is a top medical adviser to President Biden, said, “It is more likely” that — much like SARS, ebola, influenza and HIV — COVID-19 “originated from an animal reservoir and jumped species to humans.” He added, “There’s the possibility that it came from the lab,

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but
I
believe
that
that's
a
much
less
likely
possibility."

In the interview, scheduled to be aired Sunday , June 13 n "Oppenheimer Presenta" on CNN en Español, Fauci said that it's "important" to try to find out the exact origin of the pandemic, so that we can prevent it from happening again.

Biden
has
asked
U.S.
intelligence
agencies
to
investigate
the
origins
of
COVID-
19
and
come
back
with
a
report
before
the
end
of
August.

Asked how the investigation into the source of the virus should be conducted, Fauci said that the World Health Organization has indicated that it will go back to China to continue its investigation.

"I
think
it
needs
to
be
done
in
a
collegial

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way, with the collaboration of the Chinese scientists, because you're going to have to have cooperation and do it in a way that you can best get the information," he said.

Regarding his emails obtained by BuzzFeed and the Washington Post through the Freedom Of Information Act, Fauci told me that his

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critics
“cherrypick
things
out
of
context”
when
they
claim
that
he
knew
more
than
he
was
saying
publicly
about
the
possibility
that
the
virus
came
out
of
a
Chinese
lab.

Stressing
that
he
never
totally
discarded
the
lab
theory
—
though
he
never
thought
it
was
a
major
possibility
—
Fauci
added

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that, “I think what has increased is the interest, not necessarily the evidence.”

Right-wing media have had a field day with the Fauci emails, claiming that he was alerted about the “lab theory” early on and allegedly failed to take it seriously. Much of their claims are based on a Jan.

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31, 2020, email, in which infectious-disease expert Kristian Andersen wrote to Fauci that some of the virus' features "[potentially] looked engineered."

But what most right-wing media fail to mention is that, a few weeks later, Andersen concluded, upon further investigation, that the "lab theory" was implausible. So the criticism that Fauci was wrongfully hiding the "lab theory" from the public does not hold up.

Of course, Trump now is trying to paint Fauci as the culprit for the fact that America holds the world's record for COVID-19 deaths in

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absolute numbers. In a mass email on June 3, Trump claimed that "President Trump was right about the China Virus coming from the Wuhan Lab," and suggested that Fauci was defending China.

But, until we see any hard evidence that COVID-19 emerged from the Wuhan lab, Trump's accusations should be seen

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as just another attempt to bypass science and divert public attention from the COVID-19 deaths caused by his failure to tackle the pandemic.

Remember, Trump knew early on that COVID would be deadly — he is on tape telling author Bob Woodward this in February 2020 — but chose to lie

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to
the
American
people
for
fear
that
it
would
ruin
his
re-
election
chances.
What's
more,
Trump
consistently
refused
to
wear
a
mask
or
preach
social
distance,
as
scientists
were
recommending.

As
I
wrote
at
the
time

Trump
neglected
his
main
duty
—
to
protect
the
American
people.

Granted,
investigations

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into the origins of COVID-19 are justified and should continue. And there's no question that China's dictatorship is responsible for its delay in alerting the world about the deadly virus as soon as it started.

But barring solid evidence that the virus originated from a Chinese lab, Trump remains the villain

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—
and
Fauci
the
hero.

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Date: Sat, 18 Sep 2021 11:56:58 AM -0400
Sent: Sat, 18 Sep 2021 11:56:48 AM -0400
Subject: RE: Study from 2007 shows SARS-infected civets on farms in Hubei
From: Wang Linfa < (b) (6)
To: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] < (b) (6) Peter Daszak < (b) (6) >; Edward Holmes < (b) (6) >; Jason Gale < (b) (6) >;
CC: Stephen Goldstein < (b) (6) >; (b) (6) (b) (6) Garry, Robert F < (b) (6) >; (b) (6) Robert Kessler < (b) (6) >; (b) (6) David Morens < (b) (6) >; (b) (6)
Attachments: image001.gif; image002.jpg

Game changer, dynamite and …. basically we (the international scientific community) have now found the natural/bat origin of "the functional core of SARS-CoV-2". As we all know, RBD is the key for sarbecovirus to infect human.

Just to put this in perspective: after 18 years of intensive searching, we still have NOT found the bat origin of "the functional core of SARS-CoV-1". The closest we had was WIV1 which has 10 aa difference from SARS-CoV-1 in the RBD region. Here we have a bat sarbecovirus RBD which has only 1 aa difference and that change has NO impact on its ability to bind human ACE2. I am completely amazed with the rapid progress of the research ….. and it proved what we have been saying all along: pay more attention to SE Asia. There are more bats there, but with much less surveillance intensity than Southern China!

Case closed as far as I am concerned! Good night (morning) to all….

Linfa (Lin-Fa) WANG, PhD FTSE FAAM
Professor
Programme in Emerging Infectious Disease
Duke-NUS Medical School,
8 College Road, Singapore 169857
Tel: (b) (6)

From: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] < (b) (6)
Sent: Saturday, 18 September 2021 11:44 PM
To: Peter Daszak < (b) (6) Wang Linfa < (b) (6) Edward Holmes <(b) (6) Jason Gale <(b) (6) >
Cc: Stephen Goldstein < (b) (6) (b) (6) Garry, Robert F <(b) (6) (b) (6) (b) (6) Robert Kessler < (b) (6) David Morens < (b) (6) (b) (6)
Subject: RE: Study from 2007 shows SARS-infected civets on farms in Hubei

- External Email -

Yes, this is dynamite,. and all the more reason that more work needs to be done to characterize the bat sarbecovirus "universe" all over the region.

David

MORENS_SUBPOENA_009457
MORENS_NIH_019941
REL0000481416

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: Peter Daszak (b) (6)
Sent: Saturday, September 18, 2021 10:09 AM
To: Wang Linfa <(b) (6) Edward Holmes <(b) (6) >; Jason Gale <(b) (6) >
Cc: Stephen Goldstein <(b) (6) >; (b) (6) _; Garry, Robert F (b) (6) ; (b) (6) ; (b) (6) ; Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] (>; Robert Kessler <(b) (6) >; David Morens (b) (6)
Subject: RE: Study from 2007 shows SARS-infected civets on farms in Hubei
Importance: High

Yes – saw that paper Jason – really interesting

I looked through the paper and it's yet another game changer. So far, in the last few weeks/months, we've got the following new evidence supporting emergence via bat-to-intermediate host-to-human origin for COVID-19 (I've probably missed something):

Multiple new, SARS-CoV-2 related CoVs in SE Asia (Cambodia, Thailand, Japan, China etc.). I know of other work in review describing other related viruses in SE Asia also. We're also finding further novel SARS-CoV-2 related bat viruses in Malaysia, Thailand.
New evidence that live animals of the type that carry CoVs were present in the Wuhan markets (including Huanan).
Evidence from other bat SARSr-CoVs that mutations occur where there FCS is found (eg. RmYN02)
https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC7211627/
a rat alpha-CoV with an FCS in wildlife farms, hotels and train stations in S. China, showing that FCS insertions are more common in nature than previously thought. https://journals.asm.org/doi/epdf/10.1128/JVI.01173- 21
Epidemiological analysis of early cases supporting early origin close to Huanan market, not WIV
https://www.cell.com/cell/fulltext/S0092- 8674(21)00991-0
Phylogenetic analyses suggesting there may have been multiple introductions into the human population, supporting

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presence of a virus circulating in animals rather than a lab leak (@virology paper)
Our work showing a very large interface for bat SARSr-CoV spillover in a v. densly population region, and potential for large numbers of missing cases each year https://www.medrxiv.org/content/10.1101/2021.09.09.21263359v1
This paper showing ACE2 binding for bat SARS-CoV-2 related CoVs. https://www.researchsquare.com/article/rs-871965/v1

On the lab leak side, we have convoluted accusations based on interpretations of intent about how Chinese scientists submitted genomes, wrote the papers, or how me and other scientists had collaborations with Chinese scientists. But, as far as new evidence goes, I could only find this:

- None

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.

This rate of research even in a pandemic is remarkable and suggests that we'll pretty quickly have such overwhelming evidence for the 'natural' origins that most people will move on from the lab leak.

(Off-the-record) However, the damage they leave behind is already horrific and will be worse by the time they decide to find another issue to focus 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: Wang Linfa (b) (6)
Sent: Friday, September 17, 2021 10:56 PM
To: Edward Holmes <(b) (6) >; Jason Gale <j.(b) (6)
Cc: Stephen Goldstein (b) (6) (b) (6) (b) (6) ;(b) (6)
(b) (6) ; Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >; (b) (6)
(b) (6)
Subject: RE: Study from 2007 shows SARS-infected civets on farms in Hubei

Almost identical SARS-CoV-2 RBD in several bat sarbecoviruses! This is as close as you can get for a natural RBD origin!

Also, the paper concluded that SARS-CoV-2 genome fragments are found in different sarbecoviruses, very similar to the PloS Path paper for SARS-CoV-1.

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All we need is to find a sarbecovirus with a furin cleavage site and no more debate on the natural origin of SARS-CoV-2!

Linfa (Lin-Fa) WANG, PhD FTSE FAAM
Professor
Programme in Emerging Infectious Disease
Duke-NUS Medical School,
8 College Road, Singapore 169857
Tel: (b) (6)

From: Edward Holmes <(b) (6) >
Sent: Thursday, 16 September 2021 3:31 PM
To: Jason Gale <(b) (6)
Cc: Stephen Goldstein(b) (6) >: (b) (6) : (b) (6) (b) (6)
;(b) (6) ; Peter Daszak (b) (6) ; (b) (6)
(b) (6) ; Wang Linfa (b) (6) >
Subject: Re: Study from 2007 shows SARS-infected civets on farms in Hubei

- External Email -

Dismantles one key argument of the leakers - how could a virus get from Yunnan to Wuhan - in one simple move.

PROFESSOR EDWARD C. HOLMES FAA FRS
ARC Australian Laureate Fellow

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

On 16 Sep 2021, at 2:26 pm, Jason Gale (BLOOMBERG/ NEWSROOM:) <j.gale@bloomberg.net> wrote:

And there's this:
"The discovery of civet-CoVs in the Hubei province should not be a surprise as SARS-CoV-like viruses were recently found in a bat species in the same province"

From: (b) (6) At: 09/16/21 14:24:33 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

Just stumbled across it reading the discussion of another paper honestly. It's been cited since - there are certainly people who remembered it but I did not know of it and clearly

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had not penetrated the public origins discussion.

Stephen

Sent from my iPhone

On Sep 15, 2021, at 10:22 PM, Jason Gale (BLOOMBERG/ NEWSROOM:) < (b)(6) wrote:

Well done, Stephen for finding this:
https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC1900161/

Jason Gale, MHlthSec
Senior editor & chief biosecurity correspondent | Bloomberg News
Level 30, 120 Collins St., Melbourne VIC 3000
Tel. (landline) +(b) (6) 3 | Mobile (b) (6)
@jwgale | Linkedin: http://www.linkedin.com/pub/jason- gale/6/249/a56

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Date: Tue, 23 Aug 2022 6:07:14 PM -0400
Sent: Tue, 23 Aug 2022 6:07:06 PM -0400
Subject: Jeff Sachs' interview with RFK Jr. now freely available on Spotify
From: Peter Daszak < (b) (6)
To: David Morens < (b) (6) Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6) Roberts, Rich < (b) (6) peter hotez < (b) (6) Jeffrey Sturchio < (b) (6)
CC: Aleksei Chmura < (b) (6)
Attachments: image001.gif; image002.jpg

Jeff Sachs' interview with RFK Jr is now available on Spotify so you can listen without any logging on etc.

I tried to listen to it all (50 mins), but had to skip around a bit because it's unpleasant listening.

https://open.spotify.com/episode/3GB9QaMoVBwbfJBCMIod6z

Some notable snippets:

- At 7 mins 30 seconds he states that all members of our taskforce lied to him about our alleged conflicts. Pretty awful.
- At 16:30 he states that I lied to him about what research I'd been doing that was or was not dangerous.
- At 17:30-18:30 he talks about you, Jerry, and explains how he had asked us all if we'd had relationships to NIH funding (not true – he did not), then states that you'd covered up that you were a co-investigator. He then repeatedly states that we all lied and were all "in it too" – "quite a web", and "linked to Fauci".
- 19:35 – accuses Fauci and others of being "low-life" because of the phone calls they had to discuss lab leak hypothesis.

I had to give up listening at that point – he started banging on about the furin cleavage site that he is massively ill-informed about…

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

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

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

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

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From: Peter Daszak <(b) (6)
Sent: Tuesday, August 23, 2022 4:36 PM

To: 'David Morens' (b) (6) 'Aleksei Chmura' <(b) (6) >; 'Keusch, Gerald T' <
(b) (6) 'Roberts, Rich' <(b) (6) 'peter hotez' <(b) (6) >; 'Jeffrey Sturchio' <
(b) (6) >
Subject: More political harrassment for EcoHealth
Importance: High

It's probably just bluster, but today Sen. Rand Paul and Sen. Marshall demanded NIH preserve all records of Dr. Fauci and Collins so they can continue their investigations.

Sen. Marshall's letter is particularly aggressive for us, citing EcoHealth Alliance repeatedly as their rationale for needing to get hold of all of Tony Fauci's emails, texts, notes, and even "burner phones" as he states it.

Bizarre and a little bit worrying…

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

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

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

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

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From: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >
Sent: Monday, August 22, 2022 4:16 PM
To: 'David Morens' (b) (6) ; 'Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E]' <(b) (6) Aleksei Chmura
(b) (6) >; 'Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6) 'Roberts, Rich' <(b) (6) 'peter hotez' <
(b) (6) 'Jeffrey Sturchio' <(b) (6) >
Subject: Nasty hit piece today on Fox News about me and EcoHealth from Rep. Comer
Importance: High

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

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

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

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

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

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

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

Tel.: + (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, August 22, 2022 12:04 PM
To: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] ((b) (6) Peter Daszak <(b) (6) Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) >; Keusch, Gerald T < (b) (6) Roberts, Rich <(b) (6) >; peter hotez <(b) (6) Jeffrey Sturchio (b) (6)
Subject: Re: FW: Sharing Statements from President Joe Biden and HHS Secretary Xavier Becerra on Dr. Fauci's Announcement

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

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MORENS_NIH_022363
REL0000481417

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

David

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

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From: owner-nih-all-staff@list.nih.gov <owner-nih-all-staff@list.nih.gov> **On Behalf Of** NIH Executive Secretariat
Sent: Monday, August 22, 2022 11:54 AM
To: List NIH-ALL-STAFF <NIH-ALL-STAFF@LIST.NIH.GOV >
Subject: Sharing Statements from President Joe Biden and HHS Secretary Xavier Becerra on Dr. Fauci's Announcement

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

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

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and he does it with an unparalleled spirit, energy, and scientific integrity.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Date: Fri, 17 May 2024 6:13:33 PM -0400
Sent: Fri, 17 May 2024 6:13:25 PM -0400
Subject: RE: Origins of COVID NPR
From: Keusch, Gerald <(b) (6)
To: Hotez, Peter Jay < (b) (6)
CC: Peter Daszak < (b) (6) >; Aleksei Chmura < (b) (6) >; David Morens < (b) (6) >; Jeffrey Sturchio < (b) (6) Keith Martin < (b) (6) Rich Roberts <(b) (6) >;
Attachments: image001.jpg

That just builds on the dystopic presentation of what Tabak said, referring to the definition with or without "of concern." He was careful to give them what they needed to distort the truth while not exactly lying.

On the other hand his testimony about the requirement for EHA to produce WIV lab notebooks is an outright lie. I have pointed this out to Jocelyn Kaiser and to Michael Hiltzig. Maybe one of them will write about it.

Jerry

From: Hotez, Peter Jay < (b) (6)
Sent: Friday, May 17, 2024 6:02 PM
To: Keusch, Gerald < (b) (6)
Cc: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >; Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) >; David Morens < (b) (6) Jeffrey Sturchio <(b) (6) >; Keith Martin < (b) (6) Rich Roberts < (b) (6)
Subject: Re: Origins of COVID NPR

The NIH leadership has set back American virology for many years:

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Elon Musk @elonmusk · 6h

Prosecute/Fauci

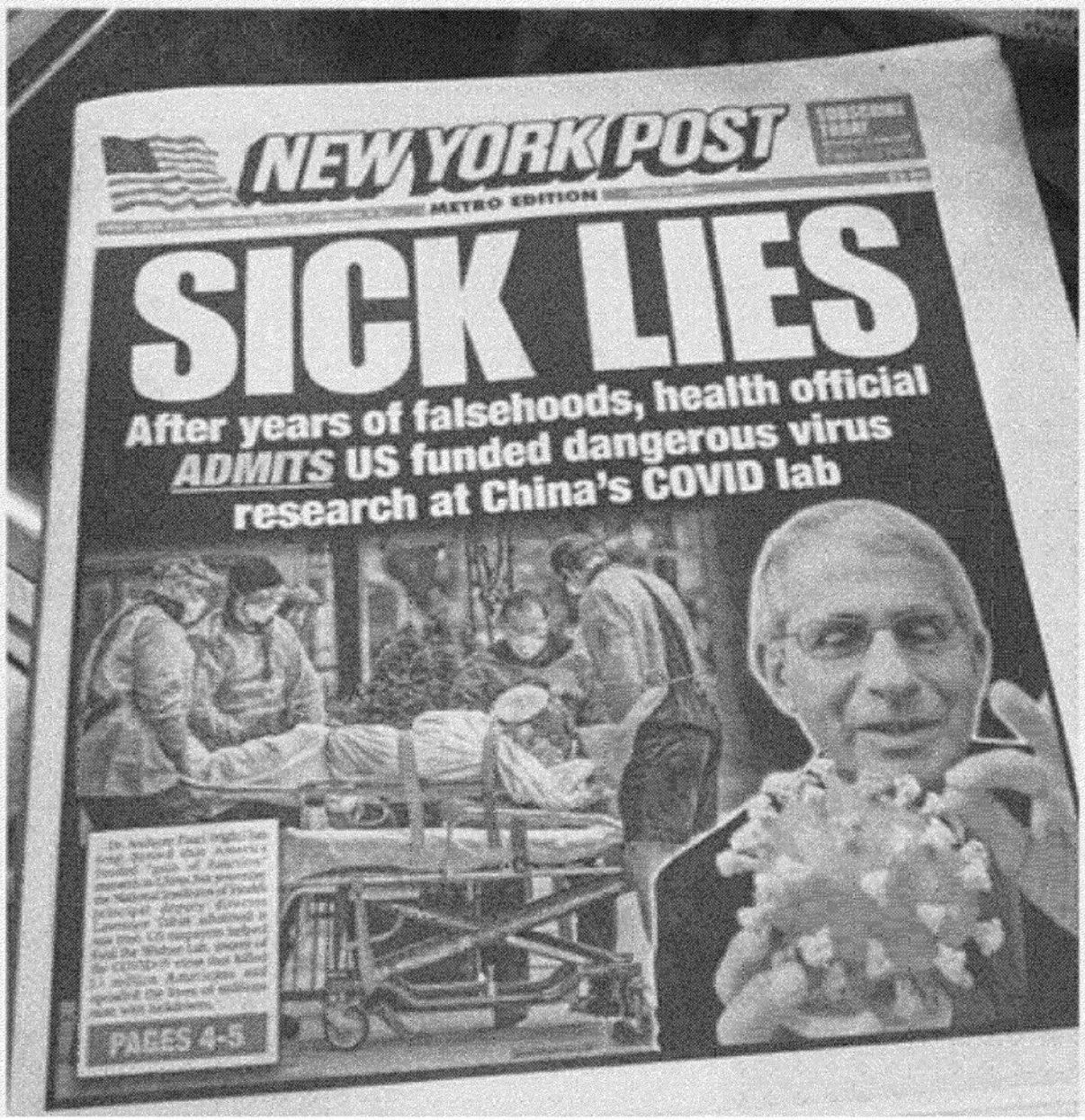
Paul D. Thacker @thackerpd · 8h

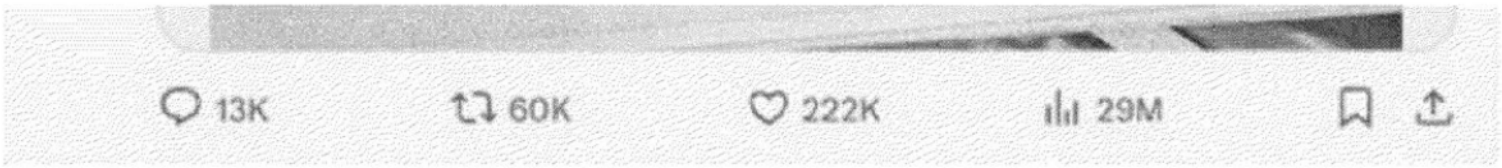
"SICK LIES"

New York Post goes after Fauci for his lies about dangerous virus research at the Wuhan institute of Virology.

...

Show more





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

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

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

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

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

Amazon Author Center | Daily Beast Contributor

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

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

On May 17, 2024, at 3:19 PM, Keusch, Gerald (b)(6) wrote:

Regarding Tabak's comments on GoF, this is what the text below shows.

Rep. Lesko: "Dr. Tabak, did NIH fund gain-of-function research at the Wuhan Institute of Virology through EcoHealth?"

Dr. Tabak: "It depends on your definition of gain-of-function research. If you're speaking about the generic term, yes, we did…the generic term is research that goes on in many, many labs around the country. It is not regulated. And the reason it's not regulated is it poses no threat or harm to anybody."

So it is not what he said but how the SSCP spun it. That's a weakness that should be exploited in the press. It is deliberately spinning information into disinformation and that is both lying and dangerous. We need to point it out, find other examples where it is easy to refute what they are saying about Peter, EHA, and David, and make sure others will amplify that and delegitimize the committee. I'm going to point out that one to Hiltzik and Kaiser.

Jerry

From: Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6)
Sent: Friday, May 17, 2024 1:57 PM
To: Peter Daszak (b) (6)
Cc: Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) >; David Morens (b) (6) >; Keusch, Gerald < (b) (6) >; Jeffrey Sturchio <J (b) (6) >; Keith Martin <(b) (6) >; Rich Roberts < (b) (6) >
Subject: Re: Origins of COVID NPR

I'm only a King, how insulting, these guys are totally nuts

<image001.jpg>

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

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

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

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

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

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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 17, 2024, at 12:34 PM, Peter Daszak <(b) (6) > wrote:

Good to hear that. In the meantime looks like the Committee is now coming after me personally. They're aiming to call for my debarment as an individual:

https://oversight.house.gov/release/hearing-wrap-up-nih-repeatedly-refutes-ecohealth-alliance-president-dr-peter-daszaks-testimony-tabak-testimony-reveals-federal-grant-procedures-in-need-of-serious-reform/

Press ReleasePublished: May 17, 2024

Hearing Wrap Up: NIH Refutes EcoHealth's Testimony, Tabak Reveals Federal Grant Procedures in Need of Serious Reform

WASHINGTON — The Select Subcommittee on the Coronavirus Pandemic held a hearing titled "Overseeing

the Overseers: A Hearing with NIH Deputy Director Lawrence Tabak" to examine the National Institutes of Health's (NIH) process for funding and overseeing scientific research as well as investigate NIH's relationship with EcoHealth Alliance, Inc. (EcoHealth). Members pressed former Acting NIH Director and current Principal Deputy Director, Dr. Lawrence Tabak, to explain numerous inconsistencies between the public and private testimonies of NIH employees and EcoHealth

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President, Dr. Peter Daszak. Dr. Tabak offered substantial evidence that Dr. Daszak purposefully misled both the NIH and the Select Subcommittee about EcoHealth's efforts to comply with grant procedures. In a shocking admission that directly contradicts Dr. Fauci's previous statements, Dr. Tabak testified that the NIH was funding gain-of-function research in Wuhan, China through a grant to EcoHealth. Members highlighted the dangers of continuing to fund gain-of-function research in foreign

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laboratories where NIH cannot ensure proper biosafety measures are implemented. Both Dr. Tabak and Select Subcommittee Members agreed that, in "hindsight," the NIH could have done more to protect the American taxpayer from EcoHealth.

Key Hearing Takeaways

- NIH Deputy Director and former Acting NIH Director, Dr. Lawrence Tabak, acknowledged that NIH funded gain-of-function research in Wuhan, China.
- Dr. Lawrence Tabak repeatedly refuted EcoHealth Alliance President Dr. Peter Daszak's public and private testimonies. It is now clear that Dr. Daszak misled both the Select Subcommittee and the NIH on numerous occasions.
- Serious shortcomings and failures in the NIH's grant awarding and grant oversight procedures enabled EcoHealth to facilitate gain-of-function research in Wuhan, China. These NIH deficiencies were exploited by Dr. Daszak and his team in an effort to avoid oversight and maintain funding.
- The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' (HHS) decision to immediately suspend funding and commence debarment proceedings against EcoHealth is backed by substantial evidence and necessary to protect America's national security. The Select Subcommittee also recommends that HHS immediately begin debarment proceedings against Dr. Peter Daszak personally.
- The NIH often lacks the necessary subject matter and scientific expertise to ensure U.S. taxpayer funds are spent and overseen safely. Dr. Tabak testified to these gaps in NIH's system today, and former NIH Director Dr. Francis Collins recounted similar problems during his transcribed interview found here.
- The Select Subcommittee's investigation into EcoHealth's impropriety is far from over. Chairman Wenstrup appreciates Dr. Tabak's honesty today and intends to use his testimony to hold EcoHealth accountable for its facilitation of gain-of-function research and its blatant contempt for the American taxpayer.

Member Highlights Select Subcommittee

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on the Coronavirus Pandemic Chairman Brad Wenstrup (R-Ohio), D.P.M, pressed Dr. Tabak to address Dr. Daszak's testimony that EcoHealth was "locked out" of the NIH's grant reporting system. NIH conducted an internal forensic audit which proves EcoHealth was, in fact, not "locked out" from submitting its required NIH grant research update report on time. Notably, EcoHealth finally submitted its report nearly two years after the

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required deadline. According to the facts gathered by NIH, Dr. Daszak's sworn testimony appears to be false.
<image001.png >

Chairman Wenstrup:
"
EcoHealth, like every other NIAID grantee, was required to submit a five-year progress report, as you know. This report was submitted nearly two years late. Dr. Daszak testified that EcoHealth had tried to submit the report on time but was locked out of the NIH system. Dr. Lauer testified that a forensic

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audit was conducted, and no such system error was detected. Is NIH now willing to share the findings of this forensic audit with the Select Subcommittee?
"

Dr. Tabak: "*We certainly will work together with you to obtain things that you require, sir*."

Chairman Wenstrup: "*Does the audit indicate that EcoHealth could have submitted their report on time?*"

Dr. Tabak: "*That's what our audit indicates, yes.*"

Chairman Wenstrup: "*When EcoHealth eventually submitted its year-five report,*

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Dr. Daszak testified it took 11 days to unlock the NIH system. Is this true?"

Dr. Tabak: "*We have no evidence of that.*"

…

Dr. Tabak: "*All I can say to you is that our system did not lock them out and there was no impediment for them to provide that report on time.*"

Committee on Oversight and Accountability Chairman James Comer (R-Ky.) questioned Dr. Tabak about the employment status of alleged federal records violator and top advisor to Dr. Anthony Fauci — Dr. David Morens —

who was placed on administrative leave after the Select Subcommittee uncovered incriminating information. Dr. Morens used his personal email(s) to hide conversations about the origins of COVID-19 and undermine the operations of the NIH.
<image002.png >

Chairman Comer: "*What is Dr. Morens's current employment status?*"
Dr. Tabak: "*He is an employee of NIH.*"
Chairman Comer: "*Well, I think you see where my lines of questioning were leading. We have some serious concerns. We have fought in*

this Select Subcommittee, the Oversight committee, on obtaining information. And here you have an admission of deleting information, going to great lengths to not be transparent, in an apparent cover-up of something that I think we would agree, in a bipartisan manner, is one of the most serious issues that our country has ever faced, the COVID 19 pandemic."

Rep. Debbie Lesko (R-Ariz.) elicited an admission from Dr. Tabak that the NIH funded gain-of-function research at the WIV

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through a grant to EcoHealth. This directly contradicts Dr. Fauci's U.S. Senate testimony in 2021 in which he claimed the NIH "has not ever and does not now fund gain-of-function research in the Wuhan Institute of Virology." This type of research is known to be dangerous and even former NIH Director Francis Collins and Dr. Fauci were willing to admit that there are risks associated with this experimentation.
<image003.png
>

Rep.

MORENS_NIH_045116
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Lesko: "*Dr. Tabak, did NIH fund gain-of-function research at the Wuhan Institute of Virology through EcoHealth?*"

Dr. Tabak: "*It depends on your definition of gain-of-function research. If you're speaking about the generic term, yes, we did…the generic term is research that goes on in many, many labs around the country. It is not regulated. And the reason it's not regulated is it poses no threat or harm to anybody*."

Rep. Rich McCormick (R-Ga.), M.D., proved that

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EcoHealth violated the terms of its NIH grant when it failed to produce "laboratory notebooks" with information about the WIV's gain-of-function research. On May 1, Dr. Daszak falsely testified that he was not required to produce these notebooks as a condition of his grant.
<image004.png>

Rep. McCormick: "*When the National Institutes of Health requested the notebooks from EcoHealth, was EcoHealth required to produce them under its*

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grant terms?"
Dr. Tabak: "*Yes, they were*."
Rep. McCormick: "*When NIH requested notebooks from EcoHealth should EcoHealth have been able to access them or already have access to them?*"
Dr. Tabak: "*That's correct.*"
Rep. McCormick: "*Did EcoHealth ever produce the requested notebooks?*"
Dr. Tabak: "*They have not.*"
Rep. McCormick: "*Dr. Daszak testified two weeks ago that he was not required to produce the lab notebooks. Would NIH disagree*

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with that testimony?
"

Dr. Tabak: "*Yes, we disagree with that testimony*."

Rep. McCormick: "*The testimony here today clarifies the inconsistency between Dr. Daszak's testimony and the testimony of numerous NIH officials and NIAID officials, also, including yourself. Dr. Daszak continues to thwart congressional oversight through semantics and outright dishonesty, quite frankly. He has routinely failed to produce pertinent documents and made countless misleading statements*

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REL0000481432

to the Select Subcommittee right here."

Rep. Mariannette Miller-Meeks (R-Iowa), M.D., uncovered serious shortcomings in NIH's grant awarding and grant oversight procedures. Dr. Tabak testified that he would never again support a grant to EcoHealth Alliance to fund gain-of-function research in Wuhan and believes the NIH relied too heavily on Dr. Daszak attestations.

.

<image005.png>

Rep. Miller-Meeks: "*As I mentioned, the Understanding*

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the Risk of Bat Coronavirus Emergence Grant was an almost $4 million grant that partially went to the Wuhan Institute of Virology and the Wuhan University of Public Health. Do you believe this grant was an effective use of taxpayer dollars, and would you support issuing the same grant today?"

Dr. Tabak: "*Well, with the benefit of what we know today, no, of course not.*"

Rep. Miller-Meeks: "*There is great concern with Dr. Daszak interaction with NIH and NIAID pertaining*

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REL0000481432

to the one log growth term of the award. The NIH relied on Dr. Daszak to monitor and report virus growth after being a month late on his annual reporting requirements, which were outlined in the grant. Dr. Tabak, looking back, did the NIH rely too much on Dr. Daszak's self-reporting information?
"

Dr. Tabak: "*Again, with the benefit of hindsight, we did because we never received the information.*
"

Rep. Miller-Meeks: "*Well, as an ophthalmologist, hindsight is always*

MORENS_NIH_045123
REL0000481432

20/20."
Rep. Nicole Malliotakis (R-N.Y.) revealed NIH's honest viewpoint regarding its funding of EcoHealth's risky research at the WIV. Dr. Tabak testified that NIH believed it was not funding any dangerous research prior to or during the COVID-19 pandemic.
<image006.png >

Rep. Malliotakis: "*We also know that at least 20 more EcoHealth research projects received funding since March of 2020, and they are conducting research Nipah, zoonotic viruses,*

MORENS_NIH_045124
REL0000481432

bat coronaviruses, MERS. They are doing a lot of this research, mostly actually in third world countries. Subpar safety conditions. How do you ensure that our federal dollars are not going to do risky experiments in countries where there are subpar safety regulations? And do you believe that should be a criteria that is put forth to ensure that the money doesn't?"

Dr. Tabak: "*Well, again, once we established special conditions for award on EcoHealth Alliance, we have monitored*

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REL0000481432

them very carefully with regard to expenditure and with regard to their various administrative processes. There was never a concern with the danger, if you will, of the experiments that NIH approved for EcoHealth Alliance to with under subaward with WIV."

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
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USA

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

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

---

From: Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6)
Sent: Friday, May 17, 2024 12:17 PM
To: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >; Aleksei Chmura (b) (6) David Morens (b) (6) ; Gerald Keusch (b) (6) Jeffrey Sturchio (b) (6) Keith Martin <(b) (6) Rich Roberts (b) (6) >

Cc: Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6)
Subject: Fwd: Origins of COVID NPR

I just did this long interview debunking the nonsense, piece by piece

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

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

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

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

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) m
iPhone
Begin forwarded message:

> **From:** Geoffrey Brumfiel (b) (6)
> **Date:** May 17, 2024 at 11:06:26 AM EDT
> **To:** "Hotez, Peter Jay" (b) (6) >
> **Subject: Origins of COVID**
>
> *****CAUTION:*** This email is not from a BCM Source. Only click links or open attachments you know are safe.**
>
> ---
>
> Hi Peter,
>
> We haven't spoken for a year or two since I was covering vaccine misinformation. Anyway, I'm being put back on the origins of COVID beat ahead of the Fauci hearing next month. I've been loosely following the twists and turns with EcoHealth and NIH and all the rest, but I'm needing to get a little more caught up.
>
> Would you be up for a quick background conversation?
> Best,
> Geoff
>
> Geoff Brumfiel | National Public Radio | (b) (6) | desk: +(b) | cell: (b) (6)
> (b)

MORENS_NIH_045127
REL0000481432

Date: Tue, 28 Jun 2022 10:01:25 AM -0400
Sent: Tue, 28 Jun 2022 10:01:20 AM -0400
Subject: RE: COVID-19 Commission: Need approval of minor edits after first peer review
From: "Keusch, Gerald T" <(b) (6)
To: Hotez, Peter Jay < (b) (6) Roberts, Rich < (b) (6)
CC: David Morens < (b) (6) Aleksei Chmura < (b) (6) >; Jeffrey Sturchio < (b) (6) Peter Daszak < (b) (6) >;
Attachments: image001.png

Bravo to you Peter for what should be the norm, having both knowledge and principles, and of course the willingness to speak up. Sachs is bizarre, beyond obsessed, and an increasing menace as Rich notes. Are there any red flag laws we can call on to get him off the streets and into treatment?

Jerry

From: Hotez, Peter Jay < (b) (6)
Sent: Tuesday, June 28, 2022 9:46 AM
To: Roberts, Rich < (b) (6)
Cc: David Morens < (b) (6) Keusch, Gerald T < (b) (6) Aleksei Chmura < (b) (6) Jeffrey Sturchio < (b) (6) Peter Daszak < (b) (6)
Subject: Re: COVID-19 Commission: Need approval of minor edits after first peer review

Ugh and the email he just sent me about FOIAs and such. I won't bother forwarding it. He's really become obsessed with this?

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 8:43 AM, Roberts, Rich (b) (6) m> wrote:

I agree. Jeff Sachs is really proving to be quite a menace on this.

Rich

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

From: David Morens <(b) (6) >
Sent: Tuesday, June 28, 2022 9:21 AM
To: Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6)
Cc: Gerald T Keusch <(b) (6) Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) >; Jeffrey Sturchio <(b) (6) Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >; Roberts, Rich <(b) (6)
Subject: Re: COVID-19 Commission: Need approval of minor edits after first peer review

EXTERNAL SENDER

Peter, excellent answer but Jeff seems to have gone crazy over this. The guy is a real menace. Amnd when did he ever get a degree in virology? Annoying to the max. d

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

On Jun 28, 2022, at 09:06, Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6) wrote:

Jeff's response and my response to Jeff

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

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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
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Fax: 713-798-2299

iPhone
Begin forwarded message:

From: "Hotez, Peter Jay" <(b) (6)
Date: June 28, 2022 at 8:02:33 AM CDT
To: Jeffrey Sachs < (b) (6)
Cc: Juliana Bartels <(b) (6) "Gaspar, Vitor" <(b) (6) >, "Zinabou, Genet" < (b) (6) "Delariarte, Maria Choyette Umali" <(b) (6) Alejandro Gaviria < (b) (6) >, Gaviria Uribe Alejandro <(b) (6) >, "Bottazzi, Maria Elena" (b) (6) >, (b) (6) , Lara Aknin (b) (6) Chandrika Bahadur (>, Lauren Barredo <(b) (6) >, Chris Bullen (b) (6) gaby cuevas <(b) (6) >, Andrew Haines <

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(b) (6) >, Neena Joshi (b) (6) >, Ozge Karadag Karadag <
(b) (6) Phoebe Koundouri <(b) (6) Gabriela(b) (6) >,
"Morales, Andrés" <(b) (6) (b) (6) Francesca Colombo <
(b) (6) >, Guillaume Lafortune (b) (6) >, Jeff Sachs
(b) (6) >, Yanis Ben Amor <(b) (6) >, Emma Torres <
(b) (6) >, George Laryea-Adjei (b) (6) >, Uyen Kim Huynh <
>, (b) Vaira Vike Freiberga <(b) (6) >,
(b) (6) Kirsten Brosbøl <(b) (6) (b) (6) Juan
Pablo Cadena <(b) (6) >, John Thwaites <(b) (6) >,
Jong-Koo Lee (Booyuel Kim <(b) (6) , Muhammad Ali Pate <
(b) (6) Miriam Khamadi Were <(b) (6) >, (b) (6)
(b) (6) , Marissa VanRy <(b) (6) >, Felipe Larrain Bascuñan <
(b) (6) >, Susan Michie <(b) (6) Jeffrey Lazarus <(b) (6) >,
Margaret Hellard <(b) (6) >, Shweta Khandelwal <
(b) (6) >, "Bagenal, Jessamy (ELS-LOW)" <(b) (6) >

Subject: Re: COVID-19 Commission: Need approval of minor edits after first peer review

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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Senior Coordinator / Executive Support: Douglas Soriano
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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

MORENS_SUBPOENA_007177
MORENS_NIH_016336
REL0000481433

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







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

Bagenal, Jessamy (ELS-LOW) (b) (6)
Cc: Juliana Bartels (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
--

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

MORENS_SUBPOENA_007180
MORENS_NIH_016339
REL0000481433

Date: Fri, 21 Jul 2023 1:07:36 PM -0400
Subject: Fwd: New GAO Report on Scientific Integrity at HHS
From: David Morens < (b) (6)
To: David Morens < (b) (6)

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

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

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

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

---------- Forwarded message --------
From: Peter Daszak < (b) (6) >
Date: Thu, Apr 21, 2022 at 9:32 AM
Subject: RE: New GAO Report on Scientific Integrity at HHS
To: Hotez, Peter Jay < (b) (6)
Cc: Jeff Sturchio <(b) (6) Keusch, Gerald T
< (b) (6) Roberts, Rich < (b) (6) David Morens
< (b) (6) >

Exactly – it's weak and will likely be ineffective at dealing with the pressures from the rabid Right wing.

Cheers,

Peter

MORENS_SUBPOENA_003536
MORENS_NIH_010425
REL0000481448

Peter 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, 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

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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

MORENS_SUBPOENA_003539
MORENS_NIH_010428
REL0000481448

President

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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:	Sat, 1 Jun 2024 1:50:38 PM -0400
Sent:	Sat, 1 Jun 2024 1:50:20 PM -0400
Subject:	Re: email from the National Academies to "discuss my service to NASEM" in light of the recent HHS decision
From:	Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6)
To:	Peter Daszak < (b) (6) >;
CC:	Rich Roberts < (b) (6) >; Gerald Jerry Keusch < (b) (6) >; Jeffrey Sturchio < (b) (6) >; David Morens <(b) (6) >; Keith Martin <(b) (6) >; Aleksei Chmura < (b) (6) >;

Attachments: image001.png

Nightmarish, fuckers couldn't even wait for your due process (if at all really). There was no reason to send you that letter at this point. I'm beyond disgusted.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Media Inquiries:
homa.shalchi@bcm.edu
(b) (6)

iPhone

On Jun 1, 2024, at 12:38 PM, Peter Daszak < (b) (6) > wrote:

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Dear all,

As expected, rather than the academies coming to our rescue, they now want a "quiet chat"… no doubt I'll be urged to quietly step down from my current duties as chair of the NASEM Forum on Microbial Threats & member of the NASEM Standing Committee on Emerging Infectious Diseases and 21st Century Health Threats.

If this isn't McCarthyism, what is it?

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak

President
EcoHealth Alliance

520 8th Avenue, New York, NY10018-6507, USA

www.EcoHealthAlliance.org
Begin forwarded message:

From: "Symmes, Gregory" < (b) (6) >
Date: May 31, 2024 at 3:57:55 PM EDT
To: "Daszak, Peter" < (b) (6) >
Cc: "Wood, Tasha" < (b) (6) >
Subject: meeting request

Dear Dr. Daszak,

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

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

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

I look forward to meeting with you.

Best,
Greg Symmes

Gregory H. Symmes, Ph.D.
Chief Program Officer
Acting Chief Operating Officer
(b) (6)
(b) (6)
<image001.png>

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Date:	Fri, 27 Jan 2023 3:42:41 PM -0500
Sent:	Fri, 27 Jan 2023 3:42:29 PM -0500
Subject:	RE: Finally - virologists fight back!
From:	"Roberts, Rich" < (b) (6)
To:	Peter Daszak < (b) (6) >; Keusch, Gerald T < (b) (6) Hotez, Peter Jay < (b) (6)
CC:	David Morens < (b) (6) Jeffrey Sturchio < (b) (6) Aleksei Chmura < (b) (6) >;
Attachments:	image001.jpg; image002.jpg

Peter:

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

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

Rich

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

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

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

---

From: Roberts, Rich <(b) (6)
Sent: Friday, January 27, 2023 11:08 AM
To: Peter Daszak (b) (6) >; Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6) Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6) >
Cc: David Morens (b) (6) >; Jeffrey Sturchio (b) (6) ; Aleksei Chmura <
(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
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Ipswich, MA (b) (6)
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: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >
Sent: Friday, January 27, 2023 8:39 AM
To: Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6) Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6)
Cc: David Morens <(b) (6) Jeffrey Sturchio (b) (6) Aleksei Chmura <
(b) (6) >; Roberts, Rich <(b) (6)
Subject: Finally - virologists fight back!
Importance: High

EXTERNAL SENDER

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

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

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

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

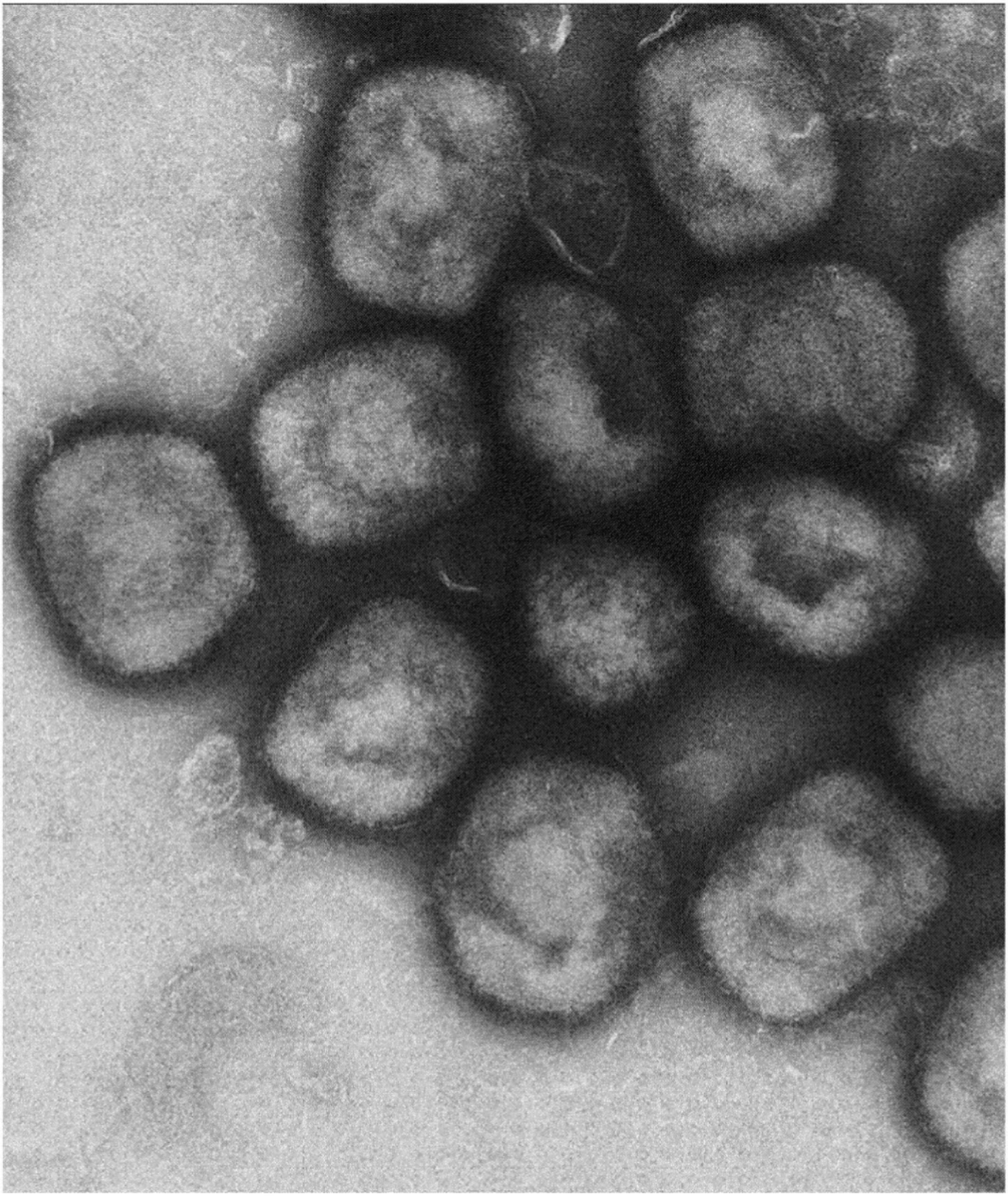
POLICY-ISH

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



NELL GREENFIELDBOYCE

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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.

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MORENS_NIH_033364
REL0000481450

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

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

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

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

Sponsor Message

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

The origins of the pandemic

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

A bird flu study raises alarm

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

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

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

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

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

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

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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
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Email

Cheers,

Peter

MORENS_SUBPOENA_015685
MORENS_NIH_033366
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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
To: Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6)
Cc: Peter Daszak (b) (6) >; David Morens (b) (6) Jeffrey Sturchio <(b) (6) >; Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) >; Rich Roberts <(b) (6)
Subject: Re: Tweet by MinerFlux on Twitter

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

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

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

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

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

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MORENS_NIH_033367
REL0000481450

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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 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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Media Inquiries:
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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

Peter Daszak
President

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520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
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Tel.: + (b) (6)
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

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

---

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

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

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MORENS_NIH_033369
REL0000481450

hole doesn't necessarily predict a bad leader, but there is widespread worry.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

> On Jan 25, 2023, at 10:58, Peter Daszak <(b) (6) > wrote:
>
> Unfortunate. At this point you should just throw your hat in the ring!
>
> Why not have a confidential chat with Peter Staley and see if they have a pool of candidates yet?

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MORENS_NIH_033370
REL0000481450

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

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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) g >
Cc: Jeffrey Sturchio (b) (6) >; Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) >; David Morens (b) (6) >; Gerald Keusch <(b) (6) Rich Roberts < (b) (6)
Subject: Re: Tweet by 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

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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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MORENS_SUBPOENA_015690
MORENS_NIH_033371
REL0000481450

(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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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: 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

MORENS_SUBPOENA_015691
MORENS_NIH_033372
REL0000481450

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



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

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

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

Baylor University, University Professor
Rice University, Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty
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Media Inquiries:
(b) (6)

iPhone

MORENS_SUBPOENA_015692
MORENS_NIH_033373
REL0000481450

Date: Wed, 13 Apr 2022 11:00:44 AM -0400
Sent: Wed, 13 Apr 2022 11:00:37 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: Roberts, Rich <(b) (6) Keusch, Gerald T < (b) (6) Hotez, Peter Jay < (b) (6) >;
CC: David Morens < (b) (6) >; Aleksei Chmura < (b) (6) >;

I'm also available after 1515 tomorrow.

Jeff

From: Roberts, Rich < (b) (6)
Sent: Wednesday, April 13, 2022 10:59 AM
To: Keusch, Gerald T < (b) (6) Hotez, Peter Jay < (b) (6)
Cc: 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

Jerry:

I can do it at or after 3:15 tomorrow.

Rich

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

From: Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6)
Sent: Wednesday, April 13, 2022 10:38 AM
To: Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6)
Cc: Roberts, Rich <(b) (6) David Morens <(b) (6) >; Jeff Sturchio (b) (6) Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) >
Subject: RE: The NAM are now investigating me based on some of the allegations from the Republican congressional members

EXTERNAL SENDER

Would tomorrow afternoon around 3-3:15 pm EDT work for a call? I can set up a Zoom link if that would be useful. I can do it at 4 but would have to alter another scheduled call. Or at 5.

Friday is OK to as long as it is before 3 pm EDT, but Peter may be traveling back to Houston.

Jerry

From: Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6)
Sent: Tuesday, April 12, 2022 10:40 PM
To: Peter Daszak (b) (6)
Cc: Roberts, Rich (b) (6) Keusch, Gerald (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

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University Professor, Baylor University

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

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Daily Beast Contributor https://www.thedailybeast.com/author/peter- j-hotez
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MORENS_SUBPOENA_007186
MORENS_NIH_016349
REL0000481454

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

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

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

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

---

From: Roberts, Rich <(b) (6)
Sent: Tuesday, 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)

MORENS_SUBPOENA_007187
MORENS_NIH_016350
REL0000481454

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
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USA
Tel: (978) (b) (6)
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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 <(b) (6)
Cc: Jeff Sturchio (b) (6) >; Aleksei Chmura (b) (6)
Subject: The NAM are now investigating me based on some of the allegations from the Republican congressional members
Importance: High

EXTERNAL SENDER

Please see the email below that I just received and the attachments.

They've cut down the allegations to a handful that I have to respond to within 30 days. But as I see this, these are grey areas that they could use to easily push me out, no matter my response. It would save them political hassle if they get rid of me, and I'm very worried that this is their ultimate goal.

Obviously, I'll try to be as aggressive as possible in defending against this, but this is devastating to me personally to have to go through this and if they expel me, it would likely cost me my job and career. Even more worrisome is the last paragraph in the letter from the Congressional members – they are playing pure politics here – if I'm found to be in breach, they are demanding that every report I've been involved in, and every committee be investigated.

This feels like a purge orchestrated by politicians for a political goal, and an academy that is too weak to push back.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

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

---

From: Fuentes-Afflick, Elena (b) (6)
Sent: Monday, April 11, 2022 1:58 PM
To: (b) (6)
Cc: Kim, Se (b) (6)
Subject: confidential

Dear Dr. Daszak,

On behalf of the National Academy of Medicine (NAM), I am notifying you that the NAM has received a complaint alleging that you have engaged in conduct(s) that may constitute violation(s) of the NAM Code of Conduct for members.

Please find attached a notification letter, supplemental documentation, and NAM bylaws and Code of Conduct. Pursuant to the NAM Policy and Procedure on Violations of the Code of Conduct, please provide a response to the allegations within 30 days of the date of this notification, and by no later than May 13, 2022.

For your awareness, copies of this notification is postage mailed by FedEx to your office address at EcoHealth Alliance, 520 Eighth Ave Suite 1200, New York, NY 10018.

Sincerely,

Elena Fuentes-Afflick, M.D., M.P.H.
Home Secretary, National Academy of Medicine

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Date: Fri, 21 Jul 2023 1:43:22 PM -0400
Sent: Fri, 21 Jul 2023 1:42:40 PM -0400
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Fwd: Zoom with Bill Novelli
From: David Morens < (b) (6)
To: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] < (b) (6)

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

(b) (6)
(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, Jun 3, 2023 at 7:53 PM
Subject: Re: Zoom with Bill Novelli
To: Roberts, Rich < (b) (6)
Cc: Peter Daszak < (b) (6) >, Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6) David Morens ((b) (6)
< (b) (6) Jeffrey Sturchio < (b) (6) Soriano Osejo, Douglas < (b) (6) >

I've spoken to him but happy to talk to him again

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

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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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Media Inquiries:

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(b) (6)

(b) (6)

iPhone

On Jun 3, 2023, at 3:47 PM, Roberts, Rich < (b) (6) > wrote:

Hi:

Bill Novelli has set up a zoom call for June 20th at 10:30 am. If any of you would like to join please let me know.

Rich

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

Executive Assistant: (b)((b)(6)
Tel: (978) (b) (6)
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email: (b) (6)
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Date: Wed, 21 Apr 2021 4:27:53 PM -0400
Sent: Wed, 21 Apr 2021 4:27:51 PM -0400
Subject: RE: Zoom meeting with Tony tomorrow
From: "Keusch, Gerald T" <(b) (6)
To: David Morens < (b) (6)
CC: Roberts, Rich < (b) (6) Peter Daszak < (b) (6) Robert Kessler <(b) (6) >; Aleksei Chmura < (b) (6)

Even more interesting insights. Lets see how it goes and what Harold has to say to Rich.

Jerry

From: David Morens < (b) (6)
Sent: Wednesday, April 21, 2021 4:25 PM
To: Keusch, Gerald T < (b) (6)
Cc: Roberts, Rich < (b) (6) Peter Daszak < (b) (6) Robert Kessler < (b) (6) Aleksei Chmura < (b) (6)
Subject: Re: Zoom meeting with Tony tomorrow

Thanks, Jerry, i will let you know how it goes, although he may not indicate to me his next steps. The way it works with us is that he tries to never ask me things directly, like ask for my advice on what to do, but rather does alot of homework ahead of time, figures out what i am likely to say, then HE tells ME what he thinks so that i can confirm it. Yes, we all have our peculiarities, but as long as the machine runs smoothly its ok

I DO know that he has great respect for Harold, and i think also admires Harold's charge-ahead no-BS style, which is the opposite of Tony's extreme caution. So i have little doubt that he would welcome that kind of help. D

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

On Apr 21, 2021, at 16:09, Keusch, Gerald T(b) (6) wrote:

David,
Thanks for the note, and I recognize what you say is what I know about Tony. He is a remarkable person, but like all of us he isn't perfect. I think your strategy to lay out the issues and let him run with it to decide what can be effectively addressed and with what strategy.

Rich's suggestion to talk to Harold is on track, and it would be great Rich if you were to do that. I know that they have a very close and positive history of working together, that Harold is very strategic in his thinking, he prefers to work in the background (something I have confirmed multiple times this past year as I have asked for his advice on things I could take on), and that he will be really frank in talking to Rich. Harold has very recently told me that he has worked closely with Rich on a number of issues related to the concerns we all have.

Let us know how the chat goes tomorrow. I think you have the right perspective heading in to it, and lots of good information at your fingertips.
Jerry

From: Roberts, Rich <(b) (6)
Sent: Wednesday, April 21, 2021 3:33 PM

To: David Morens (b) (6) >; Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6)
Cc: Peter Daszak (b) (6) >; Robert Kessler (b) (6) Aleksei Chmura
(b) (6)
Subject: RE: Zoom meeting with Tony tomorrow

Hi:

If I am to do something I would talk to Harold first. I'll see what he has to say as a possible path forward.

Rich

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

From: David Morens (b) (6)
Sent: Wednesday, April 21, 2021 3:30 PM
To: Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6)
Cc: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >; Roberts, Rich <(b) (6) Robert Kessler <
(b) (6) >; Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) >
Subject: Re: Zoom meeting with Tony tomorrow

EXTERNAL SENDER

Jerry, The way it works with Tony, at least at my level, is you can't suggest he do anything. If you do, he won't do it on principle. The trick is to make him think of doing something himself, and then he will ask you to help him do it

My strategy tomorrow is to tell him that alarming things are at work, to the point that many scientists (our grantees and others) have become increasingly worried and are looking for the way forward. In that context i will share with him verbally Peter's information, and offer to get to him any of the materials he wants to see, or connect him directly with Peter, who he very much respects

I have not heard that he has engaged Harold, or the National Academies, or the professional societies, although i might not know if he did. He is very much a loner about things like this. He prides himself on being like teflon, but I am worried that he may not be as invulnerable as he may think

Our Chief of Staff, Greg Folkers (who has Masters degrees in both journalism and PH), is among the only folks here, partly excepting Cliff Lane, in whom Tony confides when the subject is difficult or personal, only rarely to me.... and Greg told me today that he thinks Tony is getting worried that the brown stuff is about to hit the fan, and that he may have become a major target

There is very little i can do to help because i am a mere scientist, not a NL, or member of the NAM, or head of a prestigious society (the only kinds of people Tony will usually engage with, as he is very proud).

So if he doesn't become more proactive, what remains is for scientists and science orgs at the very highest level to come together forcefully to push back against the craziness

Who would be willing to approach him directly and "talk turkey"? Harold? Rich? You? Victor? A couple of you?

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

MORENS_SUBPOENA_019283
MORENS_NIH_038807
REL0000481466

On Apr 21, 2021, at 15:01, Keusch, Gerald T (b) (6) wrote:

Tony will be well aware of this kind of push back. That's not the issue for you tomorrow. Its really how to get the scientific societies engaged once again in the campaign for clarity and resolution of the breech in integrity and the grants management beginning a year ago.

Maybe there would be a moment to suggest that he talk to Harold Varmus about strategy?

Jerry

From: David Morens <(b) (6)
Sent: Wednesday, April 21, 2021 2:57 PM
To: Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6)
Cc: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) ; Rich Roberts <(b) (6) ; Robert Kessler <(b) (6) ; Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) >
Subject: Re: Zoom meeting with Tony tomorrow

Jerry, i am traveling without much news access, but this is really depressing. My concern has grown to alarm and i am afraid to think what comes next

We seem to have arrived at that Orwellian point where all investigations of important matters have to exclude participation of the subject experts, since being a subject expert is disqualifying on the grounds that all expertise is inherently biasing.

Before George Orwell, we had Lewis Carroll telling us this. We are in grave danger of going down-the-rabbit-hole-with-Alice.....
D
Sent from my iPhone
David M Morens
OD, NIAID, NIH

On Apr 21, 2021, at 14:36, Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6) wrote:

The COVID Commission Planning Group includes people like Mike Osterholm. I don't put him into the category of Lipsitch, but am I missing something here? He was one of the people on the Biden COVID task force I talked to in December-January about the shattered integrity at the level of NIH/OD. He didn't say much to me, and I didn't take that as a signal that he was on the darker side of the divide.

I saw the results of a focus group of Trump supporters reported on today: https://www.washingtonpost.com/health/2021/04/20/vaccine-hesitant-republicans/ A bit of text in this report is about Tony.

"Every participant said they preferred hearing from politicians over the medical expert, who has been pilloried by conservative media for months over his coronavirus warnings. The data have shown that unfortunately Dr. Fauci has been politicized, and we need different messengers, because even the right messages

coming from the wrong messengers aren't always helpful," Castrucci said, noting his foundation's polling [de Beaumont Foundation] found Americans trust their personal doctors more than the government's top infectious-disease doctor".

This is the fundamental problem we have, as the politicians will only use this as an echo chamber to amplify their support from their public supporters and constituents. It does point back to the scientific societies which have weighed in previously, but no more impact than we have had as individuals. It doesn't stop this approach, its just that we need some deus ex machina to help us. Is that going to be Eric Lander? What's happening with his approval? I haven't heard much of late.

Jerry

From: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >
Sent: Wednesday, April 21, 2021 12:41 PM
To: David Morens (b) (6) ; Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6) ; Rich Roberts <(b) (6) >; Robert Kessler (b) (6) >; Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) >
Subject: RE: Zoom meeting with Tony tomorrow
Importance: High

Thanks for the email David - comments below. Also please see the attached word doc with links to some of the political actions that I'm concerned about. Tell Tony that this is very early days, with most of these coming from the Right, and many that can be headed off at the pass by positive outreach to Democrats, which I believe people will be doing.

I've also put in a link to the new " Covid Commission Planning Group (Covid CPG)" that has no official role from USG, but boldly states as its core mission "to prepare the way for a National Covid Commission". Members include David Relman & Marc Lipsitch and I have heard from many on the conspiracy theory chatter networks online that this will focus partly on advocating for reduction in biosafety labs, viral work in wildlife, and gain-of-function.

Please feel free to share any docs that I've sent to you, with Tony. Hopefully you can do that in a way that avoids FoIA, and if not possible, just show him stuff on screen share on Zoom.

Please also see comments below...

Cheers,

Peter

MORENS_SUBPOENA_019285
MORENS_NIH_038809
REL0000481466

Peter Daszak
President

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Twitter: @PeterDaszak

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

-----Original Message-----
From: David Morens <(b) (6) >
Sent: Wednesday, April 21, 2021 10:56 AM
To: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >; Gerald Keusch (b) (6) ; Rich Roberts (b) (6) ; Robert Kessler (b) (6) >; Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) >
Subject: Zoom meeting with Tony tomorrow

Peter, i am on leave in Florida for my granddaughters graduation from Florida State

Tomorrow at 130 i will be having a zoom call with Tony to tip him off on some of the info you sent in your recent email

I want to be sure about what info or docs you would or would not want me to share
[Peter Daszak:] Any and all

Other than what i see on tv, the jousting with Rand Paul and Jim Jordan, for example, i do not know how much of this Tony is aware of. To my knowledge he doesn't share it with anyone up here

I think issues he will be most concerned about are not your grant, although i add i am sure he would do anything he could to restore the funds and get the hellhounds of your back, but rather 1) the possibility that people like Rep Rodgers and her committee are about to turn up the heat and put Tony, personally, in their crosshairs, and 2) the possibility the NIH funded scientists or other esteemed scientists, are in cahoots with politicians wanting to attack him or niaid
[Peter Daszak:] agreed

As background, we all went through the original version of this crap about 10 years ago with the original GOF attacks surrounding H5N1. As Tony's scientific advisor, i spent much of the year, along with Jeff T, helping brief him and get him up to speed, which he did. At the time, David Relman, who had been one of Tony's favorites, was leading the charge, and we all wondered why a young guy with so much promise would choose demagoguery over science. Lipsitch was only a minor player at that time, but relished his attack role and seem to become more alarmist as time went on. Now these guys are in the NAM. How did that happen???? Ebright has always been a crackpot, in the mold of Peter Duseberg, remember him?, and no one took him seriously except some of the press who didn't know any better

MORENS_SUBPOENA_019286
MORENS_NIH_038810
REL0000481466

[Peter Daszak:] I had the unfortunate issue of voting on Marc Lipsitch's membership of NAM. He's an accomplished scientist. He's also very opinionated, arrogant and pushy on whatever issue he believes in. I voted on his science acumen.

I was unclear from your email on a couple points you might clarify. Obviously the Rodgers letter asking you to produce all those dox not only overlaps with the Lauer letter to you, but could not have been written without the help of a virologist.
[Peter Daszak:] I have it on good authority (Ebright's Twitter account) that he was involved. They are also getting pressured from Jamie Metzl who's working with the internet conspiracy networks actively to promote their "Research"

Actually, given that there are a few points in the letter that someone knowledgable about coronavirus virology would have corrected, my suspicion is that the letter was put together with the help of a legitimate scientist who needs to do more homework on coronaviruses.
[Peter Daszak:] you're right..! Metzl isn't a virologist, neither's Ebright. The internet 'researchers' are led by a banker and some junior scientists, many from human genetics, mol boil world.

Do you agree, and do you think that person was Ebright? Do you think Relman, Lipsitch, Imperiale, or other current or former grantees might have been involved?

I am not sure we ever funded Ebright, but we did fund the others. I would like to think that Relman et all are only mouthing off to the press, but do you think there is more to it than that, eg, that any of them are working with the politicians?
[Peter Daszak:] David Relman is talking with reporters a lot about this, including casting aspersions on my motives for speaking out about this virus emerging via wildlife-to-human spillover (he's quoted as saying my motives are to protect the research I've been doing and reputations of our collaborators). Ebright is very actively (and obnoxiously) critical on social media calling me a 'Grifter' on a weekly basis and promoting unsubstantiated arguments for a lab leak. I had to look up what 'grifter' meant at first...

Your earlier comments about this proposed investigative committee, and the possible role of these folks in it, are alarming. Can you be more specific about where this stands and what is being done to forward it and to squelch it?
[Peter Daszak:] Nothing's being done to squelch it, and neither should it be - there will be other committees that also pop up. My concern is their bold claim that they're laying the groundwork for a 9/11 type commission (and have a 9/11 commission person involved). It may be that just by saying that a lot, and having well known people involved, they end up forming one. They're clearly politically connected and are advocating for this politically. Jerry and I also proposed this in our paper published in Health Affairs, but we assumed this would be led by NAM or some other well-respected institution.

When i speak with Tony i do not want to step into the politics of all this, as that's not my job and he wouldn't want me to. If he needs further info it might be best to connect you two, in an off the record manner. Would that be OK? We are getting FOIA'd non stop, so it's most important that Tony not have anything on the record that could come back to bite
[Peter Daszak:] Totally agree. Tell him I'm happy to speak with him at any

MORENS_SUBPOENA_019287
MORENS_NIH_038811
REL0000481466

time and will do so in a way that's not FoIA-ble. One thing I could do is either on a zoom call or by sending you a document, is lay out responses to the Mendendez questions so that the arguments are known and well-supported. For example, everyone's saying that this is a 'gain-of-function' issue, but actually that's not the case - we worked on bat viruses, not human pathogens. The expts produced loss of function, not gain of function, all appropriate conditions and approvals were demonstrably checked and correctly answered.

Finally, i didn't read all of the Menendez bill-in-committee, which is longer than Les misérables, but what's the gist? Do you think that in their zeal to take a hard stance against the PRC, these Democrats are purposely, or accidentally, getting sucked into the evil-WIV scenario? Is there real danger here?
[Peter Daszak:] The Menendez bill is the only one that stands a chance so far of becoming law because it's bipartisan. The WIV, gain-of-function stuff is thrown in as a very small part of it. The draft wording only calls for a report from NIH after 180 days on these issues, and they are easily addressed. However, if it does pass and the anti-China mood hardens in the US, it may end up with calls to testify and the Republicans may use that to undermine NIH, and in particular Tony, given the rabid GoF myth they've been building.

Anything you think might be helpful, I'd appreciate

TY, david

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

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Date: Wed, 14 Apr 2021 5:43:23 PM -0400
Sent: Wed, 14 Apr 2021 5:41:53 PM -0400
Subject: another point re. Lauer's letter
From: Peter Daszak < (b) (6)
To: Keusch, Gerald T < (b) (6) David Morens < (b) (6)
CC: Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) >;
Attachments: NIH_NOA_1U01AI151797-01 revisions higlihgted.pdf

Just wanted to show you this - I think it points out that NIH know that it's not standard practice for grantees to conduct routine biosafety monitoring of subcontractees and then document that. I also think they know it's not in the federal codes. I'm saying this because they specifically re-issued our Notice of Award for the new contract we won at NIH last year. The re-issue included new language (attached, with highlights on changed part, p. 5) about biosafety reports and subaward documents. If this was standard practice and legally required for all grants/contracts, why would they re-issue with specific language to insert these points?

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
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Twitter: @PeterDaszak

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

From: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >
Sent: Wednesday, April 14, 2021 2:22 PM
To: 'Keusch, Gerald T' (b) (6) >; 'David Morens (b) (6) >; 'Roberts, Rich' (b) (6) >
Cc: 'Aleksei Chmura (b) (6))' <(b) (6) >
Subject: RE: Initial response from Lauer
Importance: High

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MORENS_NIH_026163
REL0000481472

I looked up all the CFR codes he's cited and none of them mention 'biosafety' – it's all about ensuring subcontractees spend the money correctly. From his letter, the first CFR is about what rights NIH has to documents, second is about subawards being similar, the final one is about what requirements there are – none are related to biosafety, all are financial

As a reminder, as a term and condition of award, NIH "must have the right of access to any documents, papers, or other records of the non-Federal entity which are pertinent to the Federal award, in order to make audits, examinations, excerpts, and transcripts" (45 C.F.R. § 75.364); and must have "timely and reasonable access to the non-Federal entity's personnel for the purpose of interview and discussion related to such documents" (id.). These requirements flow down to subawards to subrecipients. 45 C.F.R. § 75.101. "Non-Federal entities must comply with requirements in [45 C.F.R. Part 75] regardless of whether the non-Federal entity is a recipient or subrecipient of a Federal award." 45 C.F.R. 75.101. As the grantee, EcoHealth was required to have in place, "A requirement that the subrecipient permit the pass-through entity and auditors to have access to the subrecipient's records and financial statements as necessary for the pass-through entity to meet the requirements of this part." 45 C.F.R. § 75.352(a)(5). For each of these reasons, NIH is justified in seeking the materials, information, and a site visit as requested.

Aleksei in the office is right now gathering dozens of documents on all our subcontracts with WIV, including reports from them, IRB and IACUC applications and approvals, financial records, etc. We will certainly send him a bunch of that, but I really think they're trying to put pressure on us here – there was no requirement from NIH to assess the biosafety on any basis of this lab, which NIH approved for us to contract with!

Any help/suggestions much appreciated…

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

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

---

From: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >
Sent: Wednesday, April 14, 2021 2:06 PM
To: 'Keusch, Gerald T' (b) (6) ; 'David Morens ((b) (6))' <(b) (6) Roberts, Rich < (b) (6) >
Cc: 'Aleksei Chmura ((b) (6))' <(b) (6) >
Subject: Initial response from Lauer

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MORENS_NIH_026164
REL0000481472

I don't see his response (below) as suggesting they're going to move in a positive direction. He's demanding documents from past 7 years of how we monitored biosafety at Wuhan (new letter dates 4/13/21).

To me this looks very fishy – a McCarty-esque hit-job. I suspect what he's hoping is that we'll say "We don't have any documentation" so that NIH can then put out a false narrative to the world that we did a lousy job of biosafety. I will check on the law, but my understanding is that there is no expectation that a grantee will have to conduct biosafety examinations or regular checks – the CFR code he's citing seems more about checking the finances and maintaining financial records than anything.

Jerry – can I call you later today about this – you're a lab guy and can help let me know what's normal on this. I'll also have to talk to our lawyers to make sure I don't get entangled in some trap that he's trying to set for me. Very worrying.

I'm around any time for next few hours…

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
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Twitter: @PeterDaszak

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---

From: Lauer, Michael (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6)
Sent: Tuesday, April 13, 2021 1:17 PM
To: Peter Daszak <(b) (6)
Cc: Aleksei Chmura (b) (6) >; Lauer, Michael (NIH/OD) [E] <(b) (6) >
Subject: Re: Regarding R01AI110964

Many thanks again Dr. Daszak. We are continuing our review, but in the meantime please see attached. The third (last) attachment is what's new.

Best, Mike

Michael S Lauer, MD
NIH Deputy Director for Extramural Research
1 Center Drive, Building 1, Room 144

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MORENS_NIH_026165
REL0000481472

Bethesda, MD 20892
Phone: (b) (6)
Email: (b) (6)

From: "Lauer, Michael (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6)
Date: Sunday, April 11, 2021 at 5:19 PM
To: Peter Daszak (b) (6) g >
Cc: Aleksei Chmura (b) (6) >, "Lauer, Michael (NIH/OD) [E]" <
(b) (6) >
Subject: Re: Regarding 2R01AI110964-06

Many thanks, Dr. Daszak, I received your letter. We will review it and get back to you.

Best, Mike

Michael S Lauer, MD
NIH Deputy Director for Extramural Research
One Center Drive, Building 1, Room 144
Bethesda, MD 20892
(b) (6)
(b) (6) 6)

From: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >
Date: Sunday, April 11, 2021 at 4:39 PM
To: "Lauer, Michael (NIH/OD) [E]" <(b) (6) >
Cc: Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) >
Subject: Regarding 2R01AI110964-06

Dear Dr. Lauer,

Please find attached a detailed response to your two previous letters.

I hope you will take our response in the way it was intended – a good faith effort to address as far as is reasonably possible the general concerns that NIH has expressed to us, with a goal of rapid and full removal of the suspension on funding for this critically important work.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

MORENS_SUBPOENA_013824
MORENS_NIH_026166
REL0000481472

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From: Lauer, Michael (NIH/OD) [E] <(b) (6)
Sent: Wednesday, March 10, 2021 5:37 AM
To: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >
Cc: Aleksei Chmura (b) (6) >; Lauer, Michael (NIH/OD) [E] <(b) (6)
Subject: Re: Regarding 2R01AI110964-06

Dear Dr. Daszak

Attached please find two letters that I sent you previously.

Sincerely,
Michael S Lauer, MD

Michael S Lauer, MD
NIH Deputy Director for Extramural Research
1 Center Drive, Building 1, Room 144
Bethesda, MD 20892
(b) (6) (b) (6)
Email: (b) (6)

From: Peter Daszak (b) (6)
Date: Thursday, March 4, 2021 at 10:02 PM
To: "Lauer, Michael (NIH/OD) [E]" <(b) (6) >
Cc: Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) ***[Peter Daszak:]*** REDACTED>
Subject: Regarding 2R01AI110964-06

Dear Dr. Lauer,

I spoke yesterday with my program officer and other NIAID staff regarding our grant on the risk of coronavirus emergence (2R01AI110964-06) that includes collaboration with scientists at the Wuhan Institute of Virology, China. ***[Peter Daszak:]*** **REDACTED** joined the meeting and told me about his conversation with you about the conditions currently in place on our grant and my efforts to address some of them via my recent work in Wuhan with the WHO. He also commented that you would be willing to talk with me, as PI of this award, about a pathway to reinstate this grant. I would very much value this and am emailing to see if we can arrange a time that's suitable for you, perhaps next week if possible?

I'm cc'ing my assistant **REDACTED**, who can help arrange a suitable time, and also our Chief of Staff Aleksei Chmura, who I would hope could join us, as someone who can access any relevant information

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MORENS_NIH_026167
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on this award, and gained his own Ph.D as part of our original R01 work in China. I want to reassure you that I would not request to talk with legal counsel or bring them into a conversation, and that this would be a discussion with scientists focused on the goals of the grant, focused on research to protect us all against further coronavirus spillover.

Sincerely,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

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Date:	Sun, 30 Oct 2022 6:16:40 PM -0400
Sent:	Sun, 30 Oct 2022 6:16:26 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:	Keusch, Gerald T < (b) (6)
CC:	David Morens < (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

Fyi Bruce is a longtime collaborator who has helped us with the cost effectiveness modeling of our parasitic disease and covid vaccines. We've published more than a dozen papers together

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

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

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

Baylor University, University Professor
Rice 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 Oct 30, 2022, at 4:26 PM, Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6) wrote:

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Thanks David,

I responded to Bruce Lee (the perfect name for a truth ninja warrior such as he) including a pdf of the PNAS paper at his City University email which was easy to obtain to a) congratulate him, and b) ultimately ask him if we can respond to his article in depth via an introduction to the editorial staff as I am tired of sending pointed well evidenced Op-Eds or editorials or opinions over the transom and then being ignored with a standard no thanks reply. Or if necessary via a letter to the editor. Let's see if he responds. I'm thinking the Task Force, all or some, might respond – actually maybe just the

American members because of the uniquely American nature of this sort of rank political nonsense. I'm hoping Lee will reply.

Has anybody seen any comment from Burr regarding the outrageous attack on Nancy Pelosi's home, and the sole occupant at the time, her 82 year old husband Paul? I haven't and to me that is just the exclamation point on the assessment that his report is political and timed before the election, aside from the mile wide holes in the argument, so well-articulated by Bruce Lee.

Jerry

From: David Morens < (b) (6) >
Sent: Sunday, October 30, 2022 11:37 AM
To: Keusch, Gerald T < (b) (6) Peter Daszak < (b) (6) Aleksei Chmura < (b) (6) Peter Hotez < (b) (6) Rich Roberts < (b) (6) Jeff Sturchio < (b) (6)
Subject: Fwd: Forbes: Is New Senate GOP Covid-19 Pandemic Origin Report More About Politics Than Science? https://bit.ly/3t1BJhb

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

> **From:** "Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E]" (b) (6)
> **Date:** October 30, 2022 at 08:36:03 PDT
> **To:** David Morens <(b) (6) >
> **Subject: Fwd: Forbes: Is New Senate GOP Covid-19 Pandemic Origin Report More About Politics Than Science?** https://bit.ly/3t1BJhb

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

> **From:** "Folkers, Greg (NIH/NIAID) [E]" <(b) (6) >
> **Date:** October 30, 2022 at 06:52:42 PDT
> **Subject: Forbes: Is New Senate GOP Covid-19 Pandemic Origin Report More About Politics Than Science?** https://bit.ly/3t1BJhb

Is New Senate GOP Covid-19 Pandemic Origin Report More About Politics Than Science?

Bruce Y. Lee
Senior Contributor
I am a writer, journalist, professor, systems modeler, computational and digital health expert, avocado-eater, and entrepreneur, not always in that order.
Oct 29, 2022,10:49pm EDT

MORENS_SUBPOENA_002062
MORENS_NIH_008520
REL0000481478



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:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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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

MORENS_SUBPOENA_002065
MORENS_NIH_008523
REL0000481478

testing as Pfizer-BioNTech and Moderna did before rolling out vaccines to the general public.

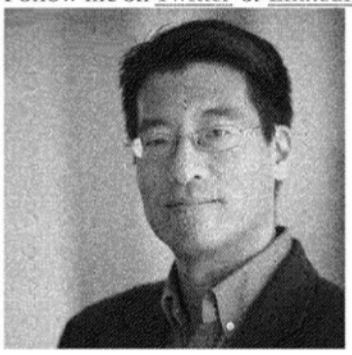
One thing's clear. The government of China wasn't as open and transparent to the rest of the world as they could have and probably should have been about the SARS-CoV-2 outbreak in late 2019 and early 2020. The first reports of this "mysterious pneumonia" emerged late in December 2019 and very early in January 2020, as I reported for *Forbes* on January 3, 2020. The government of China likely knew more about the virus and its deadly nature at the time. If that were indeed the case, then China's government chose poorly and should have been more forthcoming to get help from the international community. It is very fair to criticize China's government for withholding information and not being more cooperative. But again all of this does not necessarily mean that the Covid-19 pandemic started with a lab leak.

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

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

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

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



Bruce Y. Lee

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Date: Thu, 29 Feb 2024 5:09:59 PM -0500
Sent: Thu, 29 Feb 2024 5:09:30 PM -0500
Subject: Re: WSJ/Nicolas Wade: Where Did Covid Come From?
From: "Keusch, Gerald" < (b) (6)
To: Jeffrey Sturchio < (b) (6) >;
CC: Roberts, Rich < (b) (6) >; David Morens < (b) (6) >; Peter Daszak < (b) (6) >; peter hotez < (b) (6) >; Aleksei Chmura < (b) (6) >;

This has to be vigorously countered with scientific data as soon as possible by as many virologists with the necessary credentials, especially to counter Ebright. Peter D should not be involved. Angie Rasmussen? Kristian Anderson? Bob Garry? Others?

I'm still in Spain with no laptop. Back this weekend. Maybe awake by Monday or Tuesday. Jerry

Sent from my iPhone

On Feb 29, 2024, at 5:00 PM, Jeffrey Sturchio < (b) (6) wrote:

Good answer!

Jeff

From: Roberts, Rich <(b) (6)
Sent: Thursday, February 29, 2024 10:56 AM
To: Jeffrey Sturchio < (b) (6) David Morens < (b) (6) Peter Daszak < (b) (6) >; Keusch, Gerald T < (b) (6) peter hotez < (b) (6) Aleksei Chmura < (b) (6)
Subject: RE: WSJ/Nicolas Wade: Where Did Covid Come From?

He probably didn't note that I told him he was full of BS when he asked me about his theory.

Rich

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

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

From: Jeffrey Sturchio (b) (6) >
Sent: Thursday, February 29, 2024 10:47 AM
To: David Morens <(b) (6) Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >; Keusch, Gerald T <
(b) (6) >; peter hotez <(b) (6) ; Roberts, Rich <(b) (6) Aleksei Chmura <
(b) (6)
Subject: RE: WSJ/Nicolas Wade: Where Did Covid Come From?

EXTERNAL SENDER

This is the critical fulcrum of Wade's evidence-free argument: "After Darpa turned down the DEFUSE proposal in February 2019, the researchers in Wuhan might have secured Chinese government funding and gone ahead by themselves." So – his entire argument is spun up from a speculation.

JLS

From: David Morens <(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_004111
REL0000481486

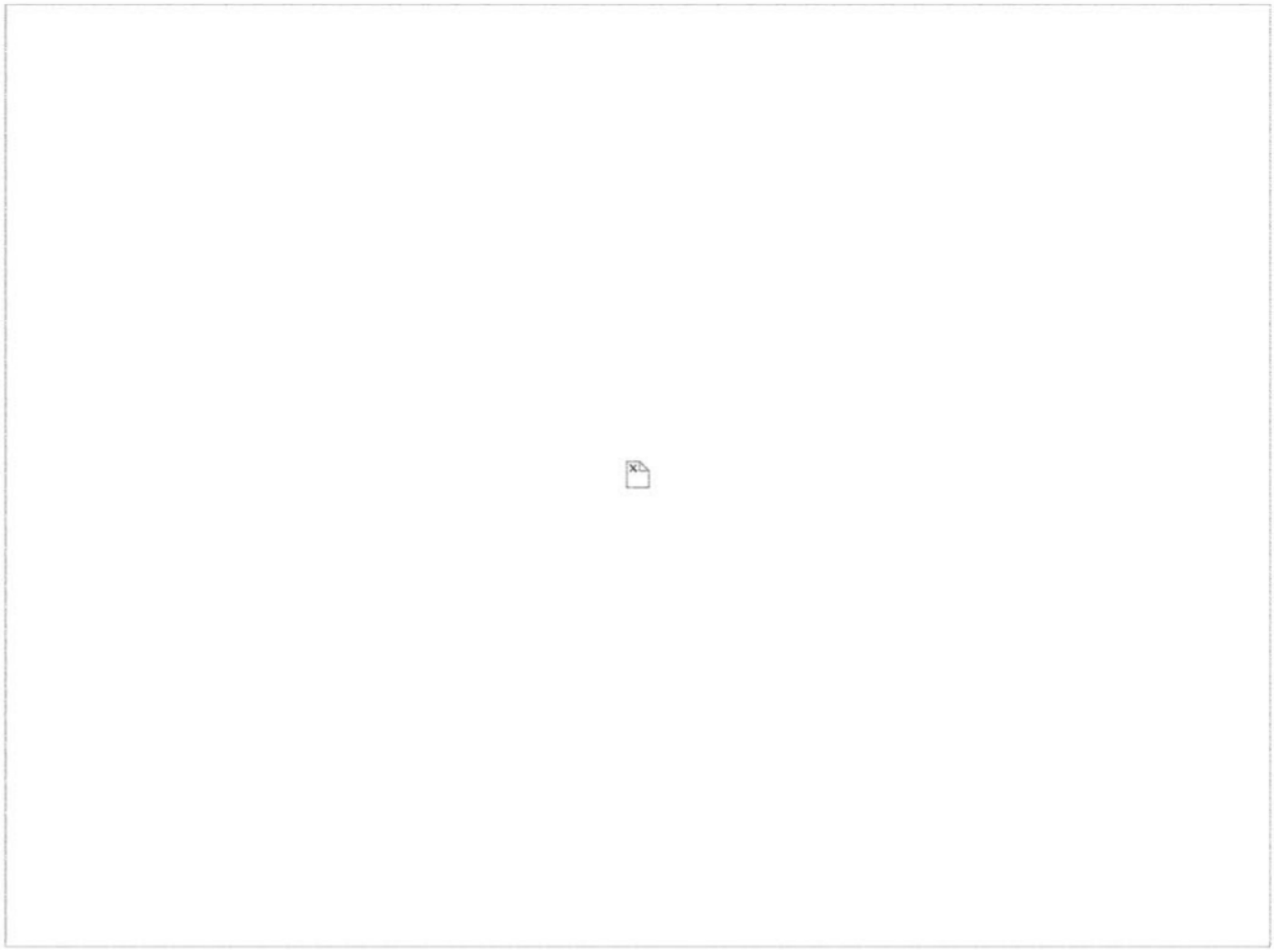


Illustration: Martin Kozlowski

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: Fri, 21 Jul 2023 1:22:10 PM -0400
Subject: Fwd: Publication of Angie Rasmussen article
From: David Morens < (b) (6)
To: David Morens < (b) (6)

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

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

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

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

---------- Forwarded message --------
From: Roberts, Rich < (b) (6)
Date: Thu, Sep 15, 2022 at 3:03 PM
Subject: RE: Publication of Angie Rasmussen article
To: Jeffrey Sturchio < (b) (6) >, Hotez, Peter Jay < (b) (6) Keusch, Gerald T < (b) (6)
Cc: Peter Daszak < (b) (6) >, David Morens <(b) (6) >, Aleksei Chmura < (b) (6) >

Very true!

Richard J. Roberts

New England Biolabs

240 County Road

Ipswich, MA 01938-2723

USA

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

Fax: (978) 412 9910

email: (b) (6)

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

EXTERNAL SENDER

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

Jeff

Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy smartphone

-------- Original message --------

From: "Hotez, Peter Jay" < (b) (6)

Date: 9/15/22 12:49 PM (GMT-05:00)

To: "Keusch, Gerald T" < (b) (6) >

Cc: "Roberts, Rich" < (b) (6) >, Jeffrey Sturchio
< (b) (6) Peter Daszak < (b) (6) >,
David Morens < (b) (6) >, Aleksei Chmura
< (b) (6) >

Subject: Publication of Angie Rasmussen article

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MORENS_NIH_010662
REL0000481487

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

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

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Baylor University, University Professor

Rice University, Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty

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

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Senior Coordinator & Executive Support: Douglas Soriano

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

Media Inquiries:

(b) (6)

(b) (6)

(b) (6)

iPhone

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

MORENS_SUBPOENA_003751
MORENS_NIH_010663
REL0000481487

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

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

Media Inquiries:

(b) (6)

(b) (6)

(b) (6)

iPhone

On Sep 15, 2022, at 11:18 AM, Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6) wrote:

Watching Jeff expound and I am nauseated.

Sent from my iPhone

On Sep 15, 2022, at 9:19 AM, Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6) wrote:

It's just

(b) (6)

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

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

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Baylor University, University Professor

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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:

MORENS_SUBPOENA_003754
MORENS_NIH_010666
REL0000481487

Peter:

Do you have Horton's email address? I was going to write to him about Jeff and see what he has to say.

Rich

Richard J. Roberts

New England Biolabs

240 County Road

Ipswich, MA 01938-2723

USA

Tel: (978) (b) (6)

Fax: (978) 412 9910

email: (b) (6)

From: Hotez, Peter Jay < (b) (6)
Sent: Thursday, September 15, 2022 7:57 AM
To: Jeffrey Sturchio < (b) (6) >
Cc: Peter Daszak < (b) (6) >; Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6) David Morens < (b) (6) >; Roberts, Rich <(b) (6) >; Aleksei Chmura < (b) (6) >
Subject: Re: Another attack from Republican Senators

EXTERNAL SENDER

I'm just sick of the whole thing. Richard Horton sent me an inappropriate note this morning. I feel as though I protected the reputation of the LC by being the bad cop with Jeff, and beat up for it.

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

MORENS_SUBPOENA_003755
MORENS_NIH_010667
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Media Inquiries:

(b) (6)

(b) (6)

(b) (6)

iPhone

On Sep 14, 2022, at 10:56 PM, Jeffrey Sturchio < (b) (6) wrote:

Peter: The Washington Post report was pretty balanced – and I'm glad that Dan Diamond gave you and Angela Rasmussen the space to clarify some of the more dubious elemenets of the Lancet Commission report. Your quotation was excellent – strong, succinct, clear, and true.

MORENS_SUBPOENA_003756
MORENS_NIH_010668
REL0000481487

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,

MORENS_SUBPOENA_003757
MORENS_NIH_010669
REL0000481487

Date:	Fri, 1 Apr 2022 11:53:12 AM -0400
Sent:	Fri, 1 Apr 2022 11:53:06 AM -0400
Subject:	RE: fyi you should read this
From:	"Roberts, Rich" <(b) (6)
To:	Hotez, Peter Jay < (b) (6) Peter Daszak < (b) (6) >;
CC:	David Morens < (b) (6) Gerald Keusch < (b) (6) Aleksei Chmura < (b) (6) >; Dennis Carroll <(b) (6) >; Jeff Sturchio < (b) (6) >;
Attachments:	image001.jpg

Peter:

Good luck. Happy to help.

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: Friday, April 1, 2022 8:33 AM
To: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >
Cc: David Morens < (b) (6) Gerald Keusch < (b) (6) Aleksei Chmura < (b) (6) Roberts, Rich < (b) (6) Dennis Carroll < (b) (6) Jeff Sturchio < (b) (6)
Subject: Re: fyi you should read this

EXTERNAL SENDER

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

Warmest regards Peter

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

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

University Professor, Baylor University

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

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

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

iPhone

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

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

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

OPINION

Who will defend embattled scientists?

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

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

MORENS_SUBPOENA_000323
MORENS_NIH_003724
REL0000481488



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

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

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

assistance.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

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

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

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

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

University Professor, Baylor University

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

Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

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

Amazon Author Center: https://www.amazon.com/Peter- J.-Hotez/e/B001HPlC48
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

MORENS_SUBPOENA_000327
MORENS_NIH_003728
REL0000481488

(b) (6)

On Mar 31, 2022, at 8:01 PM, David Morens < wrote:

The part that makes me mad is that before i agreed to talk to her she said she wanted to write this piece to present the other side of the story, that EcoHealth were the good guys doing good work and so on. But none of those things i told her ended up in print. Basically i feel like she mislead me

As i said, if my name is in print anywhere on the same page as the words "Jesse Bloom", it's a very bad day. d

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

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

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

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

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

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

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

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Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

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

---

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

It was a terrible article from someone who should know better

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

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

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

iPhone

MORENS_SUBPOENA_000329
MORENS_NIH_003730
REL0000481488

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

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

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

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

> **From:** "Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E]" (b) (6) >
> **Date:** March 31, 2022 at 17:12:05 EDT
> **To:** David Morens (b) (6) >
> **Subject: Fwd: fyi you should read this**
>
> Sent from my iPhone
> David M Morens
> OD, NIAID, NIH
> Begin forwarded message:
>
> > **From:** "Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E]" (b) (6) v>
> > **Date:** March 31, 2022 at 16:35:15 EDT
> > **To:** "Taubenberger, Jeffery (NIH/NIAID) [E]" (b) (6)
> > **Subject: Re: fyi you should read this**
> >
> > A very biased account. I am sorry i ever spoke to her. d
> >
> > Sent from my iPhone
> > David M Morens
> > OD, NIAID, NIH
> >
> > > On Mar 31, 2022, at 13:44, Taubenberger, Jeffery (NIH/NIAID) [E] < (b) (6) > wrote:
> > >
> > > https://www.vanityfair.com/news/2022/03/the- virus-hunting-nonprofit-at-the-center-of-the-lab-leak-controversy
> > >
> > > Jeffery K. Taubenberger, M.D., Ph.D.,
> > > Chief, Viral Pathogenesis and Evolution Section
> > > Deputy Chief, Laboratory of Infectious Diseases
> > > National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases
> > > National Institutes of Health
> > > 33 North Drive, Room 3E13C.1 MSC 3203
> > > Bethesda, MD 20892-3203 USA
> > >
> > > Tel. (b) (6) Fax. 1-301-480-1696
> > > email: (b) (6)

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Date: Fri, 22 Jan 2021 11:11:36 AM -0500
Sent: Fri, 22 Jan 2021 11:11:34 AM -0500
Subject: RE: U.S. Department of State: Fact Sheet: Activity at the Wuhan Institute of Virology
From: "Keusch, Gerald T" < (b) (6)
To: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] < (b) (6) Peter Daszak <(b) (6)
CC: Aleksei Chmura < (b) (6)

I just got off an interview with Roland Pease from BBC. Unfortunately, the BBC recording app failed and he got nothing of our nearly 1 hour conversation. We agreed to try again later. But at my age, when you detumece, firing up again takes some time in order to recover.

Its good they are doing this as it will bring some public witness to the dangers Collins has exposed US science to.

Jerry
-----Original Message-----
From: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] < (b) (6) >
Sent: Friday, January 22, 2021 10:04 AM
To: Peter Daszak < (b) (6) >; Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6)
Cc: Aleksei Chmura < (b) (6) >
Subject: Re: U.S. Department of State: Fact Sheet: Activity at the Wuhan Institute of Virology

Thanks, Peter, and I wish you well. I will be meeting with Tony early next week and will bring these issues up. Don 't want to do it in an email. Things are crazy around here with armed police and secret service patrolling the hallway around our front office every time Tony is in the building. Very unusual times, and is is too soon to tell whether we will soon get back to normal, or not.

Stay safe and keep doing your good work. I just sent in, day before yesterday, a glowing ref for Jon for his NAM/ELHM application. If they don't take him, you may need to kneecap whoever it is over there who makes the decisions. d

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

Date: Fri, 4 Jun 2021 7:16:09 PM -0400
Sent: Fri, 4 Jun 2021 7:13:18 PM -0400
Subject: RE: Thanks
From: Peter Daszak < (b) (6)
To: Keusch, Gerald T < (b) (6) David Morens < (b) (6)

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

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

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---

From: Peter Daszak (b) (6) >
Sent: Friday, June 4, 2021 7:05 PM
To: 'Keusch, Gerald T' < (b) (6) 'David Morens (b) (6)
Subject: RE: Thanks

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

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

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

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

Best just block and move on.

Cheers,

Peter

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MORENS_NIH_033923
REL0000481498

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

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

OK, not really.

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

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

Sincerely,
Jason

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

Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android

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Date: Fri, 24 Sep 2021 9:05:02 PM -0400
Sent: Fri, 24 Sep 2021 9:04:59 PM -0400
Subject: RE: Urgent - Amendment to defund EcoHealth Alliance was passed by the House last night and now moves to the Senate
From: "Keusch, Gerald T" < (b) (6)
To: Peter Daszak < (b) (6) David Morens < (b) (6) Roberts, Rich < (b) (6)
CC: Robert Kessler < (b) (6) >;

I'm going to contact my congressional representative and senators, and Tony Fauci and Victor Dzau as well.

If Rich gets in touch with Harold that could help some, at least with Eric Lander who sits in the cabinet and has the ear of the White House leadership.

Jerry

Gerald T. Keusch, M.D.
Professor of Medicine
Associate Director
National Emerging Infectious Diseases Laboratory
Boston University, Boston MA 02118

From: Peter Daszak < (b) (6)
Sent: Friday, September 24, 2021 1:31 PM
To: David Morens < (b) (6) Keusch, Gerald T < (b) (6) Roberts, Rich < (b) (6)
Cc: Robert Kessler < (b) (6) >
Subject: FW: Urgent - Amendment to defund EcoHealth Alliance was passed by the House last night and now moves to the Senate
Importance: High

Dear Robert, David, and Jerry,

Sorry to send this, but please read the email below and you'll see that a bill filed by a Republican congressman from PA then became a single line amendment attached to the Defense Appropriations bill, and actually passed the House last night.

We're very worried here because we rely on Federal funding and this puts our organization in great threat. Any advice is welcome. We're reaching out to Senators Gillibrand and Schumer, but I'm really worried that if they are too busy to get involved for a small non-profit with no political clout, we'll be drummed out of business.

If you have colleagues who know how to deal with this sort of issue, and are willing to help, we would be extremely grateful for any advice, suggestions and support. I realize you've all spent social and political capital helping our organization since we were first targeted by Pres. Trump, but this is truly an existential threat to us, considering 80-90% of our budget is from federal grants and contracts.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

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

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From: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >
Sent: Friday, September 24, 2021 1:11 PM
To: 'Jamison, Brooke (Gillibrand)' (b) (6) (b) (6) (b) >; 'Ruiz, Gilbert (Gillibrand)' <
Cc: Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) (b) (6) >; Robert Kessler (b) (6) >; Jeff Sturchio (

Subject: Urgent - Amendment to defund EcoHealth Alliance was passed by the House last night and now moves to the Senate
Importance: High

Dear Jamison and Gilbert,

You were kind enough to talk with us a couple of months ago about attacks on our New York City-based 501c3 non-profit from the hard right wing regarding the work we've done in the past trying to protect us from new emerging diseases coming out of China and other hotspots. As you remember, this work was largely funded by NIH, DoD and USAID and has become a target for Republican-led attacks on the Biden administration.

We're very concerned that one of the House Republicans, Congressman Reschenthaler, filed a bill titled HR591 "Defund EcoHealth Alliance Bill" in Jan. 2021 and managed to get this attached as Amendment 148 to the National Defense Authorization Act (HR 4350). The five other co-sponsors are all Republicans: Van Drew, Perry, Harshbarger, Keller, and Budd: https://rules.house.gov/bill/117/hr- 4350. The House passed the NDAA last night (https://armedservices.house.gov/ndaa) and unfortunately this Amendment is now progressing with it.

EcoHealth Alliance is a non-profit based in Midtown Manhattan that employs around 50 people whose jobs depend on the funding we receive each year. If this amendment continues forwards, we stand to all lose our jobs and close down the organization. This amendment is based on a false premise that our organization acted wrongly and was involved in the origin of the COVID pandemic. In fact it's the opposite, we worked with federal approval to help protect US citizens against this and other pandemic risks. If passed, it would penalize an organization doing public good, without any due process or consideration of the facts. Also of great concern is that this amendment would set a precedent that any single member of Congress can specifically block funding to an organization or institution through a simple amendment, bypassing all political norms.

We are urgently hoping that you will be able to make Sen. Gillibrand aware of our issue and move to strike out this amendment at the first possible opportunity. We are at this point very worried for our staff, and our work around the world protecting the US against the next pandemic.

Yours sincerely,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

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520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
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Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

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---

From: Peter Daszak (b) (6) >
Sent: Thursday, July 15, 2021 10:46 AM
To: Jamison, Brooke (Gillibrand) (b) (6) ; Ruiz, Gilbert (Gillibrand) <(b) (6) >
Cc: Dennis Carroll <(b) (6) >; Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) >; Robert Kessler <(b) (6)
Subject: RE: Concerns about political attacks on EcoHealth Alliance around COVID origins.

That would be perfect. It'll be me, our chief of staff Aleksei Chmura, and our Communications Director Robert Kessler.

Thanks for making time!

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

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Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

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---

From: Jamison, Brooke (Gillibrand) (b) (6)
Sent: Thursday, July 15, 2021 8:42 AM
To: Peter Daszak (b) (6) >; Ruiz, Gilbert (Gillibrand) (b) (6) >
Cc: Dennis Carroll <(b) (6) >; Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) >; Robert Kessler <(b) (6)
Subject: RE: Concerns about political attacks on EcoHealth Alliance around COVID origins.

Happy to chat. Would Monday at 2:30pm over zoom work for you all?

From: Peter Daszak <(b) (6)
Sent: Wednesday, July 14, 2021 3:38 PM
To: Jamison, Brooke (Gillibrand) (b) (6) (b) (6) >
Cc: Dennis Carroll <(b) (6) >; Aleksei Chmura (b) (6) >; Robert Kessler <(b) (6)
Subject: Concerns about political attacks on EcoHealth Alliance around COVID origins.

MORENS_SUBPOENA_010688
MORENS_NIH_021235
REL0000481504

Importance: High

Dear Brooke,

I hope you don't mind me contacting you directly – I was given your email address by my colleague Dennis Carroll.

As you may know, I'm the President of EcoHealth Alliance, based here in NYC, and also Chair of the NASEM Forum on Microbial Threats and member of the National Academy of Medicine. I mentioned the latter, because I received a very kind letter from Senator Gillibrand when I was voted onto the NAM a couple of years ago – it's now framed on my wall!

You may have heard our organization's name (EcoHealth Alliance) and mine being mentioned in the press recently in the general discussion of identifying the origins of COVID-19. For the last 17 years, we've worked closely with colleagues in China to get ahead of emerging viruses, including by collaborating with their premier virologists at the Wuhan Institute of Virology. Unfortunately, this work has become a very public target politically following over a year of conspiracy theories online that have now gone mainstream about the possibility COVID emerged as a leak from a biosafety laboratory in Wuhan. This was amplified a few weeks ago with testimony by Dr. Fauci and the release of FoIA'd emails that have put our organization in the cross-hairs of efforts to attack the current administration. This includes proposals by some minority members for bills that would significant harm our international work to prevent pandemics, as well as directly defund our organization.

I've attached a letter in Lancet that came out last week that helps provide some context of the way this issue is being viewed by serious scientists, but as you can imagine we're worried about the impact on work that we believe is critical to preventing future pandemics. I wondered if you would be interested in my giving you a short briefing on this issue, to explain in more detail what the evidence behind these theories is, and to get your take on the political issues we are concerned about?

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

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Date: Fri, 21 Jul 2023 1:21:53 PM -0400
Subject: Fwd: Publication of Angie Rasmussen article
From: David Morens < (b) (6)
To: David Morens < (b) (6)

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

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

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

---------- Forwarded message ---------
From: Hotez, Peter Jay < (b) (6)
Date: Thu, Sep 15, 2022 at 4:12 PM
Subject: Re: Publication of Angie Rasmussen article
To: Keusch, Gerald T < (b) (6)
Cc: Jeffrey Sturchio < (b) (6) >, Roberts, Rich < (b) (6) >, Peter Daszak < (b) (6) >, David Morens <(b) (6) >, Aleksei Chmura < (b) (6) >

Did he really? Awful

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

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

Baylor University, University Professor

Rice University, Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty

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

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

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Senior Coordinator & Executive Support: Douglas Soriano

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

Media Inquiries:

(b) (6)

(b) (6)

(b) (6)

iPhone

On Sep 15, 2022, at 12:31 PM, Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6) wrote:

Sachs dissed the Worobey papers during his remarks at the Lancet Commission launch. Shameful!

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

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

Jeff

Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy smartphone

-------- Original message --------

From: "Hotez, Peter Jay" <(b) (6)

Date: 9/15/22 12:49 PM (GMT-05:00)

To: "Keusch, Gerald T" < (b) (6) >

Cc: "Roberts, Rich" <(b) (6) >, Jeffrey Sturchio < (b) (6) >, Peter Daszak < (b) (6) >, David Morens < (b) (6) >, Aleksei Chmura < (b) (6) >

Subject: Publication of Angie Rasmussen article

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

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

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(b) (6)

(b) (6)

(b) (6)

iPhone

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

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

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

He repeated every inappropriate and unbalanced view he has repeatedly pushed everywhere else. Totally inappropriate, and he more than implied that these were the conclusions of the Commission.

Jerry

MORENS_SUBPOENA_003691
MORENS_NIH_010603
REL0000481506

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

I can't bring myself to watch

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

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Media Inquiries:

(b) (6)

(b) (6)

(b) (6)

iPhone

On Sep 15, 2022, at 11:18 AM, Keusch, Gerald T < (b) (6) wrote:

Watching Jeff expound and I am nauseated.

Sent from my iPhone

On Sep 15, 2022, at 9:19 AM, Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6) wrote:

It's just

(b) (6)

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

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

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

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

Date:	Thu, 6 May 2021 11:10:06 PM -0400
Sent:	Thu, 6 May 2021 11:05:41 PM -0400
Subject:	New: Letter from Republican Rep. Gallagher to Dr. Fauci re. WIV and gain of function
From:	Peter Daszak < (b) (6)
To:	David Morens < (b) (6) Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6) Roberts, Rich < (b) (6)
CC:	Aleksei Chmura < (b) (6) Robert Kessler < (b) (6)
Attachments:	Rep. Gallagher's letter to Dr. Fauci on COVID origins 5.5.21.pdf

David,

A Republican representative sent a letter to Tony Fauci today asking some pretty simple questions that are clearly designed to play to their political base.

If Tony Fauci is going to respond to the attached letter that was made public today, I hope he's ready to point out that the work we did was NOT gain of function. This phrase has been bandied about now for a few months and is utterly incorrect.

If he decides to draft a response, I'd be happy to do a quick briefing with you and him to explain the work that has been done up to now with WIV, and was planned to be done on our NIAID grant.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

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

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

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

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Date: Wed, 8 Sep 2021 1:02:29 PM -0400
Sent: Wed, 8 Sep 2021 1:02:25 PM -0400
Subject: RE: FW: Media Inquiry - South China Morning Post
From: "Keusch, Gerald T" < (b) (6)
To: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] < (b) (6) >;
CC: Peter Daszak < (b) (6) >;

Thanks, and much appreciated. I will be talking to Simone at 8 tomorrow morning.

From: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] < (b) (6)
Sent: Wednesday, September 8, 2021 1:00 PM
To: Keusch, Gerald T < (b) (6)
Cc: Peter Daszak < (b) (6)
Subject: Re: FW: Media Inquiry - South China Morning Post

Jerry, I am just goinmg into a eeting now. Happy to share any insifhts I have but it might also be good to loop in Jeff Taubenberger with who I work, who has been dealing with GoF stuff momstop since it began, and who is on the 3PCO committee. He can explain it better than me. Ironically he and I were discussing it at lengrh. This was in the context of a draft paper I wrote reviewing the whole GoF thing some years ago, as the so called moratorium was looming. We never published it for several reasons, and now it is out of date becaause it deals mostly with H5N1, but I did share it with a reporter off the record and she said it helped her alot. More later d

On 9/8/2021 12:07 PM, Keusch, Gerald T wrote:

> Hi David,
>
> Thanks for the update yesterday on the GOF kerfuffle (it's an old Manchester term which means kerfuffle). As you can see below, Simone McCarthy from the S. China Morning Post wants to talk about it, specifically in the context of Tony's recent remarks. That suggests to me that you should not be involved. However, I would be very grateful for every bit of nuance about NIAID's position so I can stay well within the philosophical and rational grounds of interpretation of the 2017 ground rules for review of GOFOC research, and for any GOF research in general.
>
> One key question I want to be sure about pertains to the initial flagging of grants from submitting entities when there are experiments proposed that could be considered GOF. I understand that institutional review boards are required to review proposals on EIDs for research on the genetic basis for pathogenesis and to tell NIH if these reach a threshold for special attention by the established mechanisms. What I am not sure about is how NIH handles a proposal that is labeled GOF but not of concern. Are all of those reviewed in-house to determine if the grant is correctly classified? That would take a lot of admin review time for sure. I don't know how many grants submitted since the process was announced in 2017 have been flagged, been reviewed, and been denied funding, at least for those experiments. If you have any data that can be shared and NIAID would like to see that information out there (as you know Nature is also working on an article), at least in ballpark figures, I'd be happy to have that in my back pocket. What would the oversight be when a grantee is told specific aim X cannot be explored? What is the concern when other sources of funding are used – as I note below – in non USG facilities?

A related perspective is that the NIH process, and therefore the position of the USG, is restricted to oversight of government funded research, and research facilities that receive federal research funding. If Sheldon Adelson were to ask one of our NEIDL scientists to open a separate laboratory to see what it takes to make a bat coronavirus transmissible to a mammal by the respiratory route would there be any review at any level or any constraint on supporting that work? My sense of it is that the NIH can only oversee NIH funded research and institutions. The private research establishment, and of course the lab-in-the-garage, can do whatever they want to do, and for whatever reason they would do so. It is important that there be a well-considered and thoughtful overview of what should be acceptable because the knowledge gain predominates and the risk can be mitigated by training, protocol, and suitably equipped and safe facilities.

Thanks, Jerry

From: Simone McCarthy <simone.mccarthy@scmp.com >
Sent: Wednesday, September 8, 2021 9:34 AM
To: Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6)
Subject: Re: Media Inquiry - South China Morning Post

Hi Jerry,

Well, along these lines my editors have asked me to do an explainer about the controversy surrounding Fauci's comments to Congress on NIH funding for gain of function research at WIV via EcoHealth. I'm putting together a story that will look at the definitions of GofF under NIH and how it's decided what merits review. I'm wondering if it's something that you would be up for commenting on? If so, I'd ideally hope to chat tomorrow (Thursday), although I'm not sure if that is one of your office days. Please let me know if that might be feasible, and thank you.

Best,

Simone

On Mon, 6 Sept 2021 at 17:30, Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6) wrote:

> Travel well.
>
> I think the continuous flow of more thoughtful reporting on what the science tells us and what is pure speculation and political perspective is beginning to turn the tide towards a more refined appreciation of the likely and the unlikely scenarios. My view is we need to continue to push on what is objective science, what is crap pseudoscience, and what is pure PR marketing.
>
> I think – but can't really prove – the public that buys into the risky research plot is the same public that refuses to get immunized and then for the few, on their death bed, they say maybe I made a mistake. Although some of them are OD'ing on Ivermectin in horse dose quantities. Same thing – no ability to sift through information.
> Who is your readership? What do they appreciate and what are they confusing?
>
> Jerry
>
> **From:** Simone McCarthy <simone.mccarthy@scmp.com >
> **Sent:** Monday, September 6, 2021 8:30 AM
> **To:** Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6)
> **Subject:** Re: Media Inquiry - South China Morning Post
>
> Hi Gerry,
>
> Thank you for the note/offer of your time and glad you hear you've been basking in some vacation time. Hope you guys didn't get hit too hard by (b) (6)

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I'm on my way back from [(b) (6)] this week myself (although have been working remotely here) but I'll get back in touch soon and look forward to discussing the latest then.

Good luck adjusting back to the office coffee.
Best,

Simone

On Fri, 3 Sept 2021 at 21:20, Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6) wrote:

> I see I didn't respond to your note. I have been happily on vacation at our place in [(b) (6)] which means no alarm in the morning, hot tub on waking, good coffee, doing the chores and fixing things on my to-do list, and trying to avoid anything that sounds like professional activities. So I stay off the emails, except for family stuff.
> At any rate I am back in the office next week after Tuesday, so we could follow up after that.
>
> Jerry
>
> ---
>
> **From**: Simone McCarthy <simone.mccarthy@scmp.com>
> **Sent:** Tuesday, August 24, 2021 7:18 AM
> **To:** Keusch, Gerald T(b) (6) u>
> **Subject:** Re: Media Inquiry - South China Morning Post
>
> Dear Gerry,
>
> Ah, too bad! Would have been nice to cross paths on the Vineyard, perhaps another time here or in Boston, which I end up travelling through fairly frequently.
>
> I wanted to check in with you in advance of the US intelligence report on the origins which we expect will be released publicly in the coming days. I'll likely be putting together a story about how scientists are viewing the assessment reached there (angle still to be honed). I'm not exactly sure the timeline, but I wanted to drop you a line and see if you might be up for chatting when it's out.
>
> Hope all is well otherwise, thank you again for all your time last month and for mentioning me to Dr. Morens - I have gotten in touch.
>
> Best,
>
> Simone
>
> On Fri, 30 Jul 2021 at 03:21, Keusch, Gerald T (b) (6) wrote:
>
> > Great to hear you will spend a bit of time on the Vineyard. My son has a house in West Tisbury, and loves it. Unfortunately this year we won't make it there in August, otherwise we might have been able to say hello in person.
> >
> > I'll let David know you are away and you may be in touch with him in a couple of weeks. This issues you are reporting on won't go away in the near future.
> >
> > Jerry
> >
> > ---
> >
> > **From:** Simone McCarthy <simone.mccarthy@scmp.com>
> > **Sent:** Thursday, July 29, 2021 2:21 PM
> > **To:** Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6)
> > **Subject:** Re: Media Inquiry - South China Morning Post
> >
> > Dear Jerry,
> >
> > Thanks for these thoughts - very clear, and thanks as well for suggesting a conversation with David Morens. I'll be on leave (actually headed to MA) for a short stint, but I look forward to staying in touch on this in the coming weeks and will drop Dr. Morens a line as well. Hope you enjoy some nice August time in the Berkshires.

Best,

Simone

On Wed, 28 Jul 2021 at 12:39, Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6) wrote:

> Hi Simone,
> In addition, I have been in touch with David Morens at NIAID who works closely with Tony Fauci. Based on my interactions with you, as well as comments by Peter Daszak regarding your thoughtful journalism, he could be helpful for future reporting albeit considering all of the circumstances it would almost certainly be off-the-record. You can therefore contact him at(b) (6) and he will respond if he has something of value to add.
>
> Jerry
>
> ---
>
> **From:** Simone McCarthy <simone.mccarthy@scmp.com>
> **Sent:** Wednesday, July 28, 2021 4:57 AM
> **To:** Keusch, Gerald T (b) (6) >
> **Subject:** Re: Media Inquiry - South China Morning Post
>
> Dear Jerry,
>
> One more with the comment from our previous exchange, thank you again for the time.
> https://www.scmp.com/news/china/science/article/3142773/no- entry-trouble-ahead-china-whos-covid-19-origins-hunt
>
> Best,
>
> Simone
>
> On Mon, 26 Jul 2021 at 16:47, Simone McCarthy <simone.mccarthy@scmp.com> wrote:
>
> > Dear Jerry,
> >
> > Thank you, and that is a very graphic (and apt) metaphor. I am attempting to drill (lance?) deeper into these exact issues in a piece that will be published Tuesday HKT. I realise this is very short notice (and I promise I won't be knocking on your door so frequently here after that), but we have touched on some of the key issues at length in our conversation earlier this month that I believe they may need to be clarified within the context of the next phase proposal to use in this story. If there's any way you might be able to share your thoughts on these follow-ups via email or chat for 15 minutes anytime on Monday I'd really love to be able to update and include your perspective.
> >
> > I am also planning to include the comment that you sent me last week regarding keeping the original international team involved, and wanted to ask you a follow-up there. Please see below. Thank you.
> >
> > Best,
> >
> > Simone
> >
> > - I know that you mentioned that the lab leak hypothesis should be investigated, but that it is of lesser priority as compared to work to investigate the animal/natural pathways due to where the publicly available evidence points. Do you think that the prioritization of the lab leak as one of the five areas in the WHO proposal will slow down the process of being able to get started on international

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collaboration on animal studies in China? Is the inclusion politics at play or is it fitting that this is part of the proposal?

- Do you think that putting together this SAGO, as opposed to moving forward with the original team (perhaps with the addition of some relevant expertise as you and Dr. Koopmans mentioned), will slow down the process of getting this next phase of work started? Does it present other challenges/benefits?

On Fri, 23 Jul 2021 at 11:08, Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6) wrote:

> I'm game. You have only been able to scratch the surface of the political overlay at play here. I think there is some pus underneath that needs to be drained so the deeper tissues can heal. When there is no "laudible pus" exuding on its own from a deep wound a pathway must be created by the physician in order to prevent more severe complications, including the potential for sepsis and death, if the patient is to have a chance to heal and return to good health. Same thing pertains here. You can help to point the way to accomplish that and I am willing to talk with you about the issues and how this has been made more difficult by partisan voices on both sides.
>
> Jerry
>
> Gerald T. Keusch, M.D.
> Professor of Medicine
> Associate Director
> National Emerging Infectious Diseases Laboratory
> Boston University, Boston MA 02118
>
> ---
>
> **From:** Simone McCarthy <simone.mccarthy@scmp.com>
> **Sent:** Thursday, July 22, 2021 10:42 PM
> **To:** Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6)
> **Subject:** Re: Media Inquiry - South China Morning Post
>
> Hi Jerry,
>
> Thanks so much for the feedback. The May 25 report is attached. Hope we can keep in touch as this goes forward.
>
> Best,
>
> Simone
>
> On Fri, 23 Jul 2021 at 10:09, Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6) wrote:
>
> > Yes things do move fast. I think your report was balanced, and your use of my quote makes me seem prophetic. Thanks.
> >
> > Would you send me a pdf of your report on May 25th of the additional work on bat coronaviruses. I can only see a portion of it when I try to open it from your article of today.
> >
> > Cheers, Jerry
> >
> > Gerald T. Keusch, M.D.
> > Professor of Medicine
> > Associate Director
> > National Emerging Infectious Diseases Laboratory
> > Boston University, Boston MA 02118
> >
> > ---
> >
> > **From:** Simone McCarthy <simone.mccarthy@scmp.com>
> > **Sent:** Thursday, July 22, 2021 8:36 PM
> > **To:** Keusch, Gerald T (b) (6)
> > **Subject:** Re: Media Inquiry - South China Morning Post

MORENS_SUBPOENA_022186
MORENS_NIH_043087
REL0000481509

Dear Jerry,

Lots of shifting sands under this story, due to new developments, but happy to be able to include some of your comment here. Thank you.
https://www.scmp.com/news/china/diplomacy/article/3142113/chinas- covid-origins-snub-shows-limits-world-health

Best,

Simone

On Wed, 21 Jul 2021 at 11:39, Simone McCarthy <simone.mccarthy@scmp.com> wrote:

> Dear Jerry,
>
> Thanks very much for this - well noted and I really appreciate the quick turnaround. I'll be sure to keep in touch regarding publication.
>
> Best,
>
> Simone
>
> On Tue, 20 Jul 2021 at 23:13, Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6) > wrote:
>
> > Hi Simone,
> >
> > I'm in catch up mode so here are a few additional comments.
> >
> > Despite agreeing – at least in part – with the Relman quotes regarding WHO in Jon Cohens piece in Science that WHO may not be the best organization to pursue the origin studies right now it is the only organization that can pursue the investigation. I say that because it is the only global public health entity with membership from virtually all nation states – that why it's called the World Health Organization. That structure also makes it subject to political influence, often played out in terms of whether or not a country will provide the extrabudgetary funding WHO needs to do things like this investigation, which subjects WHO to the terms and conditions the funding country applied. Most certainly in my mind WHO cannot move forward with credibility if Dr. Tedros dismisses the original 10 international team members and calls for self and government nominations of a new team. The 10 are true experts in their field and internationally respected scientists. I agree with Marion Koopmans that appointing an expert or two in specific areas of interest could more optimally meet any reasonable need for additional expertise.
> >
> > Regarding the comments/quotes below, I was certainly following a consistent theme along the way, which is again reflected in what I say above and on the record. I made one edit below which you will see in bold underlined italic font.
> >
> > Jerry

MORENS_SUBPOENA_022187
MORENS_NIH_043088
REL0000481509

From: Simone McCarthy <simone.mccarthy@scmp.com>
Sent: Tuesday, July 20, 2021 8:51 AM
To: Keusch, Gerald T (b) (6)
Subject: Re: Media Inquiry - South China Morning Post

Dear Jerry,

Thanks again for your time sharing your thoughts with me last week - really good food for thought for me there. The floor has shifted underneath our conversation a bit given that Dr. Tedros released the outline of his plan for the phase two work. I'm putting together an article that takes a look at the proposal (as described to member states in the public statement) and the challenges that may exist for getting it off the ground. I'd like to be able to include a few of your comments from our conversation and I've included those below for you to check, as discussed.

I did see your related comments in Jon Cohen's Science story, and I would be curious to ask just broadly if you think that the path laid out by Tedros is the best way forward and perhaps what exactly a lab audit in this specific scenario may entail. If it's something you'd be able to discuss via email or a short chat today or tomorrow I'd appreciate that - if I've already taken up way too much of your time, no worries, that is highly understandable too.

I realize you're not in the office today, but I'm wondering if you might be able to give these quotes a quick look and let me know any changes sometime during your Tuesday. Please note in order to optimize timing I am sending over a rough draft version, the context will be as described, but I can't guarantee that there won't be changes to the exact wording in the preceding lines. Likewise it's possible there could be further paraphrasing or shortening of the direct quotes, but that would be with strict attention to the meaning as shown below. Thank you.

Best,

Simone

Gerald Keusch, associate director of the National Emerging Infectious Diseases Laboratory Institute at Boston University
Some scientists say the rhetoric around the laboratory leak hypothesis - especially that which seeks to blame China for the outbreak or accuse its scientists of wrongdoing - has made it difficult to move forward with international research in China.
"All of the accusatory statements and hypotheses built on no ***publicly available*** evidence will not gain access to an open, clear, transparent, collaborative international investigation, one that is meant not to cast blame, but to find out what happened so that efforts to prevent this happening again in the future can actually take place."
"There is something called the scientific method - we know how to do collaborative work - it just takes the willingness to do it, in an environment that is positively oriented." "Let's get on with it."

Keusch said it was a "mistake" of the phase one WHO report to not recommend further research into the laboratory leak, and that both this hypothesis and the natural origin should be investigated. However, research into the natural origins was more urgent, given that it was the more likely of the two scenarios, based on available evidence, he said.
"We need to be looking at all of it [both natural origins and lab leak] systematically and in a thoughtful and planned manner."
The kind of work that should be done: forensic analysis of the labs, serology on humans and animals (for example Linfa Wang's cPass serological test which "is available and could be used systematically in China, in Thailand and other border countries where bats, coronaviruses, and people interface")
"It can be done...but there has to be the environment and the desire and the goals for doing it which is not blame and castigate, but to learn and intervene in the future."

[The urgency of uncovering the origin, why it matters for the next phase of the WHO-led mission to begin]

"If you don't look for evidence it doesn't just spring up on its own and hit you in the face, there needs to be a cooperative, collaborative, collegial and communicative way of going about this and as far as I can see the only organisation that can do it is WHO."
"It's no longer a question of if, but when and what. Now that we've seen three severe coronavirus outbreaks of respiratory disease [this century] and we know that these trace back to a vast viral floral, across multiple bat species, another SARS, MERS, or Covid is not a question."

On Wed, 14 Jul 2021 at 09:10, Simone McCarthy <simone.mccarthy@scmp.com > wrote:

> Hi Jerry,
>
> Sure that's no problem, and thanks for sending the event details, looks interesting. Speak soon and thank you again for the time.
>
> Best,
>
> Simone
>
> On Wed, 14 Jul 2021 at 06:10, Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6) wrote:
>
> > Hi Simone,
> >
> > Can we move the call tomorrow to 11 am EDT? I will be logging on to a presentation on financing future pandemic preparedness organized by the Center for Global Development in DC, which goes from 9:30 to 10:30. The buffer time allows for late ending, pit stops, and refills of the coffee mug. I will forward the announcement of the seminar to you so you can register if you are interested.
> >
> > Jerry
> >
> > **From:** Simone McCarthy <simone.mccarthy@scmp.com >
> > **Sent:** Thursday, July 8, 2021 10:16 PM
> > **To:** Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6)
> > **Subject:** Re: Media Inquiry - South China Morning Post
> >
> > Got it, thank you and look forward to speaking.
> >
> > Best,
> >
> > Simone
> >
> > On Fri, 9 Jul 2021 at 01:54, Keusch, Gerald T (b) (6) wrote:
> >
> > > My office phone is (b) (6)
> > > Backup will be my cell phone (b) (6)
> > > Jerry
> > >
> > > **From:** Simone McCarthy <simone.mccarthy@scmp.com >
> > > **Sent:** Thursday, July 8, 2021 11:58 AM
> > > **To:** Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6)
> > > **Subject:** Re: Media Inquiry - South China Morning Post
> > >
> > > Hi Jerry,

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MORENS_NIH_043090
REL0000481509

Sure, Wednesday 10:30a Eastern daylight works just fine for me, thank you. What's the best number to reach you?

Best,

Simone

On Thu, 8 Jul 2021 at 23:38, Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6) > wrote:

> How about Wednesday at 10:30 am EDT (you will probably recall that too). Is that OK for Hong Kong time (I assume that's where you are).
>
> Jerry
>
> **From:** Simone McCarthy <simone.mccarthy@scmp.com>
> **Sent:** Thursday, July 8, 2021 9:25 AM
> **To:** Keusch, Gerald T (b) (6)
> **Subject:** Re: Media Inquiry - South China Morning Post
>
> Dear Dr. Keusch,
>
> Thanks so much for your message and the offer of your time. I'm glad to hear that you had a nice (and unplugged) Fourth of July weekend. I should have realized when I wrote you... I've been over here a bit too long I guess, although originally I'm from your neck of the woods, Massachusetts.
>
> I'd still be interested to chat with you about the letter, and also your thoughts more broadly on what the most critical next steps are for moving forward on gathering more data about how SARS-CoV-2 started circulating in humans. My schedule is open your Wednesday or Thursday morning EST next week, if there's a convenient time for you to talk in either of those windows, please let me know. I'd be grateful for a chance to speak then.
>
> Best,
>
> Simone
>
> On Thu, 8 Jul 2021 at 00:16, Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6) > wrote:
>
> > Hi Simone,
> >
> > Sorry I was not able to respond to you on Monday. While the timing of the publication in The Lancet on a Monday was fine for the world, it was over the long July 4th independence day weekend, and we were with family for the first time in a while and unplugged the WiFi.
> >
> > I am willing to chat with you about this, but to be clear I should say that I am on my summer schedule, which means I am out of the office from Fridays through Tuesdays, which leaves Wednesday or Thursday to find a time.

GT Keusch

From: Simone McCarthy <simone.mccarthy@scmp.com>
Sent: Monday, July 5, 2021 10:41 PM
To: Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6)
Subject: Media Inquiry - South China Morning Post

Dear Dr. Keusch,

I am a reporter with the South China Morning Post in Hong Kong, where I cover research into the origins of SARS-CoV-2. I'm reaching out to you while following up on the 'Science, not speculation' Lancet letter. I realise that I am contacting you quite late in your evening, I thought it couldn't hurt to check if you would be available to share a short comment for our coverage today. Specifically I was hoping to ask you why/how the decision was made to put this letter forward now and what you hope it will add to the current conservation/efforts to understand how the virus emerged. Do you and the other signatories also feel that there should be more research into the potential of a lab or research-related accident?

I'd also be interested to speak with you in more detail about your views on the next steps that should be taken in the origins research, specifically how different hypotheses could be further probed and what the priorities should be. Ideally I'd love to touch base quickly and include your perspective in our piece, which will be published today here in Hong Kong time, but if that's not possible and you would be up for a separate conversation on this, I'd love a chance to learn more about how you're looking at the origins research work.

Thank you.
Best,

Simone

--

Simone McCarthy | Reporter
South China Morning Post Publishers Ltd
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M(
E: b simone.mccarthy@scmp.com

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Phone (b) (6)

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Phone: (b) (6) 89

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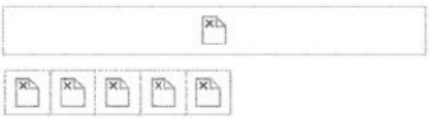
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David M Morens (b) (6) (b) (6)

MORENS_SUBPOENA_022196
MORENS_NIH_043097
REL0000481509

Date: Fri, 31 May 2024 9:18:24 AM -0400
Sent: Fri, 31 May 2024 9:17:01 AM -0400
Subject: RE: Comment from Peter Staley about Tony Fauci re. our suspension and proposed debarment
From: Peter Daszak < (b) (6)
To: (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) (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

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USA

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

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

From: (b) (6) <(b) (6)
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) Jeff Sturchio < (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

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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

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Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

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

---

From: Roberts, Rich (b) (6)
Sent: 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) >; Keith 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

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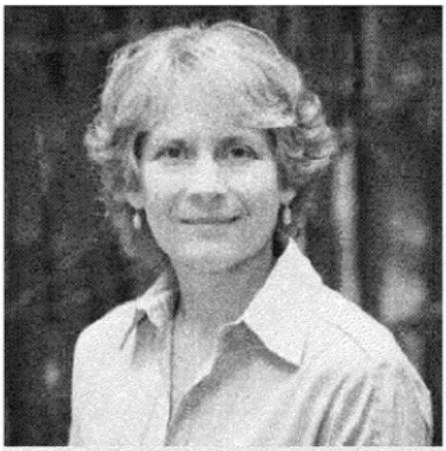
Richard J. Roberts
New England Biolabs
240 County Road
Ipswich, MA 01938-2723
USA
Tel: (978) (b) (6)
Fax: (978) 412 9910
email: (b) (6)

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

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

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

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Date: Mon, 22 Aug 2022 4:26:41 PM -0400
Sent: Mon, 22 Aug 2022 4:26:20 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) < (b) (6) David Morens < (b) (6) Gerald T Keusch Jeff Sturchio < (b) (6) Aleksei Chmura < (b) (6) >;
Attachments: image001.jpg; image002.jpg; image003.jpg

James Walsh from New York Magazine is writing a piece about this.

I'm probably going to talk with him off-the-record. I'll let you know what his angle is, and if it's not another 'gotcha', will ask if any of you be willing to talk to him.

Cheers,

Peter

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

From: Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6)
Sent: Monday, August 22, 2022 12:13 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 know it, beyond disappointment the way some of these science driven orgs have behaved in the wake of adversity, the slightest heat and they just crumpled. Zero spine.

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 Aug 22, 2022, at 9:10 AM, Peter Daszak <(b) (6) > wrote:

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

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Tel.: + (b) (6)
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
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From: Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6)
Sent: Monday, August 22, 2022 11:39 AM
To: Peter Daszak (b) (6)
Cc: Roberts, Ricl (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 Center for Vaccine Development | Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

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

Baylor University, University Professor
Rice 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)
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

1

2h

Quoth Sachs: “There was a recipe. There was a desire. There was a large scientific program. There was a technical capability. And one day, there was a FCS that has never been seen before in a sarbecovirus…And everything from NIH is don't look over there, look at the market.”

2

2

37



Dr. Angela Rasmussen

@angie_rasmussen

1

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 RFK adds that the CIA makes offensive bioweapons in violation of the 1972 BWC.

1

2

40



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.

1

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Dr. Angela Rasmussen

@angie_rasmussen

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2h

Eauci is doing this for the CIA in collaboration with the Chinese government so Big Pharma can achieve world domination through vaccines for the bespoke FCS-bearing bioweapons being released by a cabal of evil governments & funding agencies.

1

3

45



Dr. Angela Rasmussen

@angie_rasmussen

·

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.

1

5

46



Dr. Angela Rasmussen

@angie_rasmussen

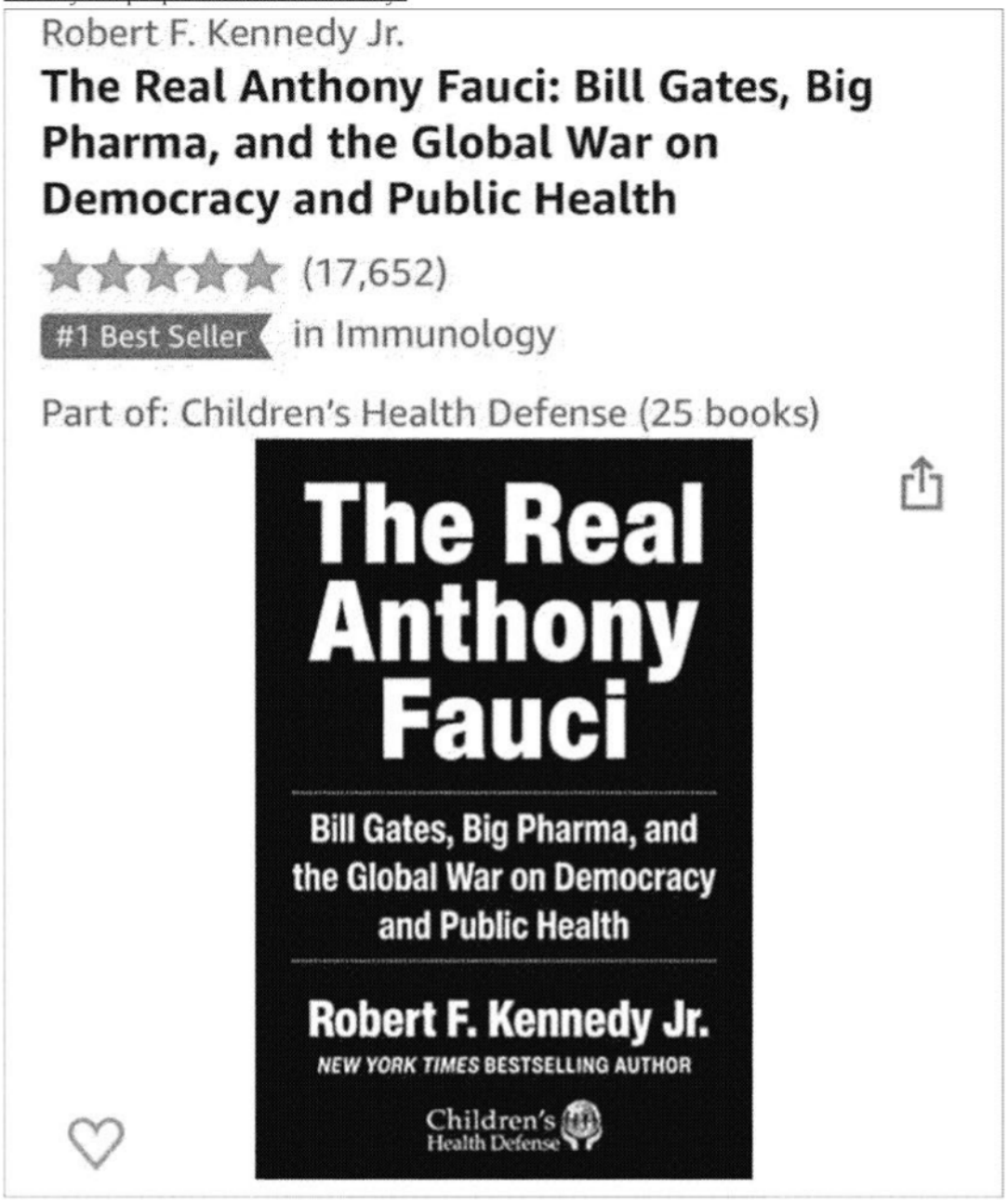
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2h

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

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literally kill people who take it seriously.



2
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57



Dr. Angela Rasmussen

@angie_rasmussen

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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.

1
11
79



Dr. Angela Rasmussen

@angie_rasmussen

2h

But Jeff Sachs is in charge of a commission tasked with investigating & analyzing all aspects of the pandemic, from origins to vaccines. Though the Lancet Commission has no policy making power, it's still very influential.

2
8
56



Dr. Angela Rasmussen

@angie_rasmussen

2h

And if spreading lies and conspiracy theories about the pandemic's origin wasn't already disqualifying for Sachs to lead it, attempting to wield influence via the platform of an anti-vaxxer whose entire career is devoted to harming public health absolutely should be.

2
13
76



Dr. Angela Rasmussen

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@angie_rasmussen

2h

These aren't just Sachs' opinions. These conspiracy theories are insidious propaganda that will enrich people like RFK at the expense of public health. This is profoundly harmful. It will cost lives. Jeffrey Sachs needs to be removed as Lancet Commission Chair.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

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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

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

Amazon Author Center | Daily Beast Contributor

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

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

iPhone

On Aug 21, 2022, at 4:47 PM, Peter Daszak (b) (6) g> 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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From: Roberts, Rich <(b) (6)
Sent: Saturday, August 20, 2022 7:02 PM

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REL0000481512

To: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >; David Morens (b) (6) (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 (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

MORENS_SUBPOENA_011367
MORENS_NIH_022154
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Peter Daszak
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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
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USA
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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) 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

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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

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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

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From: Roberts, Rich (b) (6) >
Sent: Saturday, August 20, 2022 12:55 PM
To: Peter Daszak <(b) (6)(b) (6) (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
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Fax: (978) 412 9910
email: (b) (6)

From: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >
Sent: Saturday, August 20, 2022 10:27 AM
To: David Morens <(b) (6) >; Gerald T Keusch <(b) (6) Jeff Sturchio <(b) (6) >; Roberts, Rich <(b) (6) Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6)
Cc: Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) >
Subject: RE: Continued NIH action - already leaked to the press

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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

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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' < (b) (6) ; 'Roberts, Rich' <(b) (6) 'Hotez, Peter Jay' (b) (6) (b)
Cc: Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6)
Subject: Continued NIH action - already leaked to the press
Importance: High

Here's the latest from NIH – as usual we received a Friday afternoon pdf letter from Michael Lauer that's full of legalistic language (attached). And as also 'usual', Lauer only sent this the same day he informed Republicans on an oversight committee, and either him or the Republicans then instantly made it public. There's already an article in the Washington Examiner about it (below)

They're basically terminating our subcontract to WIV because we were unable to get the lab notebooks they demanded (no surprise there, given the politics). They're also offering us the chance to renegotiate the grant. Sounds great, but by now of course the chances of any institution in China wanting to work with an organization targeted in this way are pretty slim. There's also the buried proviso that we have to arrange for 6-monthly inspections of our subcontractee's labs.

If we don't want to renegotiate, we have to bilaterally terminate.

After 2 and a half years of pressure from NIH, we're now back to where we were in April of 2020, when

NIH informed us to suspend all work with WIV, but that we could carry on with the grant. This was then followed a few days later with full termination, then suspension with conditions, then more conditions, now this. Pretty depressing, awful, and utterly unnecessary.

Not sure what we'll do, but my gut feeling is we should continue and try to find a way forwards with other groups in China. It'll be a hard path, considering WIV are the premier bat virus group in China and our preferred partners, and the politics has made all of this completely toxic. But it's the honorable path, as a scientist, and I think we should at least try.

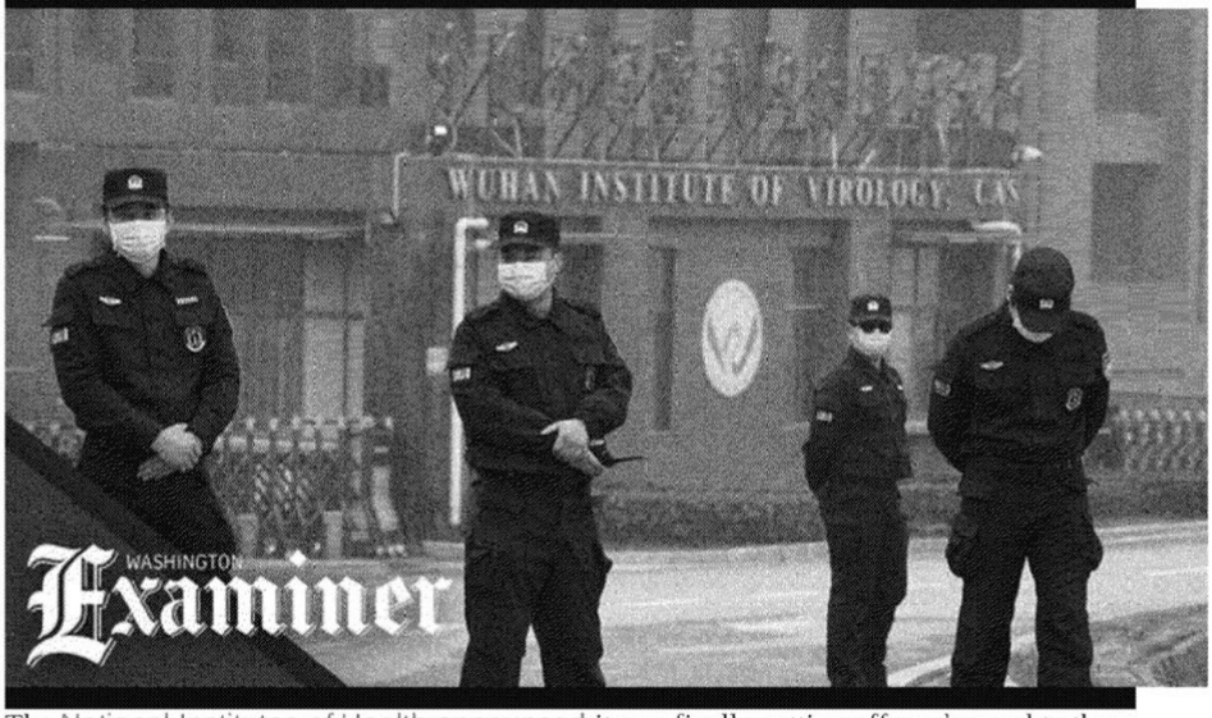
Here's the Washington Examiner article: https://www.washingtonexaminer.com/policy/healthcare/nih-ends-subaward-wuhan-lab-stonewalling

WUHAN LAB

NIH ends subaward to Wuhan lab after continued stonewalling

by Jerry Dunleavy, Justice Department Reporter |
August 19, 2022 08:21 PM

Ad ends in 9s



The National Institutes of Health announced it was finally cutting off a subaward to the Wuhan Institute of Virology after it continued to refuse to hand over key information about the coronavirus research it conducted with U.S. tax dollars.

NIH Deputy Director Michael Lauer made the revelation in a letter Friday to House Oversight Committee Republicans, in which he said the Wuhan lab had refused to turn over lab notebooks and electronic files connected to its research funded through an NIH subaward given to it by the U.S.-based EcoHealth Alliance.

But Lauer indicated the NIH may continue funding EcoHealth's controversial bat coronavirus research despite the group's documented noncompliance issues, its close links to the Wuhan virology institute, and its history of funneling hundreds of thousands of U.S. tax dollars to the Chinese lab.

"NIH … identified one non-compliance under the ... award that cannot be remedied with specific award conditions," Lauer said Friday. "NIH has requested on two occasions that

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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

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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

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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) (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

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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) (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).

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https://www.ucsusa.org/resources/disinformation- playbook

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

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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

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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- (b) (6)

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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 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)

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MORENS_SUBPOENA_011379
MORENS_NIH_022166
REL0000481512

Date: Mon, 7 Mar 2022 11:33:46 AM -0500
Sent: Mon, 7 Mar 2022 11:30:46 AM -0500
Subject: RE: Music from (b) (6)
From: Peter Daszak < (b) (6)
To: Roberts, Rich < (b) (6) Hotez, Peter Jay < (b) (6)
CC: David Morens < (b) (6) Keusch, Gerald T < (b) (6) Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) >;

Love that! Just the humour we need right now – dark times indeed.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

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

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

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

---

From: Roberts, Rich (b) (6) >
Sent: Monday, March 7, 2022 11:16 AM
To: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >; Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6)
Cc: David Morens <(b) (6) >; Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6) Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) >
Subject: RE: Music from (b) (6)

Peter:

Thanks. What is happening is quite appalling and the response by the civilized world is very disappointing.

The attached is highly appropriate.

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: Monday, March 7, 2022 11:07 AM
To: Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6) ; Roberts, Rich (b) (6)
Cc: David Morens <(b) (6) >; Keusch, Gerald T (b) (6) Aleksei Chmura <
(b) (6) >
Subject: RE: Music from (b) (6)

EXTERNAL SENDER

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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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, 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) (6)

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MORENS_NIH_014088
REL0000481513

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

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 Mar 6, 2022, at 9:44 PM, Roberts, Rich (b) (6) > wrote:

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Peter:

Your brother (b) (6) 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 <(b) (6) Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6) Keusch, Gerald T (b) (6)
Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) >
Subject: Music from my (b) (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)
(b) (6)
(6)

Here is my nephew (b) (6)
(b) (6)
(6)

Here is his sister, (b) (6)
(b) (6)

I also wanted to share this beautiful piece of (b) (6) music. It's called "Chuyesh Brati myi" or "Listen, my brother". I first heard this when we buried (b) (6)
(b) (6) The song famously

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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)

(b) (6)

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

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

Tel.: + (b) (6)

MORENS_SUBPOENA_005746
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REL0000481513

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)
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 (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) >

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MORENS_NIH_014095
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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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Date: Thu, 24 Jun 2021 10:06:01 PM -0400
Sent: Thu, 24 Jun 2021 10:05:53 PM -0400
Subject: Re: Article gives further details on termination of EcoHealth's NIH grant
From: "Hotez, Peter Jay" < (b) (6)
To: Peter Daszak < (b) (6)
CC: Keusch, Gerald T < (b) (6) David Morens <(b) (6) Rich Roberts < (b) (6) Aleksei Chmura < (b) (6) Robert Kessler < (b) (6) >;
Attachments: image001.gif

I spoke to Bechara Choucair at the White House he leads the vaccination program and asked him to open up the possibility of a public White House POTUS defense of science and scientists. Will also discuss with Ron Klain. But not clear if they want to spend Political chits on this position

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, FASTMH, FAAP
Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine
Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology
Co-Head, Section of Pediatric Tropical Medicine
Health Policy Scholar
Baylor College of Medicine

Texas Children's Hospital Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics
Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development
University Professor
Department of Biology, Baylor University

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

Founding Editor-in-Chief, PLoS Neglected Tropical Diseases
E-mail: (b) (6)
Twitter: @peterhotez
Skype: (b) (6)
Linkedin Peter Hotez
Amazon Author Center: https://www.amazon.com/Peter- J.-Hotez/e/B001HPIC48
Like us on Facebook https://www.facebook.com/BCMNationalSchoolOfTropicalMedicine/

Executive Assistant: Douglas Soriano
(b) (6)

Phone: (b) (6)

MORENS_SUBPOENA_020608
MORENS_NIH_041315
REL0000481515

Sent from my iPhone

On Jun 24, 2021, at 8:51 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.**

My wife spotted this in the awful rag the Daily Mail. It's now in all the Murdoch right wing press (this is from Fox News - https://www.foxnews.com/politics/fauci- resisted-trump-cancel-virus-research-grant-wuhan-lab). Apparently a new tell-all book about Trump's management of the pandemic gives details of how the EcoHealth CoV grant was terminated. This is written from the right wing perspective – their spin is that "Fauci had the audacity to think it shouldn't have been terminated!". But actually, it reveals some interesting new information:

1. NIH and HHS thought it likely illegal to terminate a grant "for convenience". My lawyers also believe that, as does just about everyone I've asked
2. Trump pressured HHS who pressured Tony and Francis. They hesitated to terminate, the well-known HIV/AIDS activist Peter Staley tried to persuade them both not to allow this to happen – political interference in science
3. Fauci and Collins thought it not worth resigning over a $3.7 million grant. Peter Staley agreed ultimately. Fauci reluctantly agreed to terminate it, as he said, "because the white house told us to". Personally, I understand this decision, even though it's been devastating to me and EcoHealth. It would not have been good to have lost Tony's leadership in the middle of the pandemic with Trump's reckless leadership.

FYI – I forwarded a copy of this to the GAO in case they want to use it in their work.

Fauci resisted Trump directive to cancel virus research grant linked to Wuhan lab: Book

The White House demanded the grant be canceled after reports the coronavirus leaked from the lab

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By **Thomas Barrabi | Fox News**

Exclusive: Anthony Fauci resisted a White House directive in April of last year to cancel a research grant for a nonprofit linked to the Wuhan Institute of Virology but "reluctantly agreed" after he learned that then-President Donald Trump had explicitly ordered its cancellation, according to an exclusive excerpt from a book detailing the Trump administration's response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Fauci's debate with other top officials on how to handle the request was detailed in "Nightmare Scenario: Inside the Trump Administration's Response to the Pandemic That Changed History," an upcoming book from Washington Post reporters Yasmeen Abutaleb and Damian Paletta.

The White House pushed the National Institutes of Health to cut funding for a study examining how coronaviruses jump from infected bats to humans following reports linking the research to the Wuhan facility at the center of the "lab leak theory," which posits the pandemic originated from a lab accident. The study's sponsor, the nonprofit EcoHealth Alliance, was told not to spend the remaining $369,819 balance of its 2020 grant.

<image001.gif>

In their book, Abutaleb and Paletta provide a behind-the-scenes account of how Fauci and his colleagues at the National Institutes of Health responded to the White House's directive:

"With questions swirling about the origins of COVID-19—experts had determined that the virus was not man-made but could not rule out that it might have slipped out of a lab—the NIH had gone to the principal study investigator on April 19 and asked that payments be halted to the subcontractor in Wuhan until it had more answers.

A few days later, the relatively small grant had garnered new attention…On the afternoon of April 24, NIH director Francis Collins and Fauci received notice that Trump wanted to formally announce in a 5:00 p.m. press conference that the grant had been terminated."

Collins and Fauci told the White House and [the Department of Health and Human Services] that they were not sure the NIH actually had the authority to terminate a peer-reviewed grant in the middle of a budget cycle. The HHS general counsel told them to do it anyway and made clear it was a direct order from the president, implying that their jobs were on the line if they didn't

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comply. Fauci and Collins reluctantly agreed to cancel the grant."

According to the book, Fauci relayed the incident to his longtime friend Peter Staley, the prominent HIV/AIDS activist, who purportedly pushed him to resist the administration's directive.

"What do you mean?" Staley asked. "You can't cancel a grant like this."
"What do you want me to do?" Fauci said.
"Can't you and Collins threaten to resign over this?" Staley suggested.
"You want us both to resign over a $3.7 million grant?" Fauci snapped back.
Staley instantly backed down. 'You're right, you're right,' he said. 'That's not what you resign over.'"
(Collins and Fauci heard from many members of the scientific community that they should have resigned. The HHS general counsel later found that the agency probably had not had the authority to terminate the grant. NIH had to reinstate the grant but stopped all of its funding.)

It was the second time in a matter of days that it looked as though Fauci was being bullied by political forces at the White House, and Staley thought it was a worrisome trend.
"You combine this with what happened with your Oval Office remdesivir announcement— and I know this doesn't matter to the country. We're not talking about Trump and politics and Fox and the whole country. "We're talking about the fact that you are now our leader in AIDS, in public health advocacy," he told Fauci, his voice rising with emotion.

"In the scientific community, you are our leader. And in the course of forty-eight hours, you have broken two major tenets of how the scientific community does things. We have these rules for a reason, which you've been a major defender of your whole life."

Fauci did not return a request for comment on the book's claims by the time of this article's publication.

EcoHealth Alliance has worked with Wuhan lab researchers in the past but was not actively collaborating with them when the grant was canceled, Politico reported last year.

When testifying at a House Energy & Commerce Hearing in June 2020, Fauci claimed he was unaware of the reason why the grant was canceled.

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"Why was it canceled? It was canceled because the NIH was told to cancel it," Fauci said at the time. "I don't know the reason, but we were told to cancel it."

The NIH's decision to fund research at the Wuhan Institute of Virology is an ongoing point of contention between Fauci and several Republican lawmakers. Sen. Rand Paul and others have alleged that Fauci was aware scientists at the Wuhan lab were conducting "gain of function" research on the virus – a charge Fauci has adamantly denied.

"Nightmare Scenario: Inside the Trump Administration's Response to the Pandemic That Changed History" will debut on June 29.

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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MORENS_NIH_041319
REL0000481515

Date: Sat, 25 Sep 2021 11:32:05 PM -0400
Sent: Sat, 25 Sep 2021 11:32:01 PM -0400
Subject: RE: Urgent - Amendment to defund EcoHealth Alliance was passed by the House last night and now moves to the Senate
From: "Keusch, Gerald T" < (b) (6)
To: Roberts, Rich < (b) (6) David Morens <(b) (6)
CC: Peter Daszak < (b) (6) Robert Kessler < (b) (6)

Hi Rich,

Thanks. I think it is important to insure that the Senate does not include it in whatever budget bill they pass. I suspect most of the staffers for the democrats were unaware of this being inserted as this must be a massive document being hastily moved forward. What is important is to be sure the Senate and the White House are aware and will be sure it doesn't get out of the Senate or the bill is signed by the President. Eric can be especially important here because he will be able to pay attention and he sits on the cabinet and has the ear of the top people in the White House and probably President Biden as well.

I am trying to schedule a call with Tony Fauci for Monday to be sure he is aware of this and why it is a very appalling thing to allow to happen. He too has access to and the confidence of the White House and the Senate leadership. I will be contacting our two Massachusetts Senators offices but I have no particular in with them. So its good you will be trying to reach Harold et al as well. Many thanks for this.

Jerry

-----Original Message-----
From: Roberts, Rich < (b) (6)
Sent: Saturday, September 25, 2021 11:04 PM
To: Keusch, Gerald T < (b) (6) David Morens < (b) (6) >
Cc: Peter Daszak < (b) (6) >; Robert Kessler < (b) (6) >
Subject: RE: Urgent - Amendment to defund EcoHealth Alliance was passed by the House last night and now moves to the Senate

Jerry et al:

Sorry to be slow here. I was appalled by this amendment. I will try to contact Harold, Tony, Francis and Eric Lander by email and see if they have any suggestions. I have to confess that I don't know how possible it is to remove stupid amendments like 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)

-----Original Message-----
From: Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6)
Sent: Saturday, September 25, 2021 9:03 PM
To: David Morens < (b) (6) >

Cc: Peter Daszak < (b) (6) >; Roberts, Rich < (b) (6) Robert Kessler < (b) (6) >
Subject: RE: Urgent - Amendment to defund EcoHealth Alliance was passed by the House last night and now moves to the Senate

EXTERNAL SENDER

Thanks David,

I will plan on doing that. I have a call with Richard Horton at noon to discuss whether the Lancet will appoint us a Working Group reporting directly to the Lancet. He was prepared to do that, extracted a promise from Jeff he wouldn't be out in the public space after he altered the Commission website, and asked up to develop a proposal. We did and listed all 12 of the task force members as the new Working Group. With the WSJ piece and other media vehicles picking up on it we are not inclined to give one inch and it will be all 12 of us or none of us. We are still holding our public voice silent, but the issue is not if but when, and then what we will say.

What I want to talk to Tony about is the amendment to defund EHA in the defense appropriation bill passed by the House. I am sure staff were largely unaware. Just like I expect Richard Horton to stand on the side of scientific integrity so too must the NIH, and it is time for Francis Collins to set the record straight - Peter and EHA did nothing wrong, their science was important and helped the world prepare for the emergence of COVID rather than being responsible for it happening. I think Tony can speak to Francis - who probably won't be listening - but even more important to Biden, his senior staff, and to Eric Lander.

Long story short is I can call Tony in the 1:30-2:30 time frame. If you can let him and his secretary know that would be great. Is that still Patty Conrad because she will most likely recognize my name.

Jerry

-----Original Message-----
From: David Morens < (b) (6) >
Sent: Saturday, September 25, 2021 4:08 PM
To: Keusch, Gerald T < (b) (6)
Cc: Peter Daszak < (b) (6) >; Roberts, Rich < (b) (6) Robert Kessler < (b) (6) >
Subject: Re: Urgent - Amendment to defund EcoHealth Alliance was passed by the House last night and now moves to the Senate

Jerry, i would call him on his land line at work on Monday. (b) (6) and his assistant Kim will answer. I can give her a heads up of who you are and that u will be calling.

In a pinch i can give you his cell phone, but there is a sort of rule that us piss-ons shouldn't give it out. Although i sm sure he would be fine

But as he is so swamped all the time, i think the land line call is best, so that he will know in advance that you are going to call. david

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

> On Sep 25, 2021, at 15:59, Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6) wrote:
>

> David. What's the best way for me to contact Tony. I don't know what he could achieve in trying to get Collins to do what is right here but he can have a lot of influence on Biden and Eric Lander. I will raise what our mutual mentor, Shelly Wolff, would have done - make it clear this is egregious and get the Govt to do what is right.
>
> Jerry
>
> Sent from my iPhone
>
>> On Sep 25, 2021, at 11:50 AM, David Morens < (b) (6) > wrote:
>>
>> Peter, sorry for not replying earlier I was in a sort of urgent
>> situation and was tied up the whole past two days.
>>
>> First, it is hard to believe this passed or will be allowed to stand,
>> I suspect most Democrats and Republicans didn't even know about it
>> because some staffer sneaked it in. Also, and I dread appearing
>> charitable, I doubt even most Republicans would want this.
>>
>> beyond that, the law prevents me from doing anything about it other
>> than fume, so please accept my sympathetic fuming and hope that this
>> will die a rapid death. d
>>
>>
>> David M. Morens, MD
>> (b) (6)
>> (b) (6)

>>
>> (b) (6)
>> (b) (6) (work)
>> (b) (6) (cell)
>>
>> IMPORTANT: My gmail frequently sends incoming messages to Trash,
>> which is apparently not correctable. If you don't hear from me in a
>> reasonable time, please try again, call, or use my NIH email address
>>
>> IMPORTANT: For US Government-related email, please also reply to my
>> NIAID address
>>
>>> On Sat, Sep 25, 2021 at 9:30 AM Peter Daszak
>>> < (b) (6) > wrote:
>>>
>>> Jerry – this is very good to hear. Yesterday was a very worrying day. If this amendment becomes law, we will have to lay off staff and basically close down. It penalizes us for something that we didn't do, without due process. It sets a terrible precedence for congress members ability to shut down a non-profit or a university's line of research based on rumor and hearsay. It's also based on a falsehood that there is any evidence that the virus came out of a lab, of course.
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>>> There's a lot of drum-banging going on out there, and the attacks on us continue. We're trying to do the right thing by keeping quiet and not talking to the press, but this also means they have a field day at our expense

when every rumor or hyped-up article comes out.
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>>> Cheers,
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>>> Peter
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>>> Peter Daszak
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>>> President
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>>> EcoHealth Alliance
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>>> 520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
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>>> New York, NY 10018-6507
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>>> USA
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>>> Tel.: + (b) (6)
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>>> Website:
>>> https://nam10.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww
>>> .ecohealthalliance.org%2F &data=04%7C01%7Croberts%40neb.com%7C853
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>>> jmAR7%2FZc%2FfPvQ1ibI0AHDtfJo9lnJDJJbgQMDOMao%3D &reserved=0
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>>> Twitter: @PeterDaszak

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>>> EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent
>>> pandemics and promote conservation
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>>> From: Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6)
>>> Sent: Friday, September 24, 2021 9:05 PM
>>> To: Peter Daszak < (b) (6) >; David Morens
>>> < (b) (6) Roberts, Rich < (b) (6)
>>> Cc: Robert Kessler < (b) (6) >
>>> Subject: RE: Urgent - Amendment to defund EcoHealth Alliance was
>>> passed by the House last night and now moves to the Senate
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>>> I'm going to contact my congressional representative and senators, and Tony Fauci and Victor Dzau as well.
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>>> If Rich gets in touch with Harold that could help some, at least with Eric Lander who sits in the cabinet and has the ear of the White House leadership.
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>>> Jerry
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>>> Gerald T. Keusch, M.D.
>>>
>>> Professor of Medicine
>>>
>>> Associate Director
>>>
>>> National Emerging Infectious Diseases Laboratory
>>>
>>> Boston University, Boston MA 02118
>>>
>>>
>>>
>>> From: Peter Daszak < (b) (6) >
>>> Sent: Friday, September 24, 2021 1:31 PM
>>> To: David Morens < (b) (6) Keusch, Gerald T
>>> < (b) (6) Roberts, Rich < (b) (6)
>>> Cc: Robert Kessler < (b) (6) >
>>> Subject: FW: Urgent - Amendment to defund EcoHealth Alliance was
>>> passed by the House last night and now moves to the Senate
>>> Importance: High
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>>> Dear Robert, David, and Jerry,
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>>> Sorry to send this, but please read the email below and you'll see that a bill filed by a Republican congressman from PA then became a single line amendment attached to the Defense Appropriations bill, and actually passed the House last night.
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>>> We're very worried here because we rely on Federal funding and this puts our organization in great threat. Any advice is welcome. We're reaching out to Senators Gillibrand and Schumer, but I'm really worried that if they are too busy to get involved for a small non-profit with no political clout, we'll be drummed out of business.
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>>> If you have colleagues who know how to deal with this sort of issue, and are willing to help, we would be extremely grateful for any advice, suggestions and support. I realize you've all spent social and political capital helping our organization since we were first targeted by Pres. Trump, but this is truly an existential threat to us, considering 80-90% of our budget is from federal grants and contracts.
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>>> Cheers,
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>>> Peter
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>>> Peter Daszak
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>>> President
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>>> EcoHealth Alliance
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>>> 520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200

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>>> New York, NY 10018-6507
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>>> USA
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>>> Tel.: + (b) (6)
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>>> Website:
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>>> Twitter: @PeterDaszak
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>>> EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent
>>> pandemics and promote conservation
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>>> From: Peter Daszak < (b) (6) >
>>> Sent: Friday, September 24, 2021 1:11 PM
>>> To: 'Jamison, Brooke (Gillibrand)'
>>> < (b) (6) >; 'Ruiz, Gilbert (Gillibrand)'
>>> < (b) (6) >
>>> Cc: Aleksei Chmura < (b) (6) >; Robert Kessler
>>> < (b) (6) >; Jeff Sturchio (b) (6)
>>> < (b) (6) >
>>> Subject: Urgent - Amendment to defund EcoHealth Alliance was passed
>>> by the House last night and now moves to the Senate
>>> Importance: High
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>>> Dear Jamison and Gilbert,
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>>>
>>> You were kind enough to talk with us a couple of months ago about attacks on our New York City-based 501c3 non-profit from the hard right wing regarding the work we've done in the past trying to protect us from new emerging diseases coming out of China and other hotspots. As you remember, this work was largely funded by NIH, DoD and USAID and has become a target for Republican-led attacks on the Biden administration.
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>>> We're very concerned that one of the House Republicans, Congressman Reschenthaler, filed a bill titled HR591 "Defund EcoHealth Alliance Bill" in Jan. 2021 and managed to get this attached as Amendment 148 to the National Defense Authorization Act (HR 4350). The five other co-sponsors are all Republicans: Van Drew,

Perry, Harshbarger, Keller, and Budd:
https://nam10.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Frules.house.gov%2Fbill%2F117%2Fhr-4350
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&sdata=aY6taCJdf6XdumnQGbYQ2L6l3AmDrR6LD%2BQayiAB6%2FA%3D &reserved=0. The House passed the NDAA last night (https://nam10.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Farmedservices.house.gov%2Fndaa
&data=04%7C01%7Croberts%40neb.com%7C853d932d3b7646dc522708d9808973fb%7C77cefbc6b3d64d6a9f74066
&sdata=JZxPouf7JlKquc6Lusx8vaKwoyu8bAYIe1pufTdyri0%3D &reserved=0) and unfortunately this Amendment is now progressing with it.
>>>
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>>> EcoHealth Alliance is a non-profit based in Midtown Manhattan that employs around 50 people whose jobs depend on the funding we receive each year. If this amendment continues forwards, we stand to all lose our jobs and close down the organization. This amendment is based on a false premise that our organization acted wrongly and was involved in the origin of the COVID pandemic. In fact it's the opposite, we worked with federal approval to help protect US citizens against this and other pandemic risks. If passed, it would penalize an organization doing public good, without any due process or consideration of the facts. Also of great concern is that this amendment would set a precedent that any single member of Congress can specifically block funding to an organization or institution through a simple amendment, bypassing all political norms.
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>>> We are urgently hoping that you will be able to make Sen. Gillibrand aware of our issue and move to strike out this amendment at the first possible opportunity. We are at this point very worried for our staff, and our work around the world protecting the US against the next pandemic.
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>>> Yours sincerely,
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>>> Peter
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>>> Peter Daszak
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>>> President

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>>> EcoHealth Alliance
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>>> 520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
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>>> New York, NY 10018-6507
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>>> Tel.: + (b) (6)
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>>> Website:
>>> https://nam10.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww
>>> .ecohealthalliance.org%2F &data=04%7C01%7Croberts%40neb.com%7C853
>>> d932d3b7646dc522708d9808973fb%7C77cefbc6b3d64d6a9f740664881c384b%7C0
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>>> Twitter: @PeterDaszak
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>>> EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent
>>> pandemics and promote conservation
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>>> From: Peter Daszak < (b) (6) >
>>> Sent: Thursday, July 15, 2021 10:46 AM
>>> To: Jamison, Brooke (Gillibrand)
>>> < (b) (6) >; Ruiz, Gilbert (Gillibrand)
>>> < (b) (6) >
>>> Cc: Dennis Carroll < (b) (6) >; Aleksei Chmura
>>> < (b) (6) >; Robert Kessler
>>> < (b) (6) >
>>> Subject: RE: Concerns about political attacks on EcoHealth Alliance around COVID origins.
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>>> That would be perfect. It'll be me, our chief of staff Aleksei Chmura, and our Communications Director Robert Kessler.
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>>> Thanks for making time!
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>>> Cheers,
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>>> Peter
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>>> Peter Daszak
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>>> President
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>>> EcoHealth Alliance
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>>> 520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
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>>> Twitter: @PeterDaszak
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>>> EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent
>>> pandemics and promote conservation
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>>> From: Jamison, Brooke (Gillibrand)
>>> < (b) (6) >

MORENS_SUBPOENA_010756
MORENS_NIH_021306
REL0000481519

>>> Sent: Thursday, July 15, 2021 8:42 AM
>>> To: Peter Daszak < (b) (6) >; Ruiz, Gilbert
>>> (Gillibrand) < (b) (6) >
>>> Cc: Dennis Carroll < (b) (6) >; Aleksei Chmura
>>> < (b) (6) >; Robert Kessler
>>> < (b) (6) >
>>> Subject: RE: Concerns about political attacks on EcoHealth Alliance around COVID origins.
>>>
>>>
>>>
>>> Happy to chat. Would Monday at 2:30pm over zoom work for you all?
>>>
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>>> From: Peter Daszak < (b) (6) >
>>> Sent: Wednesday, July 14, 2021 3:38 PM
>>> To: Jamison, Brooke (Gillibrand)
>>> < (b) (6) >
>>> Cc: Dennis Carroll < (b) (6) >; Aleksei Chmura
>>> < (b) (6) >; Robert Kessler
>>> < (b) (6) >
>>> Subject: Concerns about political attacks on EcoHealth Alliance around COVID origins.
>>> Importance: High
>>>
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>>> Dear Brooke,
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>>>
>>> I hope you don't mind me contacting you directly – I was given your email address by my colleague Dennis Carroll.
>>>
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>>>
>>> As you may know, I'm the President of EcoHealth Alliance, based here in NYC, and also Chair of the NASEM Forum on Microbial Threats and member of the National Academy of Medicine. I mentioned the latter, because I received a very kind letter from Senator Gillibrand when I was voted onto the NAM a couple of years ago – it's now framed on my wall!
>>>
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>>>
>>> You may have heard our organization's name (EcoHealth Alliance) and mine being mentioned in the press recently in the general discussion of identifying the origins of COVID-19. For the last 17 years, we've worked closely with colleagues in China to get ahead of emerging viruses, including by collaborating with their premier virologists at the Wuhan Institute of Virology. Unfortunately, this work has become a very public target politically following over a year of conspiracy theories online that have now gone mainstream about the possibility COVID emerged as a leak from a biosafety laboratory in Wuhan. This was amplified a few weeks ago with testimony by Dr. Fauci and the release of FoIA'd emails that have put our organization in the cross-hairs of efforts to attack the current administration. This includes proposals by some minority members for bills that would significant harm our international work to prevent pandemics, as well as directly defund our organization.
>>>

MORENS_SUBPOENA_010757
MORENS_NIH_021307
REL0000481519

>>>
>>>
>>> I've attached a letter in Lancet that came out last week that helps provide some context of the way this issue is being viewed by serious scientists, but as you can imagine we're worried about the impact on work that we believe is critical to preventing future pandemics. I wondered if you would be interested in my giving you a short briefing on this issue, to explain in more detail what the evidence behind these theories is, and to get your take on the political issues we are concerned about?
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>>> Cheers,
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>>> Peter
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>>> Peter Daszak
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>>> President
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>>>
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>>> EcoHealth Alliance
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>>> 520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
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>>> New York, NY 10018-6507
>>>
>>> USA
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>>> Tel.: + (b) (6)
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>>> Website:
>>> https://nam10.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww
>>> .ecohealthalliance.org%2F &data=04%7C01%7Croberts%40neb.com%7C853
>>> d932d3b7646dc522708d9808973fb%7C77cefbc6b3d64d6a9f740664881c384b%7C0
>>> %7C0%7C637682150139383917%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMD
>>> AiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000 &sdata=0T
>>> jmAR7%2FZc%2FfPvQ1ibI0AHDtfJo9lnJDJJbgQMDOMao%3D &reserved=0
>>>
>>> Twitter: @PeterDaszak

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>>> EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent
>>> pandemics and promote conservation
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>>> Disclaimer
>>>
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>>> Disclaimer
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>>> Disclaimer
>>>
>>> The information contained in this communication from the sender is confidential. It is intended solely for use by the recipient and others authorized to receive it. If you are not the recipient, you are hereby notified that any disclosure, copying, distribution or taking action in relation of the contents of this information is strictly prohibited and may be unlawful.
>>>
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Date: Wed, 27 Apr 2022 3:18:14 PM -0400
Sent: Wed, 27 Apr 2022 3:18:10 PM -0400
Subject: RE: Jerry's letter to Victor Dzau
From: "Keusch, Gerald T" < (b) (6)
To: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] < (b) (6)

Thanks. I'm thinking about it and will follow the Greg/David pathway if and when.

Your situation is more than a bit outrageous. To classify you as an administrator? How much does the idiot head of OER make? He is an administrator of the worst kind.

I might be inclined to let Tony know if I do speak to him, but I will be certain to clarify and clear that with you if I think it would be appropriate for me to share what I know, just like I will be sharing what I know about what's going on with NAM.

-----Original Message-----
From: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] < (b) (6)
Sent: Wednesday, April 27, 2022 3:04 PM
To: Keusch, Gerald T < (b) (6)
Subject: Re: Jerry's letter to Victor Dzau

Jerry, yes, I saw what you sent him and it was very strong and fair. As is necessary. I can't see how in good conscience he could just ignore it, unless he is a total scumbag.

Yes, if you plan to call Tony it is best to go through Greg, or Greg with cc to me. Greg meets with him every morning and advises him what he should and should not do, whereas I don't meet with Tony daily. It works best when Greg and I cook things in advance, so Greg knows how to present something to him in away that he will feel he should do it. That shouldn't be a problem with anything coming from you, but it's always best to plan things in advance.

I don't know what Tony knows about my situation although all the senior staff here know about it. He (Tony) and I spoke about it last fall, at which time our HR people were telling me I was unqualified for a Title 42 because I am an administrator, not a scientist. (By the way, I think my CV contradicts that, with over 300 scientific publications, three academic department chairmanships in the past, and so on, but these HR people have huge power). At that time, Tony said, and I quote "Don't worry, we won't let that happen to you". But in the end he just turned everything over to Jill, our operations deputy, who said I should be grateful to have any job at all, even at a salary cut. She made sure that's what happened, and that was that.

After that I didn't complain again to Tony because the whole situation is so humiliating and depressing. Just about everyone is telling me I should give NIAID the finger and leave, but I have lots of things going here in vaccine development work with our lab folks, mentoring the young PhDs, etc., and I would be screwing those good folks if I just picked up and left entirely.

But sometimes you have to read the tea leaves, take a hint, and move on. When my financial turmoil ends and the condo is sold, then I'll be seriously looking for next steps, or maybe I will throw in the towel, just retire, and go fishing! david

On 4/27/2022 2:42 PM, Keusch, Gerald T wrote:
> Thanks David. I think its pretty crappy to do that to you. Maybe it gives you time to look for other out of government opportunities. Does Tony even know that you have this economic crunch? I am certain it doesn't have to be this way unless you are commissioned corps and there is some sort of restriction. If you are a civilian you should be hired under Title 42 which pays the going rate for academia and you would be in the senior experienced end of the scale.

>
> As far as Tony is concerned, I don't want to do anything by email, so if I decide to try to connect I would see about a call, and in that case would ask you (or maybe Greg?) to let Tony know I want to schedule a brief chat to update him on some new developments in the story.
>
> I still have nothing back from Victor. I think he will not get in touch, because if he wanted to my note was serious enough for him to get right back to me. You did see what I sent him, right?
>
> Jerry
>
> -----Original Message-----
> From: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] < (b) (6) >
> Sent: Wednesday, April 27, 2022 2:30 PM
> To: Keusch, Gerald T < (b) (6) >
> Subject: Re: Jerry's letter to Victor Dzau
>
> Jerry, I don't think there is any reason NOT to get in touch with him. At the very least he will be glad to know what is going on behind the scenes, e.g., at NAM and NAS. He is always nervous not knowing things that might suddenly blow up, as he has a bit of paranoia about unexpected surprises. And I am sure that privately he'd love to see Peter and EcoHealth fully restored, although he did once make the comment to me that Peter had screwed himself with the late report etc. (I had already told him that all that crap wasn't true, but sometimes you have to tell him 10 times before it sinks in).
>
> For example, last year when I was on a trip to (b) (6) I warned him that this same crew of Republican flame-throwers were about to go after him. We had a big zoom call with me, him, and a few other senior folks at which I repeated my concerns, after which he told me I was just being an alarmist, he was too big to mess with, but thanks for the heads up anyway. A few weeks later the shit hit the fan and he was being multiply-FOIA'd and attacked from every angle. Ever since then he has brought up that event and said he should have listened to me and please tip him off if anything like that even crosses my mind to tell him. I feel sure he'd feel the same with your info. I wouldn't expect him to do anything proactively, but I think he would position himself to help when the right circumstances obtained. I wouldn't necessarily ask him to DO anything unless you felt that in the conversation that was being thrown out into the open. He likes to have all the info, and then play his own game.
>
> As for me, yes, as I mentioned before, during the transition out of
> the USPHS they got me a job allowing me to stay doing the same things
> but on at an approximate $100,000 salary cut. It's really a
> devastating blow because now I have to (b) (6)
> (b) (6)
> (b) (6) , which I don't
> want to do, I will have too (b) (6)
> (b) (6)
(b) (6) Very depressing and stressful. The irony is that many folks
> here have said to me, and it may be true, that hardly anybody has done
> more than me to make Tony look good, putting his name on at least 40
> or 50 papers, writing endless talks and speeches for him to give, and
> representing him in so many things from lectures to appearances. My
> reward: get thrown under the bus. But every time I start to feel
> sorry for myself I think of Peter and remember a plaque on the wall in
> my Uncle (b) (6) office: "I complained because I had no shoes, until I
> met a man who had no feet". david
>
>

> On 4/27/2022 12:06 PM, Keusch, Gerald T wrote:
>> I take your comment "as a government employee" that Tony found a way to get you back into his office? If so that's great.
>>
>> And given my not so veiled threat to Victor to rev up protests among NAM members, I'd like to get Tony involved but I have stayed away from it. Any advice for me on whether or not to get in touch with him? In any event, I don't think I would do that before it is time to revolt and march on the NASEM building.
>>
>> -----Original Message-----
>> From: David Morens < (b) (6) >
>> Sent: Wednesday, April 27, 2022 11:29 AM
>> To: Peter Daszak < (b) (6) >
>> Cc: Keusch, Gerald T < (b) (6) Hotez, Peter Jay
>> < (b) (6) Roberts, Rich < (b) (6) Jeff Sturchio
>> <(b) (6)
>> Subject: Re: Jerry's letter to Victor Dzau
>>
>> Peter, and colleagues, although as a government employee I can't speak publicly about this without HHS and often WH approval, which is unlikely to come, it is worth keeping in mind that if government officials (e.g., the decent members of Congress and the Senate) ask me to meet with them or their staffs, or to testify, then I can't be blocked.
>>
>> Just saying, if push comes to shove.....
>>
>>
>>
>> david
>>
>> David M. Morens, MD
>> (b) (6)
>> (b) (6)

>>
>> (b) (6)
>> (b) (6) (work)
>> (b) (6) (cell)
>>
>> IMPORTANT: My gmail frequently sends incoming messages to Trash,
>> which is apparently not correctable. If you don't hear from me in a
>> reasonable time, please try again, call, or use my NIH email address
>>
>> IMPORTANT: For US Government-related email, please also reply to my
>> NIAID address
>>
>> On Tue, Apr 26, 2022 at 3:29 PM Peter Daszak < (b) (6) > wrote:
>>> Yes – I agree and will be sending an email to them later today commenting that it's a breach of the confidentiality assurances from them and their request for me to keep the process confidential. I'll also urge them to resist this political witch hunt, lest it drag in other NASEM members and do considerable damage to the reputation of the NAM. Jeff will help me get the language right.
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>>> I'll forward to you all later.

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>>> Cheers,
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>>> Peter
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>>> Peter Daszak
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>>> President
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>>> EcoHealth Alliance
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>>> 520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
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>>> New York, NY 10018-6507
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>>> USA
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>>> Tel.: + (b) (6)
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>>> Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
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>>> Twitter: @PeterDaszak
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>>> EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent
>>> pandemics and promote conservation
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MORENS_NIH_004774
REL0000481524

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>>> From: Keusch, Gerald T < (b) (6)
>>> Sent: Tuesday, April 26, 2022 12:39 PM
>>> To: Peter Daszak < (b) (6) >; Hotez, Peter Jay
>>> < (b) (6) Roberts, Rich <(b) (6) >; David Morens
>>> < (b) (6) Jeff Sturchio < (b) (6) >
>>> Subject: RE: Jerry's letter to Victor Dzau
>>>
>>>
>>>
>>> You might consider (ask Jeff and the lawyer) forwarding those to Victor without comment. Did you hear from any legitimate reporters? Should I (you stay out of it) ask Jon Cohen to get on it? Betsy McKay?
>>>
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>>> Jerry
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>>> From: Peter Daszak < (b) (6) >
>>> Sent: Tuesday, April 26, 2022 12:33 PM
>>> To: Keusch, Gerald T < (b) (6) Hotez, Peter Jay
>>> < (b) (6) Roberts, Rich <(b) (6) >; David Morens
>>> < (b) (6) Jeff Sturchio <(b) (6)
>>> Subject: Jerry's letter to Victor Dzau
>>>
>>>
>>>
>>> Re. your letter below, Jerry, and the comment to Victor that the news is now public re. the NAM investigation – in my inbox this morning are requests from journalists from the Washington Examiner, Bloomberg Law, and Epoch Times. They want me to comment on the allegations from McMorris Rodgers, and the letter last week requesting the HHS secretary to investigate EcoHealth for unethical behavior and get us debarred from federal funding.
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>>> Does Victor really want the NAM to be a party to this anti-science political witchhunt? Because that's exactly what's happening right now.
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>>> Cheers,
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>>> Peter
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>>> Peter Daszak
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>>> President
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>>>
>>> EcoHealth Alliance
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>>> 520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
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>>> Tel.: + (b) (6)
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>>> Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
>>>
>>> Twitter: @PeterDaszak
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>>> EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent
>>> pandemics and promote conservation
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>>> From: Keusch, Gerald T < (b) (6)
>>> Sent: Monday, April 25, 2022 9:38 PM
>>> To: Peter Daszak < (b) (6) >; Hotez, Peter Jay
>>> < (b) (6) Roberts, Rich <(b) (6)
>>> Subject: FW: Investigation of Peter Daszak
>>>
>>>
>>>
>>> I sent the note below to Victor, now that the internal investigation at NAM is in the public domain.
>>>
>>>
>>> Rich, it is time to mobilize the Nobel laureates. This is going too far and there must be pressure, all the pressure possible from the scientific community, and applied to Victor and NAM to stop it now.
>>>
>>>
>>>
>>> Jerry
>>>
>>>
>>>
>>> From: Keusch, Gerald T
>>> Sent: Monday, April 25, 2022 9:35 PM

>>> To: Victor J Dzau ((b) (6) <(b) (6)
>>> Cc: Vermund, Sten <(b) (6) >; (b) (6)
>>> Subject: Investigation of Peter Daszak
>>>
>>>
>>>
>>> Dear Victor,
>>>
>>>
>>>
>>> I am surprised to see the Republican members of the House Energy and Commerce Committee providing information to Fox News about supposedly confidential procedures at NAM. They of course are repeating the baseless accusations we discussed previously, but there is the uncomfortable reality that when lies are repeated time after time people begin to believe them. But now this is in the public domain. NAM no longer has the luxury of working through this in protected space. You are in the spotlight, and like it or not you and the Academy are being dragged into this dreadful episode in the history of science.
>>>
>>>
>>>
>>> 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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> --
> David M Morens (b) (6) (b) (6)
> (b) (6)
--
David M Morens (b) (6) (b) (6)

Date: Thu, 13 May 2021 11:29:04 AM -0400
Sent: Thu, 13 May 2021 11:29:03 AM -0400
Subject: Re: Early appearance of two distinct genomic lineages of SARS-CoV-2 in different Wuhan wildlife markets suggests SARS-CoV-2 has a natural origin - SARS-CoV-2 coronavirus - Virological
From: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] < (b) (6)
To: Roberts, Rich < (b) (6)
CC: Peter Daszak ((b) (6) < (b) (6) >; Keusch, Jerry ((b) (6) < (b) (6)

I agree. I have only skimmed it too, so will have to really read it carefully. Also it will be helpful for independent phylogeneticists to take a look. David

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

> On May 13, 2021, at 10:53, Roberts, Rich < (b) (6) wrote:
>
> David:
>
> That is a very interesting article. I will have to read it more fully, but on quickly skimming through it does make a strong argument against the lab-leak theory.
>
> Rich
>
> Richard J. Roberts
> New England Biolabs
> 240 County Road
> Ipswich, MA 01938-2723
> USA
> Tel: (978) (b) (6)
> Fax: (978) 412 9910
> email: (b) (6)
>
> -----Original Message-----
> From: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] < (b) (6)
> Sent: Thursday, May 13, 2021 9:54 AM
> To: Peter Daszak ((b) (6) < (b) (6) >; Keusch, Jerry ((b) (6) < (b) (6) Roberts, Rich <(b) (6)
> Subject: FW: Early appearance of two distinct genomic lineages of SARS-CoV-2 in different Wuhan wildlife markets suggests SARS-CoV-2 has a natural origin - SARS-CoV-2 coronavirus - Virological
>
> EXTERNAL SENDER
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> See link way down below
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> David M. Morens, M.D.
> CAPT, United States Public Health Service Senior Advisor to the Director Office of the Director National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases National Institutes of Health Building 31, Room 7A-03
> 31 Center Drive, MSC 2520
> Bethesda, MD 20892-2520
> B (b) (6) (assistants: Kimberly Barasch; Whitney Robinson) ((b) (6)
> 3 (b) (6)
>
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> -----Original Message-----
> From: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] < (b) (6)
> Sent: Thursday, May 13, 2021 9:31 AM
> To: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] < (b) (6)
> Subject: Early appearance of two distinct genomic lineages of SARS-CoV-2 in different Wuhan wildlife markets suggests SARS-CoV-2 has a natural origin - SARS-CoV-2 coronavirus - Virological
>
>
> https://nam10.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fvirological.org%2Ft%2Fearly-appearance-of-two-distinct-genomic-lineages-of-sars-cov-2-in-different-wuhan-wildlife-markets-suggests-sars-cov-2-has-a-natural-origin%2F691
&data=04%7C01%7Croberts%40neb.com%7C770222d6f783495c5fad08d916168d4b%7C77cefbc6b3d64d6a9f740664
&sdata=DWMmogMoU%2BVEmatA3mQt1BQkOkTVJnEP6gHTb28Tp0E%3D &reserved=0
>
>
> Sent from my iPhone
> David M Morens
> OD, NIAID, NIH

Date: Fri, 26 Apr 2024 11:10:13 AM -0400
Sent: Fri, 26 Apr 2024 11:10:09 AM -0400
Subject: Re: Security concerns re. upcoming Public Hearing
From: Keusch, Gerald < (b) (6)
To: Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6)
CC: Peter Daszak < (b) (6) > (b) (6) Roberts, Rich < (b) (6) > (b) (6) Jeff Sturchio < (b) (6) > (b) (6) Aleksei Chmura < (b) (6) > (b) (6) John Feigelson < (b) (6)

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

Jerry

Sent from my iPhone

> On Apr 26, 2024, at 8:04 AM, Hotez, Peter Jay < (b) (6) > wrote:
>
> As they indicated on official twitter they want to "sell popcorn"
>
> Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP
>
> **Texas Children's Hospital**: Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics | Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development | Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development
>
> **Baylor College of Medicine:** Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine | Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology | Health Policy Scholar
>
> **Baylor University**, University Professor
> **Rice University**, Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty
> **Texas A&M University**, Faculty-Senior Fellow, Hagler Inst for Advanced Study & Scowcroft Institute of Intl Affairs
>
> E-mail | Twitter | LinkedIn | Skype: (b) (6)
> Amazon Author Center | Daily Beast Contributor
>
> **Senior Coordinator & Executive Support:** Douglas Soriano
> (b) (6) | Phone: (b) (6) | Fax: 713-798-2299
>
> **Media Inquiries:**
> (b) (6)
> (b) (6)
> iPhone
>
> > On Apr 26, 2024, at 9:47 AM, Peter Daszak < (b) (6) > wrote:
> >
> > I agree with that – the media are otherwise occupied.

MORENS_NIH_047426
REL0000481529

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

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

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

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

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

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

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

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

Baylor University, University Professor
Rice University, Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty

MORENS_NIH_047427
REL0000481529

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

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

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

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

Dear all,

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

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

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

Post

See new posts

Conversation

<image003.jpg>

Select Subcommittee on the Coronavirus Pandemic

@COVIDSelect

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

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

May 1, 2024 | 10:00am ET

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

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

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

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

---

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

MORENS_NIH_047429
REL0000481529

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

MORENS_NIH_047430
REL0000481529

Peter Daszak
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)(b) (6) Roberts, Rich <(b) (6) Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6) (b) (6)
Cc: Aleksei Chmura(b) (6)
Subject: Re: Now public that Tony Fauci will testify in front of SSCP on June 3rd

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

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

Sent from Proton Mail Android

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

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

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

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

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

---

From: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >
Sent: 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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Twitter: @PeterDaszak

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

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

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

Michael Mann was our main honoree, and he was great! We raised well above our expectation – all critical to keeping us afloat given the increased pressure we're under right now.

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

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

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

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

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Twitter: @PeterDaszak

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

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

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

Sent from Proton Mail Android

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

> Unpleasant to see him criticize me and EcoHealth today, in a pretty shoddy attempt to curry favor with the SSCP:
>
> https://x.com/COVIDSelect/status/1780332154620092505
>
> Here's the text of the tweet:
>
> **Select Subcommittee on the Coronavirus Pandemic**
>
> @COVIDSelect
>
> <image001.png>
> <image001.png>
> <image001.png>
> @ScienceMagazine
> AGREES that EcoHealth Alliance may have misled the U.S. government about its highly controversial DEFUSE proposal — which some believe created a blueprint for COVID-19. WATCH
> <image001.png>
> <image001.png>
>
> You can see the video of him criticizing our work here:
>
> https://youtu.be/Oru0-fYGcJU
>
> The relevant section starts at 1hour, 31 minutes and 30 seconds into the video
>
> Cheers,
>
> Peter

MORENS_NIH_047434
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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' <(b) (6) ; 'Roberts, Rich' (b) (6) 'Hotez, Peter Jay' <(b) (6) '< (b) (6)
Cc: Aleksei Chmura [(b)(6)] >; John Feigelson <(b) (6) >
Subject: COVID Select Subcommittee subpoena to David Morens for correspondence etc.
Importance: High

Here is today's subpoena & a cover letter to David Morens from the SSCP for all correspondence with the following people, related to WIV, EcoHealth or COVID origins or "regarding or referencing the following people". He has to produce this by April 30th

No direct demand for public hearing has been made public yet.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

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Twitter: @PeterDaszak

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

From: (b) (6) <(b) (6)
Sent: Monday, April 15, 2024 8:39 PM
To: Peter Daszak (b) (6) >; Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6)
Jeff Sturchio(b) (6) Roberts, Rich <(b) (6) Hotez, Peter Jay
(b) (6)
Cc: Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) >; (b) (6)
Subject: Re: COVID select subcommittee is now threatening to call David in for a public hearing

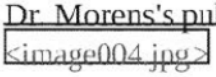
Guys,my lawyer called and i am to be subpoenaed to testify in public hearing on camera. They want me b4 Tony but after Peter. The Dems reached out to my lawyer and asked WTF is going on. Not sure why they don't know. d

Sent from Proton Mail Android

-------- Original Message --------
On 4/12/24 16:12, Peter Daszak wrote:

> Here's the COVID committee (SSCP) threatening to call David in for a public hearing based on the emails they claim show that we all used gmail inappropriately (based on a Washington Examiner report today)…
>
> Tweet here: https://x.com/COVIDSelect/status/1778859503796056214
>
> Washington Examiner BS article here: https://www.washingtonexaminer.com/policy/healthcare/2964227/ecohealth-alliance-email-release-confirms-fauci-aide-used-private-account-discuss-covid/
>
> Full text of tweet:
>
> **Post**
> See new posts
> **Conversation**
> Pinned
> <image003.jpg>
>
> **Select Subcommittee on the Coronavirus Pandemic**
>
> @COVIDSelect
>
> <image001.png>
> BREAKING
> <image001.png>
> @EcoHealthNYC

President Dr. Peter Daszak CONFIRMS whistleblower allegations that Dr. David Morens — a top advisor to Dr. Fauci — used Gmail to hide COVID-19 information. We are beginning the process to secure Dr. Morens's public testimony.



From washingtonexaminer.com

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

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

From: (b) (6) >
Sent: Friday, April 12, 2024 1:37 PM
To: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >; Keusch, Gerald T < (b) (6) Jeff Sturchio (b) (6) Roberts, Rich < (b) (6) >; Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6) (b) (6)
Cc: Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) >; (b) (6)

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

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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)) (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

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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

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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: Sunday, April 7, 2024 9:34 AM
To: 'Michael Hiltzik' (b) (6)
Cc: 'Aleksei Chmura ((b) (6))' <(b) (6) >; 'Alison Andre ((b) (6))' <(b) (6) >
Subject: RE: Confidential - NIH still hampering EcoHealth's ability to conduct work 4 years since the termination of our grant
Importance: High

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

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

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

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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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520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
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Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

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

MORENS_NIH_047444
REL0000481529

Date: Mon, 11 Oct 2021 11:55:15 AM -0400
Sent: Mon, 11 Oct 2021 11:51:18 AM -0400
Subject: Piece in Forbes calling for no further fieldwork to discover wildlife viruses...!
From: Peter Daszak < (b) (6)
To: David Morens < (b) (6) Keusch, Gerald T < (b) (6) Roberts, Rich < (b) (6) Hotez, Peter Jay < (b) (6)
CC: Robert Kessler < (b) (6) Jeff Sturchio < (b) (6)
Attachments: image001.jpg; image002.jpg

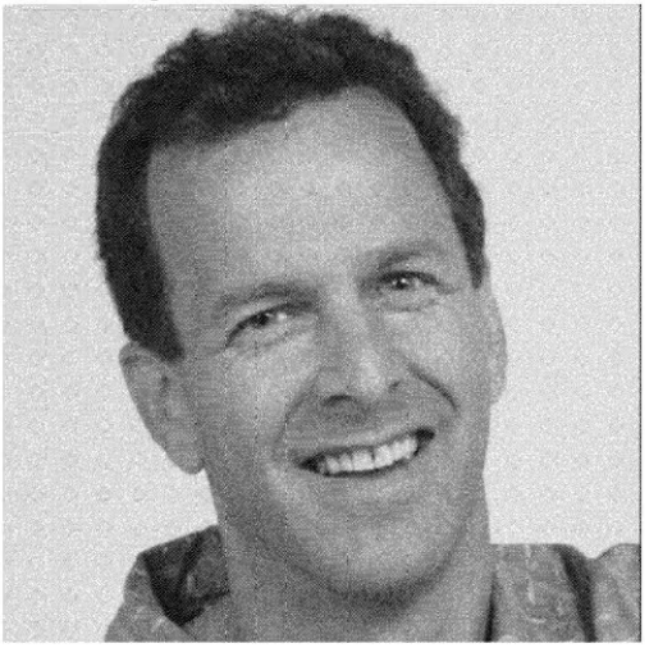
I don't want to continue amplifying the nasty stories out there, but I think this is something you should be aware of if you haven't seen it. This is an Op Ed in Forbes by Steven Salzberg. Apparently he was part of the effort to push for a ban on gain of function work years ago, which is not an issue for me – it was dealt with.

https://www.forbes.com/sites/stevensalzberg/2021/10/11/leave-the-bats-alone-its-long-past-time-to-halt-gain-of-function-research-on-deadly-viruses/?sh=2bcb917e53f2

This piece however, goes further – he's calling for fieldwork on wildlife viruses to be halted. I'm sure others will sign on to this agenda as well – it sounds so logical to the public – 'why bother bats?'. It's extremely counter-productive of course, and built on an entirely false premise that fieldwork or lab work involving bat CoVs caused the pandemic. It also talks about our work in very disparaging and factually inaccurate terms – we did NOT bring bats or hundreds of bat viruses into the lab – we brought bat samples, and found genetic sequences in them, and in 3 cases managed to isolate CoVs. These details are, of course, lost in the continued Luddite-like banging of the populist drums.

Oct 11, 2021,07:30am EDT|962 views

Leave The Bats Alone: It's Long Past Time To Halt Gain-Of-Function Research On Deadly Viruses



Steven Salzberg
Contributor
Healthcare
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GETTY IMAGES

Why have scientists spent years exploring remote bat caves, pulling out bats infected with novel coronaviruses, and transporting them into major cities? If you asked the scientists, they'd explain that their research would help prevent the next pandemic. Instead, they might have caused it.

A new released set of documents, including a rejected grant proposal, shows that a group of scientists at EcoHealth Alliance, a nonprofit research institute in New York, was pursuing "gain of function" research, together with scientists at China's Wuhan Institute of Virology, that had the potential to create dangerous new strains of coronaviruses. But before I get to that, let's consider how we got here. Eight years ago, I wrote an article warning that "scientists will create a deadly new flu strain, just to

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prove they can." Those scientists, who were focused on the influenza virus at the time, were boasting about their ability to create pandemic-type viruses in the lab. Don't worry, they said, we are very careful and these viruses will never leak out into the real world.

PROMOTED

Soon after that, these same scientists–Ron Fouchier of Erasmus University and Yoshihiro Kawaoka of the University of Wisconsin–published a paper proving that they had done just that. I wrote another article, asking:

"Should scientists be artificially mutating viruses so that they have the potential to become a worldwide pandemic?"

I wasn't the only one questioning the wisdom of pursuing this line of research. Hundreds of scientists formed a consortium, the Cambridge Working Group, opposed to gain-of-function research on influenza and other deadly viruses. In response, the Obama White House formed a commission in 2014 to evaluate the risks and benefits of gain-of-function research in viruses.

MORE FOR YOU

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At the same time, the US instituted a pause on all research that could "confer attributes to influenza, MERS, or SARS viruses such that the virus would have enhanced pathogenicity and/or transmissibility in mammals." That was a good step. (Covid-19, which didn't exist at that time, is in the SARS family of viruses.)

In early 2017, after all the noise and protests died down, NIH quietly lifted the pause, allowing the research to resume again. Many scientists objected again, including me. I wrote that

"engineering the flu to be more virulent is a terrible idea.... this research is so potentially harmful, and offers such little benefit to society, that I fear that NIH is endangering the trust that Congress places in it."

This time, though, the NIH dismissed the concerns of scientists like me (and everyone in the Cambridge Working Group), basically saying "don't worry, we'll be careful." (I also got the sense that NIH didn't like having outside scientists second-guessing their decisions, but maybe that's just me.)

Just out of curiosity, let's look at some of the warnings from the Cambridge Working Group. They pointed out that if things went wrong, gain-of-function research might create a pandemic virus that, if it accidentally escaped, could kill at least 2,000 people per year. At the high end, warned scientists Marc Lipsitch and Thomas Inglesby in a paper published in late 2014, the world might see 1.4 million deaths per year.

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Unfortunately, the higher estimate was too low: Covid-19 has now killed over 4.8 million people in 21 months. Of course, we don't know if gain-of-function research was responsible.

After lifting the pause, NIH quickly restored funding to gain-of-function flu research, in grants that included "Transmissibility of avian influenza viruses in mammals" to the University of Wisconsin's Yoshihiro Kawaoka. What's more unfortunate, though, is that in 2019 the NIH funded another grant, on coronaviruses in bats (which includes SARS-CoV-2, the Covid-19 virus), to a research institute called the EcoHealth Alliance, led by virologist Peter Daszak.

Now, back to that new tranche of documents that I mentioned at the top of this article.

EcoHealth Alliance has received a huge amount of negative attention over the past year and a half, because they work closely with the Wuhan Institute of Virology (WIV), an institute in China where gain-of-function work on coronaviruses was apparently being pursued. WIV is at the center of the "lab leak" hypothesis, which posits that the Covid-19 pandemic begin with an accidental release of viruses from the lab in Wuhan.

So far, we don't know if WIV had any role in starting the pandemic, but the circumstantial evidence at least makes this credible, as I wrote last year. WIV's scientists have collected hundreds of infected bats from distant caves and brought them back to Wuhan for study. Some of that work–collecting those viruses–was funded by a grant from NIH to EcoHealth Alliance.

Government officials, particularly the leaders of NIH and NIAID, Francis Collins and Anthony Fauci, have insisted that NIH never funded gain-of-function research on coronaviruses. In May of this year, Collins issued a statement 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."

I believe this statement is true; however, note the very careful qualification there. NIH isn't saying that it never funded any GoF work on coronaviruses–because it apparently did, if you look at the NIH grant to EcoHealth Alliance. That grant mentions "in vivo infection experiments" which suggests that they were infecting mice with coronaviruses. So the NIH statement only says the work would not have made coronaviruses more infectious or more lethal *in humans*. That's a very narrow statement.

The newly released documents, uncovered and released by a group called DRASTIC, includes a grant proposal from EcoHealth Alliance to the US Department of Defense. This $14M proposal describes gain-of-function research intended to make SARS viruses more virulent, and that might give those viruses the ability to infect mammals. Fortunately, the DoD didn't fund the work, but EcoHealth Alliance was clearly very interested in this line of research.

The proposal itself describes how EcoHealth would genetically engineer new viruses, taking the spike protein from one bat coronavirus and inserting it into a different one, and then infecting mice to see what happens. For technical reasons, the proposal says that this process is "exempt from dual-use and gain of function concerns." However, the DoD reviewer who rejected the proposal disagreed, stating that the proposal "does not mention or assess potential risks of Gain of Function (GoF) research" and that it "does potentially involve GoF research."

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But the danger goes beyond gain-of-function research, a point that is often missed in the focus on gain-of-function work. EcoHealth Alliance also proposes to take "a complete inventory of bats and their SARSr-CoVs at our invention test site cave complex in Yunnan, China that harbors bats with high-risk SARSr-CoVs." (This was written before the Covid-19 pandemic, obviously.) Previous work by EcoHealth Alliance, including work funded by NIH, involved the same strategy: going out into remote caves and collecting bats with "high-risk" coronavirus infections.

What the heck are they doing? Why are scientists going to remote sites and collecting infected animals and then bringing them back into the middle of cities?

The argument was (and is) that research on these viruses will help us to develop better vaccines and better treatments, and to respond to the next pandemic. We've been hearing this for years from the influenza scientists doing gain-of-function work.

For years, I've been saying that these claims of theoretical future benefits from gain-of-function research are nonsense. For example, in 2014 I wrote that

"to claim that creating super-viruses in the lab will lead to `improved surveillance' is, frankly, laughable."

Well, the next pandemic has arrived. Did all of that gain-of-function research help us fight it? No.

All of the gain-of-function research, and all of the efforts to collect high-risk viruses out in the field, did *nothing* to help us stop the pandemic. It didn't help us design better vaccines (although the mRNA vaccines are terrific), it didn't help us develop better treatments, and it didn't help us with any public health measures.

It's long past time to put an end to dangerous work that creates novel, incredibly dangerous viruses in the lab. All of the claims of supposed benefits have now been shown to be little more than hand-waving. (I could use a more vulgar term, but I won't.)

It's also time to ask, very critically, whether anyone should be venturing out into remote areas to collect animals that are infected with possible pandemic-causing microbes, and bringing those animals back to densely populated areas. Rather than preventing pandemics, these activities are more likely to cause them.

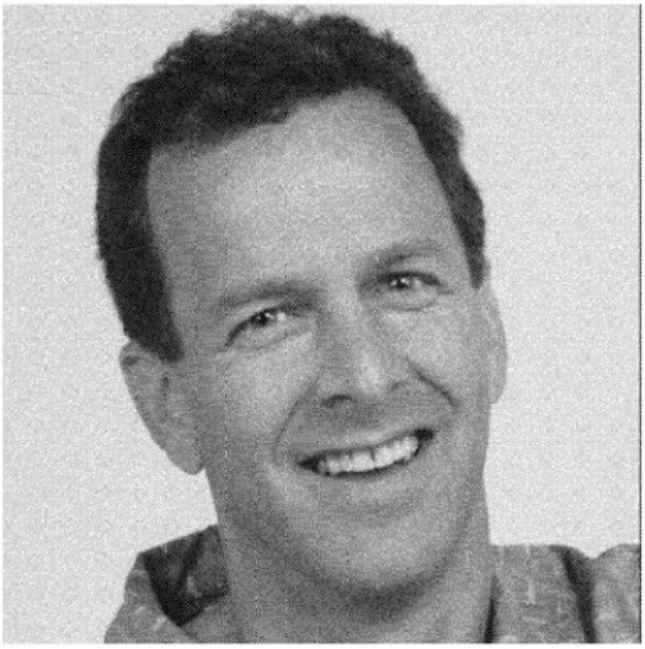
Look, I know that the lab-leak hypothesis is just that: a hypothesis. It might be that the Covid-19 pandemic was caused by a natural event, when a virus from a wild bat infected a human. It might also turn out that the pandemic started with an accidental infection in a lab, possibly in the Wuhan Institute of Virology, where thousands of bat viruses were collected and studied. We might never know.

But one thing has clearly changed. We now largely agree that a virus collected in a lab might cause a worldwide pandemic, killing millions of people. We also have evidence, staring us in the face, that many years of gain-of-function research gave us no help in fighting the pandemic.

It's time to put a permanent end, not just a pause, to any research that makes pathogens more deadly. And while we're at it, we should re-examine any research that collects viruses or other pathogens from wild animals, asking if that research too might be more likely to harm than to help humankind. From where I'm sitting, the answer is clear.

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Steven Salzberg

Follow

I'm the Bloomberg Distinguished Professor of Biomedical Engineering, Computer Science, and Biostatistics at Johns Hopkins University. From 2005-2011 I was the Horvitz

...

Read More

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

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Date: Mon, 6 Feb 2023 5:14:59 PM -0500
Sent: Mon, 6 Feb 2023 5:14:38 PM -0500
Subject: Re: Notes from our call
From: "Hotez, Peter Jay" <(b) (6)
To: Roberts, Rich < (b) (6) >;
CC: Peter Daszak < (b) (6) >; Keusch, Gerald T < (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

I hope everything went well, Rich!

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
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)
(b) (6)
iPhone

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

Peter:

Sorry, there is no God. I wanted him last week after 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: (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: 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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Baylor University, University Professor

Rice University, Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty

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

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Media Inquiries:

(b) (6)

(b) (6)

(b) (6)

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

Just saw that Richard Ebright and others have formed a new 501c3 to combat research that will enhance pathogens:

https://biosafetynow.org/team/

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

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

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

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From: Keusch, Gerald T (b) (6)
Sent: Thursday, February 2, 2023 4:58 PM

To: Peter Daszak (b) (6) ; Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6)
Cc: David Morens (b) (6) Roberts, Rich <(b) (6) Jeffrey Sturchio <
(b) (6) >; Aleksei Chmura (b) (6)
Subject: RE: Notes from our call

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

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

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

Towards a Coalition to Protect Pandemic Preparedness Research

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

Action items:

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

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

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

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

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

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

Summary of discussion:

- What could the goals of the coalition be, and what should they not be
  - Overall goal to have a 'coalition of the willing' form, organized by an independent group (hopefully AAAS, or similar level) to defend pandemic prevention research that is under attack

- How should we reach out to build a coalition?
  - Making contact with key people from each of the above, trying to set up a conference call, convened by a leading independent group (e.g. AAAS) where multiple contacts come together and the discussion is led by the independent group.
- Who should we try to engage: Academies, academic societies, pro-science pressure groups, senior figures in the field, funders, and governmental leaders. Initial list:
  - AAAS
  - AIDS Vaccine Advocacy Coalition
  - American Public Health Association (Georges Benjamin)
  - American Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene (Dan Bausch, Karen Goraleski, Kent Kester)
  - Association of Public & Land-Grant Universities
  - Georgia Global Health Alliance
  - Bay Area Global Health Alliance
  - Consortium of Universities for Global Health
  - COVID Collaborative
  - Global Health Council
  - Global Health Technologies Coalition
  - Infectious Diseases Society of America Carlos del Rio (Jerry will reach out)
  - International AIDS Vaccine Initiative
  - Nobel Laureates Campaigns
  - Pandemic Action Network
  - PATH
  - Research!America – Reach back out – Jerry will
  - Union of Concerned Scientists
  - Washington Global Health Alliance
  - 156 virologists letter
  - NAM
  - NAS
  - NL Campaigns (to be kept informed of progress by Rich)
  - CUGH
  - The pandemic action coalition
  - FASEB
  - Global Health technologies coalition
  - APLU (KHG has connection)
  - Wellcome Trust (Paul Schreier is the interim head).
  - Dr. Tony Fauci
  - Felicia Goodrum (Arizona) and Stacey Schultz-Cherry (St. Judes)
  - OSTP
  - ASV – Anne Moscona (President-Elect)

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

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Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
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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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Baylor University, University Professor

Rice 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) , 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) 4# US

Cheers,

Peter

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MORENS_NIH_035305
REL0000481534

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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

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Media Inquiries:

(b) (6)

(b) (6)

iPhone

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

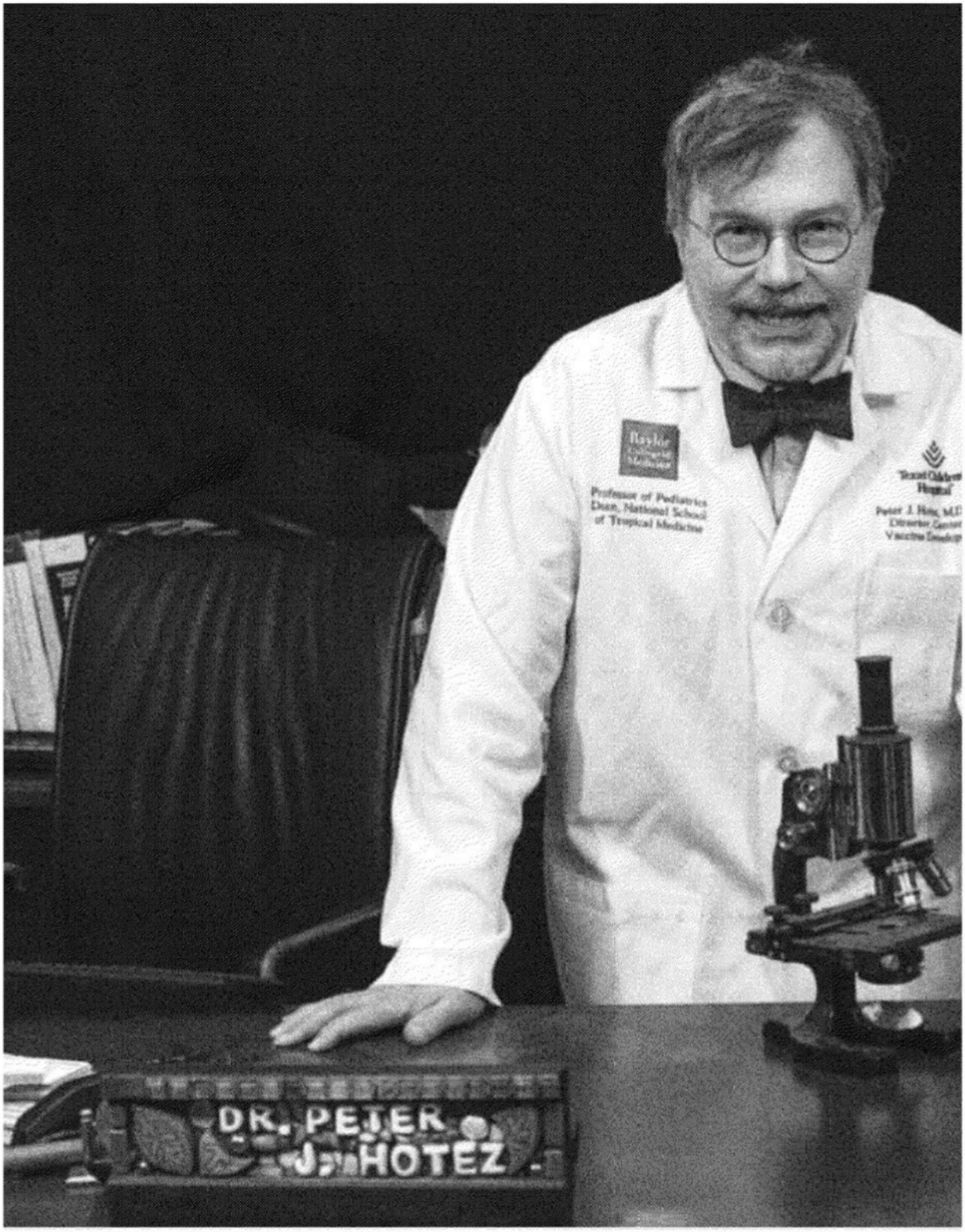
First, want to send my appreciation for your great interview in the Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists yesterday, Peter:

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

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

By Sara Goudarzi | January 30, 2023

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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_035308
REL0000481534

COVID-19 vaccines, hundreds of thousands of Americans died after refusing it.
Peter Hotez, a physician-scientist, dean of the National School of Tropical Medicine, and a professor in the departments of Pediatrics and Molecular Virology and Microbiology at Baylor College of Medicine, is no stranger to anti-vaccination attitudes. He has fought against misleading medical information for years. But now, he says, anti-science sentiments have been weaponized by businessmen and politicians seeking profits and power.
In the 1940s and 1950s, the House Un-American Activities Committee (HUAC) investigated and discredited several scientists who worked on the Manhattan Project. Hotez expects congressional committees under Republican control to engage in a similar targeting of scientists in an attempt to accumulate influence and foster a sense of belonging—a signature of authoritarian regimes—among their constituents. In his view, this anti-vaccine, anti-science movement, versions of which are spreading to other countries, could destabilize the global vaccine ecosystem.
I spoke with Hotez about the role of social media in spreading misleading information on vaccines and stoking anti-science aggression in many dimensions. *The resulting discussion has been edited for length and clarity.*

Sara Goudarzi: You've been on Twitter for more than a decade and often use it as a tool to communicate health and science facts, such as the importance of vaccinations. How in your experience has the social media platform changed during this time?
Peter Hotez: Well, it's become a lot more adversarial as the anti-vaccine movement has shifted. The anti-vaccine movement began in earnest around 20 years ago in the United States around false assertions that vaccines cause autism. The way I got involved was because I have a daughter with autism, and I wrote the book *Vaccines Did Not Cause Rachel's Autism: My Journey as a Vaccine Scientist, Pediatrician, and Autism Dad*, and that made me public enemy number one or two with the anti-vaccine activists.
What I would do at that time of social media was use their statements in their attacks against me as a teachable moment, to expose what the anti-vaccine movement was all about and how they were monetizing the internet with books on Amazon and nutritional supplements and the phony autism cures. So, rather than simply block people who were attacking me, I would retweet them with a little description of what they were doing. People found it very interesting because it was teaching them how an anti-science movement works, and they started coming to my Twitter for that purpose.
The game changer was about nine years ago, when [vaccine disinformation] became a political movement around health and medical freedom. You saw a different set of actors come into this, and it became a lot more aggressive; people's political allegiance became tied to not giving their kids vaccinations, and that has just come off the rails with COVID-19. And I'd like to point out that 200,000 Americans now have needlessly lost their lives because they refused the COVID vaccine.
The hardest thing yet is really trying to describe the anti-vaccine ecosystem, because too often it's still couched in the old autism thing that they call infodemic or give it euphemisms like misinformation or disinformation. That is, as though it's some random stuff appearing on social media, when in fact, it's organized, politically motivated, and deliberate. It has a system in place, and what I do now is use that to actually describe who the actors that comprise that ecosystem are—elected leaders in the House Freedom Caucus, certain senators, and local leaders amplified in Fox News with designated contrarians from the far right think tanks.
All our training to be a scientist says you're not supposed to talk about Republicans, Democrats, liberals, or conservatives; you're supposed to be politically neutral. But what do you do when the anti-science, anti-vaccine aggression is predominantly coming along the

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

Goudarzi: With Twitter's moderators practically gone, the platform's announcement that it will no longer enforce measures to combat misleading information regarding COVID-19 and will give amnesty to previously banned users, there seems to be a rise in anti-vaccination sentiment.

Hotez: It's blown up. It's gotten much tougher: Anything I put out there gets immediately pounced on, and I can trace the origins to four or five either elected leaders or these contrarians from far right think tanks and elsewhere who blow dog whistles. They will put out a (typically false or exaggerated) statement against me, and then I'll receive hundreds and hundreds of tweets or emails specifically targeting me. About half of them look like bots because the person sending it is an empty face with a gazillion numbers attached to the Twitter handle. But others are real people tuning into Fox News every night who totally fall into the rabbit hole because they seem to worship these contrarians. The other piece to this is a lot of Nazi imagery and fantasies, a lot of antisemitism, because they know I'm a Jewish scientist. And that's yet another dimension to all of this.

Goudarzi: How do you think this affects patients in healthcare settings? Have you had personal experience with those who decided not to get vaccinated because of information on the internet or social media indicating the shots are dangerous?

Hotez: I've had sort of the opposite experience, where patients were in the rabbit hole, had seen my postings, see me as credible, and because of me are taking the vaccine, which is kind of nice and spurs me on to keep going at this. But more and more I've also had the other extreme as well, which is based on what they see on social media: People will take the time to write me a threatening email or make a call to the lab or to the office. Then I have to bring in law enforcement through the Texas Medical Center Police or the Houston Police Department and the Anti-Defamation League (because they have a list of individuals who are known to make these types of threats). It's taken this very, very dark turn as a consequence.

Goudarzi: Anti-vaccination movements are nothing new and go back to the late 1700s, even before the development of the smallpox vaccine and then the 1800s and again in the 1990s and 2000s. Do you think social media has allowed the latest movement to gain even more steam than previous movements?

Hotez: I wrote an article about the whole history of [anti-vax movements] in *Journal of Clinical Investigation*. I think it really accelerated in the early 2000s with autism, in part aided by social media—it was new then but was starting up. Now, I think social media has really been an enabler. It's not only social media; I think amazon.com was a big contributor. If you search for books on vaccinations, what's out there is a horror show. My books are among the top-rated on vaccines, and they're probably ranked about number 30 or 40, because it's all preceded by the phony-baloney, anti-vaccine COVID conspiracy books. So, it's Amazon and social media. And Fox News is having a huge impact. This has been documented by Media Matters, the watchdog group, as well as this very interesting paper that came out of ETH Zurich, which is like the MIT of Central Europe.

Goudarzi: Do you think Amazon is purposefully placing these books higher up in search results, or are search results just a reflection of how much steam the movement has gained?

Hotez: I don't know. Amazon is probably amoral. I don't think they think about this one way or the other, but whatever sells. So, it's whatever people are buying—that's how they're ranking it.

Goudarzi: Are you seeing a difference in the attitudes towards COVID-19 vaccines versus

say the flu or MMR vaccines?

Hotez: Yeah, because remember, MMR came out of autism; that was the [original] assertion that the MMR vaccine causes autism. That was [*The Lancet*] paper from 1998. But then around 2014, 2015 (I like to think because I was helping to take some of the wind out of the sails around autism), you started to see the anti-vaccine movement pivot around this concept of health and medical freedom, that you can't tell us what to do about our kids. And that was the first link to the Republican Tea Party here in Texas. In fact, they started getting PAC [political action committee] money… It really took off in Texas and Oklahoma and that's what you see came off the rails with COVID-19.

It has been documented now by Charles Gaba, a health analyst whose work has been mentioned in the *New York Times*, National Public Radio, Pew Research Center and Peterson Academic Center, that the lowest vaccination rates were where health freedom propaganda was the strongest, and among those who are in red states like Texas, the redder the county, the lower the vaccination rate, the higher the numbers of deaths. It's a really tight correlation, so much so that David Leonhardt in the *New York Times* has called it red COVID. My forthcoming book, *The Deadly Rise of Antiscience: A Scientist's Warning* and it's full on linked to far-right politics and it's been embraced by the House Freedom Caucus.

After vaccines became widely available, the statements from the 2021 CPAC conference of conservatives in Dallas was first along the lines of: "they're going to vaccinate you, and then they're going to take away your guns and your bibles." It's ridiculous. A quarter of the country accepted it—mostly in Texas and the Southern states, and then [Georgia US Rep.] Marjorie Taylor Greene called people like me "medical brownshirts," using Nazi paramilitary analogy. Then, those in the Senate GOP, such as Senator Johnson from Wisconsin, held anti-vaccine roundtables, amplified by Fox News. Every night, during the last half of 2021, nighttime anchors Tucker Carlson and Laura Ingraham filled their airwaves with very strong anti-vaccine rhetoric, discrediting the effectiveness and safety of vaccines. And then contrarians from the far right think tanks piled on.

As I said, if it were just a theoretical construct, I wouldn't get so exercised, but 40,000 Texans died during the delta wave in the last half of 2021 and early Omicron BA1 wave in 2022 because they refused the COVID vaccine and were victims of this targeted aggression towards them. The number that I put out in the new book is 200,000 Americans across the country. The Kaiser Family Foundation and the health analyst Charles Gaba come up with similar numbers. On that basis, anti-vaccine activism, anti-science aggression, if you look at it as a societal killing force, is killing more Americans than gun violence, terrorism, nuclear proliferation, or cyber-attacks.

Goudarzi: And the interesting thing is that COVID-19 vaccines have been tremendously successful.

Hotez: Alison Galvani at Yale has just done a modeling exercise with the Commonwealth Fund, indicating that COVID vaccines have saved 3.1 million Americans.

Goudarzi: Yet the messaging against these vaccines seems to be just as successful and as you mentioned hundreds of thousands of deaths could have been prevented here in the United States. So, it begs the question, why are we having such an anti-science moment?

Hotez: It's because it's fully ensconced in the political landscape of the country that became part of the far right, and people refused the vaccine out of allegiance. Part of showing your allegiance to the far right is not getting vaccinated. Then, you saw the Proud Boys march in anti-vaccine rallies, and an early arrest in the January 6 insurrection included a prominent anti-vaccine activist.

The question that I get is: "Hey doc, what should we do about this?" And I say I don't know, because this goes outside the health sector. This is a political problem right now. How do you uncouple the anti-science from the politics? It's been really, really challenging, and the Biden

administration has not been willing to take this on. Vivek Murthy, who is a very good Surgeon General, issued an advisory in July of 2021 about social media and said we have to work with Meta and Facebook and Twitter to prevent this stuff from going viral. That's fine, but it doesn't get to those who are generating the content. This is where we're starting to see breakdowns, in my view, among our scientific and professional societies, and even the National Academies, because this idea that we have to remain politically neutral is so strong that no one will talk about it the way I'm talking about it with you. You have to be politically neutral; it's silly.

To paraphrase Desmond Tutu and Elie Wiesel, neutrality favors the aggressor.

Goudarzi: What do you think the end goal is for those generating the content and spearheading these movements? There are certain people who truly believe that vaccines could cause x, whatever x is, but there are others like Gov. DeSantis who himself was vaccinated yet promotes anti-vaccination sentiments.

Hotez: Early on when vaccines first came out, he was actually pro-vaccines. So, what caused the change? When it was pre-health freedom, it was fairly straightforward: It was people monetizing the internet, selling nutritional supplements and books on phony autism cures. When I wrote the book, trying to look at other examples of this, I found what's going on now in Stalin's Russia in the 1930s 1940s. This is part of the signature of an authoritarian regime: to target the science and scientists. When you read Hannah Arendt's *The Origins of Totalitarianism,* you see this is part of the playbook. Even though it's self-defeating, it still fosters allegiance and belonging. I think what happened is with the anti-vaccine groups for whom the wind was let out of their sails around autism, they needed a new thing. They found money and power and relevance by tying themselves to the far right, and the far right created a whole new cadre of people that they wouldn't have otherwise.

Goudarzi: Just add adding to that: Do you think vaccine disinformation is propagated or reinforced purposely by other governments to cause division within the United States, similar to the 2016 election?

Hotez: No question about that, and I think Russia is probably the most egregious [perpetrator], and this has been documented. David Broniatowski, a computer scientist at the George Washington University, has written about this and the Russian bots' roles. In some cases, they're using both anti-vaccine and pro-vaccine rhetoric. They are specifically using this as a wedge issue to divide the country and destabilize our democracy. And it's not only the Russians—the Chinese, North Koreans and Iranians are doing this. But I think Russia is probably the biggest state actor.

What I've recommended to the Biden administration is they create an inter-governmental agency, because the United States Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) doesn't know what to do at this point. Because of the foreign actors involved, you have to bring in Homeland Security, the Commerce Department, the Justice Department and the State Department as well. There are people smart enough who know about these big dangerous societal forces, and we need their advice on what levers we can pull and push. But they haven't wanted to take it on.

Similarly, at the level of the UN agencies, the World Health Organization doesn't know what to do at this point. So, you're starting to see that same US-style anti-vaccine activity moving to Canada, the United Kingdom and Western Europe—and I wrote about this in a paper in *Nature Reviews Immunology*. You're even seeing it now in low- and middle- income countries, including those in Africa. So, it's going to destabilize the global vaccine ecosystem, even around childhood vaccination.

Goudarzi: Scientific debate around new treatment or preventive measure used to happen more or less behind closed doors. But given the nature of a real time pandemic, some of those debates are taking place on social media, and sometimes that leads to the lay audience

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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, Ric(b) (6)
(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/

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP

Texas Children's Hospital: Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics | Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development | Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

Baylor College of Medicine: Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine | Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology | Health Policy Scholar

Baylor University, University Professor

Rice 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
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email: (b) (6)

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Tel: (978) (b) (6)
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email:(b) (6)

From: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >
Sent: Friday, January 27, 2023 3:30 PM
To: Roberts, Rich <(b) (6) Keusch, Gerald T (b) (6) ; Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6)
Cc: David Morens(b) (6) >; Jeffrey Sturchio (b) (6) Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) >
Subject: RE: Finally - virologists fight back!

EXTERNAL SENDER

I forgot about that Rich. But I'm assuming it wasn't you that came up with somewhat colonial name!!???

In all seriousness, while it's good for virologists to push back against calls to block scientific research, I don't think a campaign to support gain of function work that's designed to see what would happen if you make a lethal pathogen more transmissible is anything any of us particularly want to get behind right now!

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Cheers,

Peter

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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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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) ; Jeffrey Sturchio (b) (6) ; Roberts, Rich <(b) (6) ; Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) >
Cc: David Morens <(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!

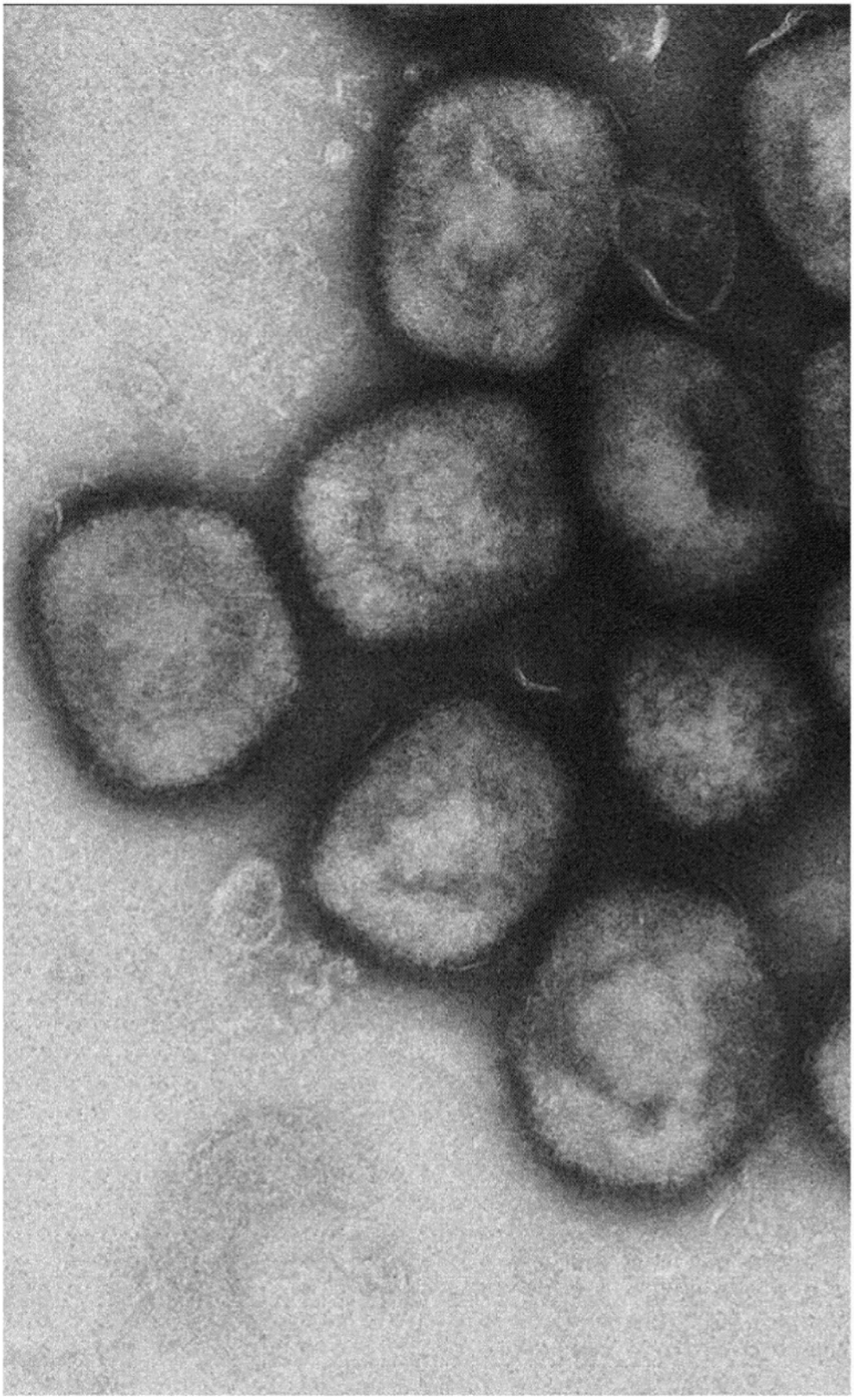
POLICY-ISH

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?"

Sponsor Message

Researchers often don't know what will happen when they start an experiment, says Goodrum, especially when the science is cutting-edge.

"That's where the big scientific advancements come from. And so to tie our hands behind our back, to say we can only do the science that we can anticipate, then we're really restricting innovative science," she says.

Ron Fouchier, the virologist at Erasmus University Medical Center in the Netherlands, whose lab did the bird flu experiments over a decade ago, said in an email that he'd hoped the experience of going through a pandemic would simulate more research, not "unnecessarily delay or restrict it." He said it looked like many infectious disease researchers in the United States "will face substantial delays in their crucial research efforts, if they can continue that research at all."

The U.S. is unusual in that it has a lot of public discussion of these issues and a system to try to manage the risks, says Inglesby.

He thinks that oversight can be made stronger without getting in the way of science.

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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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Email

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

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Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

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---

From: Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6)
Sent: 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.

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MORENS_NIH_035323
REL0000481534

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 University, University Professor

Rice 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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MORENS_NIH_035325
REL0000481534

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Media Inquiries:

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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_017136
MORENS_NIH_035326
REL0000481534

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---

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

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MORENS_NIH_035327
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That was then.

Of our two most recent hires placed into tenured positions, one had only 10 publications and the other came straight out of a post doc with few publications as well.

Both were in their early 30s and, as far as i can tell, are unlikely to ever do much

At the same time, we had the ability to hire a top scientist from the outside, my good friend the (b) (6) from (b)(6) - Peter H, you may know him- and we was the 100% top choice of the search committee. However leadership below Tony refused to hire him with the excuse that he was overqualified and would make the other scientists look bad

No, i am not joking. This is where we are

I have in my had a small list of about 5-10 qualified folks for NIAID director, and have spoken or written to 4 about it, one being you, Peter H, but all four have expressed no interest. Peter D, you are clearly on that list too, but obvious to all of us is the fact that HHS would never let that happen, sadly, so i never mentioned it. In a better world, you would be at the top of that list in my view

The application deadline of 1/17 has passed, so we may be stuck with a non-ideal list, although no one knows including, i believe, our acting director Hugh, who is not a candidate, or so he told me

Sent from my iPhone
David M Morens
OD, NIAID, NIH

> On Jan 25, 2023, at 10:58, Peter Daszak <
> (b) (6) wrote:
>
> Unfortunate. At this point you should just throw your hat in the ring!
>
> Why not have a confidential chat with Peter Staley and see if they have a pool of candidates yet?
>
> Cheers,
>
> Peter
>
> **Peter Daszak**
> *President*
>
> EcoHealth Alliance
> 520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
> New York, NY 10018-6507

MORENS_SUBPOENA_017138
MORENS_NIH_035328
REL0000481534

USA

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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 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 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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Fax: 713-798-2299

Media Inquiries:

(b) (6)

iPhone

On Jan 25, 2023, at 9:47 AM, Peter Daszak <(b) (6) wrote:

*****CAUTION:*** This email is not from a BCM Source. Only click links or open attachments you know are safe.**

Disgusting. Reported to Twitter safety. They've been surprisingly good over the last few months. When there's a clear violation they've tended to lock the account.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

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Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
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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: Fri, 1 Apr 2022 9:01:51 AM -0400
Sent: Fri, 1 Apr 2022 8:59:51 AM -0400
Subject: RE: fyi you should read this
From: Peter Daszak < (b) (6)
To: Hotez, Peter Jay < (b) (6)
CC: David Morens < (b) (6) Gerald Keusch < (b) (6) Aleksei Chmura < (b) (6) Rich Roberts < (b) (6) Dennis Carroll <(b) (6) Jeff Sturchio < (b) (6)
Attachments: image001.jpg

Ready, willing and able!

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
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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: Friday, April 1, 2022 8:33 AM
To: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >
Cc: David Morens (b) (6) >; Gerald Keusch <(b) (6) >; Aleksei Chmura < (b) (6) >; Rich Roberts (b) (6) >; Dennis Carroll (b) (6) >; Jeff Sturchio (b)
Subject: Re: fyi you should read this

Many thanks Peter, I had an interview with a donor last week who might be interested in supporting something along these lines. If it goes anywhere will be tapping you to help set it up!

Warmest regards Peter

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP
Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine
Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology
Health Policy Scholar
Baylor College of Medicine

Texas Children's Hospital Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics

Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development

University Professor, Baylor University

Faculty Fellow, Hagler Institute for Advanced Study
Senior Fellow, Scowcroft Institute of International Affairs
Texas A&M University
Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty and Adjunct Professor of Bioengineering, Rice University
Adjunct Professor, University of Texas, School of Public Health

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Daily Beast Contributor https://www.thedailybeast.com/author/peter- j-hotez
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iPhone

On Apr 1, 2022, at 7:05 AM, Peter Daszak (b) (6) wrote:

Just saw your editorial in Boston Globe today. Keep up the great work Peter!

https://www.bostonglobe.com/2022/01/27/opinion/who- will-defend-embattled-scientists/

OPINION

Who will defend embattled scientists?

The latest round of attacks on prominent US scientists from public figures and elected officials may require the formation of a new type of organization to ensure our safety and productivity.

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By Peter Hotez Updated January 27, 2022, 4:35 p.m.



People who are anti-vaccination take part in an event "for the preservation of personal sovereignty and to STOP medical coercion, discrimination" on Jan. 23 in Washington, D.C.ALEX WONG/GETTY

Even before the COVID-19 pandemic, being a public defender of vaccines was not rewarding. After I wrote the book "Vaccines Did Not Cause Rachel's Autism: My Journey as a Vaccine Scientist, Pediatrician, and Autism Dad," about my daughter, as a means to debunk false assertions alleging vaccine-autism links and educate the public about the origins and causes of autism, I became a target of antivaccine groups. Their threats (which continue) through e-mails, social media, personal confrontations, and anonymous phone calls, assert that I maintain secret ties to big pharma (even though I develop vaccines for neglected diseases linked to poverty), or that I have financial motivations (I don't). In some cases, the threats were overtly antisemitic and included horrific images from the Holocaust.

During the pandemic, the anti-science attacks have gotten worse. Adding to my distress is that

many scientific professional organizations do not speak out to defend scientists or offer us assistance.

I have been outspoken about the dangers of refusing a COVID-19 vaccination, and have pointed out how more than 150,000 unvaccinated Americans have needlessly lost their lives since last summer as a result. I cite data from the Kaiser Family Foundation, NPR, Charles Gaba (an independent health analyst), and other sources revealing an unambiguous and stark partisan divide: overwhelmingly Republican or conservative stronghold areas exhibit the lowest acceptance of COVID-19 vaccinations, and consequently the highest number of cases and deaths due to COVID-19.

Those who defy vaccines are paying with their lives. They are victims of media outlets and even members of Congress who openly espouse antivaccine views. Last summer, Republican Representative Marjorie Taylor Greene of Georgia called vaccinators "medical brown shirts," referring to Nazi paramilitary groups, while other congressional members attending the July Conservative Political Action Conference claimed vaccines were political instruments of control.

Some elected officials have since taken this a step further by seeking to discredit individual biomedical scientists. I was ridiculed by Governor Ron DeSantis of Florida on a Fox News broadcast, and, earlier this month, I was targeted by Greene and Steve Bannon on Real America's Voice a week after our research team announced emergency use authorization in India of a recombinant protein COVID vaccine for global health. Such statements are often followed by threatening e-mails and other notes accusing me of "crimes against humanity" or warning that I will soon be hunted by "armed patriots." During the Jewish high holidays, while I was in Houston to give a speech at a reform synagogue, I was stalked and heckled.

Other scientists have fared worse, including Dr. Anthony Fauci, director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, who has been the subject of intimidation on multiple occasions by both Senate and House members, including a vituperative exchange earlier this month with Republican Senator Rand Paul of Kentucky. Several nongovernmental scientists have been targeted as well.

Dog whistles from highly visible elected officials are unnerving, especially when followed by a barrage of hate e-mail and online threats. For biomedical scientists laboring to shape new approaches or therapeutics to combat COVID-19 there is really no roadmap for how to respond or seek protections. In my case, since this also includes antisemitic attacks, I have been able to get help and advice from the Anti-Defamation League and other Jewish organizations, but often there is nowhere obvious to seek help.

Fifty years ago, American scientists founded the Committee of Concerned Scientists to defend their colleagues abroad — many from authoritarian states such as Turkey or China where they experienced human rights violations. However, political scientists such as Harvard's Steven Levitsky have since sounded the alarm for increasing authoritarianism in the United States. How can society address a far-right US authoritarian movement seeking to undermine scientists?

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MORENS_NIH_014861
REL0000481535

We need an organization that is prepared to defend biomedical scientists. Thus far, the major professional and academic societies, including the National Academies, find themselves in the difficult position of balancing their historical neutrality in American politics with the need to preserve the integrity and productivity of American science. The reality is that political neutrality is often impossible when defending scientists — it favors the oppressor (to paraphrase Elie Wiesel). Ideally, an organization defending scientists would provide legal advice or practical instructions for managing media and social media communications. It could advise on how to engage law enforcement when public attacks incite serious threats from adherents. It might resemble the renowned Southern Poverty Law Center, established to promote social justice and combat racism, but be focused on helping US scientists, or a biomedical equivalent to the more recently created Climate Science Legal Defense Fund.

When I obtained my MD and PhD in the 1980s, I never dreamed it would become necessary to defend the importance of science and scientists in a nation built on great research universities. We must face this new reality and find new paths, to hold to account those who seek to destroy basic tenets of knowledge and the safety of those who generate and promote it.

Dr. Peter Hotez is a professor of pediatrics and molecular virology at Baylor College of Medicine and codirector of the Texas Children's Center for Vaccine Development, which developed a low-cost COVID-19 vaccine for global health.

Cheers,

Peter

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From: Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6)
Sent: Thursday, March 31, 2022 9:46 PM
To: David Morens <(b) (6) >
Cc: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >; Gerald Keusch <(b) (6) Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) >; Rich Roberts <(b) (6) >; Dennis Carroll (b) (6) ; Jeff Sturchio <(b) (6) >

Subject: Re: fyi you should read this

It's why we need a new type of organization to support scientists under attack. I'm discussing with a donor with potential interest

Peter Hotez, **MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP**
Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine
Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology
Health Policy Scholar
Baylor College of Medicine

Texas Children's Hospital Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics
Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development

University Professor, Baylor University

Faculty Fellow, Hagler Institute for Advanced Study
Senior Fellow, Scowcroft Institute of International Affairs
Texas A&M University
Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty and Adjunct Professor of Bioengineering, Rice University
Adjunct Professor, University of Texas, School of Public Health

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Senior Coordinator / Executive Support: Douglas Soriano
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Fax: 713-798-2299

iPhone

On Mar 31, 2022, at 8:01 PM, David Morens <(b) (6) wrote:

The part that makes me mad is that before i agreed to talk to her she said she wanted to write this piece to present

the other side of the story, that EcoHealth were the good guys doing good work and so on. But none of those things i told her ended up in print. Basically i feel like she mislead me

As i said, if my name is in print anywhere on the same page as the words "Jesse Bloom", it's a very bad day. d

Sent from my iPhone
David M Morens
OD, NIAID, NIH

On Mar 31, 2022, at 19:43, Peter Daszak <(b) (6) > wrote:

Yes I saw it David - pretty offensive stuff, but it does contain 3 factually correct statements:

1) I'm bald
2) I wear hiking pants and shirts to the office unless when talking with VIPs, when I don a jacket (not tweed though – that's ridiculous).
3) I've worked extremely hard to raise funds for our non-profit over the years, and if some of that's been successful, I'm happy to be guilty as charged.

From what I've read, all the rest is pure garbage.

Sorry you spent time talking with her David. I also addressed a long list of detailed questions from her, some of which she had to print and I think that helped throw a bit of water on some of her BS lines of attack.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

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Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

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---

From: Hotez, Peter Jay < (b) (6)
Sent: Thursday, March 31, 2022 5:36 PM
To: David Morens <(b) (6) >
Cc: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >; Gerald Keusch (b) (6) Aleksei Chmura < (b) (6) >; Rich Roberts (b) (6) >; Dennis Carroll < (b) (6) ; Jeff Sturchio (b) (6)
Subject: Re: fyi you should read this

It was a terrible article from someone who should know better

Peter Hotez, **MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP**
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Health Policy Scholar
Baylor College of Medicine

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Faculty Fellow, Hagler Institute for Advanced Study
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iPhone

On Mar 31, 2022, at 4:18 PM, David Morens <(b) (6) wrote:

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Peter and all, i am sure you have all seen this by now. I hate this piece, which is twisted and full of innuendo and false equivalency. I am sorry i ever spoke to her (twice) and let her snow me with her assurances of setting the story straight re the good work of EcoHealth. To his credit i think Tony

declined to speak with her. I feel like she betrayed what i told her on background.

Anyone who portrays Jesse Bloom as a visionary is incompetent in my book. Very sorry to see this piece of bat guano.
d
Sent from my iPhone
David M Morens
OD, NIAID, NIH
Begin forwarded message:

> **From:** "Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E]" <(b) (6)
> **Date:** March 31, 2022 at 17:12:05 EDT
> **To:** David Morens (b) (6)
> **Subject: Fwd: fyi you should read this**
>
> Sent from my iPhone
> David M Morens
> OD, NIAID, NIH
> Begin forwarded message:
>
> > **From:** "Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E]" (b) (6)
> > **Date:** March 31, 2022 at 16:35:15 EDT
> > **To:** "Taubenberger, Jeffery (NIH/NIAID) [E]" (b) (6)
> > **Subject: Re: fyi you should read this**
> >
> > A very biased account. I am sorry i ever spoke to her. d
> >
> > Sent from my iPhone
> > David M Morens
> > OD, NIAID, NIH
> >
> > > On Mar 31, 2022, at 13:44, Taubenberger, Jeffery (NIH/NIAID) [E] <
> > > (b) (6) > wrote:
> > >
> > > https://www.vanityfair.com/news/2022/03/the- virus-hunting-nonprofit-at-the-center-of-the-lab-leak-controversy
> > >
> > > Jeffery K. Taubenberger, M.D., Ph.D.,
> > > Chief, Viral Pathogenesis and Evolution Section
> > > Deputy Chief, Laboratory of Infectious Diseases
> > > National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases
> > > National Institutes of Health
> > > 33 North Drive, Room 3E13C.1 MSC 3203
> > > Bethesda, MD 20892-3203 USA
> > >
> > > Tel. (b) (6) Fax. 1-301-480-1696
> > > email: (b) (6)
> > >
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Date: Fri, 21 Jul 2023 1:23:35 PM -0400
Sent: Fri, 21 Jul 2023 1:22:49 PM -0400
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Fwd: Publication of Angie Rasmussen article
From: David Morens < (b) (6)
To: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] < (b) (6)

David M. Morens, MD
(b) (6)
(b) (6)

(b) (6)
(b) (6) (work)
(b) (6) (cell)

IMPORTANT: My gmail frequently sends incoming messages to Trash, which is apparently not correctable. If you don't hear from me in a reasonable time, please try again, call, or use my NIH email address

IMPORTANT: For US Government-related email, please also reply to my NIAID address

--------- Forwarded message --------
From: Jeffrey Sturchio < (b) (6) >
Date: Thu, Sep 15, 2022 at 1:29 PM
Subject: RE: Publication of Angie Rasmussen article
To: Hotez, Peter Jay < (b) (6) Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6)
Cc: Roberts, Rich < (b) (6) Peter Daszak
< (b) (6) >, David Morens < (b) (6)
Aleksei Chmura < (b) (6) >

Peter: Thanks for sharing this. Rasmussen and Worobey do a masterful job of showing how groundless and pernicious Sachs's opinions are. Their commentary deserves wide distribution.

Jeff

Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy smartphone

-------- Original message --------
From: "Hotez, Peter Jay" <(b) (6)
Date: 9/15/22 12:49 PM (GMT-05:00)
To: "Keusch, Gerald T" < (b) (6) >
Cc: "Roberts, Rich" < (b) (6) >, Jeffrey Sturchio
< (b) (6) Peter Daszak < (b) (6) >,
David Morens < (b) (6) >, Aleksei Chmura
< (b) (6) >
Subject: Publication of Angie Rasmussen article

MORENS_SUBPOENA_009916
MORENS_NIH_020426
REL0000481542

https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fforeignpolicy.com%2F2022%2F09%2F15%2Fcovid-theories-covid-19-commission%2F&data=05%7C01%7Cdmorens%40niaid.nih.gov%7C6b39cf14815a4f162c7e08db8a0f3504%7C14b77578977342d585(&sdata=YE6WuhDLi00eeQqpFEbA4xxPIoDEZ9fyzH5PsdLhedU%3D &reserved=0

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iPhone

On Sep 15, 2022, at 11:49 AM, Keusch, Gerald T < (b) (6) wrote:

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MORENS_NIH_020427
REL0000481542

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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Media Inquiries:

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(b) (6)

(b) (6)

iPhone

On Sep 15, 2022, at 11:18 AM, Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6) wrote:

Watching Jeff expound and I am nauseated.

Sent from my iPhone

On Sep 15, 2022, at 9:19 AM, Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6) wrote:

It's just

(b) (6)

I can tell you what he'll likely say, About how well behaved Jeff was at the press event, but no mentions or apologies for past horrors

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP

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(b) (6)

iPhone

On Sep 15, 2022, at 9:10 AM, Roberts, Rich < (b) (6) > wrote:

Peter:

Do you have Horton's email address? I was going to write to him about Jeff and see what he has to say.

Rich

Richard J. Roberts

New England Biolabs

240 County Road

Ipswich, MA 01938-2723

USA

Tel: (978) (b) (6)

Fax: (978) 412 9910

email: (b) (6)

From: Hotez, Peter Jay < (b) (6)
Sent: Thursday, September 15, 2022 7:57 AM
To: Jeffrey Sturchio < (b) (6) >
Cc: Peter Daszak < (b) (6) >; Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6) David Morens < (b) (6) >; Roberts, Rich <(b) (6) >; Aleksei Chmura < (b) (6) >
Subject: Re: Another attack from Republican Senators

EXTERNAL SENDER

I'm just sick of the whole thing. Richard Horton sent me an inappropriate note this morning. I feel as though I protected the reputation of the LC by being the bad cop with Jeff, and beat up for it.

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP

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REL0000481542

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Media Inquiries:

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(b) (6)

(b) (6)

iPhone

On Sep 14, 2022, at 10:56 PM, Jeffrey Sturchio < (b) (6) wrote:

Peter: The Washington Post report was pretty balanced – and I'm glad that Dan Diamond gave you and Angela Rasmussen the space to clarify some of the more dubious elemenets of the Lancet Commission report. Your quotation was excellent – strong, succinct, clear, and true.

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%7C6b39cf14815a4f162c7e08db8a0f3504%7C14b77578977342d585(
&sdata=KG55IciixWXoH%2BBiUGE3uz%2Ba9l6tTFCOw3FNZa6CX6U%3D &reserved=0

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Date: Tue, 19 Mar 2024 2:05:41 PM -0400
Sent: Tue, 19 Mar 2024 2:03:29 PM -0400
Subject: RE: Opinion from Jeff Sachs
From: Peter Daszak < (b) (6)
To: Hotez, Peter Jay < (b) (6) Aleksei Chmura < (b) (6) Gerald Keusch <(b) (6) Jeffrey Sturchio < (b) (6) Roberts Rich < (b) (6) (b) (6) < (b) (6)

Yes just coming to it now after an enjoyable weekend with my children and then a bout of Norovirus from a ski lodge in the Northeast (probably)…

It's shocking that this is a supposed Democrat and Head of Columbia's Center for Sustainable Development calling for a witch hunt against scientists. I guess he's either drunk the Koolaid and believes in the conspiracy, or is just using this as a politically convenient point to help his career. The fact that he still maintains the US is behind the Nordstream pipeline explosion makes me think it's the former.

All that said, I do know from my interactions with Jeff Sachs when he invited me onto the Lancet COVID Commission, that he has multiple commitments to write pieces like these on a monthly basis, for money, for different outlets, so he has to find issues regularly to write about. Unfortunately, I guess EcoHealth's work is one of his 'topics'…

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, March 19, 2024 7:21 AM
To: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) Aleksei Chmura (b) (6) >; Gerald Keusch < (b) (6) Jeffrey Sturchio(b) (6) Roberts Rich(b) (6) >; (b) (6) < (b) (6) >
Subject: Opinion from Jeff Sachs

Tragic conspiracy nonsense
https://www.commondreams.org/opinion/covid- 19-gain-of-function-us-research

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP

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iPhone

MORENS_SUBPOENA_000040
MORENS_NIH_000068
REL0000481544

Date: Sat, 2 Oct 2021 6:52:27 PM -0400
Sent: Sat, 2 Oct 2021 6:52:18 PM -0400
Subject: Re: Good LA Times article.
From: "Hotez, Peter Jay" < (b) (6)
To: Roberts, Rich < (b) (6)
CC: Peter Daszak < (b) (6) Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6) David Morens < (b) (6) Robert Kessler <(b) (6) >;

I just defended Peter on Twitter. I'm sure the pushback will be huge. But I'm taking my special needs daughter out for pizza while I have a whiskey

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP
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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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Linkedin Peter Hotez

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Daily Beast Contributor https://www.thedailybeast.com/author/peter- j-hotez
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iPhone

On Oct 2, 2021, at 2:47 PM, Roberts, Rich <(b) (6) wrote:

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Peter:

I just spoke with Jon Cohen from Science. I mentioned that you were being attacked completely unfairly and that it would be good if he could find some encouraging words to help you. I am wondering if one of you would also be prepared to talk to Jon.

Rich

Richard J. Roberts
New England Biolabs
240 County Road
Ipswich, MA 01938-2723
USA
Tel: (b) (6)
Fax: (978) 412 9910
email: (b) (6)

From: Peter Daszak < (b) (6)
Sent: Tuesday, September 28, 2021 11:47 PM
To: Roberts, Rich < (b) (6) Keusch, Gerald T < (b) (6) David Morens < (b) (6) >
Cc: Robert Kessler < (b) (6) >
Subject: Good LA Times article.

EXTERNAL SENDER

Just saw a piece in the LA Times that sums up the state of the origins "debate" pretty clearly:

https://www.latimes.com/business/story/2021- 09-28/evidence-against-a-lab-leak-as-covid-source

It's firewalled so here's the article:

Column: New evidence undermines the COVID lab-leak theory — but the press keeps pushing it

BY MICHAEL HILTZIK BUSINESS COLUMNIST
SEPT. 28, 2021 6 AM PT

When it comes to the pandemic, pseudoscience has outweighed real science at almost every turn. One of the best examples of that is the unsupported assertion that the virus causing COVID-19 escaped from a Chinese laboratory.

Despite mounting evidence that the virus reached humans through natural pathways — from infected animals such as bats — the lab-leak hypothesis recently jumped back into the news, thanks to CNN, the investigative news site the Intercept, and the Atlantic.

All treat the idea that the virus escaped from a lab credulously. They downplay or entirely ignore the latest scientific findings that support the theory that the virus' origin can be found in the animal kingdom

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— the view accepted by a preponderance of experts in virology.

It's a likely probability that this one originated from animals as well. But the possibility also remains that the virus leaked from a lab.

CNN'S SANJAY GUPTA OVERSTATES THE LAB LEAK THEORY

This is known as the zoonotic theory, from the term for a disease that can be transmitted from animals to humans.

We've reported before on the near absence of evidence for a lab leak, whether or not it's the product of a deliberate act.

Ever since the lab-leak claim first emerged during the Trump administration, where it was part of a White House information campaign demonizing China, one of the arguments in its favor has been that evidence for a zoonotic origin has also been spotty.

That argument has never been quite true — virologists know that animals have been the source of most of the viral diseases afflicting humanity — but it has become weaker than ever over the last year.

The question of the origin of COVID-19 isn't of merely academic interest. The answer could guide the world's preparation for future pandemics; if the virus emerged from a laboratory, then improving lab safety measures will be prioritized. If scientific opinion continues to coalesce around animal-to-human transmission, that will underscore the importance of regulating contact between humans and wildlife.

To put it another way, if we focus on the wrong answer, the right measures won't be taken. In a real sense, humankind's future depends on not being distracted by an unsupported, politically motivated claim about Chinese labs.

Before examining the flaws in the CNN, Intercept and Atlantic treatments, let's look at what's been published recently about the zoonotic path.

For context, keep in mind that the earliest cluster of COVID-19 cases, in late 2019, was identified in the environs of the Huanan seafood market in the Chinese metropolis of Wuhan. Lab-leak theorists find this significant, because it's 7.5 miles from the Wuhan Institute of Virology, which does research on bat viruses.

A paper posted online earlier this month chiefly by researchers at France's Institut Pasteur and under consideration for publication in a Nature journal, however, reports that three viruses were found in bats living in caves in northern Laos with features very similar to SARS-CoV-2, the virus responsible for COVID-19.

As Nature reported, those viruses are "more similar to SARS-CoV-2 than any known viruses."

Another paper, posted in late August by researchers from the Wuhan lab, reports on viruses found in rats also with features similar to those that make SARS-CoV-2 infectious in humans. Two other papers published on the discussion forum virological.org present evidence that the virus jumped from animals to humans at more than one animal market in Wuhan, not just the Huanan seafood market.

Given that these so-called wet markets have long been suspected as transmission points of viruses from animals to humans because they sell potentially infected animals, that makes the laboratory origin vastly less likely, according to a co-author of one of the papers.

"That a laboratory leak would find its way to the very place where you would expect to find a zoonotic transmission is quite unlikely," Joel Wertheim, an associate professor at UC San Diego's medical school, told me. "To have it find its way to multiple markets, the exact place where you would expect to see the introduction, is unbelievably unlikely."

As virologist Robert F. Garry of Tulane, one of Wertheim's co-authors, told Nature, the finding is "a dagger into the heart" of the lab-leak hypothesis.

Garry and Wertheim are among the 21 expert co-authors of a "critical review" of virological findings on the origins of COVID-19. The review concludes, "There is currently no evidence that SARS-CoV-2 has a laboratory origin."

Now let's look at the recent reporting in support of the lab-leak theory.

On Sept. 19, CNN aired an hourlong documentary entitled "The Origins of COVID-19: Searching for the Source." Hosted by the channel's star science anchor, Sanjay Gupta, the program carries the veneer of an evenhanded approach.

Proponents of the zoonotic origin theory are given airtime, including Kristian Andersen of the Scripps Research Institute in La Jolla and Peter Daszak, a prominent grant maker in the virology field.

But so are proponents of the lab-leak theory. They include Alina Chan, a researcher at the Broad Institute, a biomedical research center, and Josh Rogin, a Washington Post columnist. Neither has any experience in virology. Chan is co-writing a book about COVID's origins that is expected to feature the lab-leak theory prominently, a fact not mentioned by CNN.

Yet at the top of the hour, referring to the common pattern of viruses jumping from animals to humans, Gupta says, "It's a likely probability that this one originated from animals as well. But the possibility also remains that the virus leaked from a lab."

By posing these two theories as simply two equally plausible solutions to a mystery, CNN glosses over the fact that the virological community regards the animal origin as vastly more likely than a lab leak. In fact, the two hypotheses are miles apart in credibility.

One of the program's chief targets is a report by a World Health Organization team issued in early 2021 that found spillover from an animal host to be "likely to very likely" and a laboratory incident an "extremely unlikely pathway."

Gupta calls the WHO report "the only scientific study of COVID's origins to date." That's not remotely accurate. There have been countless scientific studies, both before the WHO report and since. Indeed, Gupta mentions one of them, a seminal paper by Andersen and colleagues, published in March 2020. That paper termed the lab-leak theory "a speculative incomplete hypothesis with no credible evidence."

Much of the rest of the CNN program is filled with speculation about the Wuhan Institute, typically presented with portentous music on the soundtrack, suggesting subliminally that something sinister is going on there. The absence of information from the institute or the Chinese government is generally taken as tantamount to an admission of guilt.

"Over the course of 2020," Gupta declares, "more and more revelations emerged related to the Wuhan Institute of Virology."

One of these revelations concerned three staff members who reportedly sought hospital treatment for a flu-like illness in November 2019, before the COVID pandemic emerged.

Nothing has ever transpired to suggest these workers had COVID — November is flu season, after all. That they sought treatment at a hospital is immaterial, since it is well-known that people in China often go to hospitals for primary care, which residents of other countries would tend to receive in a doctor's office.

A CNN reporter appearing on air overstated the case, saying the patients were "hospitalized with an unknown illness." There has been no evidence that they were admitted to the hospital or that their illness was "unknown."

CNN doesn't bring its audience up to date on any of the latest research supporting the zoonotic theory, though it was published well before the air date and superseded what Gupta described as "the only scientific study" of COVID origins.

More recently, the Intercept trumpeted a purported scoop based on a leaked document — a grant proposal submitted in 2018 by Daszak's organization, the EcoHealth Alliance, to the Pentagon's Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency, or DARPA.

The proposal, for a laboratory manipulation of a virus related to SARS, the viral disease that caused an outbreak of pulmonary disease in China in 2003. DARPA rejected the proposal, however, and there's no evidence that it was submitted to, much less approved by, any other funding body.

"Many questions remain about the proposal, including whether any of the research described in it was completed," the Intercept acknowledged.

Commentators on the Intercept's disclosure have displayed, perhaps in spite of themselves, that they lack the courage of their own convictions. In an article published Sept. 24, the Atlantic, unable or unwilling to delve into what the Intercept's document actually meant, if anything, settled for declaring that it made the lab-leak debate "even messier."

The magazine's Daniel Engber and Adam Federman wrote: "Does the SARS-CoV-2 pandemic have an unnatural origin? The answer hasn't changed: probably not. But we have learned something quite disturbing in the past few days, simply from how and when this information came to light."

By pretending that the debate itself is important, as if both sides have something to offer, they manage to report on a claim that has no substance. The approach also protects journalists from their persistent fear

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of landing on the wrong side of things — the authors preserve an out in case the lab-leak hypothesis turns out to be true, as unlikely as that is. If that happens, they can point to their lily-livered observations and say, "See, we knew it all along."

In this debate, however, the zoonotic camp has evidence and the lab-leak camp nothing to offer but innuendo.

Here's the true state of the discussion. There is no evidence that the virus leaked from the Wuhan laboratory or any other lab. There is no evidence that the Wuhan lab was working with a bat virus that had anything but a very distant resemblance to SARS-CoV-2. Viruses that resemble it much more closely have been found in natural settings a thousand miles from Wuhan, as the crow, or bat, flies.

Evidence that artificial manipulation of a virus gave rise to SARS-CoV-2 has faded, as scientists find more evidence that features of SARS-CoV-2 thought to be unnatural occur in nature. Meanwhile, evidence for zoonotic transmission is constantly accumulating. No one who reports on the issue without acknowledging these two trends should be trusted.

Los Angeles Times columnist Michael Hiltzik writes a daily blog appearing on latimes.com. His seventh book, "Iron Empires: Robber Barons, Railroads, and the Making of Modern America," has just been published by Houghton Mifflin Harcourt. Follow him on Twitter at twitter.com/hiltzikm and on Facebook at facebook.com/hiltzik.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
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USA

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Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

MORENS_SUBPOENA_011330
MORENS_NIH_022116
REL0000481545

Date: Sun, 23 May 2021 1:17:25 PM -0400
Sent: Sun, 23 May 2021 1:15:07 PM -0400
Subject: Washington Post Opinion: The U.S. needs a nonpartisan commission to evaluate pandemic failures
From: Peter Daszak < (b) (6)
To: David Morens < (b) (6)
CC: Roberts, Rich < (b) (6) Gerald Keusch <(b) (6)
Attachments: image001.jpg

I saw this 're-tweeted' by Marc Lipsitch. It's the Washington Post citing the Miller Center's boldly named "COVID Commission Planning Group" that him and David Relman are members of.

https://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/global- opinions/the-us-needs-a-nonpartisan-commission-to-evaluate-pandemic-failures/2021/05/22/d2848622- ba58-11eb-96b9-e949d5397de9_ story.html

This is why David Relman and Marc Lipsitch both signed the letter to Science last week – they see the glory of being members of a future COVID Commission, similar to the 9/11 Commission, in which they stand in judgement over the origin issues, call for testimony from people like me, and further trash my reputation. Just awful.

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: Saturday, May 22, 2021 3:43 PM
To: Peter Daszak (b) (6)
Cc: Roberts, Rich ((b) (6) Gerald Keusch <(b) (6)
Subject: Re: Tony Fauci says he's "not convinced" of the natural origin of COVID

Hmmmm…. Waffling and parsing is not Tony's forte, nd does not suit is straight shooter reputation. but undoubtedly these are strategic comments. d

Sent from my iPhone
David M Morens
OD, NIAID, NIH

On May 22, 2021, at 14:47, Peter Daszak(b) (6) wrote:

I guess this is just Tony carefully parsing words given the heat he's under, but the conspiracists are seeing this as a crack in the wall..

The Q&A on the origins begins at the 11:30 minute mark in the video here:

https://www.pscp.tv/w/1ZkKzereynoxv

Here is the right wing press's view of it…

https://thenationalpulse.com/breaking/fauci- flip-flops-on-covid-origins/

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

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Tel.: + (b) (6)
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

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From: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b) (6)
Sent: Friday, May 21, 2021 8:33 AM
To: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >
Cc: Roberts, Rich < (b) (6) Gerald Keusch <(b) (6)
Subject: Re: Forbes: "No, Science Clearly Shows That COVID-19 Wasn't Leaked From A Wuhan Lab"

Wow!

I am in the wilds of Michigan until next Monday with limited contact but appreciate info like this!!!!!

D

Sent from my iPhone
David M Morens
OD, NIAID, NIH

> On May 20, 2021, at 15:06, Peter Daszak <(b) (6) > wrote:
>
> Finally a journalist that calls a spade a spade.
>
> "Most recently, disgraced journalist Nicholas Wade has penned an error-filled, misleading piece promoting this nonsense, but the science tells a different story."
>
> https://www.forbes.com/sites/startswithabang/2021/05/20/no- science-clearly-shows-that-covid-19-wasnt-leaked-from-a-wuhan-lab/?sh=32ed37b45585

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MORENS_NIH_026885
REL0000481546

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: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] <(b) (6)
Sent: Thursday, May 20, 2021 1:52 PM
To: Roberts, Rich < (b) (6)
Cc: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >; Gerald Keusch <(b) (6)
Subject: Re: FYI - POLITICO - COVID Origins, looking into lab theory leak gaining supporters

Yes indeed, that is so true, as we have been learning lately in the political arena as well. D

Sent from my iPhone
David M Morens
OD, NIAID, NIH

On May 20, 2021, at 13:50, Roberts, Rich <(b) (6) wrote:

David:

Repetition renders all theories more plausible – just like lies.

Rich

Richard J. Roberts
New England Biolabs
240 County Road
Ipswich, MA 01938-2723
USA
Tel: (978) (b) (6)
Fax: (978) 412 9910
(b) (6)

From: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b) (6) v>
Sent: Thursday, May 20, 2021 1:33 PM
To: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >; Gerald Keusch <(b) (6) >; Roberts, Rich < (b) (6)
Subject: Fwd: FYI - POLITICO - COVID Origins, looking into lab theory leak gaining supporters

EXTERNAL SENDER

MORENS_SUBPOENA_014233
MORENS_NIH_026886
REL0000481546

Sent from my iPhone
David M Morens
OD, NIAID, NIH
Begin forwarded message:

From: Karen Goraleski <(b) (6) >
Date: May 20, 2021 at 12:28:25 EDT
To: "Breman, Joel (NIH/FIC) [V]" <(b) (6) "Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E]" (b) (6) >, "Dan Bausch(b) (6) (b) (6) "Julie Jacobson (b) (6))" < (b) (6) >, "Rosenthal, Philip (Infectious Diseases)" < (b) (6) >, "Hill, David R. Prof." (b) (6) >, Christine Petersen (b)(6) Stephen Popper (b) (6) >, Patricia Walker <(b) (6)
Subject: FYI - POLITICO - COVID Origins, looking into lab theory leak gaining supporters

Sharing this fyi - adding in David Morens, the lead author on the AJTMH article on this same topic (BTW, the #1 accessed article in AJTMH last month) and Stephen Popper, the Associate Program Chair.

This is from POLITICO. See links to the letter in SCIENCE, to Donald McNeal's piece in MEDIUM.

https://www.politico.com/newsletters/politico- nightly/2021/05/19/experts- weigh-in-on-the-wuhan-lab-leak-hypothesis-492915

Experts weigh in on the Wuhan lab leak hypothesis

By MYAH WARD and RENUKA RAYASAM

05/19/2021 08:00 PM EDT

Presented by Facebook

With help from Joanne Kenen

ORIGIN STORY — The hypothesis that Covid-19 was leaked from a Wuhan lab has leaped from its original host — Trump administration officials and people dismissed as conspiracy theorists — into the body of mainstream debate. Last week, 18 leading scientists published a letter in the academic journal Science calling for further investigation to determine the origin of the

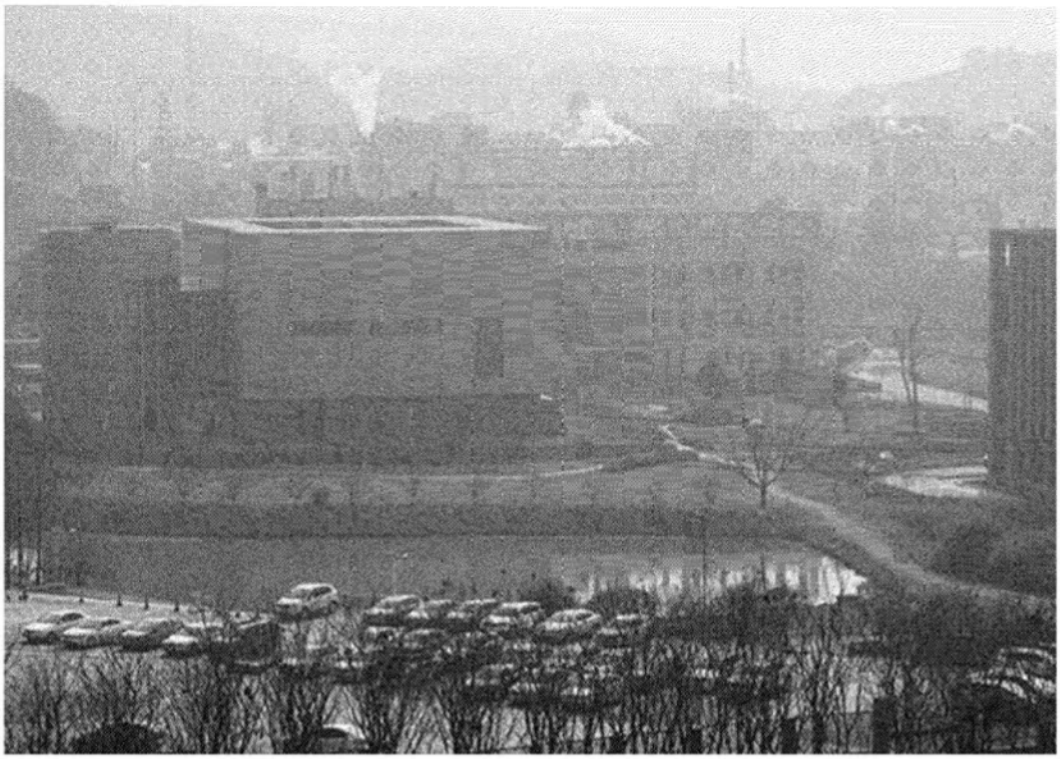
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pandemic that has killed 3.4 million people worldwide. "Theories of accidental release from a lab and zoonotic spillover both remain viable," the scientists wrote.

The letter echoes a similar call from WHO Director General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus. During a Senate hearing last week on the U.S. response to the pandemic, Anthony Fauci said he was "fully in favor of any further investigation of what went on in China" after sparring with Sen. Rand Paul (R-Ky.) about the origins of the virus. And this month, the former New York Times science reporters Nicholas Wade and Donald G. McNeil Jr. have written long essays on Medium outlining why they take the lab leak hypothesis seriously.

Nightly reached out to experts, two of whom signed the letter as well as others who have taken the opposite side in the public debate, to ask how credible they find the lab leak theory. Their edited responses are below.

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A view of the P4 lab inside the Wuhan Institute of Virology is seen after a visit by the World Health Organization team in Wuhan in China's Hubei province on Wednesday, Feb. 3, 2021. | AP Photo/Ng Han Guan

IT'S POSSIBLE

"Much of the currently available information suggests that a lab-based origin of Covid-19 is plausible. **There remains no sign of an intermediate animal host that could have passed the virus to humans in 2019.** There is no evidence that live mammals were sold at the Wuhan seafood market in 2019, and none of hundreds of animal samples collected from that market had any trace of the virus. In other words, there is zero evidence that supports a zoonotic origin of the virus that excludes the involvement of research activity.

"There are copious precedents of pathogens leaking from labs — the original 2003 SARS virus leaked up to six times from labs across three countries. Consider that the SARS research and animal infection experiments at the Wuhan Institute of Virology, for more than 10 years, were all performed at relatively low biosafety levels. It is currently not possible to tell from the genetic evidence whether the virus ever passed through a laboratory or a lab personnel.

"The question is: How did a virus, whose lineage is found only in southern China, make its way into humans in the metropolitan city of Wuhan, more than a thousand miles away? We know that the Wuhan Institute of Virology had possibly the greatest collection of SARS viruses from numerous trips across China. We know that they were working with a batch of viruses very closely related to SARS-CoV-2. Details of these viruses and the experiments performed with them have not been shared in a timely manner." **— Alina Chan, molecular biologist at the Broad Institute of MIT and Harvard**

"It is worthy of a careful,

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rigorous, unbiased, objective examination, based on relevant, verifiable data. There are a number of plausible scenarios embedded in this label, 'lab leak,' and importantly, they include an unrecognized infection of a well-intentioned lab worker attempting to recover or study new coronaviruses from bats. **It does not imply malice or even necessarily awareness (of the accident).** Lab accidents are much more common than any of us know, or would like to admit, and they occur worldwide and even in the most safe and secure labs. U.S. biosafety labs are by no means strangers to accidents; leaks of some of the most dangerous infectious agents have occurred at CDC and other U.S. government labs." **— David A. Relman, microbiologist at Stanford University**

"The following lines of circumstantial evidence are noteworthy:

"**The outbreak occurred in Wuhan, a city of 11 million people that does not contain horseshoe-bat colonies,** and that is tens of kilometers from, and outside the flight range of, the nearest known horseshoe-

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bat colonies. Furthermore, the outbreak occurred at a time of year when horseshoe bats are in hibernation.

"The outbreak occurred in Wuhan, on the doorstep of the laboratory that conducts the world's largest research project on horseshoe bat viruses and worked with the world's closest sequenced relative of the outbreak virus. The laboratory actively searched for new horseshoe-bat viruses in horseshoe-bat colonies in caves in remote rural areas in Yunnan province, brought those new horseshoe-bat viruses to Wuhan, and then mass-produced, manipulated, and studied those new horseshoe-bat viruses, year-round, inside Wuhan.

"Documentary evidence establishes that the bat-SARS-related-coronavirus projects at the Wuhan Institute of Virology used personal protective equipment (usually just gloves; sometimes not even gloves) and biosafety standards that would pose high risk of infection of field-collection, field-survey, or laboratory staff upon contact with a virus having the transmission properties of SARS-CoV-2." **— Richard**

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Ebright, molecular biologist at Rutgers University

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Date: Fri, 21 Jul 2023 1:04:58 PM -0400
Sent: Fri, 21 Jul 2023 1:04:02 PM -0400
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Fwd: Sachs and Relman quoted again today
From: David Morens <(b) (6)
To: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] <(b) (6)
Attachments: image004.png; image001.jpg; image008.png; image003.png

David M. Morens, MD
(b) (6)
(b) (6)

(b) (6)
(b) (6) (work)
(b) (6) (cell)

IMPORTANT: My gmail frequently sends incoming messages to Trash, which is apparently not correctable. If you don't hear from me in a reasonable time, please try again, call, or use my NIH email address

IMPORTANT: For US Government-related email, please also reply to my NIAID address

---------- Forwarded message ---------
From: **Hotez, Peter Jay** <(b) (6) >
Date: Fri, Jul 1, 2022 at 9:46 AM
Subject: Re: Sachs and Relman quoted again today
To: Peter Daszak (b) (b) (6) >
Cc: Roberts, Rich <(b) (6) Gerald T Keusch <(b) (6) >, Aleksei Chmura <
(b) (6) >, David Morens <(b) (6) >, Jeffrey Sturchio <
(b) (6) (b) (6) >

It's getting crazy again

Peter Hotez, **MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP**
Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine
Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology
Health Policy Scholar
Baylor College of Medicine

Texas Children's Hospital Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics
Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development

University Professor, Baylor University

Faculty Fellow, Hagler Institute for Advanced Study
Senior Fellow, Scowcroft Institute of International Affairs
Texas A&M University
Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty and Adjunct Professor of Bioengineering, Rice University
Adjunct Professor, University of Texas, School of Public Health

Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

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Skype: (b) (6)
Linkedin Peter Hotez

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Daily Beast Contributor https://www.thedailybeast.com/author/peter- j-hotez
Like us on Facebook https://www.facebook.com/BCMNationalSchoolOfTropicalMedicine/

Senior Coordinator / Executive Support: Douglas Soriano
(b) (6)
Phone: (b) (6) 9
Fax: 713-798-2299

iPhone

On Jul 1, 2022, at 8:37 AM, Peter Daszak <(b) (6) > wrote:

We've been fielding questions all week from a reporter at US Right to Know because they've FoIA'd another batch of emails. Here's an article today claiming that Ian Lipkin should have reported working with EHA as a 'Conflict of Interest' for his Nature Medicine paper with Kristian Andersen et al. back in Feb 2020.

Here's the link: https://usrtk.org/biohazards- blog/anti-lab-leak-virologist-ecohealth-alliance-partner/

You'll be irritated to see quotes from Jeff Sachs and David Relman. Everyone seems happy with the idea that somehow collaborating with EcoHealth Alliance means you have a conflict of interest in this world of fake COVID origin stories.

The article is also utterly disingenuous in pretending it took a FoIA lawsuit to find out that Ian Lipkin collaborated with us. All it would have taken is a 5 second Google Search.

Note also US Right to Know's motto: "Pursuing truth and transparency for public health".

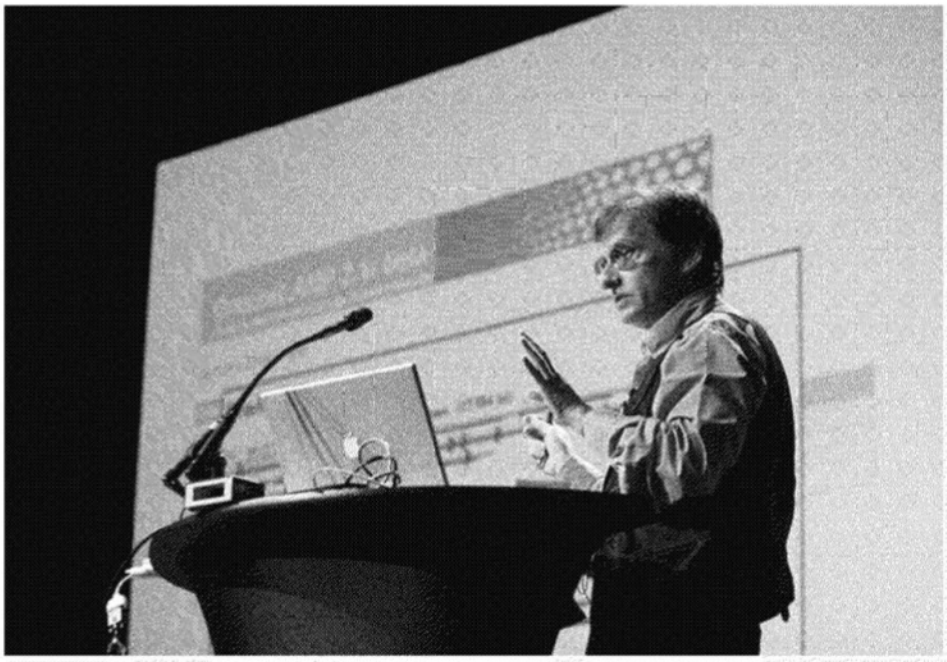
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REL0000481548

US RTK
U.S. RIGHT TO KNOW
PURSUING TRUTH AND TRANSPARENCY FOR PUBLIC HEALTH

Virologist who tried to discredit the lab leak theory was once a 'partner' to EcoHealth Alliance

PrintEmailShareTweet

Posted on July 1, 2022 by Emily Kopp



Columbia University virologist Ian Lipkin has coauthored several articles with EcoHealth Alliance since 2011. (Photo credit: kris krüg)

A virologist who coauthored a paper marginalizing the lab leak theory did not disclose his ties to the research group at the center of it.

Director of Columbia University's Center for Infection and Immunity Ian Lipkin has often worked with EcoHealth Alliance, a U.S.-based collaborator of the Wuhan Institute of Virology, the group confirmed in an email.

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 on the correspondence.

Significant questions remain. It's still unclear how the authors dispelled their own private concerns that the virus had been engineered within a couple of days.

For example, Lipkin privately voiced concerns to his coauthors about a "nightmare of circumstantial evidence" pointing to the Wuhan Institute of Virology, Vanity Fair reported.

It's also unknown to what extent leaders of the National Institutes of Health, which funded the EcoHealth Alliance, may have shaped the paper.

Grant reports that led a reporter to the defunct link showing Lipkin's partnership with EcoHealth Alliance were obtained through a Freedom of Information Act request to the U.S. Agency for International Development.

Biohazards, Biohazards Blog Anthony Fauci, David Relman, EcoHealth Alliance, Ian Lipkin, Jeff Sachs, Kristian Andersen, Peter Daszak, proximal origin, Robert Garry, The Lancet's COVID Commission, Virologist, Wuhan Institute of Virology

0

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak

President

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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

MORENS_SUBPOENA_010278
MORENS_NIH_020788
REL0000481548

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
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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MORENS_NIH_020789
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Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

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Amazon Author Center: https://www.amazon.com/Peter- J.-Hotez/e/B001HPIC48
Daily Beast Contributor https://www.thedailybeast.com/author/peter- j-hotez
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 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

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MORENS_NIH_020791
REL0000481548

Date:	Sun, 25 Jul 2021 3:09:56 PM -0400
Sent:	Sun, 25 Jul 2021 3:07:23 PM -0400
Subject:	Fauci defending the funding of EcoHealth's grant with WIV in the Right wing press
From:	Peter Daszak < (b) (6)
To:	Keusch, Gerald T < (b) (6) Roberts, Rich < (b) (6) Hotez, Peter Jay < (b) (6)
CC:	David Morens < (b) (6) Robert Kessler < (b) (6)
Attachments:	Fauci then denounces inflammatory statements about him and U.S. funding in Wuhan as beneath him _ Daily Mail Online.pdf

Good to see Tony speaking up and defending NIAID's decision to fund this work (article attached as pdf). He's right – it was very highly scored.

My only question is…why not reinstate it!!!??? He could always specifically indicate "no chimeric virus work to be funded at WIV" or "only PCR studies" or some such. Just a thought…

Here's a key quote:

"Dr. Fauci attempted to explain the link between U.S. researchers and the Chinese laboratory clearly to Fox viewers and stress there was no 'risky research' involved.

'If you look at the research that was done, it was research that was highly recommended by peer review, our United States peer reviews. It got a very high score in the peer review system,' Fauci began.

'And the purpose of the research was very, very clear. It was to try to determine what was out there in the bat population that might be ultimately risky for us. It was done in the context of trying to find out what the precise environmental bat source was of SARS-CoV-1 so that we could prevent SARS-CoV-2.'

Dr. Fauci praised the 'qualified, highly respected Chinese scientists' that the National Institutes of Health had collaborated with at the Wuhan Institute of Virology and defended the funding of bat coronavirus research in China.

Fauci added: 'So, it was research that was done by qualified people. Right now, when there's all of this thing about China, that's a different situation now back then when you're dealing with qualified, highly respected Chinese scientists. So it isn't what was made out to be about dealing with really, really bad people. Because those scientists were very well-respected in the scientific community internationally.'"

Cheers,

Peter

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---

From: Keusch, Gerald T < (b) (6)
Sent: Wednesday, July 21, 2021 5:05 PM
To: Peter Daszak(b) (6) Roberts, Rich < (b) (6) Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6)
Cc: David Morens (b) (6) ; Robert Kessler <(b) (6) >
Subject: RE: COVID origins issues and NASEM Forum on Microbial Threats

No relevant information I have heard of. It wouldn't surprise me as I know that Victor Dzau wants NAM to be engaged in these issues. I will ask my colleague Nicki Lurie if she is aware of any such initiative. She is on vacation in Europe now and may not be as rapidly responsive as she usually is.

Regarding the Academies, Victor is not only ambitious but also cautious and doesn't stick his head out very far. Marcia McNutt (NAS President) has been supportive of a rational science based inquiry into the origins and the separation of politics from science, sort of, but not very bold. John Anderson (NAE President) is the least engaged.

Jerry

From: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >
Sent: Wednesday, July 21, 2021 1:28 PM
To: Roberts, Rich (b) (6) ; Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6) >; Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6)
Cc: David Morens (b) (6) >; Robert Kessler <(b) (6) >
Subject: COVID origins issues and NASEM Forum on Microbial Threats

Here's a request for any inside info you may have picked up.

I'm the chair of the NASEM Forum on Microbial Threats. Jerry used to be a member or Co-Chair and (ironically) David Relman was the Chair before me. The Forum is planning a workshop on COVID-19 for early Fall. I'm not on the organizing committee but heard they were planning a section on 'origins', then were told from the top (I believe Victor Dzau of NAM) that because there is no new research on this, it's not something that would be good for the workshop to publicly consider right now. They've dropped that session. I actually agree with this decision, but it certainly adds to the feeling that the NAM is being very hesitant on this issue.

Then I got an email from staff asking if I'd like to avoid giving my usual opening comments for the workshop as chair, given the nasty publicity I've been getting. I pushed back (strongly) and pointed out that a key goal of the conspiracy theorists is to attack, discredit and silence scientists who's opinions don't support their political agenda. Staff were very nice and somewhat apologetic about this and I'm now giving my usual opening.

They also mentioned that the academies (maybe NAM, but could be NASEM) are planning something on origins – maybe a consensus study, workshop or just a statement. I don't have more info, but the reason I'm concerned is that 1) David Relman is a member of the NASEM Intelligence Community Studies Board (science-intel agency interface) and he may be trying to use that to 'investigate' the lab leak agenda; or 2) there may be an effort for an NASEM committee to investigate COVID-19 origins. I note that in my last letter from the NIH office of the director, they requested an inspection of the Wuhan lab either by NIH scientists or through the NASEM.

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The way the NAM and NASEM operate is that USG agencies go to them, or they approach agencies with an idea for a consensus study or workshop and then they're funded to do one. It sounds likely that this is happening, and would likely end up as a forum for all the lab leak accusations and gain-of-function myths to be brought up by known scientists (e.g. Drs. Relman, Lipsitch, Ebright and others). This could end up putting me in the awful situation of either having to publicly defend EcoHealth's work and get attacked in the press for this, or decline to take part in a National Academy activity despite being a member. Not looking forward to that moment!

Have any of you heard anything about this?

Cheers,

Peter

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From: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >
Sent: Tuesday, July 20, 2021 4:42 PM
To: 'Roberts, Rich' <(b) (6) ; 'Keusch, Gerald T (b) (6) >; 'Hotez, Peter Jay' (b) (6) >
Cc: 'David Morens' <(b) (6) >; Robert Kessler <(b) (6) >
Subject: Harold Varmus has been spotted in CT!

One of my Board members, Amy Attas, who's a veterinarian to the pets of people like Mike Bloomberg's wife, Elton John etc. goes to a monthly lunchtime talk series near (b) (6) (6)). Harold Varmus spoke there a couple of Sunday's ago. Amy asked the first question along the lines "I'm on the Board of an organization working to prevent pandemics..what are the best strategies to prevent the next COVID?" His response: "Is that EcoHealth Alliance?" "If so, what they're doing is exactly what should be done..." He then rolled off a series of key goals to prevent pandemics.

Amy was delighted, and a number of other donors expressed an interest. Please pass on my regards and gratitude to Harold – this is exactly the sort of word of mouth endorsement we need right now, rather than the other sort we're getting from Fox News!

Cheers,

Peter

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From: Roberts, Rich (b) (6) >
Sent: Tuesday, July 20, 2021 1:28 PM
To: Keusch, Gerald T < (b) (6) Peter Daszak < (b) (6) Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6)
Cc: David Morens (b) (6) >; Robert Kessler <(b) (6) >
Subject: RE: Tony Fauci's testimony today

Jerry:

I haven't heard anything from Harold recently.

Rich

Richard J. Roberts
New England Biolabs
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Ipswich, MA 01938-2723
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Tel: (b) (6)
Fax: (978) 412 9910
email: (b) (6)

From: Keusch, Gerald T (b) (6)
Sent: Tuesday, July 20, 2021 1:21 PM
To: Roberts, Rich <(b) (6) ; Peter Daszak (b) (6) >; Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6)
Cc: David Morens (b) (6) >; Robert Kessler < (b) (6)
Subject: RE: Tony Fauci's testimony today

EXTERNAL SENDER

I totally agree with you that Tony was remarkable. I sent him a one word email, Bravo, and copied it to Patty Conrad so maybe he will see it as evidence of the support he has from the responsible scientific community.

Thanks for the response regarding the CNN reporters. I'll keep that in mind when I do talk to them and consider whether speaking with you might help them distinguish between good science and crap. I have no doubts about your expertise in science and knowing the difference between, well, good science and crap.

Harold is rather quiet – any sense of what he is up to?

Jerry

From: Roberts, Rich (b) (6)
Sent: Tuesday, July 20, 2021 12:50 PM
To: Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6) Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >; Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6)
Cc: David Morens <(b) (6) ; Robert Kessler (b) (6)
Subject: RE: Tony Fauci's testimony today

Jerry:

Tony was excellent in confronting Paul! It's high time that these senators are told the truth directly.

As for speaking with the reporters, in general I am always prepared to do that, but in this particular case I don't feel my credentials are necessarily the best when dealing with specifics. I have very much been an onlooker and not directly connected to any of the research itself. Peter Hotez and Peter D. are clearly much better informed and have the appropriate expertise. There are plenty of authors on the recent Lancet piece that would be good to include. I am happy to speak as an outsider, but would not want to be considered a knowledgeable expert.

Rich

Richard J. Roberts
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Fax: (978) 412 9910
email: (b) (6)

From: Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6)
Sent: Tuesday, July 20, 2021 12:39 PM
To: Peter Daszak (b) (6)(6) (b) >; Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6)
Cc: David Morens (b) (6) Roberts, Rich (b) (6) >; Robert Kessler <
(b) (6) >
Subject: RE: Tony Fauci's testimony today

EXTERNAL SENDER

I had a long talk with two CNN International reporters who are preparing a story essentially on the politics and the misinformation about the origins controversy. I was talking to them off the record but I decided they were legitimately exploring the issues and would likely be a voice of reason if they were given the necessary space to build their case and it was eventually shown.

I mentioned Peter Hotez to them, among some others, and while I mentioned Peter D as well I also said you were under constant attack and it might well be better to allow others to take up the fight on your behalf. GOF and the Goffers were part of the chat. I have agreed to be interviewed on the record and potentially to do a video session as they were potentially interested in using some of that as part of the report. Rich, I didn't specifically mention your name, but if you would be willing to speak with them I can do that when I next connect.

Jerry

From: Peter Daszak (b) (6)
Sent: Tuesday, July 20, 2021 12:30 PM
To: Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6) >
Cc: David Morens <(b) (6) >; Roberts, Rich <(b) (6) ; Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6) >; Robert

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REL0000481559

Kessler (b) (6)
Subject: Tony Fauci's testimony today
Importance: High

I'm delighted to see Tony Fauci fighting to let everyone understand clear line between what is gain-of-function (work EcoHealth does NOT do), and what is not Gain of function (work EcoHealth did do with Wuhan).

It's a shame it will generate publicity, but he did this so well today that I'm hoping it might help get rid of the willful misinformation the Republicans are engaging in…

Here's a news piece on it https://thehill.com/policy/healthcare/563874- fauci-paul-doesnt-know-what-hes-talking-about-and-i-want-to-say-that , and there's some pretty exciting video to watch. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pFoaBV_cTek

Well done David on your briefing and practice runs!

Cheers,

Peter

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From: Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6)
Sent: Thursday, July 15, 2021 1:56 PM
To: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >
Cc: David Morens (b) (6) >; Roberts, Rich < (b) (6) Keusch, Gerald T (b) (6) >
Subject: My AMA podcast on the origins of COVID19

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=q4NkcU7JK14 &feature=youtu.be

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP

Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine
Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology

Health Policy Scholar
Baylor College of Medicine

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Texas Children's Chair of Tropical Pediatrics
Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development
University Professor
Department of Biology, Baylor University

Faculty Fellow, Hagler Institute for Advanced Study
Senior Fellow, Scowcroft Institute of International Affairs
Texas A&M University
Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty and Adjunct Professor of Bioengineering, Rice University
Adjunct Professor, University of Texas, School of Public Health

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Executive Assistant: Douglas Soriano
(b) (6)

Phone: (b) (6)



Sent from my iPhone

On Jul 15, 2021, at 12:43 PM, Peter Daszak (b) (6) > wrote:

*****CAUTION:*** This email is not from a BCM Source. Only click links or open attachments you know are safe.**

David – please pass this information on to Tony and Clifford if you possibly can,

The WHO DG, Dr. Tedros set up a 6am Monday morning meeting with the current WHO Origins team – the international experts who went to Wuhan to work with our China counterparts on COVID origins. He announced they'd be disbanding the team, setting up a separate structure and moving to a system whereby a new team will be formed to do Phase 2 of the work in China. The stated goal is to follow member state's wishes and improve transparency in the way the origins team is selected. Sadly it will reduce transparency because there will now be a 'behind closed doors' decision from the member states on who of the nominees are put forward to WHO, then another 'behind closed doors' decision from WHO on who is selected, with, we've been told, the DG of WHO having final say.

From my point of view it's a real problem because given the political pressure from the Right wing, it might prevent my future involvement in this work. This means my 17 years + of collaboration with the very people in China who we need to work with, will not be part of Phase 2 work – including designing the animal testing protocols that are my key expertise. Disbanding the current team will also significantly delay the work and this threatens to undermine our capacity to do the trace-back, as antibodies wane among wildlife farmers in rural China who we've proposed should be interviewed and tested in Phase 2, for example. The current team has a good working relationship with the China side and has made

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significant progress over the last few months, meeting weekly as an international expert group and working with our Chinese counterparts to update the WHO report, include new data and get phase 2 Terms of Reference thrashed out. We'd reached the beginnings of consensus on this.

It will also be seen as an implicitly political move on behalf of WHO, and one that projects a perception of undermining the hard work we did to produce buckets of new data in the WHO report. The rest of the team are very angry about the way we've been repeatedly undermined by politics, and we're working on a communications strategy right now.

David, I'm not sure who is the US representative for WHO Covid origins negotiations. It was publicly announced that Tony would represent the US at WHO, but it may be a State Dept or other HHS person. I think it's important that Tony and perhaps Clifford know what's happening.

Cheers,

Peter

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---

From: BOEHME, Catharina Cora (b) (6)
Sent: Wednesday, July 14, 2021 4:35 PM
To: Владимир Дедков <(b) (6) >; Leendertz, Fabian (b) (6) Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >; LeendertzF <(b) (6) Keith Hamilton <(b) (6) John Watson <(b) (6) >; DEBBICHE, Hassene <(b) (6) Thea Kølsen Fischer <(b) (6) (b) (6) BAERT, Primaël <(b) (6) SHEATH, Danny (b) (6) ; Nguyen, Hung (ILRI) (b) (6) STREIJFFERT, Carlos Johan (b) (6) DRURY. Patrick Anthony (b) (6) Ken Maeda (b) (6) >; M.P.G. Koopmans (b) (6) (b) (6) ; Hayman, David <(b) (6) >; IVANOVIC, Dragana <(b) (6) Dr. Elmoubasher Abu Baker Abd Farag <(b) (6) ; Dominic Dwyer <(b) (6)
Cc: RYAN, Michael J. <(b) (6) Dr VAN KERKHOVE, Maria (b) (6) >; BEN EMBAREK, Peter Karim (b) (6)
Subject: Circular Letter to Member States - Origins of SARS-CoV-2

Dear all,

It was a pleasure to meet you on Monday. Please find attached for your information and on behalf of the DG our communication to member states, shared with them as a circular letter this evening. Please don't hesitate to reach out to us for follow up discussions.
Please keep this confidential during the next days. We will have a member state briefing and discussion on this subject on Friday.

With my best regards,
Catharina

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P.S. I hope I have the correct list of emails addresses.

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<C.L.28.2021 (Origins of SARS-CoV-2).pdf>

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Date:	Fri, 10 May 2024 9:10:27 AM -0400
Subject:	Fwd: Science: Mr. Thorp goes to Washington https://bit.ly/4bOSdO3
From:	David Morens < (b) (6)
To:	Peter Daszak < (b) (6) < (b) (6) Jeffrey Sturchio < (b) (6) Keusch, Gerald T < (b) (6) peter hotez Roberts, Rich < (b) (6) Aleksei Chmura < (b) (6)
Attachments:	image001.jpg; image001.jpg

From the cell phone of David Morens

--------- Forwarded message ---------
From: **Folkers, Greg (NIH/NIAID) [C]** (b) (6)
Date: Fri, May 10, 2024, 06:01
Subject: Science: Mr. Thorp goes to Washington https://bit.ly/4bOSdO3
To:

Mr. Thorp goes to Washington

H. Holden Thorp Authors Info & Affiliations

Science

9 May 2024

Vol 384, Issue 6696

p. 601

DOI: 10.1126/science.adq2379



PHOTO: CAMERON DAVIDSON

On 2 April, I received an email that changed the course of the next 2 weeks. The Select Subcommittee on the Coronavirus Pandemic, chaired by United States Congressman Brad Wenstrup, invited me to testify along with my counterparts at *Nature* and *The Lancet*. The purpose of the public hearing (Academic Malpractice: Examining the Relationship Between Scientific Journals, the Government, and Peer Review) was to determine whether government officials, specifically former National Institutes of Health leaders Francis Collins and Anthony Fauci, steered journals to publish papers suppressing the idea that COVID-19 may have arisen from a lab accident in Wuhan, China. I was not subpoenaed to appear but made the decision to testify voluntarily. My counterparts, who are based in the United Kingdom, decided not to attend.

Most of the hearing was spent explaining the scientific process and the steps involved in publication. Some subcommittee members questioned why science changes when there are new data, something scientists take for granted. I explained how science is a work in progress, that scientists are opinionated people who argue about scientific findings, and when evidence emerges that changes thinking, new papers are published. This process has produced countless scientific advances, including those related to the pandemic. It is also what makes my job interesting. I also described that when *Science* publishes a paper, the journal commits to moderating discussions that happen after the fact and to making any corrections or changes that may be required to maintain the scientific record.

I knew that I would face questions about my personal remarks on social media that were critical of the lab origin theory. The chairman fortunately addressed this first, asking me about a tweet in which I compared the lab leak evidence to a mediocre episode of *Homeland* (an American TV series on US national security). I've since left Twitter, and like many tweeters, I regret a few of my posts, including that one. Although I and many others still consider a natural origin of severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) more likely, the lab origin theory has not been ruled out.

I described a Letter published in *Science*, signed by many prominent researchers in the field (Bloom *et al.*), calling for a thorough investigation of a possible lab origin. At the same time, I posted a *Science* blog saying that good science required a thorough investigation and that the Chinese government should allow for it. Publication of the Letter recognized that the lab origin idea was dismissed prematurely by earlier commentary published elsewhere as well as by informal statements on social media and in the news. As a courtesy, I sent an email to Collins and Fauci a few hours before the Letter was published. *Science* does this occasionally for commentaries because the pieces are accessible to 8000 reporters, under embargo, several days before publication, and it sometimes seems appropriate to give the principals a heads-up. Both wrote back that they supported a thorough investigation. The subcommittee asked me if either official discouraged *Science* from publishing the Letter, and I told them that in fact they said the opposite.

I also described two research papers published in *Science* (Worobey *et al.* and Pekar *et al.*) supporting, but not proving, a natural origin for SARS-CoV-2. I explained how these papers evolved from when they were posted as preprints to when they appeared in the journal. The subcommittee asked about how some of the more definitive statements in the preprints asserting a natural origin were softened or removed by the time *Science* published the papers. I explained that this was typical of how journals respond to changing information and to peer review. In these cases, peer review indicated that the evidence was supportive, but not dispositive, of a natural origin.

I am proud to have represented science and scientific publishing before the subcommittee and especially to represent my colleagues at *Science*. Despite my disagreements with Chairman Wenstrup about most policy matters, he and his staff were gracious and kept their promises about how the hearing would be run. I am pleased that the true nature of how science works—that it is a living work in progress—is now in the Congressional Record.

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Date: Tue, 23 Feb 2021 2:15:35 PM -0500
Sent: Tue, 23 Feb 2021 2:15:34 PM -0500
Subject: RE: Briefing Tony
From: Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6)
To: David Morens <(b) (6) >;
CC: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >;
Attachments: image001.gif; image002.jpg

This is good. And use your gmail.

From: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] < (b) (6)
Sent: Tuesday, February 23, 2021 12:04 PM
To: Peter Daszak ((b) (6) <(b) (6) >
Cc: Keusch, Gerald T < (b) (6)
Subject: Briefing Tony

Peter, Tony just asked me to provide our staff with your contact info, so they can schedule a briefing from you to him, possibly with one or more other staff in the OD, as he decides, or not.

I just sent them your email address.

I recall that you and the team briefed him in person a few years back, and that went quite well.

In his current state of being stressed on all sides, it might be helpful if I give you some heads ups beforehand.

He will want things to be brief, with you giving minimal info and him asking the questions and controlling things. If there are images or videos, you might ask the staff in advance about them, and in any case keep presentation materials brief and very simple, no technical stuff unless he asks.

David

David M. Morens, M.D.
CAPT, United States Public Health Service
Senior Advisor to the Director
Office of the Director
National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases
National Institutes of Health
Building 31, Room 7A-03
31 Center Drive, MSC 2520
Bethesda, MD 20892-2520
(b) (6) (assistant: Whitney Robinson)
(b) (6)

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and its attachments and notify us immediately.



MORENS_SUBPOENA_012431
MORENS_NIH_023632
REL0000481570

Date: Thu, 16 May 2024 9:29:21 AM -0400
Sent: Thu, 16 May 2024 9:27:07 AM -0400
Subject: Washington Post cites Democrats with more negative comments about EcoHealth
From: Peter Daszak < (b) (6)
To: Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6)
CC: David Morens < (b) (6) Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6) Roberts, Rich < (b) (6) Jeffrey Sturchio <(b) (6) Aleksei Chmura < (b) (6)
Attachments: image002.png

https://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/2024/05/16/covid- origins-spotlight-feds-cut-funding-virus-hunters/

It's written as if "The Fix is in" – they've (SSCP, HHS, Democrats in general) decided that Michael Lauer's, Tabak's and the Republicans allegations are just true, and therefore we're out of business. We never did, yet, get chance to respond – certainly not at my public hearing.

The EcoHealth saga continues

What did the deputy director of the **National Institutes of Health** know, and when did he know it? Top NIH official **Lawrence Tabak** is set to face off this morning with the House panel probing the coronavirus response. Expect lawmakers to focus on the agency's oversight and funding of **EcoHealth Alliance**, a nonprofit organization that worked with the Wuhan Institute of Virology before the pandemic.

EcoHealth was thrown back into the spotlight Wednesday, after the Department of Health and Human Services said it was suspending funding to the organization and moving to debar the New York-based nonprofit from receiving additional funds, citing evidence EcoHealth had failed to monitor and report on risky virus experiments in China.

EcoHealth has said it is appealing the decision, but the news was hailed on Capitol Hill. Both Republicans and Democrats had called on HHS to review the organization's funding and its NIH grants; GOP leaders have gone further and called for a criminal probe.

"Our investigation into EcoHealth and Dr. Daszak's actions is not over," Rep. **Brad Wenstrup** (R-Ohio), who chairs the **House Select Subcommittee on the Coronavirus Pandemic**, plans to say to Tabak today, in remarks shared with The Health 202. "This issue has highlighted broader concerns with the NIH — especially that it is up to the grantee to oversee themselves. That is a recipe for waste, fraud, abuse and deception."

Years of questions

EcoHealth has been at the center of questions about **SARS-CoV-2**'s origins since the pandemic's earliest days, given the organization's ties to Wuhan, China — the epicenter of the outbreak — and its work to research and experiment with coronaviruses. Then-President **Donald Trump** publicly said his administration was looking into EcoHealth's work, and Tabak was among the officials in April 2020 who moved to abruptly halt NIH funding to the organization. (It was later restored.)

The House coronavirus panel also recently grilled **Peter Daszak**, EcoHealth's president, on his conflicting statements and outstanding questions, including why his organization waited nearly two years to submit a required report about the results of its research and activities leading up to the pandemic.

EcoHealth has repeatedly denied accusations that it played any role in the pandemic, and its defenders have said it's been wrongly scapegoated. There's no existing evidence EcoHealth, the Wuhan Institute of Virology or another organization had SARS-CoV-2 in its possession before the pandemic.

Federal and congressional officials also cautioned that the HHS decision to cut funding to EcoHealth

shouldn't be interpreted as a smoking gun about the virus's origins or a possible lab leak. Officials on Wednesday told me the theory that the pandemic began naturally — when a virus spread from animals to humans — continues to be favored by several government agencies and many scientists.

But at minimum, federal officials had grown increasingly uneasy about EcoHealth's work and safeguards, they said. "HHS wanted to be out of the EcoHealth business," one official told me.

What Tabak will be pushed on today

Republicans' line of attack was previewed in a letter to NIH last week, in which Wenstrup laid out Daszak's claims and compared them with other officials' statements under oath.

"The Select Subcommittee is eager to uncover the true sequence of events and has identified multiple occasions where Dr. Daszak directly contradicts NIH's or NIAID's assertions," Wenstrup wrote.

Republicans have hinted that they could refer Daszak to the **Justice Department** on perjury grounds.

Expect GOP lawmakers to probe Tabak's conversations with **Anthony S. Fauci**, his longtime colleague at NIH and the center of persistent Republican attacks over his pandemic recommendations, his agency's funding of EcoHealth and other issues. Fauci, who retired from government at the end of 2022, is set to testify in front of the panel in June.

Democrats, meanwhile, have tried to draw a line between what they characterized as bad actions by EcoHealth and Daszak, and the more sweeping charge that the organization helped spark the pandemic.

"While the Select Subcommittee's probe has uncovered efforts by Dr. Peter Daszak to mislead his funders at the National Institutes of Health and the **National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases**, it has not substantiated any allegations that federal grant funding for EcoHealth Alliance created the COVID-19 pandemic," Rep. **Raul Ruiz** (D-Calif.), the top Democrat on the House coronavirus panel, plans to say in remarks today previewed with The Health 202.

The EcoHealth saga continues

Lawrence Tabak, principal deputy director of the National Institutes of Health, is returning to Capitol Hill today. (Jabin Botsford/The Washington Post)

What did the deputy director of the **National Institutes of Health** know, and when did he know it?

Top NIH official **Lawrence Tabak** is set to face off this morning with the House panel probing the coronavirus response. Expect lawmakers to focus on the agency's oversight and funding of **EcoHealth Alliance**, a nonprofit organization that worked with the Wuhan Institute of Virology before the pandemic.

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created the COVID-19 pandemic," Rep. **Raul Ruiz** (D-Calif.), the top Democrat on the House coronavirus panel, plans to say in remarks today previewed with The Health 202.

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 15, 2024 8:15 PM
To: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >
Cc: David Morens <(b) (6) Keusch, Gerald T (b) (6) Roberts, Rich <(b) (6)
Jeffrey Sturchio (b) (6) Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6)
Subject: Re: Science article on HHS action to suspend EcoHealth Alliance

https://x.com/peterhotez/status/1790893300595274228?s=46

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP

Texas Children's Hospital: Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics | Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development | Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

Baylor College of Medicine: Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine | Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology | Health Policy Scholar

Baylor University, University Professor
Rice 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 15, 2024, at 7:06 PM, Peter Daszak <(b) (6) > wrote:

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From Jocelyn Kaiser at Science: https://www.science.org/content/article/federal- officials-suspend-funding-ecohealth-alliance-nonprofit-entangled-covid-19

RELATED ARTICLE

'We've done nothing wrong.' EcoHealth leader fights charges that his research helped spark COVID-19

BY
● JON COHEN
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

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: + (b) (6)
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

From: David Morens <(b) (6) >
Sent: Wednesday, May 15, 2024 6:13 PM
To: Peter Daszak <d(b) (6) >; peter hotez (b) (6) >; Keusch, Gerald T (b) (6) >; Roberts, Rich (b) (6) 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 --------- (b) (6)
From: **Folkers, Greg (NIH/NIAID) [C]** <
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

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National Institutes of Health

Document

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MORENS_NIH_048042
REL0000481571

Date: Sun, 23 Jul 2023 1:10:08 PM -0400
Sent: Sun, 23 Jul 2023 1:09:26 PM -0400
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Fwd: 6 virologists names posted on a 4Chan "Kill List"
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: Roberts, Rich < (b) (6)
Date: Sun, Nov 6, 2022 at 10:30 PM
Subject: RE: 6 virologists names posted on a 4Chan "Kill List"
To: Hotez, Peter Jay < (b) (6) Peter Daszak < (b) (6) >
Cc: Jeffrey Sturchio < (b) (6) >, Keusch, Gerald T < (b) (6) Aleksei Chmura < (b) (6) >, David Morens < (b) (6) >

Peter:

You too – there are some really despicable characters in this world.

Let's hope the police and/or the FBI can put a stop to thie.

Rich

Richard J. Roberts

New England Biolabs

240 County Road

Ipswich, MA 01938-2723

USA

Tel: (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: Sunday, November 6, 2022 11:03 AM
To: Peter Daszak < (b) (6) >
Cc: Jeffrey Sturchio < (b) (6) >; Roberts, Rich < (b) (6) Keusch, Gerald T < (b) (6) Aleksei Chmura < (b) (6) >; David Morens < (b) (6) >
Subject: Re: 6 virologists names posted on a 4Chan "Kill List"

EXTERNAL SENDER

Yes I'm included as well unfortunately, we've notified Houston PD, Texas Med Center police, and FBI. I've given a heads up to everyone on the list, it was first picked up by Texas Children's Hospital security, except Ralph Baric since I don't know him, but believe Angie did.

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP

Texas Children's Hospital: Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics |

Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development | Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

Baylor College of Medicine: Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine | Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology &□ Microbiology | Health Policy Scholar

Baylor University, University Professor

Rice University, Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty

Texas A&M University, Faculty-Senior Fellow, Hagler Inst for Advanced Study & Scowcroft Institute of Intl Affairs

E-mail | Twitter | LinkedIn | Skype: (b) (6)

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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 Nov 6, 2022, at 9:38 AM, Peter Daszak < (b) (6) > wrote:

Dear all,

Just wanted to let you know that I found out my name was on a 'kill

MORENS_SUBPOENA_009574
MORENS_NIH_020084
REL0000481573

list' posted on the Right wing anonymous internet site 4Chan. Someone posted the names of 6 virologists, including myself, and encouraged people who have had enough and were ready to commit suicide, to take go out and murder this group first. Even more horrific, they named my wife (who's got a different last name to mine, so is now traceable) and my eldest daughter, posting her name and University name also.

I'm traveling in Malaysia/Singapore with Janet this week, but have already contacted the FBI and both daughter's universities, but as you can imagine this is pretty awful, though sadly not unexpected.

I expect this will get worse after the mid-terms, when the truly heinous folks on the Right start the launch of their McCarthyesque witch hunts against scientists re. covid origins, vaccines, masks etc.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak

President

EcoHealth Alliance

520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200

New York, NY 10018-6507

USA

Tel.: + (b) (6)

Website:
https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.ecohealthalliance.org%2F
&data=05%7C01%7Cdmorens%40niaid.nih.gov%7C85884b01ebb640993bd308db8b9fa9e5%7C14b77578977342d585
&sdata=i6Zc9gCoOamRG9JiJcyrcoywOtAUimiN4TEWeTbjkDA%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, November 1, 2022 8:56 PM
To: Jeffrey Sturchio < (b) (6) >
Cc: Roberts, Rich < (b) (6) Keusch, Gerald T < (b) (6)
Peter Daszak < (b) (6) >; Aleksei Chmura
< (b) (6) >; David Morens < (b) (6) >
Subject: Re: Jeff Sachs moderated a Lancet Commission webinar on COVID-19 origins this morning

Kopp fabricated a story against me in the anti GMO press insinuating I'm behind GOF research. It unleashed a slew of copycat articles in the far right press and a wave of threats online. It's among the more unethical things I've ever seen from someone who calls themself a journalist.

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP

Texas Children's Hospital: Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics | Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development | Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

Baylor College of Medicine: Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine | Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology &□ Microbiology | Health Policy Scholar

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Texas A&M University, Faculty-Senior Fellow, Hagler Inst for Advanced Study & Scowcroft Institute of Intl Affairs

E-mail | Twitter | LinkedIn | Skype: (b) (6)

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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 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

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: 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

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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

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, 17 Jun 2021 1:46:25 PM -0400
Sent: Thu, 17 Jun 2021 1:46:23 PM -0400
Subject: FW: Interview request for WELT AM SONNTAG
From: "Keusch, Gerald T" <(b) (6)
To: Peter Daszak < (b) (6) >; David Morens ((b) (6)
< (b) (6) >;
Attachments: image001.png; image002.png

I have responded to an inquiry from a German magazine. I asked Peter if he knew the person or the publication before I decided whether or not to reply, but he didn't. In the end I decided I would respond in writing, and my preamble and my comments are below. I thought you might be interested to see what I had to say, but only after I sent it because these are my views without review or suggestions from either of you – again for the record should that ever become useful.

gtk

From: Keusch, Gerald T
Sent: Thursday, June 17, 2021 1:43 PM
To: Lehnartz, Dr. Sascha <(b) (6)
Subject: RE: Interview request for WELT AM SONNTAG

Dear Sascha,

I'm going to respond to your questions in the body of your email below. Your questions are important and complex, and do not permit a sound-bite answer. It is necessary to provide some breadth or context and well as some depth or information.

I am taking the time to think about my response and to clearly state my views, in part to create a written record so that what I actually say to you can be compared with any presentation that appears in the media with remarks that are attributed to me. I do not mean to be disrespectful of you or your organization, and I don't know you other than through this correspondence of 2 days duration, or WELT AM SONNTAG, but I do know that it is possible to cherry-pick comments or take quotes out of context to fit a predetermined narrative. Again, I say that not to accuse you or WELT of it. It is because I value my own integrity and my professional reputation which is an expression of who I strive to be and I hope who I am. I am presuming you take your own work and your own integrity and reputation equally as seriously.
Jerry

From: Lehnartz, Dr. Sascha(b) (6)
Sent: Tuesday, June 15, 2021 1:14 PM
To: Keusch, Gerald T (b) (6)
Subject: Interview request for WELT AM SONNTAG

Dear Professor Keusch

I am writing to you to ask if you might be willing to answer a few questions for WELT AM SONNTAG, Germany's leading Sunday paper and website. We are writing a report on the "comeback of the lab leak" theory

and the consequences of President Biden's decision to ask for a new and thorough investigation of the matter.

Since you were one of the scientists who signed the statement in support of the scientists in Wuhan in the "Lancet" in the spring of 2020, we would like to ask you if your analysis of the situation might have changed in view of recent developments. We would be happy to conduct the Interview via Zoom if you agree. If you prefer to answer in writing we could also do that.

We would be extremely pleased if you were so kind to respond to our inquiry. Among the questions we would like to ask are the following:

- With today's knowledge, would you still sign the statement?

Definitely. It is critical to be clear and precise about what we said and be aware of the fall-out from a failure to clearly define terms, such as "origin" or "gain-of-function" (whether deliberate or just careless thinking) that have multiple and broad implications. Our letter said two things. First, we were expressing solidarity with our colleagues in China who were already being disparaged and accused of releasing or covering up the realities of the outbreak even as they were on the front lines, at personal risk, and exhausted by the challenges presented by the outbreak in China. Front-line healthcare workers, scientists and public health experts should not be attacked as they are trying to do their best to contain and control a deadly outbreak and care for patients desperately ill and dying from a disease we had not seen before. And that was happening while they were learning about it in real time in order to determine better approaches to all of the response requirements by means of careful scientific inquiry, data collection, analysis and interpretation – in other words the time tested scientific method. Second, the limited amount of information on the virus itself at the time indicated its origin was from nature and not from laboratory manipulation. That's what our letter said at the time, and I have no doubts that I would do it again and if it were to written today with the same two points that I would certainly sign it now.

- Are you still convinced that the virus originated in wildlife?

You are not being clear in your question. What exactly **do you** mean by originated? I can say the question of origin is settled scientifically, even if there are gaps in our knowledge that require continuing investigation. The origin of SARS-CoV-2, until proven otherwise, is from a precursor endemic bat virus. Period! What we lack is a clear progression of an early precursor lineage onward in time to the virus that emerged in humans in the latter part of 2019 in China. Given the recent analyses of genetic information and the implications of deep and systematic scientific analysis of the genetic information, which helps to define the time frame for this evolution, the primary and most likely explanation is an evolution in nature as the virus genome slowly changed over many decades of evolutionary time, and again most likely not just in bats but from a series of species jumps or spillovers through animals, most likely a number of mammal to mammal spillovers. The common terminology for such events being used today is a spillover.

And what do you mean by **convinced**? The scientific method is a self-correcting process by which information collected objectively and carefully to try to answer questions is subjected to continuing search and scrutiny by other scientists, often with different approaches and/or new technical methodologies, to see if the information and conclusions can be replicated or if new insights arise that will be subject to the same attempts to replicate, re-evaluate, and advance by ongoing research. Scientists always deal in probabilities, never absolutes. If we knew an answer absolutely would there be any reason to continue to ask more questions about it? It is because our conclusions are

never absolute and final but rather a working conclusion, more or less supported by evidence, that there is the domain of science that allows up to continue to pursue our research. Recall that the word research is a combination of re, meaning again, and search, which is the process we call the scientific method. To me, the vast bulk of the new data being published – aside from some recent reviews of secondary data by scientists whose training and expertise reside in unrelated fields, who reach other conclusions, and publish sometimes lengthy tomes in publications without scientific standing in virology or evolutionary biology – fully support the origin of SARS-CoV-2 from a bat virus and a subsequent spillover through nature ultimately to humans. As more research on the distribution and nature of related coronaviruses in nature is conducted, and all possible pathways are examined objectively, my views may change but not on the basis of data-free speculation, conjecture, or opinion.

- Do you still consider theories that Covid 19 might not have a natural origin "conspiracy theories"

The published scientifically generated evidence heavily favors a transmission pathway through nature (be careful about the meaning of origin as used), and to me this remains the most likely route. Just as there is no credible genetic or forensic evidence that SARS-CoV-2 was created by genetic engineering in a laboratory, which I still believe is the correct interpretation of the information, there is no evidence that in fact the actual SARS-CoV-2 virus was either brought to a laboratory by field workers collecting samples from bats or other animal to look for the viruses out there in nature (with either the person becoming infected or the sample being the source), or the possibility that the pandemic virus was being cultured in a laboratory and accidentally infected a lab staff member, who presumably with no evidence of illness – at least at the outset - walked it out of the facility and introduced to the general public where it began transmission from person-to-person in an escalating and exponential manner. I am open to considering these possibilities. But I know that key scientists at the institution at the center of the controversy absolutely deny this, but to be clear there is no evidence in the public domain that I know of to examine. If by conspiracy you mean the promotion of a concept on the basis of beliefs but in the absence of information to inform those beliefs then yes, I would consider the accusations being disseminated primarily by the media relying on a relatively small number of people trained in science as "conspiracy". Moreover, I would continue to wonder both why they pursue this belief and how they can justify it if there is no evidence available in the public domain to examine. Referring to information guarded from release for the public to examine is not useful data. And it can be exploited for political reasons. For example, the US State Department cables in 2018 allegedly stated that the Wuhan Institute of Virology was not a safe environment to work on pathogenic viruses however when the heavily redacted cables were released they appear to say that the research is being limited by the limiting number of people who were trained to safely do the research or to have oversight over the protocols and conditions under which the research was being done and the training and certification of the lab staff involved in the research. That is clearly not the same as saying the lab was not safe and up to standard and that the research posed a serious risk of error or consequence.

- If you happened to be in contact with your Chinese colleagues in Wuhan during the last year, did you feel that they were at liberty to talk openly?

I don't personally know any of the Chinese in Wuhan who have been involved in one way or another in the outbreak, and I have not spoken to or communicated with them by any method recently in relation to the pandemic. In fact I have never communicated with them because I don't know them.

- Were you satisfied with the results of the WHO report on Wuhan and do you believe that they dismissed the "lab leak hypothesis" in a convincing manner?

Overall, I think the WHO team did a good job, considering the constraints of the mission. The terms were negotiated by WHO, and not the team. They were unable to get to China until January 2021, a full year plus a few weeks after the outbreak became apparent and widely known. They spent two weeks in quarantine. They had 2 weeks to meet with various Chinese colleagues and visit some key locations, including the WIV. They had no access to the actual data. They were in a political environment imposed from the outside world on the one hand, and the Chinese central government on the other hand. There was no bubble within which they could pursue the actual scientific method, which included face to face, open, transparent and interactive conversations about the available information, its quality and validity, what was missing or was not most effectively being analyzed, and they had little change to fully examine the sites they went to, and again this was a year too late for the most informative way to proceed – a lot could and did change in that period of time. Given those constraints, all highly significant, it is apparent to me there was a serious attempt to be objective. Maybe there were even more frank and open conversations between the team members than I am are aware of from the report and the reporting on the mission and the report, given there were some long standing scientific collaborations among the Chinese and international team members, which is a fundamental part of science as this leads to relationships of trust and respect, without which long term collaborations cannot be sustained.

With that as context, and a very important context, I see the report as a way to weigh the historical record of outbreaks with the information gathered during the mission, such as it is, and create a priority list of the scenarios from likely to unlikely. I think the WHO report gets that right. Where I differ is that I would not have gone so far as to say the lab-leak introduction of the virus to the general population shouldn't be prioritized for further inquiry. It should be explored, even though I think it is correctly considered to be unlikely, or as the WHO team said very unlikely.

The key question, however, is how can that inquiry be conducted in an environment of accusation, recrimination, and demonization – on both sides from some outside of China and some within China in response. It has been politicized, and in fact it has been geo-politicized to score points with one or another political constituency. It is only if the heat can be turned down that it may become possible to increase the light being shed on the questions we need as a global community to get the answer too. It is too important for the future and our ability to anticipate, identify, announce, and collectively respond to the next pandemic pathogen to allow this environment to persist or to be exploited by some for unreasonable and irrational goals. I would point to the recent statement by the G-7 or the brief statement by the US National Academies of Science, Engineering and Medicine as a more appropriate and hopeful way to proceed. If scientists can be given the space to pursue it, free of the input of frenzy journalism or power politics, then maybe we can make some progress before we face another calamity. But, to be frank, I am not very sanguine that this will be allowed.

Kind regards

Dr. Sascha Lehnartz
Chefkorrespondent

WELT WELT AM SONNTAG

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Steuer-Nr.: 29/010/60362 | FA Kö III Berlin
USt-ID: DE295295623

Date:	Tue, 31 May 2022 11:27:22 AM -0400
Sent:	Tue, 31 May 2022 11:27:18 AM -0400
Subject:	RE: Jeffrey Sachs peddling his BS in the Boston Globe today
From:	Jeffrey Sturchio <(b) (6)
To:	Peter Daszak <(b) (6) David Morens <(b) (6) Roberts, Rich <(b) (6)
CC:	Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6) Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6)
Attachments:	image001.jpg

Peter:

Lots of hyperventilating – and his main targets are USG agencies. I've highlighted a couple of key passages.

1. While the IC did say that either a natural origin or lab origin was possible, they didn't assign the same level of confidence to both possibilities. Sachs leaves this out.

2. Is Sachs correct that the >180 bat sequences "have not been made public"?

3. Sachs has no idea if the DEFUSE work was undertaken – yet his argument is based on the insinuation that it was. About as strong an argument as a house built on sand.

4. This last question is just idle speculation – and will be like red meat to the conspiracy mavens.

JLS

From: Peter Daszak < (b) (6)
Sent: Tuesday, May 31, 2022 10:35 AM
To: David Morens < (b) (6) Roberts, Rich < (b) (6)
Cc: Keusch, Gerald T < (b) (6) Hotez, Peter Jay < (b) (6) Jeff Sturchio < (b) (6)
Subject: Jeffrey Sachs peddling his BS in the Boston Globe today
Importance: High

As predicted, Jeffrey Sachs has now re-hashed his PNAS op ed into a Boston Globe op ed, replete with a picture of a CoV and some human stitching on the Spike protein (I kid you not – see below)…

https://www.bostonglobe.com/2022/05/31/opinion/questions-surrounding-origins-covid-19-remain-unanswered/?event=event12

It's behind a paywall, so I've inserted the full text below.

It's still full of errors. His goal is to push the Democrats to call for a bipartisan 'investigation' into EHA, UNC and other US orgs.

Reads like a call for the 'Witchfinder General' to get their pliers and racks together – farcical really, and all based on a tissue of misinformed BS.

By the way Jerry, this is the same Boston Globe that wouldn't consider your Op Ed!

Cheers,

Peter

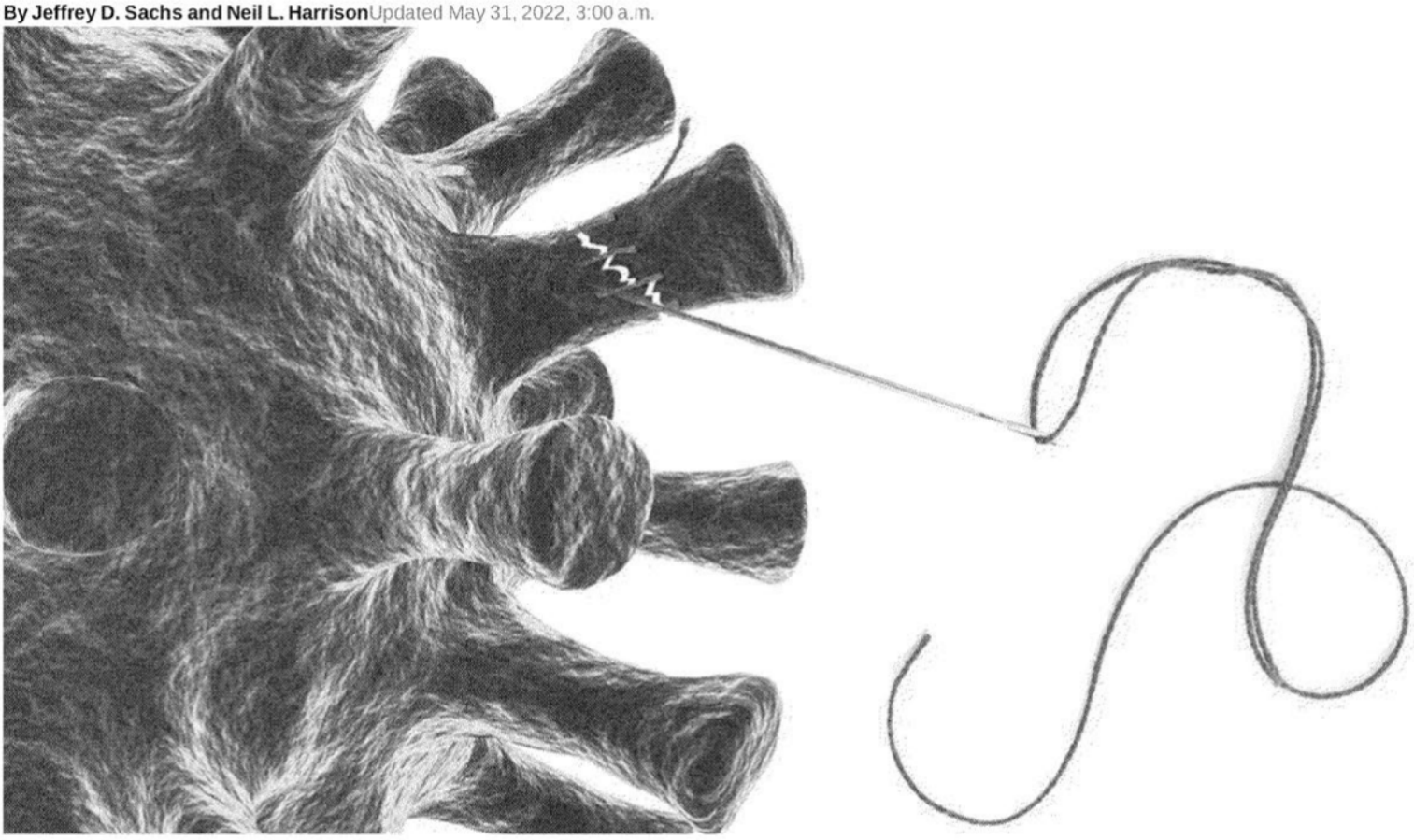
OPINION

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Questions surrounding the origins of COVID-19 remain unanswered

Why did some components of the Intelligence Community lean toward a laboratory release as the source of the pandemic?

By Jeffrey D. Sachs and Neil L. Harrison Updated May 31, 2022, 3:00 a.m.



GLOBE STAFF ILLUSTRATION; JEROME CRONENBERGER/AFRICA STUDIO/ADOBE

It's not yet clear whether the SARS-CoV-2 virus that causes COVID-19 was created in a laboratory or emerged from nature; there is still no decisive evidence for either alternative. To find out, we have recently called for an independent and transparent investigation into the possible role that US biotechnology played in the emergence of the virus.

Americans have heard a lot about the possibility that Chinese laboratories played a role in the emergence of the pandemic, but very little about the role US organizations might have played. When President Biden tasked the US Intelligence Community with determining the origin of SARS-CoV-2, it found that either "a laboratory-associated incident" or a "natural origin" was possible. The IC said that China should cooperate more to find the truth, but did not make clear, or perhaps did not fully realize, the role that US science might have played in the origin of the virus. More important, the IC didn't present the details of its inquiry for independent scientific scrutiny. We don't know whether the IC's analysis was comprehensive or superficial.

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The origins of the COVID-19 pandemic remain unknown, but may have had an assist from advanced US biotechnology. We do know this: The National Institutes of Health, which funded a lot of potentially hazardous and under-regulated laboratory manipulation of SARS-like viruses, has been less than transparent. And that's stating matters politely. The NIH has done its part to throw scientists and the public off track regarding the US-based and funded research.

The SARS-CoV-2 virus is so easily transmitted because it has an unusual sequence within its genetic code that makes the virus more infectious than other related viruses (including the original SARS virus from the 2003 outbreak). The key is the presence of a so-called Furin Cleavage Site that enhances the ability of the virus to enter and infect human cells.

From the early days of the pandemic, scientists have wondered how an FCS got into the SARS-CoV-2 genome, since it is the only virus among the group of SARS-like viruses that has an FCS. Other more distant relatives, such as the virus that causes the Middle East Respiratory Syndrome, have an FCS, but these other viruses are quite distant from SARS-CoV-2 in terms of evolution.

Did the FCS evolve naturally, or was it put into the virus by a laboratory manipulation? This may seem an odd question. Wouldn't that be a very dangerous thing to do? The answer is yes, it could definitely be dangerous, especially without proper safeguards. Yet remarkably, inserting an FCS was an aim of a US-China research team, using biotechnology developed by US scientists.

In a Project DEFUSE research proposal to the US government from the University of North Carolina, the EcoHealth Alliance, and the Wuhan Institute of Virology, the team wrote, "We will analyze all SARSr-CoV S gene sequences for appropriately conserved proteolytic cleavage sites in S2 and for the presence of potential Furin Cleavage Sites. . . . Where clear mismatches occur, we will introduce appropriate human-specific cleavage sites and evaluate growth potential in Vero cells and HAE cultures." Much of this work was to be carried out in a Wuhan laboratory with a low level of biosafety control.

In plain English, the researchers would look for FCS in viruses, and when they didn't occur naturally, would insert them. Notably, the UNC-EHA-WIV team also mentioned ">180 bat SARSr-Cov strains sequenced in our prior work and not yet examined for spillover potential." These sequences have not been made public.

Why would scientists propose such dangerous work? As one of the leaders of this research at UNC wrote in an editorial in 2018, "the study of zoonotic and human CoV [coronaviruses] outside of their natural host often times requires genetic manipulation and GOF to be useful." GOF, meaning "gain-of-function," is research in which the coronavirus is manipulated in the laboratory and then tested for its ability to infect cells and reproduce in tissue. It's used in drug and vaccine development.

Now, here's the thing: The DEFUSE proposal was rejected. But was the work undertaken anyway? We have no idea, but it is standard procedure to carry out preliminary work, or even a whole project, whether or not a particular grant is accepted. And in truth, the DEFUSE proposal is part of a much larger, and still hidden, research agenda overseen by the NIH. When the NIH was asked to release its 2020 Strategic Plan for COVID-19 Research, it did so — with all 290 pages fully blanked out.

The fact is that NIH has not told the American people, or the scientific community, what it knows about the origins of SARS-CoV-2. In a conference call call on Feb. 1, 2020, NIH leaders heard top virologists explain why the FCS in SARS-CoV-2 indicated the possibility of laboratory manipulation of the virus. Yet just a few days later, NIH encouraged a team of scientists to prepare a paper declaring a natural origin of the virus. Subsequently, NIH has resisted the release of critical documentation and dragged its feet until forced to make disclosures under Freedom of Information Act lawsuits, often providing only highly redacted materials.

The Biden administration and the scientific community need to do better. What work did NIH, DOD, and other US agencies fund that might have contributed to the emergence of SARS-CoV-2? When did

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agencies of the USG first learn of the virus? What evidence might there be in the United States in the form of laboratory notes, electronic communications, virus databases, and other troves of information, that can shed light on this matter? Why did some components of the Intelligence Community lean toward a laboratory release as the source of the pandemic?

There has been enough obfuscation and foot-dragging. Let's open the books and get the facts from US organizations to see what light they can shed on the origin of this tragic global disaster.

Jeffrey D. Sachs is university professor at Columbia University. Neil L. Harrison is a professor at Columbia University.

Peter Daszak
President

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EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

From: David Morens ((b) (6)
Sent: Tuesday, May 24, 2022 6:37 PM
To: Roberts, Rich (b) (6) >
Cc: Keusch, Gerald T (b) (6) , Peter Jay <(b) (6) Jeff Sturchio (b) (6) Peter Daszak <(b) (6)
Subject: Re: Jeff Sachs' comments to Rich

Colleagues, I will be polite snd point out that this sort of behavior from Sachs is not new. Too bad, because he is a smart guy....

Good that you will rebut this. Peter D has never stabbed a colleague in the back nor has he ever twisted the truth to undercut others. He still stands on the moral high ground. d

Sent from my iPhone
David M Morens
OD, NIAID, NIH

> On May 24, 2022, at 17:57, Roberts, Rich (b) (6) > wrote:
>
> Jerry:
>
> That is good.
>
> I will reply to Jeff in a day or so and point out some of his specific errors (as documented in Peter's email). I was especially offended by his remarks about Peter D., which not only were unnecessarily disparaging but totally at odds with my experience.
>
> Rich
>
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>
> **From:** Keusch, Gerald T (b) (6)

MORENS_SUBPOENA_005931
MORENS_NIH_014545
REL0000481584

Sent: Tuesday, May 24, 2022 10:42 AM
To: Roberts, Rich <(b) (6) Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6) David Morens <(b) (6)
Jeff Sturchio <(b) (6)
Cc: Peter Daszak <(b) (6)
Subject: RE: Jeff Sachs' comments to Rich

EXTERNAL SENDER

As a signer of the Lancet letter in February 2020, the author of a follow up letter to Lancet in July 2021 (Science, not speculation, is essential to determine how SARS-CoV-2 reached humans) with 23 other signatories to the 2020 letter, a member of the infamous (soon to be famous) disbanded Lancet Task Force and the Independent Task Force which followed and has just yesterday submitted an invited Perspectives to PNAS about the pandemic (incidentally meeting the charge the Lancet Task Force had) I am one of those who advised Peter D not to personally respond. I agree with Peter D that it will not be positive or productive to argue and rather hope to see others pick it up and dispute the ignorant science Sachs and Harrison include in their Opinion in PNAS (how in the world did PNAS publish that crap?) – I understand the Twitter world is already buzzing although I can't hear it personally because I am of another more ancient world civilization).

Jerry

From: Peter Daszak <(b) (6)
Sent: Tuesday, May 24, 2022 8:49 AM
To: Hotez, Peter Jay < (b) (6) David Morens (b) (6) >; Keusch, Gerald T (b) (6)
>; Jeff Sturchio <(b) (6) >
Cc: Roberts, Rich <(b) (6)
Subject: Jeff Sachs' comments to Rich
Importance: High

Rich reached out to Jeff Sachs to set up a call with him and he sent the response below, which Rich suggested I could share with you all.

I think, unfortunately, you're right Peter that he holds a grudge against me re. the way I pushed back against his efforts to remove me from the Taskforce, which is a shame, and he seems to have re-hashed his memory of what happened in a way that's unfortunate.

However, he also lays out below his rationale for his Op Ed, and again, it's riddled with errors or misconceptions that I've addressed with brief bullets in the body of his email below. It also shows that he's clearly bought into the lab leak theory hook, line and sinker. It's very worrying to see that, but this is the problem with beguiling conspiratorial narratives like these. To counter them, you have to explain complex science, and the convoluted way science is funded and conducted. The simplest, most exciting story often wins out.

Given the animosity in his email, the fact that Jeff's so well-known, and that his op ed calls for a "fair and balanced" investigation into COVID origins, I don't think EcoHealth 'wins' if I'm involved in a rebuttal to the PNAS paper. Others I've spoken with also suggest it would just amplify the attack. However, I would strongly encourage any of you to think about writing some sort of response either in PNAS or another form, and I'd be happy to provide facts and supporting documents for the many, many errors in his piece.

Please read his email below and my responses, I expect the lines of attack he puts forward will be used elsewhere by others, as many of them have already, and all can be easily refuted:

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance

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EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

From: Jeffrey Sachs <(b) (6) >
Sent: Saturday, May 21, 2022 9:37 PM
To: Roberts, Rich (b) (6)
Cc: Sonia E (b) (6)
Subject: Re: Your criticisms of the call for an independent investigation?

EXTERNAL SENDER

Dear Rich,

Thanks so much for your detailed comments.

Kindly let me share a few thoughts with you.

First, I got to know Daszak, as I invited him to chair a task force of the Lancet Covid-19 Commission. I observed close at hand that he was dishonest and untrustworthy. I had to dismiss him and disband the group that he set up. Many people associated with him also behaved very improperly, hiding their conflicts of interest and in other ways. I know that you defended him and I am absolutely sure that you did so out of the highest motives. Yet I've seen a side of Daszak that is disreputable.
Response: The conflicts of interest are that I worked with the WIV. This was absolutely known to Jeff from the start – it's why he reached out to me in April 2020 after Trump terminated our NIH funding, literally because "we funded the lab in Wuhan". A few weeks into my work with the Lancet Commission that Jeff headed up, he received a letter from a Congressman complaining about my alleged conflicts. Jeff responded to him to explain that my experience working with Wuhan is a benefit to the commission. Both are attached above.

Second, the EHA grant proposals are deeply disturbing. The DARPA-DEFUSE grant proposal raises the highest questions (especially pp. 10-11)
https://www.dropbox.com/s/7ds489l7l28us4t/DARPA%20defuse-proposal%20.pdf?dl=0
Response: This is a rejected proposal from 2018 – the grant was never funded, the work was never done. The hypotheses and experiments proposed on pp 10-11 are based on well-known properties of other virus' proteolytic cleavage sites, and the (correct) idea that SARSr-CoVs might have them.

Why did we have to wait for more than a year to know about this grant proposal – and then only through FOIA? NIH has behaved very badly and continues to do so.
Response: The reason it wasn't made public is because no scientist in their right mind would publicly release an unfunded grant proposal – they represent your best ideas and hard work, and by releasing them, you hand over those ideas to competitors who are vying for the same sources of funding. However, it was in the possession of the US Federal agencies – it was in the files at DoD! Should the intelligence agencies have wanted to see it, they could have done so easily. Jeff's also wrong in that it was not released by FoIA because USG agencies also refuse to release unfunded proposals – they're privileged and confidential. If scientists submit proposals knowing that they might be FoIA'd, they would not submit their best ideas for fear of being scooped by rivals. The DARPA proposal was leaked by someone. Finally Jeff says NIH behaved badly, but this was a DoD proposal.

Why did NIH redact 290 pages here? https://www.dropbox.com/s/hripmsjk3ovi5fm/nih-foia-request-55058-february-production.pdf?dl=0
Response: Simple. The 290 pages were an attachment to an email that happened to be a draft version of NIAID's COVID-19 Strategic Plan. This was published and widely disseminated later on, but it makes total sense for NIAID to redact a version that's unfinished, so that the public don't get fed other erroneous theories based on some typos or errors in the uncorrected version.

Third, NIH knew full well since February 1, 2020 if not earlier that a lab-leak was not only plausible, but for many leading scientists was odds-on. Yet that was deliberately covered up in the Proximal Origins paper in Nature Medicine, a paper advanced with Francis Collins' early intervention and editing. (The Proximal Origins paper is a remarkably crude whitewashing of the question – claiming that SARS-CoV-2 was "irrefutably" not from a known SARS-CoV backbone -- citing a 2014 (!!!) paper (see footnote 20, which gives away the game).
Response: It's just simply not true (and never has been) that many leading scientists view the lab leak theory as 'odds-on'. Neither was the theory deliberately covered up – it was debated and put to bed, that's why people changed their opinions from FoIA'd emails wherein they noticed the FCS and suggested it could indicate a lab origin, to the final paper wherein they had spent time debating the veracity of this with colleagues – that's how science should work. Ref. 20 is about how FCS arises in nature in avian flu, following prolonged passage of a mild

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strain. This plausibly could have happened when a bat-CoV circulated repeatedly in an amplifier host or in people prior to emerging with a full FCS. SARS-CoV circulated for months before emergence in China, so it's more plausible than months of lab passage for a virus that was never in the lab (we had all the sequences of all known bat-CoVs).

Fourth, even Baric has joined the call for an investigation. He has been the relentless champion of the genetic re-engineering of SARS-CoV viruses, and he trained Shi Zhengli. He has claimed that GoF is vital for drug and vaccine development. Yet GoF in a BSL2 laboratory (as in Wuhan) is a mighty risky proposition.
Response: The work in WIV that EHA collaborated on was definitively not gain-of-function. It was reviewed by NIH before we did it and they're the organization of note to do this. Their decision and the rationale has been made public and fits exactly with the published P3CO rules. This has been stated over and over again, but I guess Jeff just somehow disagrees with the authority to decide whether an expt is GoF or not!. In any case, none of the viruses at WIV were anywhere close to SARS-CoV-2, as published by us in Latinne et al. Nature Comms. 2020. Finally, the BSL argument is clearly false. The animal experiments that Jeff is alluding to here were conducted at BSL-3. The in vitro work at BSL-2 is the standard in China, just as it is in the USA for Cedar virus with a Hendra spike protein – something that's BSL4 in Australia. If we work with a lab in China, we cannot impose US law on them. NIH approved that work.

Fifth, I am not much persuaded that the presence of an FCS in some coronaviruses means all that much when: (a) no FCS is known in a sarbecoronavirus; (b) UNC-WIV planned to insert an FCS into a library of so-far undocumented SARS-CoVs; and (3) no single animal in China, in >80,000 tested, has carried SARS-CoV-2.
Response: this has been widely debunked. A) The site where FCS is found in the SARS-CoV-2 spike has mutations in many of the closely related bat-CoVs that show it is 'evolvable' and could easily mutate into a full FCS. B) UNC planned to insert FCS in 2018, but the grant wasn't funded, the work wasn't done. C) the sample of 80,000 animals includes before and after the pandemic, zoo animals, animals known refractive to SARSr-CoVs (e.g. salamanders). No group of a single species known to harbor SARSr-CoVs from this sample is of a size large enough to give statistical power to rule out infection.

In short, I believe that we need an independent investigation because:
(1) The virus could have emerged in a BSL2 based on the research promised in the DARPA-DEFUSE grant proposal
Response: yes it could have, but not based on a grant that wasn't funded

(2) NIH knows this very well, but has never admitted it or supported a public review
Response: I don't know how anyone can second guess what NIH knows. However, they have publicly stated that they support continued efforts to identify the origin

(3) We should therefore have a long-overdue transparent stock-taking of what the US organizations (NIH, EHA, UNC, DOD, IC, others) actually know
Response: I think I've told everyone all I 'actually know' about 100 times over. What Jeff Sachs is actually proposing is an invasive witch hunt whereby my private emails and files are published for the right wing press to spend another 2 years canceling out our organization.

(4) The Intelligence Community is itself divided on the issue, which some agencies leaning towards a lab leak. Why do some IC agencies lean towards a lab release?
Response: Not true. Prior to Biden's 90 day intel review, only a few intel agencies expressed an opinion: 2 agencies concluded 'natural' origins were more likely and 1 concluded lab leak more likely. After the review 4 agencies considered 'natural' origins more likely and 1 concluded lab leak more likely. Confidence in conclusion was low throughout, but there was a distinct shift suggesting intelligence supports natural over lab leak.

All best wishes and with very warm regards,
Jeff

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Date: Thu, 1 Jul 2021 9:29:55 PM -0400
Sent: Thu, 1 Jul 2021 9:26:57 PM -0400
Subject: RE:
From: Peter Daszak < (b) (6)
To: Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6) Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] <(b) (6)

Dr. Q is clearly short for "Dr. QAnon".

Re. the lab leak comment - I agree Jerry - because there's not real evidence to examine it won't bring anything new to the table. I did hear Linfa Wang give a good explanation of how tiny the probability was of creating the particular RBD based on random production of recombinant viruses in the lab, but he should publish that one day.

I'll send detailed answers and hopefully some refs on the other issues before the weekend.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
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EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

-----Original Message-----
From: Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6)
Sent: Thursday, July 1, 2021 5:19 PM
To: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] <(b) (6) Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >
Subject: RE:

My two cents, and probably not worth much more than that.

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I think alluding to lab leak (or as that creep from Columbia says research-related leak) should be toned down by acknowledging it is possible and indicating this article will focus on issues related to the spillover in nature, where there are things we already know need to be done but haven't, and there will be things we didn't know but will learn that also need to be addressed - all to make this a safer world with reduced risk of new zoonotic pandemics.

One thing of interest to me which is counter-argument to the stupidity of Dr. Q (is that for queer or Quay?) about the number of samples taken from wildlife and markets etc. that were negative so it couldn't have come from spillover in nature. That is when SARS ceased to transmit in people, and even NIH stopped supporting SARS vaccine development because it was no longer a problem, and since then it has not been isolated in nature, bats and a variety of mammals including Homo sapiens. But does anybody really think it went extinct? It is most likely out there still, lurking in an animal here, another there, waiting for the moment when all of the complex circumstances that permit ongoing transmission and escalation to an outbreak and beyond to a pandemic align, like the perfect storm or the alignments that create an eclipse.

I'll be happy to contribute to this as long as we don't stir the pot on the lab leak. My sense is the pot it sits on is a loo, a potty, a crapper, a porta-potty etc., and within a year perhaps it will be flushed along with all the other shit out there about this virus.

Jerry

-----Original Message-----
From: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] < (b) (6)
Sent: Thursday, July 1, 2021 4:53 PM
To: Peter Daszak < (b) (6) >; Keusch, Gerald T < (b) (6)
Subject:

Peter, a couple things.

First, I am still thinking about writing with some others a commentary for a high impact journal, not sure which.

As I envision it, although it would allude to the extreme unlikeliness of a lab leak or mad made origin, it would focus on what the science tells us we need to do next, including things like, as you said, tracing back from markets to farm suppliers and doing epi studies, better surveillance of baats in the Rinolophus distribution and of some of the other species, covering a larger geographic area for bat sampling, surveiling exposed humans, international open collaborations, etc.

I have a longer list than that, but would appreciate if you could give me a list, as specific as possible within a few lines each, ot your top 5, or top 10, things to be done.

Also, some questions related to pangolin viruses. Supposedly the closest

RBD to SARS-CoV-2 is that so-called "Guangdong" strain reported by the Li group. I don't know where that virus was isolated but can't be from Guangdong because I don't think they have pangolins, so maybe it was imported there? In any case, the Li group sepculated that SARS-CoV-2 arose from one or more recombinations between bat viruses and viruses enzootic in panglins, implying that pangolins may be a stable co-reservoir. Is that your understanding? Do we know that within a geeographic area pangolin viruses are similar? Do we know they transmit between themselves, or are they being infected from some other animal like a local bat? Should we be sampling not only the Rinolophus bats across their geographic range, but also the javanic across their geographic range?

Finally, I am wondering what youi know about the 2010 Cambodian viruses isolated by that French group. We have an NIAID colleague working at a Cambodia field site, and she discovered that workers in the area have coronavirus antibodies that light up with sarbecovirus antigens in EIA, but not Nt. (She sent them here and Jeff T did the Nts, and also tried to detect virus in I think 110 bat dropping samples, but without success). Cambodia seems to be the epicenter of javanica pangolins, but has anyone tested them in Cambodia?

TY, D

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Date: Mon, 8 May 2023 2:58:27 PM -0400
Sent: Mon, 8 May 2023 2:57:51 PM -0400
Subject: RE: Anti-Science Follow Up Meeting
From: "Keusch, Gerald T" < (b) (6)
To: Roberts, Rich < (b) (6) Hall, Mary Ann < (b) (6) >; Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6) Peter Daszak < (b) (6) Aleksei Chmura < (b) (6) David Morens < (b) (6) Jeffrey Sturchio < (b) (6)
CC: Calo, Mary Andrea < (b) (6) (b) (6)

I'm OK at 10 or 11 on the 19th. I'm in an FAO briefing on COVID origins in the afternoon, potentially starting at 1 so that is problematic.

The 20th is OK.

So is the 21st but its best to pick a date when Rich is available to join. Jerry

From: Roberts, Rich < (b) (6)
Sent: Monday, May 8, 2023 2:48 PM
To: Hall, Mary Ann < (b) (6) >; Hotez, Peter Jay < (b) (6) Peter Daszak < (b) (6) Aleksei Chmura < (b) (6) David Morens < (b) (6) >; Keusch, Gerald T < (b) (6) Jeffrey Sturchio < (b) (6)
Cc: Calo, Mary Andrea < (b) (6) >; (b) (6)
Subject: RE: Anti-Science Follow Up Meeting

Mary:

The times on June 19 and 20 will all work for me. The 21st is not possible though.

Rich

Richard J. Roberts
New England Biolabs
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Ipswich, MA 01938-2723
USA
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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: Hall, Mary Ann <(b) (6) >
Sent: Monday, May 8, 2023 2:41 PM
To: Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6) ; Peter Daszak (b) (6) Aleksei Chmura < (b) (6) >; David Morens <(b) (6) >; Gerald Keusch ((b) (6) >; Jeffrey Sturchio (b) (6) Roberts, Rich <(b) (6)
Cc: Calo, Mary Andrea <(b) (6) >; (b) (6)
Subject: Anti-Science Follow Up Meeting

EXTERNAL SENDER

Greetings all,

I'm including some additional dates to better encompass everyone's schedule. Please let me know what works for best for you.

Monday, June 19th at 10, 11 or 1 pm CT
Tuesday, June 20th at 1 or 3 pm CT
Wednesday, June 21st at 11 am or 1 pm CT

Thank you!
Mary

MARY HALL
Senior Associate Director of Foundation Relations
Baylor College of Medicine
P: (b) (6) | M: (b) (6)
(b) (6) | www.bcm.edu

From: Hall, Mary Ann
Sent: Thursday, May 4, 2023 12:34 PM
To: Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6) Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >; Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) >; David Morens (b) (6) >; Gerald Keusch (b) (6) ; Jeffrey Sturchio <(b) (6) >; Rich Roberts (b) (6)
Cc: Calo, Mary Andrea (b) (6)
Subject: RE: Email intro to Mary Hall from Baylor

Greetings all,

It looks like a zoom call would be better for everyone. Below are a few options. Please let me know what works best and I'll send a calendar invite for the time that works for the majority.

Tuesday, May 9th at 10, 11 am, and 1 pm CT
Wednesday, May 10th at 1 pm CT
Friday, May 12th at 2 pm CT

Thank you!
Mary

MARY HALL
Senior Associate Director of Foundation Relations
Baylor College of Medicine
P: (b) (6) | M: (b) (6)
(b) (6) | www.bcm.edu

From: Hall, Mary Ann
Sent: Wednesday, May 3, 2023 2:40 PM
To: Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6) >; Peter Daszak (b) (6) Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) >; David Morens (b) (6) >; Gerald Keusch (b) (6) Jeffrey Sturchio <(b) (6) >; Rich Roberts (b) (6)
Cc: Calo, Mary Andrea <(b) (6) >
Subject: RE: Email intro to Mary Hall from Baylor

Greetings all,

What an incredible meeting of minds last week! It was great to hear from such a diverse range of people on such an important topic. We so appreciate everyone's time and effort. I have pages of notes and am looking forward to reviewing others as well. As Dr. Hotez mentioned, we have this seed funding from the Mitchell Foundation and the potential for more once plans develop. Dr. Hotez and I will both be in New York City May 30th. If available, could this convening group meet to discuss next steps? Happy to offer some times for a zoom call if that date doesn't work for an in person meeting.

Thank you!
Mary

MARY HALL
Senior Associate Director of Foundation Relations
Baylor College of Medicine
P: (b) (6) | M: (b) (6)
(b) (6) | www.bcm.edu

From: Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6)
Sent: Wednesday, May 3, 2023 11:11 AM
To: Peter Daszak (b) (6) Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) >; David Morens <
(b) (6) >; Gerald Keusch <(b) (6) Jeffrey Sturchio(Rich Roberts <
(b) (6) >; Hall, Mary Ann <(b) (6) >
Cc: Calo, Mary Andrea <(b) (6) >; Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6)
Subject: Email intro to Mary Hall from Baylor

Mary, here are the emails of the group, best Peter

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP

Texas Children's Hospital: Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics | Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development | Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

Baylor College of Medicine: Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine | Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology | Health Policy Scholar

Baylor University, University Professor
Rice University, Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty
Texas A&M University, Faculty-Senior Fellow, Hagler Inst for Advanced Study & Scowcroft Institute of Intl Affairs

E-mail | Twitter | LinkedIn | Skype: (b) (6)

Amazon Author Center | Daily Beast Contributor

Senior Coordinator & Executive Support: Douglas Soriano
(b) (6) | Phone: (b) (6) | Fax: 713-798-2299

Media Inquiries:
(b) (6)

iPhone

MORENS_SUBPOENA_003553
MORENS_NIH_010455
REL0000481591

Date:	Wed, 20 Oct 2021 8:14:29 PM -0400
Sent:	Wed, 20 Oct 2021 8:13:08 PM -0400
Subject:	NIH is now accusing me publicly of not following GoF rules; Republicans are saying we lied to NIH
From:	Peter Daszak < (b) (6) >
To:	Keusch, Gerald T < (b) (6) David Morens <(b) (6)
CC:	Aleksei Chmura < (b) (6)
Attachments:	NIH_NOA_5R01AI110964-03.PDF; NIH letter to James Comer Oct 20th 2021.jfif; NIH letter to James Comer Oct 20th 2021 2nd page.jfif; Year 4 NIAID CoV Report.pdf; To EcoHealth 10 13 21 R01AI110964 10 20 21.pdf

I need some help and advice here, and it's complicated.

In year 3 of our NIAID grant, we were given the go-ahead to conduct experiments with chimeric viruses based on SARSr and MERSr backbones, but with a proviso that:
"Per the letter dated July 7, 2016 to Mr. Aleksei Chmura at EcoHealth Alliance, should any of the MERS-like or SARS-like chimeras generated under this grant show evidence of enhanced virus growth greater than 1 log over the parental backbone strain you must stop all experiments with these viruses and provide the NIAID Program Officer and Grants Management Specialist, and Wuhan Institute of Virology Institutional Biosafety Committee with the relevant data and information related to these unanticipated outcomes."
That text is in the NoA pdf attached NIH-NOA_5401AI110964-03.PDF

We asked WIV for a report on the year's work during year 4, and put a graph of an experiment they did where one of the chimeric viruses *did* grow a more than 1 log faster, but by day 4, the parental strain had leveled this out. We heard about this after the fact, and reported it in our end-of-year report. No one said anything about it at NIH until now.

NIH was FoIA'd for all documents on our original China grant, including this, and a Congressional member James Comer has asked them to explain, I think. NIH have now responded to him (and he's made the letter public) – see two image files "NIH letter to James Comer Oct 20th 2021". These are from Lawrence Tabak, and they state that we "failed to report this finding right away, as was required". They've now written to us with 5 days notice to send them the IACUC and all unpublished data. They state this in the letter to James Comer as a way of saying they're calling us to task, but it seems like nothing to do with the experiments anyway.

My problem is that James Comer is now saying EcoHealth hid GoF work from NIH.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

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Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

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Date: Thu, 5 May 2022 11:41:10 AM -0400
Sent: Thu, 5 May 2022 11:38:15 AM -0400
Subject: RE: Article in Buzzfeed yesterday detailing political motivation behind Termination of EHA's grant
From: Peter Daszak < (b) (6)
To: Keusch, Gerald T < (b) (6) Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6) Roberts, Rich < (b) (6)
CC: David Morens < (b) (6) Jeff Sturchio < (b) (6) Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) >;
Attachments: image007.jpg; image008.jpg; image009.png; image010.jpg; image011.jpg; image012.jpg

Thanks Jerry – every email, letter and comment helps at this point. The politics are so flagrantly obvious. I'm just disgusted that no one's got the chutzpa to stand up to the Republicans. What a bunch of lily-livered scheisters.

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: Keusch, Gerald T (b) (6)
Sent: Thursday, May 5, 2022 11:36 AM
To: Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6) Roberts, Rich <(b) (6)
Cc: Peter Daszak < (b) (6) ; David Morens (b) (6) Jeff Sturchio < (b) (6) Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) >
Subject: RE: Article in Buzzfeed yesterday detailing political motivation behind Termination of EHA's grant

It's a powerful piece with a focus on the political motivation and ulterior motives of these attack dogs. I am really glad to see Lauer put into the spotlight in this manner. It makes me think he has a political agenda of his own, rather than simply being the messenger for Collins and allowing Collins to stay more in the background. That said, I am disappointed that he didn't point his pen at Collins for the egregious failure to defend science and scientists.

I am going to forward this to Victor Dzau, Bruce Alberts and Harvey Fineberg, with the hope that the latter two will respond to Dzau and that Bruce will make sure Elena Fuentes-Afflick realize the full weight of the political and other forces that are behind the republican demands on NAM.

Jerry

From: Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6)
Sent: Thursday, May 5, 2022 11:05 AM
To: Roberts, Rich (b) (6) >
Cc: Peter Daszak (b) (6) Keusch, Gerald T (b) (6) >; David Morens <
(b) (6) >; Jeff Sturchio <(b) (6) Aleksei Chmura < (>
Subject: Re: Article in Buzzfeed yesterday detailing political motivation behind Termination of EHA's grant b

Until now I hadn't heard of the white coat project

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP
Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine
Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology
Health Policy Scholar
Baylor College of Medicine

Texas Children's Hospital Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics
Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development

University Professor, Baylor University

Faculty Fellow, Hagler Institute for Advanced Study
Senior Fellow, Scowcroft Institute of International Affairs
Texas A&M University
Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty and Adjunct Professor of Bioengineering, Rice University
Adjunct Professor, University of Texas, School of Public Health

Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

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Daily Beast Contributor https://www.thedailybeast.com/author/peter- j-hotez
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iPhone

(b) (6)

On May 5, 2022, at 9:15 AM, Roberts, Rich wrote:

*****CAUTION:*** This email is not from a BCM Source. Only click links or open attachments you know are safe.**

Peter:

A good article, but hard to know how effective it might be.
It does continue to raise the need for scientists to fight back.

Rich

Richard J. Roberts
New England Biolabs
240 County Road
Ipswich, MA 01938-2723
USA
Tel: (978) (b) (6)
Fax: (978) 412 9910
email: (b) (6)

From: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >
Sent: Thursday, May 5, 2022 9:27 AM
To: Keusch, Gerald T(b) (6) >; Roberts, Rich (b) (6) >; David Morens <(b) (6) >; Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6) Jeff Sturchio (b) (6) >
Cc: Aleksei Chmura (b) (6) >
Subject: Article in Buzzfeed yesterday detailing political motivation behind Termination of EHA's grant
Importance: High

EXTERNAL SENDER

Dear All,

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.

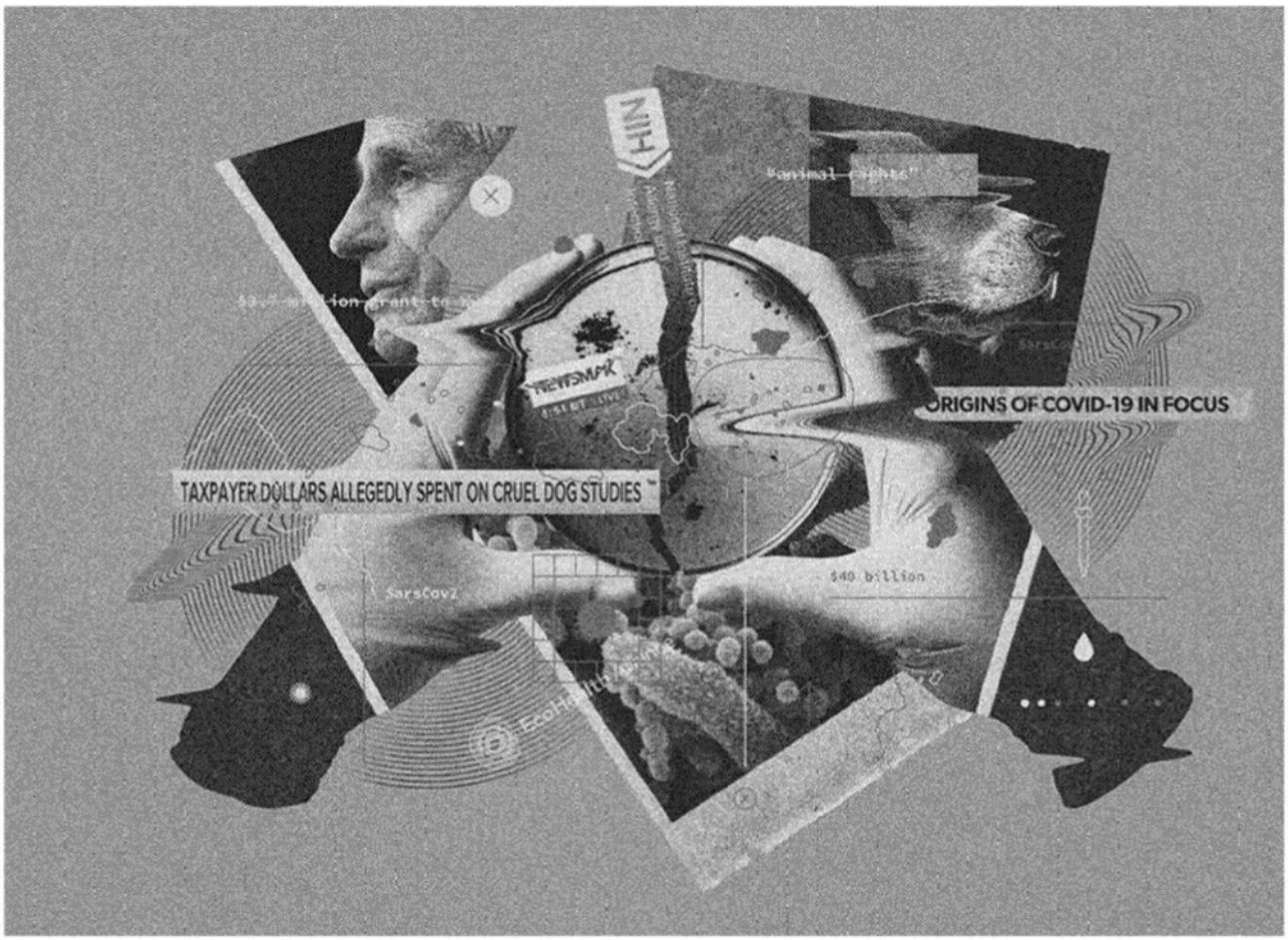
A heavily redacted series of emails from May 2021 centers on the July 2016 letter from the NIAID that had given EcoHealth permission to resume the chimera work. Accepting a suggestion made by Daszak

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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:



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.

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Then-president Donald Trump, keen to blame China for the pandemic, was soon involved. After prodding from the conservative outlet Newsmax at a press conference, his administration terminated the grant from the National Institutes of Health, which had been awarded to a New York–based nonprofit called the EcoHealth Alliance.

Since then, the controversy over whether the COVID pandemic started with a "lab leak" has escalated into a ferocious fight, with conflicting narratives that paint EcoHealth and the Wuhan Institute of Virology either as out-of-control scientists who may have caused the pandemic through inherently risky research or as the victims of politically motivated conspiracy theories, unfairly vilified as the architects of a catastrophe that they worked for years to prevent by studying the risks posed by bat coronaviruses.

Two years on, and with the scientific trail going cold, it's possible that the mystery of the origins of SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19, may never be conclusively solved. But thousands of pages of NIH emails and other documents released to BuzzFeed News through a Freedom of Information Act lawsuit show how the White Coat Waste Project rode the wave of partisan pandemic politics to serve its cause, and in the process triggered a storm that engulfed EcoHealth, one of the world's largest groups studying potentially dangerous animal viruses. They also show how the NIH, a behemoth that spends more than $40 billion annually on biomedical research, stumbled under the political pressure the White Coat Waste Project brought to bear.

The White Coat Waste Project has subsequently channeled right-wing anger toward Anthony Fauci, the public face of COVID policies including mask and vaccine mandates, accusing his National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, which is part of the NIH, of funding "beagle torture." The White Coat Waste Project is writing a controversial new activist playbook — and it's unclear whether anyone can control the forces that it has helped to unleash.

"They jumped on the bandwagon of how I have become public enemy number one of the far right," Fauci told BuzzFeed News. "If you engage and try and push back on that, it very often only gives it legs. And then it becomes even worse of a problem."



White Coat Waste via YouTube / Via youtube.com

Anthony Bellotti

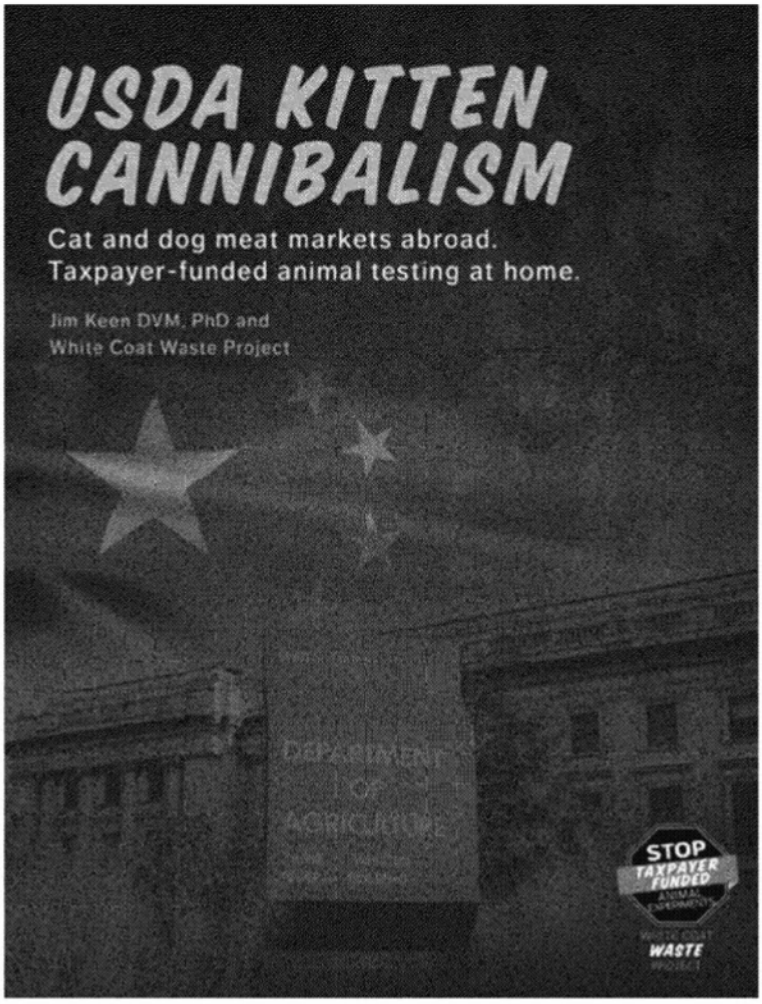
The White Coat Waste Project was formed in 2013 by Anthony Bellotti, a campaign consultant who over the years had worked for Republican candidates including Arnold Schwarzenegger and Lisa Murkowski, and on efforts to defund Planned Parenthood and Obamacare. But Bellotti's real passion had long been animal protection, he told BuzzFeed News — an interest forged at the age of 17 when he worked as a summer intern in a lab doing research on pigs, studying ways to extend the time they could be kept under anesthesia during heart surgery. Bellotti said he was struck both by the animals' suffering and the "repugnant and callous attitude" of the experimenters. "It really made a mark on me," he said.

Poring over polling data, Bellotti could see that there was a big gap between Democrats and Republicans on the issue. Democrats were much more likely to support campaigns against animal experiments, which had often focused on corporate labs, and Republicans tended to back the research. So Bellotti crafted a message calculated to bring the missing Republicans on board, focusing on government spending. He avoids the label "animal rights," and has cast the White Coat Waste Project as a "taxpayer watchdog uniting liberty-lovers and animal-lovers."

In addition to mobilizing support from the political right, there was another reason to target government spending: Congress has the power to shut it down. "The goal isn't to change hearts and minds, it's to win the fight," Bellotti told BuzzFeed News. "We had to get to the root cause of the problem, which was the government spending."

The group didn't really take off until 2016, when Bellotti hired Justin Goodman, a former director of laboratory investigations with People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals, to head the White Coat Waste Project's advocacy efforts. Goodman started digging into government databases and filing FOIA requests to identify projects that the group could campaign to defund.

Even before the pandemic, the White Coat Waste Project scored some victories. An early campaign, launched in a report called "Spending to Death," highlighted experiments involving dogs in federal labs, including one studying the effects of blood transfusions in dogs with pneumonia in which some of the animals died. The group then turned up the heat on the Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center in Richmond, Virginia, focusing on experiments into heart disease in which dogs were run on treadmills after their heart rhythms were disrupted using implanted pacemaker devices. The White Coast Waste Project's multiyear effort to shut down Veterans Affairs dog research eventually led Congress to restrict spending on the work and demand explicit approval from the secretary for veterans affairs for new dog experiments by the agency.



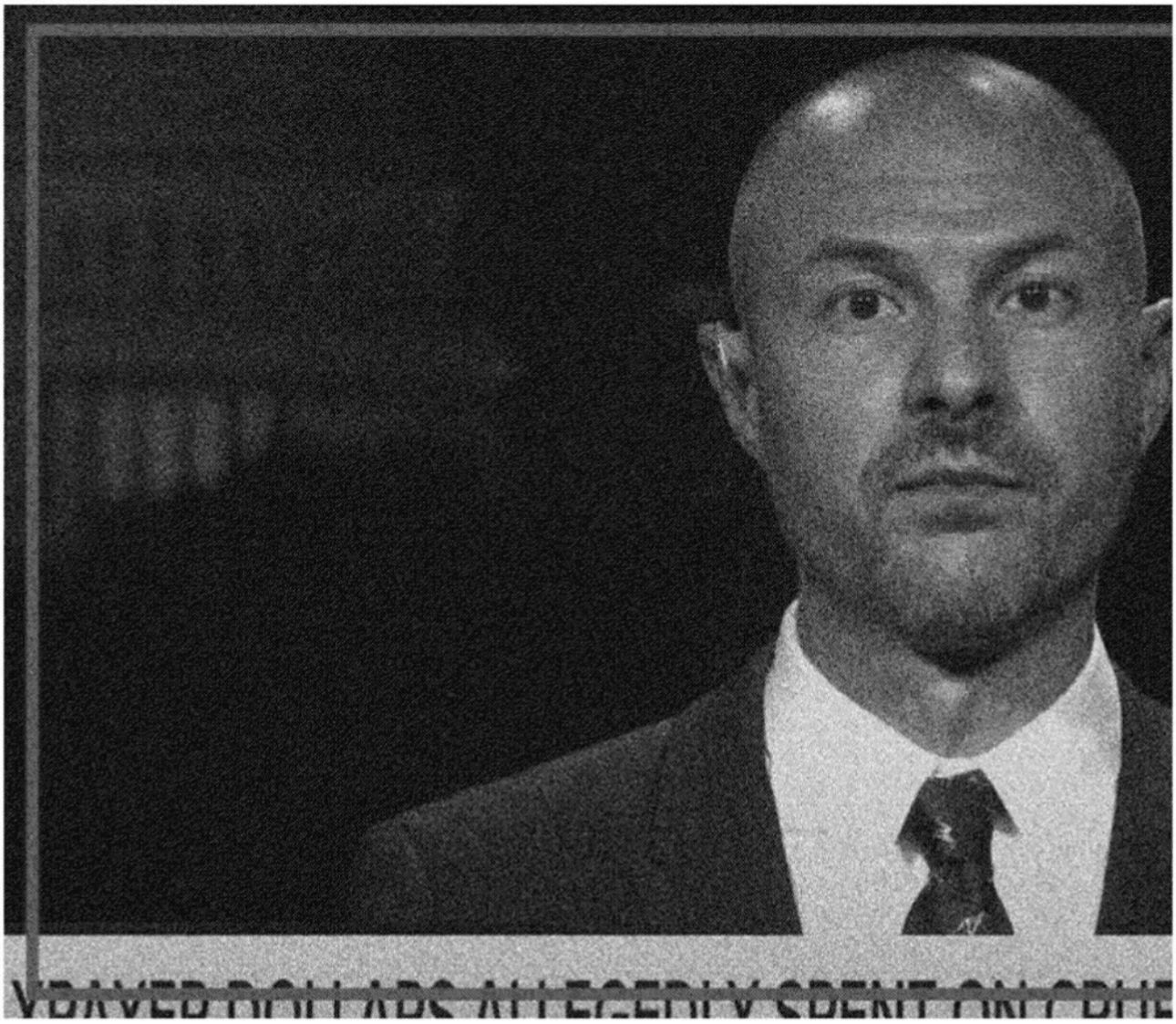
White Coat Waste

The cover of the White Coat Waste Project's 2019 report titled "USDA Kitten Cannibalism"

But it was another campaign that sowed the seeds for the attack on EcoHealth and its collaboration with the Wuhan Institute of Virology. In 2018, the White Coat Waste Project began to target the US Department of Agriculture's Animal Parasitic Diseases Laboratory in Beltsville, Maryland, zeroing in on its research into toxoplasmosis, which can infect people exposed to cat feces and can cause brain or eye damage in those with compromised immune systems. The campaign culminated in a March 2019 White Coat Waste Project report called "USDA Kitten Cannibalism." Its cover featured the Chinese flag superimposed over a photo of USDA's headquarters in Washington, DC. That framing drew on an experiment published in 2007 in which cats at the Maryland facility were fed meat from other cats purchased at a market in China to gauge its infectivity. Although the full report noted that these experiments were no longer being run, the association between this gruesome-sounding research and a nation seen as a major adversary to the US resonated with 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.

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Federal spending records show that EcoHealth has received almost $120 million from research grants and contracts since 2008, from agencies including USAID, the NIH, and the Defense Threat Reduction Agency. EcoHealth's emergence as a major player in assessing pandemic threats, working with labs across the world, was fueled in part by the "near miss" with SARS, another respiratory disease caused by a coronavirus that emerged in southern China in 2002 and killed nearly 800 people before its spread was brought under control.

Indeed, in late January 2020, officials in Fauci's institute who were preparing talking points for their boss, due to appear at a Jan. 28 press conference on the US response to the new coronavirus, described Daszak's research into the risks posed by bat coronaviruses in glowing terms. The EcoHealth group was "among the biggest players in coronavirus research," wrote David Morens, senior adviser to Fauci, in an email obtained through the BuzzFeed News FOIA lawsuit. "In short, we have on our team … probably the world's experts in these non-human coronaviruses."

> "If you would have told me that this chain of events was going to happen, I would have said, 'No way, this is absolutely impossible.'"

Fast-forward to April 2020, and the White Coat Waste Project's findings about NIH funding for the Wuhan Institute of Virology were starting to find a receptive audience. On April 11, the group succeeded in getting DailyMail.com, the website of a British tabloid newspaper with a large online readership in the US, to run the story: "REVEALED: U.S. Government Gave $3.7 Million Grant to Wuhan Lab at Center of Coronavirus Leak Scrutiny." ($3.7 million was actually the total sum paid over six years to EcoHealth, gleaned by Goodman from the NIH's grants database; in fact, less than $600,000 went to the Wuhan institute.)

The White Coat Waste Project started reaching out to Republicans in Congress — and the NIH was soon reeling. By April 13, NIH officials were scrambling to respond to a request for information from the office of Florida Sen. Marco Rubio, which had forwarded an email from Goodman noting the press coverage of the White Coat Waste Project's "troubling find" about the Wuhan institute. In that email, Goodman noted: "We're working with Rep. Matt Gaetz (R-FL) and others on a sign-on letter about this."

Two days later, the alarm bells were ringing at the very top of the NIH. Lawrence Tabak, deputy to Francis Collins, then director of the NIH, wrote to his boss and Fauci, whose institute had awarded the grant, emphasizing in bold that the Trump White House was on the warpath: "The **WH has strongly embraced concerns** raised by Congressman Gaetz who is publicly criticizing HHS/NIH for funding the Wuhan laboratory's bat research."

"I reached Tony, he is now informed," Collins replied, confirming Fauci was in the loop.

Then, on April 17, a Newsmax reporter asked Trump about the project, repeating the false claim that $3.7 million had gone to the Wuhan institute. "We will end that grant very quickly," Trump said.

Michael Lauer, head of the NIH Office of Extramural Research, part of Collins' central command, then took control. On April 19, Lauer wrote to inform EcoHealth that NIH was looking to suspend the Wuhan institute from receiving federal funds. Other spending could continue, but EcoHealth should send no more money to China. In an April 21 email, Daszak told Lauer that since the grant was renewed for a second five-year term in July 2019, no funds had gone to Wuhan "nor has any contract been signed."

But three days later, NIH terminated the entire grant, for "convenience." In a one-page letter to

EcoHealth on April 24, Lauer wrote: "At this time, NIH does not believe that the current project outcomes align with the program goals and agency priorities."

Daszak was stunned. So too were many other scientists, disturbed that research that had been exceptionally highly rated in peer review, and which was directly related to the pandemic, could be canceled at a stroke. On May 21, 77 US Nobel Prize winners in science wrote to NIH director Collins and Alex Azar, secretary of health and human services, protesting the decision and describing the explanation given by Lauer about the NIH's priorities as "preposterous under the circumstances."

EcoHealth's response came on the day after the Nobelists' letter, when the group's pro bono lawyer wrote to Lauer contending that the NIH didn't have the legal authority to terminate a research grant in this way, without cause. The letter also argued that EcoHealth's goals were virtually identical to those laid out in the NIAID Strategic Plan for COVID-19 Research, released the day before the grant termination.

Later, in a congressional hearing, Fauci was asked why the grant was terminated. "It was canceled because the NIH was told to cancel it," he told the House Energy and Commerce Committee on June 23, 2020. "We got it from the highest office of the president: 'Cancel that grant,'" Fauci confirmed to BuzzFeed News.

The backlash against Lauer's initial letter seemed to prompt a rethink from the NIH. As first reported by the Wall Street Journal, Lauer came back to EcoHealth with a second letter on July 8. Abandoning the explanation about the NIH's priorities, Lauer wrote that the grant was reinstated, but immediately suspended because of concerns about biosafety at the Wuhan Institute of Virology. That tied the suspension directly to the lab leak theory, which posits that the pandemic may have started with the accidental release of a virus being studied in the lab, perhaps through a worker who became infected.

"We have concerns that WIV has not satisfied safety requirements under the award, and that EcoHealth Alliance has not satisfied its obligations to monitor the activities of its subrecipient to ensure compliance," Lauer wrote.

To lift that suspension, EcoHealth would have to respond to seven requests for information and materials. They included: "EcoHealth Alliance must arrange for WIV to submit to an outside inspection team charged to review the lab facilities and lab records, with specific attention to addressing the question of whether WIV staff had SARS-CoV-2 in their possession prior to December 2019." There was no way a US nonprofit could get the Chinese authorities to agree to such a request: Even the WHO team, including Daszak, that later visited the institute in February 2021 as part of its study of the origins of COVID-19 didn't get this unfettered access.

With Lauer's second letter, the grant entered a state of limbo from which it has yet to emerge — and seems unlikely to.

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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

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involved creating "chimeric" coronaviruses, engineered to combine genetic sequences from different viruses sampled from the wild.

Some proposed experiments involved chimeras based on the virus that causes MERS, a respiratory disease that first showed up in Saudi Arabia in 2012 and has since killed almost 900 people. EcoHealth wanted to replace the MERS virus's "spike" protein, used to enter animal or human cells, with those from these new viruses, to see whether they were also able to latch onto a molecule on cell surfaces targeted by the MERS virus. The NIAID officials also wanted to know more about two chimeras that had already been made, in which the genes for spike proteins from newly discovered bat coronaviruses had been put into another bat coronavirus called WIV1, named after the Wuhan Institute of Virology.

The NIAID officials accepted Daszak's explanation that these experiments didn't meet the US government's definition of gain-of-function research: He had argued that there was no reason to suppose the chimeric viruses would be any more dangerous than the viruses behind MERS and SARS. So the NIAID allowed the research to continue.

Daszak responded: "This is terrific! We are very happy to hear that our Gain of Function research funding pause has been lifted." The White Coat Waste Project later claimed that it had caught Daszak "red-handed, admitting to gain-of-function research" — omitting the context that this quote was part of an exchange in which he had argued that the research didn't meet the US government's definition of that term.

"We'll have to agree to disagree here," Goodman said, when BuzzFeed News questioned this claim. "We're not interested in debating the interpretation of these emails or the definition of gain-of-function. We're only interested in exposing and ending wasteful government spending on dangerous animal experiments."

Emails and other documents obtained by BuzzFeed News show that the chimera experiments had already been deepening EcoHealth's problems, as Lauer and other NIH officials looked for evidence that EcoHealth had breached the terms and conditions of its grant.

> "Because [Fauci] became a household name as the pandemic progressed, sure, it created an opportunity to go after him for animal testing in a way that would really make waves."

A heavily redacted series of emails from May 2021 centers on the July 2016 letter from the NIAID that had given EcoHealth permission to resume the chimera work. Accepting a suggestion made by Daszak himself, it stated that if any of the chimeric viruses showed unexpectedly rapid growth, he would "immediately stop all experiments with these viruses" and provide NIAID officials with information about the unexpected outcomes. Shortly after receiving the letter, Lauer sent it on to a senior attorney with the Department of Health and Human Services, assigned to the NIH, changing the subject line on the email thread to "Gift."

Daszak's problem was that the NIH determined that an experiment described in annual progress reports for the grant indicated that one of these viruses had made mice engineered to carry the human receptor targeted by SARS-like viruses sicker than expected and showed signs of rapid growth. "EcoHealth failed to report this finding right away," NIH deputy director Tabak later wrote in an October 2021 letter to James Comer, the ranking Republican member on the House of Representatives Committee on Oversight and Reform.

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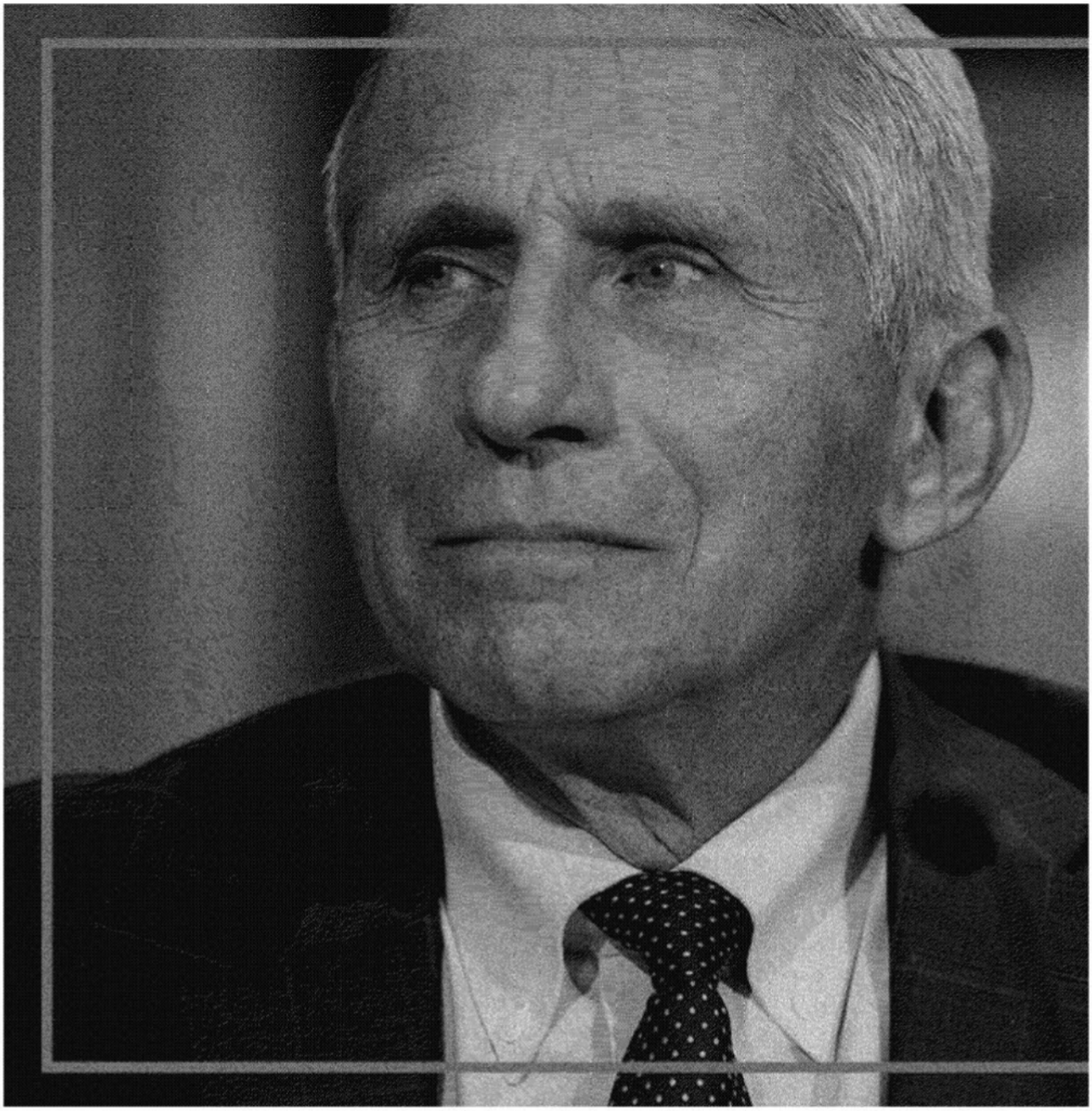
None of this amounts to a smoking gun linking EcoHealth and the Wuhan institute to the origins of COVID, as the viruses involved were very different to SARS-CoV-2. And in a letter to Lauer and Tabak after the latter's communication with Comer, Daszak contested the conclusion that the experiment did show rapid viral growth and argued that EcoHealth had complied with its reporting requirements.

But it gave Lauer evidence that he was looking for. EcoHealth is now under audit from the Office of Inspector General for the Department of Health and Human Services, an independent watchdog that monitors fraud, waste, and other problems, as part of a review of the NIH and "selected grantees" initiated on June 11, 2021. Documents received by BuzzFeed News through its FOIA lawsuit, including a timeline of events put together by Lauer dated June 13, 2021, indicate that the suggestion for an OIG audit of EcoHealth came from the NIH, just days after Lauer sent his "Gift" email.

The NIH declined to discuss Lauer's email and timeline, saying in a statement: "NIH doesn't comment on internal deliberation of grant awards."

In December 2021, the White Coat Waste Project claimed a win from its activism around the EcoHealth grant when President Joe Biden signed the 2022 National Defense Authorization Act into law. It contained specific wording blocking the Department of Defense — which over the years has provided almost $40 million to EcoHealth — from supporting the nonprofit's research in China.

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Stefani Reynolds / POOL / AFP via Getty Images
Anthony Fauci

The gain-of-function fight had also intensified the pressure on Fauci, who was by now a hate figure for many on the political right. In November 2021, he and Kentucky Republican Sen. Rand Paul clashed angrily in a Senate hearing, as Paul accused Fauci of changing the definition of gain-of-function and funding dangerous research in Wuhan. "He is egregiously incorrect," Fauci responded. In January, they locked horns in another hearing, featuring an extraordinary exchange in which Fauci accused Paul of jeopardizing his personal safety for political gain.

"What happens when he gets out and accuses me of things that are completely untrue is that all of a sudden that kindles the crazies out there, and I have threats upon my life, harassment of my family and my children," Fauci said.

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By the time of these acrimonious exchanges, the White Coat Waste Project had embarked on another campaign that made Fauci its main focus. In July 2021, the White Coat Waste Project launched its "BeagleGate" campaign, highlighting research on dogs funded by the NIAID, with a blog post headlined: "WCW Exposé: Fauci Spent $424K on Beagle Experiments, Dogs Bitten to Death by Flies."

The next month, the White Coat Waste Project accused Fauci of funding "beagle torture" in Tunisia, referring to a paper published in July 2021 investigating whether the biting sand flies that spread visceral leishmaniasis, a potentially fatal disease, preferred to feed on dogs already infected with the parasites that cause the condition.

The story really took off on Oct. 24, 2021, when 24 members of Congress from both parties, led by Rep. Nancy Mace, a Republican from South Carolina, wrote to Fauci protesting "costly, cruel, and unnecessary taxpayer-funded experiments on dogs." Fauci's nemesis, Rand Paul, wasn't among the signatories, but weighed in with a tweet touting the White Coat Waste Project's original blog post:

The Washington Post later reported that Fauci's office received 3,600 calls in 36 hours, causing his assistant to stop answering the phone for two weeks. The newspaper linked the onslaught to "a campaign by a little-known animal rights group called the White Coat Waste Project."

The NIAID tried to address the controversy, stating that it didn't actually fund the Tunisian beagle research paper — which in November 2021 was corrected to remove reference to a grant from the institute, which had been awarded to a researcher at Ohio State University for related work. "NIAID was listed as a courtesy because it had supported other leishmaniasis research in the past," a spokesperson for the university told BuzzFeed News. But that correction seemed only to give the White Coat Waste Project more ammunition. "Once again…color us unconvinced," it wrote in a later blog post disputing the NIAID's denial of funding the work.

The White Coat Waste Project's critics argue that its demonization of Fauci, seemingly calculated to channel existing right-wing anger with the government scientist seen as the public face of mask and COVID vaccine mandates, has taken animal activism into scary territory.

"They take a tiny sliver of truth, and then around that they build this highly emotional somewhat fictional narrative to build their case," Jim Newman, director of strategic communications with Americans for Medical Progress, which argues that animal experiments are essential to develop new treatments and vaccines, told BuzzFeed News. Animal activists have long been accused of cherry-picking facts and ignoring the goals of research to present animal experiments in the worst possible light. But portraying individuals as cruel villains in the current febrile political climate is "a very dangerous direction to be headed," Newman said.

"Of course, the pro-animal experimentation lobby hates that we hold government bosses accountable for funneling tax dollars to cruel and wasteful animal tests," Goodman said. "We generally don't run campaigns targeting individual taxpayer-funded animal experimenters to respect their privacy and because we question the approach's effectiveness, but federal agency bosses are public figures and fair game."

Threats to Fauci's life, which began well before the White Coat Waste Project's BeagleGate campaign, have been widely documented. Daszak, too, has faced security scares, including an incident in August 2020 when an envelope containing a mysterious white powder reportedly turned up at his home. "I get death threats regularly and we get crank calls at home trying to keep us awake at night," Daszak told BuzzFeed News.

The White Coat Waste Project stresses that it opposes violence and issued a statement in October 2021 saying it had no quarrel with Fauci over his advice on COVID policies. "You could stand

shoulder-to-shoulder with him on COVID response and go toe-to-toe with him on other issues," said Goodman, who makes no apology for the group's decision to make Fauci the focus of the BeagleGate campaign. "Because he became a household name as the pandemic progressed, sure, it created an opportunity to go after him for animal testing in a way that would really make waves."

As the White Coat Waste Project has seized its opportunities and gained a higher public profile, the group has itself come under scrutiny. In February, the Campaign for Accountability filed a complaint with the IRS and the Federal Election Commission, alleging that the White Coat Waste Project had coordinated with the White Coat Waste Political Action Committee, founded in 2017, in breach of regulations prohibiting tax-exempt nonprofits from engaging in political campaign activities.

In an interview with BuzzFeed News, Bellotti declined to answer questions about the political action committee, which he said was a separate organization. Goodman later sent a statement describing the Campaign for Accountability's complaint as a "politically-motivated, baseless, and frivolous attack," noting: "The WCW Project *does not* fund activities of the distinct, all-volunteer WCW PAC."

Despite the partisan dynamics that have driven the White Coat Waste Project's campaign against funding for the Wuhan Institute of Virology, Bellotti told BuzzFeed News that his group's goal remains finding ways to unite Democrats and Republicans on defunding animal experiments backed by the US government. "We didn't know when we launched this that it would get partisan in the way it did," he said.

The White Coat Waste Project's latest campaign, again tapping into concern about US taxpayer dollars going to the nation's most powerful adversaries, might just have broader political appeal. Less than a week after Russia's invasion of Ukraine, it published a new blog post: "Breaking: WCW Discovers NIH Pays For Cruel Kitten Experiments…in Russia!" ●

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

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Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

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Date: Fri, 21 Jul 2023 1:00:48 PM -0400
Sent: Fri, 21 Jul 2023 1:00:02 PM -0400
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Fwd: Fauci, Birx, Francis Collins, Baric, Azar, Daszak, Bourla, Bancel, Jha, Njoo, Theresa Tam, Walensky, Doug Ford, Williams, Kieran, Marks, de Villa, Jüni, Hotez, Tedros, CDC, FDA officials, HANG high!
From: David Morens < (b) (6)
To: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] < (b) (6)

David M. Morens, MD
(b) (6)
(b) (6)

(b) (6)
(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, Dec 31, 2022 at 1:53 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: Peter Daszak < (b) (6) >
Cc: Aleksei Chmura < (b) (6) >, David Morens < (b) (6) >, Gerald Keusch < (b) (6) >, Jeffrey Sturchio < (b) (6) >, Rich Roberts <(b) (6) >

This week I had some of the lead antivaxxers: Robert Malone, Peter Koury, Peter McCullough, and Steve Kirsch all hang up on me with online harassment. Now a new round of death threats. It never ends

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP

Texas Children's Hospital: Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics | Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development | Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

Baylor College of Medicine: Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine | Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology | Health Policy Scholar

Baylor University, University Professor

Rice University, Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty

Texas A&M University, Faculty-Senior Fellow, Hagler Inst for Advanced Study & Scowcroft Institute of Intl Affairs

E-mail | Twitter | LinkedIn | Skype: (b) (6)

Amazon Author Center | Daily Beast Contributor

Senior Coordinator & Executive Support: Douglas Soriano

(b) (6) | Phone: (b) (6) | Fax: 713-798-2299

Media Inquiries:

(b) (6)

(b) (6)

(b) (6)

iPhone

On Dec 31, 2022, at 12:17 PM, Peter Daszak < (b) (6) > wrote:

CAUTION: This email is not from a BCM Source. Only click links or open attachments you know are safe.

Not pleasant reading but thanks for sharing this link. It's a stream-of-consciousness diatribe that makes you think this guy is simply mentally ill, but actually he's a well-known right wing 'influencer', appearing on Steve Bannon's podcast, member of the Brownstone Institute and regular on other outlets. In the end, just probably a sad lonely person looking for outside validation. Still, pretty disturbing to read…

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak

President

EcoHealth Alliance

520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200

New York, NY 10018-6507

USA

Tel.: + (b) (6)

Website:
https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.ecohealthalliance.org%2F
&data=05%7C01%7Cdmorens%40niaid.nih.gov%7C9bba8324009f4370d49308db8a0c0602%7C14b77578977342d585
&sdata=1a9D8756DbXs%2FNdXsCvxlqEpvKc1YcaL8X5ZfXEB6U0%3D &reserved=0

Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

From: Hotez, Peter Jay < (b) (6)
Sent: Tuesday, December 27, 2022 2:16 PM
To: Peter Daszak < (b) (6) >; Aleksei Chmura < (b) (6) >; David Morens < (b) (6) >; Gerald Keusch < (b) (6) >; Jeffrey Sturchio < (b) (6) >; Rich Roberts < (b) (6) >
Subject: Fauci, Birx, Francis Collins, Baric, Azar, Daszak, Bourla, Bancel, Jha, Njoo, Theresa Tam, Walensky, Doug Ford, Williams, Kieran, Marks, de Villa, Jüni, Hotez, Tedros, CDC, FDA officials, HANG high!

https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fpalexander.substack.com%2Fp%2Ffauci-birx-francis-collins-azar-bourla
&data=05%7C01%7Cdmorens%40niaid.nih.gov%7C9bba8324009f4370d49308db8a0c0602%7C14b77578977342d585
&sdata=LOEVDU41ZrWRMnp0O5t38Ud41Dz4AZaVSy4kaFWAGrE%3D &reserved=0

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP

Texas Children's Hospital: Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics |
Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development
| Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

Baylor College of Medicine: Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine
| Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology &
Microbiology | Health Policy Scholar

Baylor University, University Professor

Rice University, Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty

Texas A&M University, Faculty-Senior Fellow, Hagler Inst for Advanced
Study & Scowcroft Institute of Intl Affairs

E-mail | Twitter | LinkedIn | Skype: (b) (6)

Amazon Author Center | Daily Beast Contributor

Senior Coordinator & Executive Support: Douglas Soriano

(b) (6) | Phone: (b) (6) | Fax: 713-798-2299

Media Inquiries:

(b) (6)

(b) (6)

(b) (6)

iPhone

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and are confident the content is safe.

MORENS_SUBPOENA_002983
MORENS_NIH_009499
REL0000481599

Date: Tue, 26 Apr 2022 12:12:46 PM -0400
Sent: Tue, 26 Apr 2022 12:12:39 PM -0400
Subject: RE: Investigation of Peter Daszak
From: Peter Daszak < (b) (6)
To: Roberts, Rich < (b) (6) Keusch, Gerald T < (b) (6) Hotez, Peter Jay < (b) (6)
David Morens < (b) (6)
CC: Aleksei Chmura < (b) (6)

No – not yet. I'll forward it as soon as I hear from them. No doubt they're going through multiple levels of decision making and debate before they respond. Same story as NIH – likely all focused on how they can manage this to get the best outcome for their organization's reputation, and not on how they can defend scientists and science that are under attack.

As an almost-amusing aside, I looked up Cathy McMorriss Rodgers on the web and found out that she 1) doesn't believe in evolution, and 2) when asked about the age of the earth, responded that the answer to that is in the bible. I just can't believe that someone of her obvious anti-science persuasion is being taken seriously by the NAM, but of course their actual allegations are extremely detailed and based on layers of false premises, so the narrative works in many people's eyes.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

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Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

From: Roberts, Rich <(b) (6) n>
Sent: Tuesday, April 26, 2022 9:38 AM
To: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) Keusch, Gerald T (b) (6) Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6) ;
David Morens (b) (6)
Cc: Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) >
Subject: RE: Investigation of Peter Daszak

Peter:

Did you receive a response to this letter?

Rich

Richard J. Roberts
New England Biolabs

MORENS_SUBPOENA_008127
MORENS_NIH_017699
REL0000481602

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: Tuesday, April 26, 2022 9:28 AM
To: Keusch, Gerald T (b) (6) >; Roberts, Rich <(b) (6) Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6) >; David Morens <(b) (6)
Cc: Aleksei Chmura (b) (6)
Subject: RE: Investigation of Peter Daszak

EXTERNAL SENDER

I really appreciate your email to Victor Jerry.

Since this is all in the public domain, I've attached the response I sent to NAM on Friday re. their decision to do a full investigation of some of these allegations against me and EcoHealth. It's much weaker and wimpier than I'd like, but just as with the NIH situation, I'm in no position to fight back since my future is entirely in the hands of a small group behind closed doors.

I'm extremely worried that Victor doesn't have the mettle to stand up to this political pressure. I believe he's just hoping that he can walk the line of least resistance between the political attacks – which are coordinated and relentless – and any protests from scientists (which haven't really begun re. this issue). My worry is that this cold calculation means he's going to do his utmost to protect NAM against receiving direct criticism from politicians on the right should they not provide them with a pound of flesh, and this means throwing me and EcoHealth under the bus. This is likely the same calculation made by Collins, Tabak and Lauer at NIH, who stated publicly that EcoHealth has a long history of lack of compliance, despite us providing documentary evidence that this is false.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

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USA

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Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

From: 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

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: (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)) <(b) (6)
Cc: Vermund, Sten (b) (6) ; (b) (6)
Subject: Investigation of Peter Daszak

Dear Victor,

I am surprised to see the Republican members of the House Energy and Commerce Committee providing information to Fox News about supposedly confidential procedures at NAM. They of course are repeating the baseless accusations we discussed previously, but there is the uncomfortable reality that when lies are repeated time after time people begin to believe them. But now this is in the public domain. NAM no longer has the luxury of working through this in protected space. You are in the spotlight, and like it or not you and the Academy are being dragged into this dreadful episode in the history of science.

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

MORENS_SUBPOENA_008129
MORENS_NIH_017701
REL0000481602

Peter and his career and his organization which has generated so much critical science for the past 20 years. But beyond Peter it is the very integrity of science and the stewardship of science and separation of politics away from science that is so threatened by these accusations.

I am convinced there will be an uproar at NAM if there is any adverse judgement passed on Peter and his integrity. Please stop it in its tracks while you can.

Jerry

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Date: Fri, 26 Apr 2024 1:21:03 AM -0400
Sent: Fri, 26 Apr 2024 1:20:42 AM -0400
Subject: Re: Details and a link to my upcoming Public Hearing
From: Hotez, Peter Jay < (b) (6)
To: Peter Daszak < (b) (6)
CC: (< (b) (6) Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6) Jeff Sturchio < (b) (6) >; Roberts, Rich < (b) (6) (b) (6) Aleksei Chmura < (b) (6) John Feigelson < (b) (6)
Attachments: image003.jpg; image004.jpg; image005.png; image005.png; image005.png; image005.png; image005.png; image005.png; image003.jpg; image005.png; image005.png; image004.jpg

Dear Peter: this Sunday I'm in DC at NAS on a panel with Tony Fauci, Michael Mann, and Akiko Iwasaki discussing the political attacks on scientists and I plan to comment on these horrific congressional hearings, best Peter

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP

Texas Children's Hospital: Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics | Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development | Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

Baylor College of Medicine: Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine | Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology | Health Policy Scholar

Baylor University, University Professor
Rice University, Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty
Texas A&M University, Faculty-Senior Fellow, Hagler Inst for Advanced Study & Scowcroft Institute of Intl Affairs

E-mail | Twitter | LinkedIn | Skype: (b) (6)
Amazon Author Center | Daily Beast Contributor

Senior Coordinator & Executive Support: Douglas Soriano
(b) (6) | Phone: (b) (6) | Fax: 713-798-2299

Media Inquiries:
(b) (6)
(b) (6)

iPhone

On Apr 25, 2024, at 10:35 PM, Peter Daszak < (b) (6) > wrote:

CAUTION: This email is not from a BCM Source. Only click links or open attachments you know are safe.

Dear colleagues,

Sadly we're getting close to my upcoming public hearing with the SSCP. There are some details and a link below that you can use to watch it live on the day: https://uspolitics.einnews.com/pr_news/706672646/hearing- advisory-ecohealth-alliance-president-dr-peter-daszak-to-testify-on-may-1

Hearing Advisory: EcoHealth

Alliance President Dr. Peter Daszak to Testify on May 1

WASHINGTON — On May 1, 2024 at 10:00am ET, the Select Subcommittee on the Coronavirus Pandemic will hold a hearing titled, "A Hearing with the President of EcoHealth Alliance, Dr. Peter Daszak." This hearing will examine EcoHealth Alliance's (EcoHealth) use of U.S. taxpayer dollars to fund dangerous gain-of-function research at the Wuhan Institute of Virology as well as hold Dr. Daszak publicly accountable for any and all discrepancies between his closed-door transcribed interview and available evidence. Prior to Dr. Daszak's public testimony, the Select Subcommittee will release the full transcript from Dr. Daszak's transcribed interview and publish a detailed report about EcoHealth's impact on the origins of COVID-19.

Read more about Dr. Daszak's upcoming hearing here.

WHAT: Hearing titled "A Hearing with the President of EcoHealth Alliance, Dr. Peter Daszak"

DATE: Wednesday, May 1, 2024

TIME: 10:00AM ET

LOCATION: 2154 Rayburn House Office Building

WITNESS:

Dr. Peter Daszak

President

EcoHealth Alliance, Inc.

WATCH: The hearing will be open to the public and press and will be livestreamed online at https://oversight.house.gov/hearing/a- hearing-with-the-president-of-ecohealth-alliance-dr-peter-daszak/.

RSVP: Media must be congressionally credentialed and RSVP by Tuesday, May 1 at 5:00 PM ET.

###

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

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520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507

MORENS_NIH_047254
REL0000481615

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: Wednesday, April 24, 2024 6:37 PM
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: Now public that Tony Fauci will testify in front of SSCP on June 3rd

I do not I t have a date yet. My lawyer is ne
motivating with sscp

In the meantime, my law.yers have initiated a professional deep dive into my Gmail and Proton mail,and will turn that over to sscp. This will take some time. I doubt there is anything to find but of course. they will look for crumbs to blow up into mountains. d

Sent from Proton Mail Android

-------- Original Message --------
On 4/24/24 17:33, Peter Daszak wrote:

> I've attached a pdf of the story in the Washington Post (it's behind a paywall) – also here: https://www.washingtonpost.com/health/2024/04/24/fauci- congress-testimony-pandemic/.
>
> David – have your lawyers managed to get a date for you to testify yet?

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507

MORENS_NIH_047255
REL0000481615

USA

Tel.: + (b) (6)
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

---

From: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >
Sent: Friday, April 19, 2024 9:15 PM
To: (b) (6) <(b) (6) 'Keusch, Gerald T' (b) (6) >; 'Jeff Sturchio' <
j (b) (6) 'Roberts, Rich' <(b) (6)
(b) (6) >
Cc: 'Aleksei Chmura' <(b) (6) >; 'John Feigelson (b) (6) >
Subject: RE: Today's news...

By the way – Allegations that me sending information to David Morens is somehow corrupt are outrageous. Tony Fauci was busy working with the White House COVID taskforce at the time, trying to halt the worse pandemic since the 1918 influenza outbreak. I would have happy emailed him directly, but pretty sure he wasn't checking each of his 50,000 emails a day!

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

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520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
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USA

Tel.: +1- (b) (6)
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

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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) (6)

MORENS_NIH_047256
REL0000481615

Subject: Today's news...

Had a very successful EcoHealth Alliance benefit last night – sorry some of you couldn't be there.

Michael Mann was our main honoree, and he was great! We raised well above our expectation – all critical to keeping us afloat given the increased pressure we're under right now.

Speaking of which – here's the latest attempt from the SSCP to smear David Morens, EcoHealth Alliance and others as being involved in a 'cover up'

https://nypost.com/2024/04/19/us- news/ex-fauci-adviser-shared-confidential-nih-info-with-ecohealth-about-covid-biosafety-levels-docs/

Basically, they've found an email from me to David, Jerry others when the allegations that EcoHealth expts were conducted at an insufficient BSL level first came out. Tony Fauci was interviewed and said that he would look into it. I sent David M. a review I'd done of the BSL rules for Bat CoVs in various countries, which clearly show that we were operating at the correct biosafety levels.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
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USA

Tel.: + (b) (6)
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

From: (<(b) (6)
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

MORENS_NIH_047257
REL0000481615

-------- Original Message --------
On 4/16/24 20:59, Peter Daszak wrote:

Unpleasant to see him criticize me and EcoHealth today, in a pretty shoddy attempt to curry favor with the SSCP:

https://x.com/COVIDSelect/status/1780332154620092505

Here's the text of the tweet:

Select Subcommittee on the Coronavirus Pandemic

@COVIDSelect

@ScienceMagazine

AGREES that EcoHealth Alliance may have misled the U.S. government about its highly controversial DEFUSE proposal — which some believe created a blueprint for

COVID-19. WATCH

You can see the video of him criticizing our work here:

https://youtu.be/Oru0-fYGcJU

The relevant section starts at 1hour, 31 minutes and 30 seconds into the video

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

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520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
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Tel.: +1-[redacted] (b) (6)
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

MORENS_NIH_047258
REL0000481615

From: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >
Sent: Tuesday, April 16, 2024 3:22 PM
To: (b) (6) >; 'Keusch, Gerald T' (b) (6) >; 'Jeff Sturchio' <(b) (6) Roberts, Rich' (b) (6) >; 'Hotez, Peter Jay' <(b) (6) (b) (6) ' (b) (6) >
Cc: Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) >; John Feigelson <(b) (6) >
Subject: COVID Select Subcommittee subpoena to David Morens for correspondence etc.
Importance: High

Here is today's subpoena & a cover letter to David Morens from the SSCP for all correspondence with the following people, related to WIV, EcoHealth or COVID origins or "regarding or referencing the following people". He has to produce this by April 30th

No direct demand for public hearing has been made public yet.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: + (b) (6)
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

From: (>
Sent: Monday, April 15, 2024 8:39 PM
To: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >; Keusch, Gerald T (b) (6) ; Jeff Sturchio <((b) (6) (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**
>
> **Select Subcommittee on the Coronavirus Pandemic**
>
> @COVIDSelect
>
> BREAKING
> @EcoHealthNYC
> President Dr. Peter Daszak CONFIRMS whistleblower allegations that Dr. David Morens — a top advisor to Dr. Fauci — used Gmail to hide COVID-19 information. We are beginning the process to secure Dr. Morens's public testimony.



From washingtonexaminer.com

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

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EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

From: <(b) (6)
Sent: Friday, April 12, 2024 1:37 PM
To: Peter Daszak < (b) (6) Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6) >; Jeff Sturchio (b) (6) 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

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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

Peter Daszak
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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
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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*

MORENS_NIH_047264
REL0000481615

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)
(b) (6)

Subject: RE: Confidential - NIH still hampering EcoHealth's ability to conduct work 4 years since the termination of our grant
Importance: High

I have good answers for you on all of those – it's ugly and political. There are also others who are well-placed who you can talk with.

I can do Wednesday at 5:30pm my time if that works for you (2:30pm West Coast). I have other times as well… cc'ing Alison who will make sure we find a time that works.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

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EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

From: Michael Hiltzik (b) (6)
Sent: Saturday, April 6, 2024 6:50 PM
To: Peter Daszak (b) (6)
Subject: Re: Confidential - NIH still hampering EcoHealth's ability to conduct work 4 years since the termination of our grant

Peter,

Let's set up a time to talk next week (Wednesday or later best for me). On first glance, it strikes me that I'm glad I'm not in the grants-application business, because the bureaucratic behavior here seems incomprehensible, at least to a

MORENS_NIH_047265
REL0000481615

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> 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.

MORENS_NIH_047266
REL0000481615

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
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MORENS_NIH_047268
REL0000481615

Date: Sun, 1 May 2022 9:37:55 PM -0400
Sent: Sun, 1 May 2022 9:37:45 PM -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: "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

---

Call on me to testify or whatever I have an entire section about you in my new book on antiscience aggression

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP
Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine
Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology
Health Policy Scholar
Baylor College of Medicine

Texas Children's Hospital Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics
Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development

University Professor, Baylor University

Faculty Fellow, Hagler Institute for Advanced Study
Senior Fellow, Scowcroft Institute of International Affairs
Texas A&M University
Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty and Adjunct Professor of Bioengineering, Rice University
Adjunct Professor, University of Texas, School of Public Health

Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

E-mail: (b) (6)
Twitter: @peterhotez
Skype: (b) (6)
Linkedin Peter Hotez

Amazon Author Center: https://www.amazon.com/Peter- J.-Hotez/e/B001HPIC48
Daily Beast Contributor https://www.thedailybeast.com/author/peter- j-hotez
Like us on Facebook https://www.facebook.com/BCMNationalSchoolOfTropicalMedicine/

Senior Coordinator / Executive Support: Douglas Soriano
(b) (6)
Phone: (b) (6)
Fax: 713-798-2299

iPhone

On May 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

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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

MORENS_SUBPOENA_008263
MORENS_NIH_018135
REL0000481616

President

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---

From: Fuentes-Afflick, Elena (b) (6) >
Sent: Saturday, April 30, 2022 2:06 PM
To: Peter Daszak (>; 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) >
Sent: Tuesday, April 26, 2022 5:14 PM
To: Dzau, Victor J. <(b) (6) Fuentes-Afflick, Elena (b) (6) >; Kim, Se < (b) (6) u>
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/).

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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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Date: Fri, 21 Jul 2023 1:03:01 PM -0400
Subject: Fwd: Sachs and Relman quoted again today
From: David Morens <(b) (6)
To: David Morens < (b) (6)
Attachments: image001.png; image002.jpg; image008.png

David M. Morens, MD
(b) (6)
(b) (6)

(b) (6) m
(b) (6) (work)
(b) (6) (cell)

IMPORTANT: My gmail frequently sends incoming messages to Trash, which is apparently not correctable. If you don't hear from me in a reasonable time, please try again, call, or use my NIH email address

IMPORTANT: For US Government-related email, please also reply to my NIAID address

---------- Forwarded message --------
From: **Peter Daszak** < (>
b
Date: Fri, Jul 1, 2022 at 11:02 AM
Subject: RE: Sachs and Relman quoted again today
To: Roberts, Rich <(b) (6) >, Hotez, Peter Jay < (>
Cc: Gerald T Keusch <(b) (6) , Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) David Morens <
(b) (6) , Jeffrey Sturchio(b) (6)

Good one Rich!

Cheers,

MORENS_SUBPOENA_006267
MORENS_NIH_015157
REL0000481617

Peter

Peter Daszak

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EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

---

From: Roberts, Rich (b) (6)
Sent: Friday, July 1, 2022 10:23 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: Sachs and Relman quoted again today

You know physicists discovered electrons, protons and neutrons – but they missed the morons.

Rich

MORENS_SUBPOENA_006268
MORENS_NIH_015158
REL0000481617

Richard J. Roberts

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Fax: (978) 412 9910

email: (b) (6)

From: Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6)
Sent: Friday, July 1, 2022 9:46 AM
To: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >
Cc: Roberts, Rich (b) (6) >; Gerald T Keusch <(b) (6) Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) >; David Morens <(b) (6) >; Jeffrey Sturchio <(b) (6)
Subject: Re: Sachs and Relman quoted again today

EXTERNAL SENDER

It's getting crazy again

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP
Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine
Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology
Health Policy Scholar
Baylor College of Medicine

Texas Children's Hospital Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics
Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development

University Professor, Baylor University

Faculty Fellow, Hagler Institute for Advanced Study
Senior Fellow, Scowcroft Institute of International Affairs
Texas A&M University
Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty and Adjunct Professor of Bioengineering, Rice University
Adjunct Professor, University of Texas, School of Public Health

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Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

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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)
Phone: (b) (6)
Fax: 713-798-2299

iPhone

On Jul 1, 2022, at 8:37 AM, Peter Daszak <(b) (6) > wrote:

We've been fielding questions all week from a reporter at US Right to Know because they've FoIA'd another batch of emails. Here's an article today claiming that Ian Lipkin should have reported working with EHA as a 'Conflict of Interest' for his Nature Medicine paper with Kristian Andersen et al. back in Feb 2020.

Here's the link: https://usrtk.org/biohazards- blog/anti-lab-leak-virologist-ecohealth-alliance-partner/

You'll be irritated to see quotes from Jeff Sachs and David Relman. Everyone seems happy with the idea that somehow collaborating with EcoHealth Alliance means you have a conflict of interest in this world of fake COVID origin stories.

The article is also utterly disingenuous in pretending it took a FoIA lawsuit to find out that Ian Lipkin collaborated with us. All it would have taken is a 5 second Google Search.

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MORENS_NIH_015160
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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)

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MORENS_NIH_015161
REL0000481617

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 on the correspondence.

Significant questions remain. It's still unclear how the authors dispelled their own private concerns that the virus had been engineered within a couple of days.

For example, Lipkin privately voiced concerns to his coauthors about a "nightmare of circumstantial evidence" pointing to the Wuhan Institute of Virology, Vanity Fair reported.

It's also unknown to what extent leaders of the National Institutes of Health, which funded the EcoHealth Alliance, may have shaped the paper.

Grant reports that led a reporter to the defunct link showing Lipkin's partnership with EcoHealth Alliance were obtained through a Freedom of Information Act request to the U.S. Agency for International Development.

Biohazards, Biohazards Blog Anthony Fauci, David Relman, EcoHealth Alliance, Ian Lipkin, Jeff Sachs, Kristian Andersen, Peter Daszak, proximal origin, Robert Garry, The Lancet's COVID Commission, Virologist, Wuhan Institute of Virology

Cheers,

Peter

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Website:

MORENS_SUBPOENA_006274
MORENS_NIH_015164
REL0000481617

Date: Sun, 9 May 2021 2:28:38 PM -0400
Sent: Sun, 9 May 2021 2:26:41 PM -0400
Subject: RE: Another letter - almost amusing - from House E&C Committee Republicans re. Zhengli's "Blah Blah" comment
From: Peter Daszak < (b) (6)
To: Roberts, Rich < (b) (6) David Morens < (b) (6)
CC: Keusch, Gerald T < (b) (6) Aleksei Chmura < (b) (6) Robert Kessler < (b) (6) Taubenberger, Jeffery (NIH/NIAID) [E] < (b) (6)

Thanks Rich – it's very good of you to do this. I'm trying to avoid public comments on this Wade document, but it's really hard not to speak out when you see the blatant lies in the document.

I see that the conspiracists are also trying to pick off signatories of our Lancet letter. I think I'll write to them also this week to let them know what's been happening.

Cheers,

Peter

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EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

From: Roberts, Rich <(b) (6) >
Sent: Saturday, May 8, 2021 10:55 PM
To: Peter Daszak (b) (6) >; David Morens (b) (6) >
Cc: Keusch, Gerald T (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

Peter:

Here is the letter that went out to all the NLs who signed the original petition.

"Dear …..,

Most, if not all of you, will have received a communication from Andre Goffinet who is trying hard to add to the rumors that the virus causing COVID-19 leaked from a lab in the Virology Institute in Wuhan. A recent, apparently well-argued article by Nicholas Wade (attached) professes neutrality, but really just tries by innuendo to promote this view that the virus leaked from the Wuhan lab. One victim of this Chinese lab origin campaign is Peter Daszak whom we all supported when he lost his grant. He has been harassed continually, received death threats and is hounded by the Republicans in Congress. All because he has been working for years to study bat viruses in collaboration with scientists at the Wuhan Institute of Virology. I attach a short piece that Peter wrote about recent events, including a rebuttal of some of Wade's claims and a separate document outlining the

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events that took place and are relevant to the termination of his grant.

Finally, I might add that Goffinet wrote to me about a month ago, implying that because I have organized conferences in China I might too be part of the conspiracy to present the Chinese view of events. As a result, he would like you to believe that I solicited your help merely to support Peter and the Chinese. This is simply untrue. He failed to mention that the clear purpose of our statement was to decry the political interference in stopping the funding of a peer-reviewed grant.

Rich"

Already a number of people have written back – all supporting you.

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, May 8, 2021 8:11 PM
To: David Morens <(b) (6) >
Cc: Roberts, Rich <(b) (6) Keusch, Gerald T <(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

No problem – haven't really had a day off since I began my Ph.D....luckily my wife's also a scientist, so gets it.

Cheers,

Peter

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EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

From: David Morens <(b) (6)
Sent: Saturday, May 8, 2021 5:39 PM
To: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >
Cc: Roberts. Rich <(b) (6) >; Keusch, Gerald T (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

Peter, thanks fir this really helpful info! Although there still seem to be missing pieces, it is good to know that so many top notch folks have looked At this so carefully. I feel MUCH better now, and sorry to have eaten up much of your "day off" (as if aNy of us have days off anymore). D

Sent from my iPhone
David M Morens
OD, NIAID, NIH

On May 8, 2021, at 17:14, Peter Daszak <(b) (6) > wrote:

Hi David – answers/comments in the body of your email below…

Cheers,

Peter

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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: Saturday, May 8, 2021 3:53 PM
To: Peter Daszak (b) (6) >; Roberts, Rich (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

Peter, I still need to get more educated on furin cleavage sites in coronaviruses. A few articles, e.g., the one attached, claim that in the evolutionary history of multiple different coronaviruses, FCS's do appear

independently, although this is less common in sarbecoviruses. Is that your understanding?

[Peter Daszak:] yes – it seems to be uncommon

And is there any idea what determinants might favor insertion of these sites. Also, do we know about the levels of expression of furin in cells of mammals that might be sarbecovirus co-hosts? I assume that all such mammals have furin activity similar to humns, but is that known?

[Peter Daszak:] not really known well, or discussed that I've seen.

I ask this because the notion that a furin cleavage site indicates human engineered origin needs to be rebutted or at least countered. This is one of several of the Wade points that will appear, to the layman, to be damning. David

[Peter Daszak:] This has been rebutted regularly since January 2020. It was the key reason that this whole lab leak idea was discussed at the White House level in the first place. It was missed by Zhengli in her Nature paper. Likewise, Ralph Baric missed it when he first looked at the SARS-CoV-2 genome sequences in early Jan. Apparently Trevor Bedford & Eddie Holmes pointed it out to Jeremy Farrar, saying it could indicate lab origin (i.e. a virus that gained a furin cleavage site during cell culture). Jeremy mentioned it to Fauci, who mentioned it to Bob Kadlec (if I remember correctly) at the WH. They then convened a panel via NAM to discuss that included me, Ralph and the others. Ralph pointed out that it could have been acquired naturally during human-to-human transmission. I pointed out that it could have been acquired during transmission through an intermediate host. We all pointed out that influenza, and other CoVs have these, although rare. That ad hoc committee then transformed into the NASEM COVID-19 rapid response committee that became largely ignored under Trump and has now basically ended.

There have been lots of active virologists rebutting the theory that the presence of a furin cleavage insertion indicates lab leak because these are found in nature, and because close relatives of SARS-CoV-2 have insertions albeit slightly different sequences at the same site. Here are some links with rebuttals or discussion:

> ***Kristian Andersen pointing out that the furin cleavage site is seen repeatedly across the CoV phylogenetic tree:*** *https://twitter.com/K_G_Andersen/status/1330565966745403392?s=20*
>
> ***The article on Virological.org that he refers to:*** *https://virological.org/t/naturally-occurring-indels-in-multiple-coronavirus-spikes/560*
>
> ***Florian Krammer arguing on Twitter with a lab-leak conspiracist:***
> *https://twitter.com/florian_krammer/status/1390347972458725380?s=20*
>
> ***Interesting article showing that the RmYN02 similar site suggests natural evolutionary origin:***
> *https://virological.org/t/the-sarbecovirus-origin-of-sars-cov-2-s-furin-cleavage-site/536*
>
> ***Interesting article from Vincent Racaniello pointing out other Human CoVs (which are thought to have originated in bats by the way) also have insertions at this site:*** *https://www.virology.ws/2020/05/14/sars-cov-2-furin-cleavage-site-revisited/*

As you can see when you read these, people who know about these things do not find them unusual and certainly don't believe it demonstrates (or even could be considered leaning towards) a lab origin. Unfortunately, it's just scientifically complicated enough to convince the intelligent reader. Throw in phrases like "Gain of function" or "Seamless ligation" and then sprinkle "lab biosafety concerns from state dept cables", and voila, you have a very exciting story – good enough for a science fiction novel, but absolutely not science fact!

T

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On 5/8/2021 2:26 PM, Peter Daszak wrote:

> Appreciate your comments David. Please read the letter I just sent to Rich Roberts. I've made some quick comments to refute some of the stuff in the Wade piece. RE. the furin cleavage site – there's nothing special about it and it does not suggest a lab origin. MERS-CoV, feline CoV and some rat CoVs all have similar insertions. Simple explanations for its presence in SARS-CoV-2 could be:
>
> > It was present in a bat-CoV (one of the many thousands awaiting our discovery), and we selected for its spillover by having 14 million people working in wildlife farms in china in places where bats live. Given a continued exposure to myriad bat-CoVs, one with a furin cleavage site would be more likely to emerge
> >
> > It evolved in people early on in the COVID outbreak. WHO report and modeling suggest spillover occurred in last few months of 2019. It could have easily been selected for as the virus spread from human-to-human during that early period
> >
> > It evolved after a progenitor bat-CoV spilled over into wildlife in farms in S. China. SARS-CoV-2 spillover into mink in Europe led to rapid evolution of strains that bore similarities to pangolin-CoVs. Mink strains then re-infected people in the Netherlands. Now, there's a report of mink clearing the virus, showing antibodies to SARS-CoV-2 and being reinfected later – all good evidence that farms full of raccoon dogs, ferret badgers and civets in S. China could have had circulation of SARS-CoV-2 for many months prior to it emerging.
>
> Hope this all helps. One day, the research will be done and all this will be demonstrated. Unfortunately, the one group that had access to China to do this work (EcoHealth) is currently blocked from doing it!
>
> Cheers,
>
> Peter

Peter Daszak
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From: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b) (6)
Sent: Saturday, May 8, 2021 1:16 PM
To: Peter Daszak < (b) (6) Roberts, Rich < (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

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

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REL0000481619

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 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

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MORENS_SUBPOENA_014732
MORENS_NIH_030384
REL0000481619

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:

Probably not too helpful to describe every growth of a virus in a lab is a GOF experiment.

Rich

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Fax: (978) 412 9910
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.

Cheers,

Peter

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President

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Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
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) g >; 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

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laboratory leak from the WIV." This could be taken in a positive sense, that the documents will refute the lab release hypothesis, although I don't think that's how they mean it.

Regarding what Peter previously said about Shi's use of the phrase blah blah, which will surely be characterized as dismissive and therefore put into a negative perspective. I have access to a senior endowed full professor of Chinese politics at Harvard and I asked about the meaning of blah blah when a Chinese native speaker uses it while speaking English. Here is the answer:

"In my experience many Chinese mistakenly use "blah, blah" as equivalent to the Chinese term "deng, deng" which means "and so forth" and has no negative connotation."

So Peter was right, and now we know the Chinese term it is trying to translate, however awkwardly. This might be useful in any conversation with a report about her remarks or the Republicans letter.

Jerry

From: David Morens <(b) (6)
Sent: Friday, May 7, 2021 6:58 AM
To: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >
Cc: Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6) Roberts, Rich (b) (6) >; Aleksei Chmura < (b) (6) >; Robert Kessler < (b) (6) >
Subject: Re: Another letter - almost amusing - from House E&C Committee Republicans re. Zhengli's "Blah Blah" comment

Peter, i will reply eventually when i get some time, but until then, note yet another Josh Rogin editorial in this morning's Post, this time disclosing the Republican letter to Tony, which i have not yet seen and may or may not see. D

Sent from my iPhone
David M Morens
OD, NIAID, NIH

On May 6, 2021, at 23:34, Peter Daszak (b) (6) > wrote:

Sorry for yet another email, but this one is so bizarre it's almost funny. It's a letter from the House E&C Committee 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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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) (b) (6) >; Keusch, Gerald T (b) (6) 'Roberts, Rich' (b) (6) >
Cc: 'Aleksei Chmura (b) (6) (b) (6) (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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Date: Fri, 16 Apr 2021 4:56:54 PM -0400
Sent: Fri, 16 Apr 2021 4:55:02 PM -0400
Subject: RE: It doesn't rain, but it pours… Request from Republicans in House Committee & information re. requirement for biosafety monitoring reports for our current CREID funding at NIH
From: Peter Daszak < (b) (6)
To: Keusch, Gerald T < (b) (6) David Morens < (b) (6) Roberts, Rich < (b) (6)

One of the Republican's responsible has, of course, already made the letter public:

https://twitter.com/cathymcmorris/status/1383145801678008324

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

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From: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >
Sent: Friday, April 16, 2021 4:51 PM
To: 'Keusch, Gerald T' <(b) (6) >; 'David Morens (b) (6) Roberts, Rich < (b) (6)
Subject: It doesn't rain, but it pours... Request from Republicans in House Committee & information re. requirement for biosafety monitoring reports for our current CREID funding at NIH
Importance: High

Just to let you know today I received a letter from the Minority on the House Committee on Energy and Commerce with about 20+ questions re. our work with China. Some of it is frankly offensive and clearly has racist overtone, e.g. name our Mandarin-speaking staff at EcoHealth! In any case, I've passed it on to our lawyers, and I believe I don't have to either acknowledge receipt, or respond in any way. I've cc'd the letters here, so you can get a feel for the sort of gibberish they're putting out. It's largely direct quotes from conspiracy theorists on the web, and actually cites some of them. These shouldn't be made public yet, because I'm not responding and it just amplifies conspiracies.

The second point is regarding the request from Lauer for details of our biosafety monitoring documents over the last 7 yrs. I think this is bogus because I remember they re-issued our Notice of Award for our current U01 with a new clause on providing copies of our "Biosafety Monitoring Plans" 30 days after setting up a subcontract. Why would Lauer on the one hand say this is encoded in the CFR, but then have program staff insert a new clause to our NoA to demand it. Anyway, I checked with one of the other contracts that's been awarded in the same CREID program and they were not asked for this, so it's simply targeting EHA directly

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with extra onerous process to cover NIH's demands and mistakes related to the R01 termination, I believe.

Cheers,

Peter

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Date: Tue, 16 Feb 2021 8:18:25 AM -0500
Sent: Tue, 16 Feb 2021 8:18:23 AM -0500
Subject: Re: u will love this.... FW: AP: The superspreaders behind top COVID-19 conspiracy theories
From: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] < (b) (6)
To: Peter Daszak < (b) (6)
CC: Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6)
Attachments: image001.gif; image002.jpg; image001.gif; image002.jpg

Peter, not sure when you are back, but as i emailed earlier, Tony would like a briefing. D

Sent from my iPhone
David M Morens
OD, NIAID, NIH

On Feb 16, 2021, at 07:10, Peter Daszak <(b) (6) > wrote:

Nice find David! Tweeting it out right now...

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
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From: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] <(b) (6)
Sent: Monday, February 15, 2021 12:56 PM
To: Peter Daszak ((b) (6))(b) (6) >; Keusch, Gerald T < (b) (6) >
Subject: u will love this.... FW: AP: The superspreaders behind top COVID-19 conspiracy theories

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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
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(b) (6)
(b) (6)

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From: Folkers, Greg (NIH/NIAID) [E] <(b) (6)
Sent: Monday, February 15, 2021 10:16 AM
Subject: AP: The superspreaders behind top COVID-19 conspiracy theories

The superspreaders behind top COVID-19 conspiracy theories

As the coronavirus spread, speculation about its origins was close behind
By DAVID KLEPPER, FARNOUSH AMIRI and BEATRICE DUPUY Associated Press
February 15, 2021, 1:13 AM
• 14 min read

As the coronavirus spread across the globe, so too did speculation about its origins. Perhaps the virus escaped from a lab. Maybe it was engineered as a bioweapon.

Legitimate questions about the virus created perfect conditions for conspiracy theories. In the absence of knowledge, guesswork and propaganda flourished.

Recent Stories from ABC News

College professors with no evidence or training in virology were touted as experts. Anonymous social media users posed as high-level intelligence officials. And from China to Iran to Russia to the United States, governments amplified claims for their own motives.

The Associated Press collaborated with the Atlantic Council's Digital Forensic Research Lab on a nine-month investigation to identify the people and organizations behind some of the most viral misinformation about the origins of

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the coronavirus.
Their claims were explosive. Their evidence was weak. These are the superspreaders.
FRANCIS BOYLE
WHO HE IS: A Harvard trained law professor at the University of Illinois, Boyle drafted a 1989 law banning biological weapons and has advised the nation of Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Palestinian Authority.
Boyle has no academic degree in virology or biology but is a longstanding critic of research on pathogens. He has claimed Israeli intelligence was involved in the 1993 World Trade Center bombing; that SARS, the swine flu and Ebola have been genetically modified; and that West Nile virus and Lyme disease escaped from a U.S. biowarfare lab. He has also claimed that Microsoft founder Bill Gates "was involved" in the spread of Zika.
COVID CLAIM: Boyle says the coronavirus is a genetically engineered bioweapon that escaped from a high-level lab in Wuhan, China. He maintains it shows signs of nanotechnological tinkering and the insertion of proteins from HIV, the human immunodeficiency virus. He alleges that U.S. researchers helped create it, and that thousands of doctors, scientists, and elected leaders are conspiring to hide the truth.
Boyle promoted his claim in an email to a list of news organizations and personal contacts on Jan. 24, 2020. That same day, he was interviewed on a podcast called "Geopolitics and Empire." That podcast was cited by a little-known Indian website, GreatGameIndia, and went viral, with Boyle's comments picked up and featured in Iranian-state TV, Russian state media, and fringe websites in the U.S. and around the world. He's since repeated his claims on Alex Jones' show Infowars.
EVIDENCE? Boyle bases his argument on circumstantial evidence: the presence of a Biosafety Level 4 lab in Wuhan, the fact that other viruses have escaped from other labs in the past, and his belief that governments around the world are engaged in a secret arms race over biological weapons.
Biosafety Level 4 labs - or BSL4 labs - have the highest level of biosafety precautions.
"It seemed to me that obviously, this came out of the Wuhan BSL 4," Boyle told The Associated Press, dismissing the accepted explanation that the virus emerged from the Wuhan market as "completely preposterous."
A World Heath Organization team concluded it was extremely unlikely the virus escaped from the Wuhan lab, and other experts have said the virus shows no signs of genetic manipulation.

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GREATGAMEINDIA
WHAT IT IS: A website that was an early promoter of the theory that the coronavirus was engineered.
Its Jan. 26, 2020, story on "Coronavirus bioweapon-How China Stole the Coronavirus From Canada and Weaponized It" was picked up by far-right financial blog Zero Hedge and shared to thousands of social media users before it was promoted by conservative website RedStateWatcher and received more than 6 million engagements.
COVID CLAIM: GreatGameIndia claims that the virus, which has now killed more than 2 million people worldwide, was first found in the lungs of a Saudi man and then sent to labs in the Netherlands and then Canada, where it was stolen by Chinese scientists. The article relies in part on speculation from Dany Shoham, a virologist and former lieutenant colonel in Israeli military intelligence.
Shoham was quoted discussing the possibility that COVID is linked to bioweapon research in a Jan. 26, 2020, article in the conservative U.S. newspaper The Washington Times. In that article, Shoham was quoted saying there was no evidence to support the idea that the virus has escaped from a lab, but GreatGameIndia did not include that context in its piece.
"We do stand by our report," said website co-founder Shelley Kasli wrote in an email. "In fact, recently Canadians released documents which corroborated our findings with Chinese scientists... A lot of information is still classified."
EVIDENCE? The coronavirus most likely first appeared in humans after jumping from an animal, a World Health Organization panel announced this month, saying an alternate theory that the virus leaked from a Chinese lab was unlikely.
America's top scientists have likewise concluded the virus is of natural origin, citing clues in its genome and its similarity to SARS, or severe acute respiratory syndrome. Vincent Racaniello, a professor of microbiology and immunology at Columbia University, who has been studying the virus since its genome was first recorded, has said it is clear that the virus was not engineered or accidentally released.
"It is something that is clearly selected in nature," Racaniello said. "There are two examples where the sequence tells us that humans had no hand in making this virus because they would not have known to do these things."

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THE CENTRE FOR RESEARCH ON GLOBALIZATION
WHAT IT IS: The Montreal-based center publishes articles on global politics and policy, including a healthy dose of conspiracy theories on vaccines and the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks. It's led by Michel Chossudovsky, a professor emeritus of economics at the University of Ottawa and a conspiracy theorist who has argued the U.S. military can control the weather.
The center publishes authors from around the world — many of whom have advanced baseless claims about the origins of the outbreak. In February, for instance, the center published an interview with Igor Nikulin suggesting the coronavirus

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was a U.S. bioweapon created to target Chinese people.
The center's website, globalresearch.ca., "has become deeply enmeshed in Russia's broader disinformation and propaganda ecosystem" by peddling anti-U.S. conspiracy theories, according to a 2020 U.S. State Department report which found that seven of its supposed writers do not even exist but were created by Russian military intelligence.
COVID CLAIM: While the center has published several articles about the virus, one suggesting it originated in the U.S. caught the attention of top Chinese officials.
On March 12, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Zhao Lijian retweeted an article published by the center titled: "China's Coronavirus: A Shocking Update. Did The Virus Originate in the US?"
"This article is very much important to each and every one of us," he posted in English on Twitter. "Please read and retweet it. COVID-19: Further Evidence that the Virus Originated in the US."
He also tweeted: "It might be US army who brought the epidemic to Wuhan. Be transparent! Make public your data! US owe us an explanation."
The story by Larry Romanoff, a regular author at the center, cites several debunked theories, including one that members of the U.S. military brought the virus to China during the Military World Games in fall 2019. Romanoff concludes that it has now "been proven" that the virus originated from outside of China, despite scientific consensus that it did.
EVIDENCE? The World Health Organization has concluded that the coronavirus emerged in China, where the first cases and deaths were reported. No evidence has surfaced to suggest the virus was imported into China by the U.S.
Chossudovsky and Romanoff did not respond to repeated messages seeking comment. Romanoff's biography lists him as a visiting professor at Fudan University in Shanghai, but he is not listed among the university's faculty. The university did not respond to an email asking about Romanoff's employment.
Romanoff's original article was taken down in the spring, but Zhao's tweet remains up.

———

IGOR NIKULIN
WHO IS HE? A four-time failed political candidate, Nikulin is prominently quoted in Russian state media and fringe publications in the west as a biologist and former weapons inspector in Iraq who served on a U.N. commission on biological and chemical weapons in the 1990s.
COVID CLAIM: Nikulin argues the U.S. created the virus and used it to attack China. He first voiced the belief in a Jan. 20, 2020, story by Zvezda, a state media outlet tied to the Russian military. He appeared on Russian state TV at least 18 times between Jan. 27, 2020, and late April of that year.
Once the virus reached the U.S., Nikulin changed his theory, saying "globalists" were using the virus to depopulate the earth.
Nikulin has expressed support for weaponizing misinformation to hurt the U.S. in the past. On his website, he suggests claiming the U.S. created HIV as a way to weaken America from within. Russian intelligence mounted a similar 1980s disinformation campaign dubbed "Operation INFEKTION."
"If you prove and declare... that the virus was bred in American laboratories, the American economy will collapse under the onslaught of billions of lawsuits by millions of AIDS carriers around the world," Nikulin wrote on his website.
EVIDENCE? Nikulin offered no evidence to support his assertions, and there are reasons to doubt his veracity.
Former U.N. weapons inspector Richard Butler, for whom Nikulin claims to have worked, said he had no memory of Nikulin, and that his story sounded "sloppily fabricated, and not credible."
No U.N. records could be found to confirm his employment.
In an exchange with the AP over Facebook, Nikulin insisted his claims and background are accurate, though he said some records from U.N. work were destroyed in an American bombing during the Iraq invasion.
When told that Butler didn't know him, Nikulin responded "This is his opinion."

———

GREG RUBINI
WHO HE IS: Greg Rubini is the name of an internet conspiracy theorist who claims to have high-level contacts in intelligence and listed his location on Twitter as "classified," until he was kicked off the platform. His posts have been retweeted thousands of times by supporters of QAnon, a conspiracy theory centered on the baseless belief that Trump is waging a secret campaign against enemies in the "deep state" and a secret sect of satanic pedophiles and cannibals.
COVID CLAIM: Rubini has tweeted that Dr. Anthony Fauci created the coronavirus and that it was used as a bioweapon to reduce the world's population and undermine Trump.
EVIDENCE? Rubini's doesn't appear to be the intelligence insider that he pretends to be.
Buzzfeed attempted to track down Rubini last year and determined it is the alias of a 61-year-old Italian man who has worked in marketing and music promotions. A previous version of his Twitter bio indicates he is a fan of classic rock and the films of Stanley Kubrick.
Attempts to reach Rubini online and through business contacts were unsuccessful.
Rubini has bristled at efforts to verify his claims. When a social media user asked: "My question to you @GregRubini is, 'Where and what is your proof?' Rubini responded curtly: "And my question is: why should I give it to you?"
Twitter suspended Rubini's account in November 2020 for repeated violations of its policies.

KEVIN BARRETT

WHO HE IS: A former lecturer on Islam at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, Barrett left the university amid criticism for his claims that the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks were orchestrated by people linked to the U.S. and Israeli governments.

Barrett calls himself "a professional conspiracy theorist, for want of a better term" and has argued government conspiracies were behind the 2004 Madrid bombing, the 2005 London bombing, the 2013 Boston Marathon bombing and the 2016 Orlando nightclub shooting.

COVID CLAIM: Barrett said he is "80%" sure coronavirus was created by elements within the U.S. government as a bioweapon and used to attack China.

Iran was a secondary target, he has argued. Writing for Iran's PressTV, he said the early outbreak in that country "suggests that the Americans and/or their partners the Israelis... may have deliberately attacked Iran."

Barrett further detailed his views during an interview with the AP.

"It seemed fairly obvious to me that the first hypothesis one would look at when something as extraordinary as this COVID pandemic hits, is that it would be a US bio-war strike," he said.

EVIDENCE? Barrett cited reports that the US warned its allies in November 2019 about a dangerous virus emerging from China. Barrett said that's long before authorities in China knew about the severity of the outbreak.

Official sources have denied issuing any warning. If the U.S. did know about the virus that soon, it was likely thanks to intelligence sources within China, which may have known about the virus as early as November 2019, according to former Secretary of State Mike Pompeo.

LUC MONTAGNIER

WHO HE IS: Montagnier is a world-renowned virologist who won the Nobel prize in 2008 for discovering HIV.

COVID CLAIM: During an April interview with the French news channel CNews, Montagnier claimed that the coronavirus did not originate in nature and was manipulated. Montagnier said that in the process of making the vaccine for AIDS, someone took the genetic material and added it to the coronavirus. Montagnier cites a retracted paper published in January from Indian scientists who had said they had found sequences of HIV in the coronavirus. AP made multiple unsuccessful attempts to contact Montagnier.

EVIDENCE: Experts who have looked at the genome sequence of the virus have said it has no HIV-1 sequences. In January, Indian scientists published a paper on bioRXIV, a repository for scientific papers that have not yet been peer-reviewed or published in a traditional scientific journal. The paper said that the scientists had found "uncanny similarity of unique inserts" in COVID-19 and HIV. Social media users picked up the paper as proof that the virus was engineered. As soon as it was published, the scientific community widely debunked the paper on social media. It was later withdrawn.

SUPREME LEADER ALI KHAMENEI and HOSSEIN SALAMI

WHO THEY ARE: Khamenei is the second and current Supreme Leader of the Islamic Republic of Iran. He has the final say on all matters of state, including the economy, military and health divisions.

Since being elected to office in 1981, Khamenei has maintained his skeptical view of the U.S. as Iran's foremost enemy. The tensions between the two countries boiled over in 2018 when Trump pulled the U.S. out of the Iran nuclear deal and reimposed crippling sanctions. At the time, Khamenei remarked, "I said from the first day: Don't trust America."

Hossein Salami was appointed by Khamenei as commander of Iran's Revolutionary Guard in April 2019. He leads the country's paramilitary force that oversees Iran's ballistic missile program and responds to threats from both inside and outside the country.

COVID CLAIM: Salami declared on March 5, 2020, that Iran was engaged in a fight against a virus that might be the product of an American biological attack. On those grounds, Salami ordered a Ground Force Biological Defense Maneuver to test the country's ability to combat a biological attack. Beginning March 16, the Ground Force, in close collaboration with the Health Ministry, began holding nationwide biodefense drills.

Khamenei was among the first and most powerful world leaders to suggest the coronavirus could be a biological weapon created by the U.S. During his annual address on March 22 to millions of Iranians for the Persian New Year, Khamenei questioned why the U.S. would offer aid to countries like Iran if they themselves were suffering and accused of making the virus.

Khamenei went on to refuse U.S. assistance, saying "possibly (U.S.) medicine is a way to spread the virus more." Last month, he refused to accept coronavirus vaccines manufactured in Britain and the U.S., calling them "forbidden." The Iranian Mission to the United Nations in New York did not respond to multiple requests for comment.

EVIDENCE: There is no evidence that the U.S. created the virus or used it as a weapon to attack Iran.

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Follow Amiri on Twitter: https://twitter.com/FarnoushAmiri
Follow Dupuy on Twitter:https://twitter.com/Beatrice —Dupuy

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REL0000481628

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MORENS_SUBPOENA_012446
MORENS_NIH_023647
REL0000481628

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)

David M. Morens, MD
(b) (6)
(b) (6)

(b) (6)
(b) (6) (work)
(b) (6) (cell)

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IMPORTANT: For US Government-related email, please also reply to my NIAID address

--------- Forwarded message ---------
From: David Morens < (b) (6) >
Date: Fri, Jul 21, 2023 at 1:00 PM
Subject: Fwd: Fauci, Birx, Francis Collins, Baric, Azar, Daszak, Bourla, Bancel, Jha, Njoo, Theresa Tam, Walensky, Doug Ford, Williams, Kieran, Marks, de Villa, Jüni, Hotez, Tedros, CDC, FDA officials, HANG high!
To: David Morens < (b) (6)

David M. Morens, MD
(b) (6)
(b) (6)

(b) (6)
(b) (6) (work)
(b) (6) (cell)

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IMPORTANT: For US Government-related email, please also reply to my NIAID address

--------- Forwarded message ---------
From: 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) >

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Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP

Texas Children's Hospital: Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics | Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development | Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

Baylor College of Medicine: Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine | Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology | Health Policy Scholar

Baylor University, University Professor

Rice University, Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty

Texas A&M University, Faculty-Senior Fellow, Hagler Inst for Advanced Study & Scowcroft Institute of Intl Affairs

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iPhone

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Date:	Fri, 28 Oct 2022 2:50:44 AM -0400
Sent:	Fri, 28 Oct 2022 2:50:37 AM -0400
Subject:	RE: The National Academy of Medicine has exonerated me of breaching their Codes of Conduct
From:	"Roberts, Rich" <(b) (6)
To:	Peter Daszak < (b) (6) >; Hotez, Peter Jay < (b) (6)
CC:	Keusch, Gerald T < (b) (6) David Morens < (b) (6) Aleksei Chmura < (b) (6) >; Jeff Sturchio <(b) (6)
Attachments:	image001.jpg

Peter:

We are close. I am in Singapore, but about to leave for India.

You have really hit the nail on the head. This is not about you, but about the Republicans desire to downplay science. We just have to hope they don't end up controlling the political agenda in this country. If they do, I am seriously considering moving to New Zealand.

Rich

Richard J. Roberts
New England Biolabs
240 County Road
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USA
Tel: (978) (b) (6)
Fax: (978) 412 9910
email: (b) (6)

Executive Assistant: (b)((b)(6)
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From: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >
Sent: Thursday, October 27, 2022 8:47 PM
To: Hotez, Peter Jay < (b) (6)
Cc: Roberts, Rich < (b) (6) Keusch, Gerald T < (b) (6) David Morens < (b) (6) >; Aleksei Chmura < (b) (6) Jeff Sturchio < (b) (6)
Subject: RE: The National Academy of Medicine has exonerated me of breaching their Codes of Conduct

EXTERNAL SENDER

Well said on all counts Peter. This is pure politics all the way from the Republicans, and as you say the know it, they don't care, and they're condemning us to future pandemics, and silencing the scientists who can actually help assess the risk, and do something about it.

Writing this from my hotel in Bangkok getting ready to visit a Flying fox colony we're sampling, then off to Malaysian Borneo for work on insectivorous bats as part of our NIH funding. The distractions are serious – in each country we work I now have to spend days meeting with Ministers to explain I'm not a CIA agent, that I didn't cause COVID and that I'm not conspiring with the US DoD or China to send their DNA to Bill Gates etc. Then I have to meet with the US Ambassadors to explain why they should support our work in each country and not avoid meeting with us and pretending we're not here. Exasperating!